

THE STORY OF RUTH

*Naomi*

W.M.: Sister C. you will conduct Sister Ruth to the East.

W.M. Tonight we are honoring the station of Ruth, and as the story of Ruth unfolds before your eyes, let us remember to gather here a little and there a little and commemorate the great virtues of constancy of love for one another, respect and honor for the aged, and assistance for those in poverty and need. Sister:..... I am happy to have you preside over the ceremony.

~~Narrator~~ speaks: Thank you Worthy Matron. Will those taking part <sup>please</sup> assume their stations. We shall unfold the story.

( the gleaners dressed in peasants clothes carrying large baskets containing sheaves of barley or wheat enter the room and take places around the room gathering sheaves.) The overseer enters alone, and walks around to inspect the peasants working.

*Mahlon & Chilion*

Nar. speaks: Elimeleck, Naomi and their two sons, were driven by famine and poverty from Bethlehem to the land of Moab. There they found love and happiness, the two sons married women of Moab. Ruth and Orpha. In a few years sadness again reach the heart of the family. Elimeleck and his two sons died, leaving the aged Naomi, Ruth and Orpha in mourning.

(Naomi, Ruth and Orpha enter the room, Ruth pleading with Naomi: ) Naomi speaks: You remain here with your kindred and friends rather than follow me to a land of strangers, I will go back to the land of my nativity. It is a long way and I have nothing, but I shall work as I go along.

(Ruth drops to her knees and clasps the hem of Naomi's dress pleading: ) "Entreat me not to leave thee, nor to return from following after thee, for whether thou goest, I will go, and where thou lodgest I will lodge, thy people shall be my people and thy God, my God, the Lord (Orpha returns to her people, by leaving) Slowly Ruth and Naomi begin their journey around the room and Ruth stops to gather a little here and a little there. Naomi tired and weary sits down by the gleaners to rest. Ruth gathers a little more and sits down to rest.

Boaz enters and he goes around with the overseer to see the reapers work. When he sees Ruth he exclaims: Whose damsel is this? He goes where she is and addresses her kindly: "Be not weary of heart, here we have plenty, and thou shalt have plenty for maintenance for yourself and the aged Naomi."

Ruth raises her hands to show him how small were her gleanings and casts her eyes upward, saying; "I have not taken from the gleaners."

Boaz speaks; "Reapers, drop handfuls of barley that this damsel shall gather a good supply for herself and the aged Naomi."

Music: bringing in the sheaves.

Ruth goes to Naomi and shows her the gleanings and Naomi is overjoyed and clasps her to her heart, While they are looking at the sheaves (gleanings) all peasants leave the room with the overseer. (Naomi, Ruth and Boaz stay in the room)

When all have left Boaz, Ruth and Naomi talking happily together leave the room.

Nar. speaks: And so, down through the centuries we find that honor and justice are the lessons taught to us by the tried servants of God .

*Given to Our Ladies  
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by Evelyn Brown  
Home Chapter  
Seattle  
sent to Lib. - J. J. J.  
Bathow, P.M.*

SPEAK SLOWLY and CLEARLY .