

THE OBLIGATION

All fraternities must have an obligation to live by and up to. The obligation of the Order of the Eastern Star is one that calls moral strength into action, demands courage and self sacrifice, if that obligation be fully obeyed in the letter and the spirit.

Prayers and obligations well lived are preferred to prayers and obligations well said.

Our obligation is a solemn pledge not only to each other but to God and to our better and higher selves.

It is a sacred promise made in the presence of many that we will be true to the Golden Rule given by the Master who, when on earth, once said, "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so unto them; for this is the law and the prophets." Everyone who seeks admission to the Order should know that we require a pledge from them, a pledge that will not permit any mental reservation, and which, though difficult to follow, still is livable and sane.

The outside world knows better than we can realize, if the Order of the Eastern Star is living the Obligation. All the use the Order has in the world is the impression which its members make upon the thought of the world. If the influence is for good, for closer friendship, and higher ideals of living, then the impression is favorable.

The influence of the Star outside the doors of the Chapter room is felt through the individual lives of its members.

To cultivate the true spirit of helpfulness and charity towards others is the aim and purposes of the symbolism of the Order. Only by being kind and helpful toward all human beings, and gentle and forgiving towards each other, can we choke out the weeds of strife and hatred.

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

(The obligation was given following this address. The officers formed a circle around the Alter, with the members forming a second circle around them, and with hands joined together they repeated the obligation which was given by the Worthy Patron.)