

No. 660

SYMBOLISM OF THE EASTERN STAR
Chapter Talk

We all realize that the Order of the Eastern Star is a religious Order, and all of its teachings and symbols are taken directly from the Bible. Its ideals are founded on the Holy Scriptures and its precepts are the precepts taught by Christ. The closer we follow the truths imparted to us through our Order, the nearer we are walking with the Master, who gave us these sublime truths.

Symbolism is the oldest known form whereby knowledge might be imparted. It dates back to the dark ages before the civilization of men. This form of teaching is still used and is as inspirational and beautiful a way to gain information as one could desire. All secret orders use a system of symbols to impress the fundamental truths upon their candidates.

The Order of the Eastern Star is no different in this respect than other orders, Our symbols are few and simple and easily understood.

First of all, the stars themselves have always been looked upon as symbolic of important events. The Star with the five points has always been our emblem and is a very ancient and sacred symbol. As you know, it is made up of triangles and signifies to the Eastern Star our inseparability from God, and the final blending of all with goodness upon the Chapter room floor or upon the Signet.

The Star also stands for Humanity, the body of all mankind; also for the five senses which are represented by five points.

The White Ray is the Head. The Yellow and the Green Ray are the arms and hands. The Blue and Red Rays are the feet. The Altar represents the Heart. The Open Bible is the Light of Life. The symbol of the Prepared Altar with the open Bible is "That Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the World."

Our Signet or Chart is our impressive way of giving our initiates instruction. The Signet is full of beautiful symbols and hidden meanings. In the Bible we find many name symbols used when writing about Christ. Many of these are found on the Chart. Have you ever thought of this when listening to the Patron's lecture? Here we have "The Lion of Judah", "The Lamb", "The Lily of the Valley", "The Rose of Sharon" and "The Bright and Morning Star". When we think of these things our ceremony has a great deal more beauty for us and also more significance.

With reverence we should always approach the Prepared Altar, which symbolizes for us the "Universal Mind" - our God is present with us in the Heart of everyone. The Altar represents the seat of Power. Under our laws, after our Altar has been prepared and the Chapter at work there is a sacred place to be observed as inviolate by every member of the Order. This is guarded by the two points of the Star, and lies between the open Bible and the East. The open Bible on the Altar means that great sacrifice offered for all. Therefore the symbol is holy. That is why it is forbidden to pass between the Altar and the East. We all know that we should not walk between the Altar and the East, but perhaps many of us have not known before why we should not.

The East itself is symbolic. The human race has ever faced the east for light and wisdom. Our East is a symbol of Power, Light and Knowledge. We place our two highest officers there. They represent knowledge and justice respectively.

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As the East is a place of Light so we look to the West as a place of reflection. In nature the West is a place of reflected light, so in symbolism that particular side of the Square is one of Meditation and Reflection.

In the South is one of the most important officers of our Order, the Conductress. She is the Guide, symbolic of the truth that Conscience can only point the way.

The North is also important. This side of the Square needs careful consideration. It is the place of the officers that we wish in the future to rule and govern. In this place the office must be considered before the person.

The Associate Conductress and the Conductress both symbolize "Conscience." The Associate Conductress is "Conscience at the Door". Every one who goes into the Heart of the Star to cast the ballot must first pass Conscience - thus if one does right the ballot will always be just whether light or dark.

The eight elective officers make up the Square. This Square is the Ruling Power and members should elect only such persons as are qualified to fill the offices to "Stand Upon the Square."

The winding of the labyrinth is symbolic of the journey of Life. Every woman is a daughter; some are sisters, many are mothers and wives and still other, widows. During the initiation all travel through this symbolic Journey of Life where each stage is marked by an important period in a woman's life. It is in the Labyrinth what the initiate is shown the way which leads to the Star in the East, and is instructed in the signs and passes which open the five gates of the Order.

The mission of our Star as it shines forth in the world is to bring the world to realization of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man. To cultivate the true spirit of helpfulness and Charity toward others is the aim and purpose of the symbolism of the Order. Only by being kind and helpful toward all human beings and gentle and forgiving toward each other can we hope to realize the great purpose of our Order.

Christ said: "By this shall men know that ye are my disciples, if ye love one another."

Also. "As ye would men should do unto you, do ye also unto them."