

#2
Frederick

O. E. S. GRAND
CHAPTER LIBRARY

No. ~~5~~ 7. Installation

F R A T E R N I T Y ' S G A R D E N .
P R E S E N T A T I O N O F F L O W E R S
T O
S T A R P O I N T S A T I N S T A L L A T I O N .

By
Carrie Baxter Jennings.

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F R A T E R N I T Y ' S G A R D E N
P R E S E N T A T I O N O F F L O W E R S T O S T A R P O I N T S
A T I N S T A L L A T I O N .

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This ceremony is an ornamental addendum and not a part of the installation proper. Therefore, to permit perfect freedom of movement between the altar and The East, the bible may be temporarily closed or removed.

CHARACTERS:-

Star Point Officers, five Flower Girls dressed in emblematic colors and a Reader in the character of a "Guardian".

(The impressiveness of this ceremony depends upon the selection of a good Reader.)

SUGGESTION:-

The dresses in emblematic colors for the Flower Girls may be inexpensively carried out in crepe paper over white dresses. Cut a single width of crepe paper of required length for uniform height from the floor. In the center of this cut a low neck opening that will permit it to be slipped over the head, and bind at the waist with band or sash of same material.

SETTING FOR EMBLEMATIC FLOWERS.

Before Installation place conveniently near the front of the chapter room a small fernery in which, as though growing naturally are placed the emblematic flowers which are to be presented to the Star Points.

They may be stuck in the soil or loosely attached to ferns or foliage in such a manner as to be easily plucked by the Reader while talking to the Flower Girls.

(Some chapters may be able to have a small flower garden arranged by a florist.)

Just preceding the presentation the fernery is to be quietly moved into the center, midway between the labyrinth and The East.

(See Diagram Page 2.)

The flowers may be picked from a basket if the other arrangement is inconvenient.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY PRESIDING OFFICER.

2

Worthy Matron:—

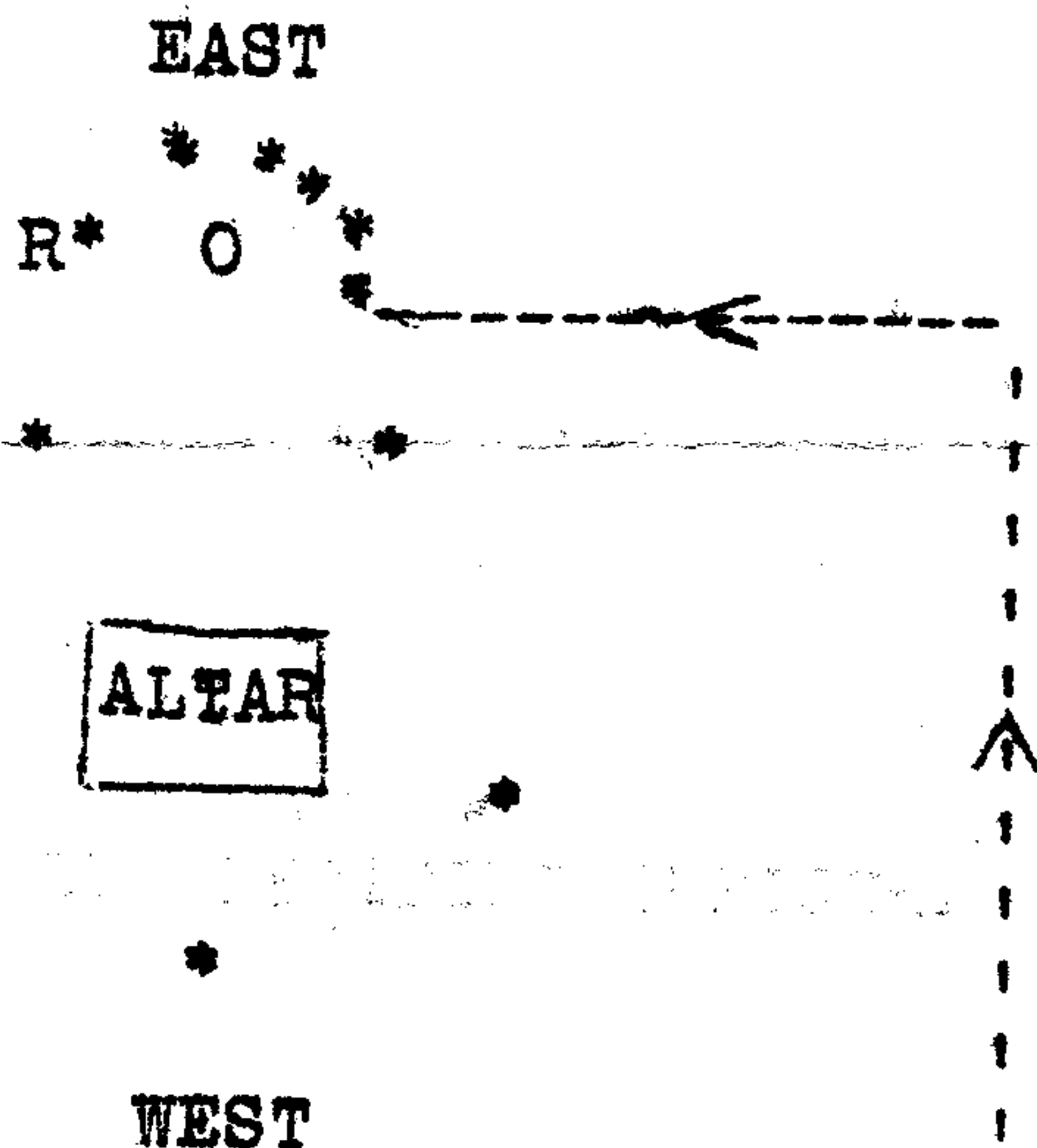
Word has been received that a Fraternal Guardian with five small attendants seeks admission to our chapter room. Sister Marshal (or Warder) you will kindly invite them to enter.

