

Adah Ceremony, written by Grand Adah Lorene Bloomer for 2004 Wisconsin Grand Chapter

Tonight we are honoring the dedicated Sisters who have previously served as Grand Adah and our Sisters who presently hold the position of Adah in their chapters.

The story of Adah begins with her father, Jephthah. In Judges, the Bible tells us Jephthah had been rejected by his father's sons and had to make his own way in another land where he became a capable leader of men. However, when his homeland was threatened, the rulers sent for Jephthah to come home and save them.

Reluctantly Jephthah returned and tried to solve the problems peacefully, knowing his reputation depended upon the outcome. However, this did not succeed and Jeththah came to the conclusion that he had to defeat the enemy on the battlefield. He knew this victory was very important both to his people and to his reputation and vowed to God that he would sacrifice whatever came out of his house when he returned in victory.

In Jephthah's time sacrifices to God were young, innocent animals, often the best of the flock. Jephthah only had one child and she was much beloved. How shocked Jephthah must have been when he saw his young daughter was to be the sacrifice. But he had made a vow and knew he had to fulfill it.

Adah was an obedient daughter and knew she had to do what her father told her. How frightened she must have been to know her life would be over so abruptly. She asked for time to prepare herself and spent two months in the mountains with her friends. This must have been a time of prayer and communion with nature and with her companions. Adah could have fled the country and saved her life, but instead chose to return so her father could honor his vow. In the mountains Adah found the strength she needed to face death unafraid.

Fidelity is the virtue the lesson of Adah teaches. Webster's Dictionary defines Fidelity as faithfulness; careful and exact observance of duty or performance of obligations; firm adherence to a person or to a party; loyalty; honesty; veracity; adherence to truth.

Music: Open My Eyes That I May See

As Sisters and Brothers of the Order of the Eastern Star, we have taken a solemn obligation at the altar. This vow is as important today as it was when Jephthah took his vow long ago. The important lesson of Adah is Fidelity. Fidelity means faithfulness in the discharge of duty or of an obligation. Other words for Fidelity include constancy, devotion, faithfulness, honesty, integrity, loyalty and truthfulness.

When we see the blue of the sky, let us remember fidelity. When we promise to do something, let us remember fidelity. When life becomes difficult, let us remember fidelity. When we hear the courageous story of Adah, let us remember fidelity.

Adahs were then presented.