

O. E. S. GRAND
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THE WHOLE STORY IN A NUTSHELL

Farewell to Retiring Matron

by

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3--7

This may be given in a home at a party honoring the retiring Worthy Matron or in the Chapter room on the last regular meeting night on which she pre-sides in the east.

The Associate Matron begins this addendum by rising and speaking as follows:

Worthy Matron, Worthy Patron, Officers, Members, and Visitors of
--- --- Chapter: Sisters and brothers,

I am sure you have either heard or read the story about the Three Wisemen who followed the Star in the East. There is a story, however, which I am equally as certain that you have neither read nor heard - because it has not yet been told nor written. We shall call it 'The Story In A Nutshell'. If you listen closely, you will now hear this story.

For a clear interpretation of it we need, 'A NUTCRACKER' (The Associate Patron arises and answers, 'here'), 'THE SHELL' (The Associate Conductress arises and answers, 'here'), 'THE KERNEL' (The Conductress arises and answers, 'here'), 'THE NUT GATHERERS' (nutters) (The Star Point Officers, the Secretary, Treasurer, and Chaplain arise simultaneously and answer, 'here', and 'THE NUT BASKET' (At these words the Marshal arises and the Organist strikes a chord).

The officers who are standing will raise their right hands in which they hold a large (pressed paper) peanut - such as you can buy at the 5 and 10 cent stores. (See note at end of ceremony.) Have something hard - a marble or small pebbles - inside to make a noise when the peanuts are shaken (like a tambourine) while the officers keep time with the music and sing the following words to the tune:

'The Farmer in the Dell'. (English Singing Game.)

A nut-ting we will go, - A nut-ting we will go,
Heigh oh the derry oh, - A nut-ting we will go.

The Associate Matron continues speaking.

Brother Associate Patron, since you have the part of the 'Nut Cracker', you may open our story by beginning it.

Associate Patron speaks: Although some nuts are hard to crack, one is re-paid for doing so when he gets the kernel inside.

~~I shall open (or begin) this story by calling your attention to the Shell.~~
(He extends his arm towards the Associate Conductress.)

The Associate Conductress speaks as follows:

The Shell is the outside covering of a nut. The shell in our story is the rules and regulations which protect our Order.

To Sister --- --- ---. our Worthy Matron, (retiring) belongs our deepest respect for having kept intact and free from abuse or destruction the rules and regulations which govern and protect the Order of which this Chapter is a part.

She addresses the retiring Matron: Worthy Matron,

We thank you for the good you've done;
Old business finished - new begun;
And so to-night, we'll thank you, dear,
For nuts we've gathered through the year.
Each nut, a good deed done by you,
As to our Order you've been true.

The Conductress speaks next.

A kernel is the central or essential part of anything. The kernel in our story is the GOOD one finds within our Order.

During the past year our chapter has experienced much good, and it has accomplished much (or some.). In the center of this activity for good, we have found our Worthy Matron (and Worthy Patron, if you wish to include him). For all the good that has been accomplished through her (their) efforts and with her (their) assistance, we thank her (them) most sincerely.

She addresses the Retiring Matron:

The kernel is the best part one finds within the shell;
The kernel in our story is you, we wish to tell.

For without a good Matron, a chapter would not grow -
And without a good Patron, not much of good would show;
And so we thank you both now, before it's time to part -
Because you've proved our chapter is-wholly good at heart.

The Secretary speaks next.

We, the present of-fi-cers,
Have gathered through the year
All the things which she (they) has (have) done
To make her (them) seem so dear.
And these things - like kernels sweet -
Have made this year complete.

Marshal speaks: (She has a basket which was placed beside her chair.)

Since I've a basket for the nuts
Which this, our story needs
I'll gather now from each of you,
Those symbols of good deeds.

The Marshal takes the basket and goes to the officers to gather the large peanuts which may have been painted or tinted bright colors. They may have a hook in one end so that they may be fastened to ribbons of appropriate color and made into a wall ornament (like the California or Mexican gourds - found in gift shops.) The Treasurer's peanut should be gilded, and the peanuts which the Star Points have should be of color appropriate of each Point. The Secretary's nut may be natural color. In each peanut you may place a handkerchief or other inexpensive gift if you wish to have a 'shower' on the Worthy Matron.

The Marshal goes first to the Secretary who deposits her nut after saying:

Secretary. 'Tis not for kernels but for dates
 That I'll remember her;
 For she was prompt - there were no waits
 When with her I'd confer.

The Treasurer next deposits her peanut after saying:

 I've treasured ev'ry kindly act
 Which she (they have) has done by using tact.

As each Star Point Officer places his or her nut in the basket each may speak as follows:

Adah:

 Because she's faithful been all year
 Our Matron has to me been dear.

Ruth:

 Through her respect for 'Age' and 'Youth',
 She now has my respect, in Truth.

Esther:

 Her 'LOYALTY' to duty has
 Helped me to travel untried (or unknown) paths.

Martha:

 So faithful to us all, she's been
 Throughout the ending year
 That I could not unfaithful be
 To any one so dear.

Electa:

 Because she loving is, and kind,
 A better Matron we'll not find.

Chaplain:

 Into your basket strong and deep,
 We've placed the nuts which she can keep
 As a me-men-to of the year
 In which she was our Matron dear. .
 (or - In which she served as Matron here.)

The Marshal advances to in front of the Worthy Matron to present the peanuts with the following:

Marshal:

Worthy Matron,
Within my basket strong and deep
You'll find some nuts you are to keep.

Your of-fi-cers all love you well;
That's the story in a nutshell.

(She makes presentation.)

She may present one peanut to the Worthy Patron.

(In the peanut may be a small gift.)

Worthy Patron,
From the nature of our Order,
You are not its Of-fi-cer - in - chief;
But we can't get 'long without you
Is most certainly our true belief.

That we 'preciate your help here
Is a part we're most anxious to tell;
So we hope you'll like the gift which
Is hidden within this small nutshell.

The End

NOTE: - The nuts can be easily made, if you experience difficulty in securing them. Mailing tubes, such as calendars come in, when cut in two make excellent nuts. The ends may be covered and properly rounded with brown paper tape. They may be painted and colored with crayons or water colors to represent nuts. Heavy brown wrapping paper may be rolled and moulded to resemble nuts. These, too, can be colored as desired. The idea is to have something resembling a big peanut.