PRESENTATION

A chord is the signal for the Star Points to rise, as through the south door, the Guardian enters leading five Flower Girls in the following order:— Red, Green, White, Yellow and Blue.

They advance east via south aisle until in line with the emblematic fernery they turn north and group in a curved line as shown on Diagram, the Guardian on the north in position to address the girls.

DIAGRAM



The Guardian plucks the flowers as she recites the lyrics.

Beginning with the Flower Girl at the south end of the line, she extends toward her the blue flowers as she recites the last line of the couplet:— "The daughter, so filial and true". Accepting the flowers with a little curtsy the girl steps forward and presents them to Adah. The Officer making proper recognition.

The Flower Girl now passes around outside the station and takes her stand at left of Adah's pedestal.

The same procedure applies to the presentation of the yellow and white flowers.

The two girls on the north, respectively green and red, follow the same course except that they pass around back of the Reader, approach each her respective officer, circle the officer's chair from the left and take their stand on the right of the officer's pedestal.

PRESENTATION LYRICS.

READER:-

O, what a marvelous garden!
What beautiful flowers we behold---
All in a fair green setting;
A glint of Red, White, Blue and Gold.

Now what means this vision of beauty?
These blossoms that so entrance---
Don't you think they have each some duty?
For God leaves nothing to chance.

What shall we do, my children?
Shall we leave them to wither and die
Without performing their mission
Or---pluck them, you and I?

(Addressing Blue Flower Girl)
Now, here are some dainty ones, dearie,
With blue dresses, just like you---
Do you want to give them to Adah,
The daughter, so filial and true?

(Addressing Yellow Flower Girl)
And, here in this little corner
Some soft yellow blossoms I find---
You may give them to Ruth
Who, widowed in youth
Was constant and sweet and kind.

(Addressing White Flower Girl)
These lovely white blossoms, I'm very sure
That match your own pretty dress,
Are for Esther, whose life
As the Royal Wife
Was destined God's people to bless.

(Addressing Green Flower Girl)
I hope we find something for Martha, don't you
For this, dear, is Martha's turn.
(Seems searching for something then suddenly)
Here it is and there's nothing better,
Than this little bit of fern.

One more cluster of posies
We'll gather and then we can go.
These beautiful red, red roses,
Are for Sister Electa you know.

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THE MESSAGE OF THE FLOWERS.

The Reader now leaves the labyrinth and seats herself on the upper level of the eastern dais and addresses the children:-

Now, children, come sit here beside me---

(At the Reader's invitation the children, informally, showing their natural interest or curiosity to hear a story, flock to her and group themselves around on the steps.

There is something that you should know---

For deep in Fraternity's garden

These beautiful flowers do grow.

(Lowered lights and a spotlight on this tableau will be most effective)

SPOT LIGHT

DEMONSTRATING MEANING OF EMBLEMATIC COLORS

To make impressive the lessons taught by the emblematic flowers, the Reader, as she recites the lyrics, illustrates in the following manner.

As she reads the line:- "The blue flower tells of honor" she calls the attention of the children to this point by lifting from the basket the blue cluster, showing it to the children, then replaces it in the basket as she passes on to the next. Follow this form all the way through. Take time to be deliberate in the reading.

THE STORY.

You all know how the "four leaf clover"
To whomsoever may pluck,
Is known the wide world over
As a prophesy of "good luck".

And likewise these pretty flowers
All of them symbols are
Of truths that grow in the bowers
Of the heart of The Eastern Star.

BLUE

The blue flower tells of honor
(Display Blue Flower)
And a daughter's sacrifice too,
Remember this always, my darlings
When you see the sweet violet blue.

YELLOW

And long, long ago a young widow
In a field of yellow grain
Gleaned scattering handfuls of barley
To lighten another's pain.
So whenever you see the blossom of gold, *Rubbin*
(Display yellow flower)
Remember always the truth
Of Constancy, gleaned from that story of old---
The beautiful story of Ruth.

WHITE

The symbols of Purity, Joy and Light
Repose in the heart of the lillies white
(Display White Flower)
They remind us of Esther, proud and brave
Who risked crown, and life, her people to save.

GREEN

You remember those words of Jesus?
When Martha invoked his aid
While her brother in death lay sleeping---
"I am the way", he said.
The green fern must ever remind us
That this life ~~as~~ not the end---
That the grave is only the portal
Where life and eternity blend.

RED

Fine Courage and Truth and Love, my dears
Glow warm in the roses Red---
I sometimes think these the dearest
That grow in Fraternity's bed.

All these grow in the garden of love, my dear
You may gather them near or far,
From hearts that follow year by year
The light of The Eastern Star.

When the story is finished, the Guardian, carrying the basket of flowers, pilots her line via the north aisle, west from the chapter room.

The children at this time, instead of forming in any set sequence as to the order of retiring, informally follow as they happen to be placed just as children naturally would do.

Lights up, Spot Light off.

FINIS.