



RAINBOW ROSE LECTURE



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(This lecture can be given by any member of the Assembly, from memory, at a special time honoring our mothers. The Worthy Advisor gives one rap, announcing the beginning of the Ceremony. If the Worthy Advisor gives this lecture, the Mother Advisor gives the raps of the gavel. Hope and Charity rise, with their roses, entering the altar area. They place their roses on the altar around the closed Bible and return to their Stations.. All lights should be off, except the altar light. The Speaker positions herself in front of the altar, carrying the Rainbow Bible and begins her lecture. Be sure to have ample red roses, and several white roses, even if unaware of any mothers who may be deceased.)

SPEAKER:

This altar is dedicated to our mothers, whose lives never fails us. We may rise to positions of great influence, but we can never reach the heights of our mothers secret hopes. We may sink into the lowest depths of degradation, but never below the reach of her love. And the memory of her love will always stir our hearts. There is no daughter so entirely base, so utterly low, that she does not keep deep down in her heart a shrine, secret and apart, for the memory of her mother's love.

It was Mother who loved us before we were born, who carried us for those long months close to her heart, and in the fullness of time, took God's hand in hers and passed through the valley of shadows to give life. It was mother who carried us during the helpless years of infancy and the scarcely less dependent years of childhood. As we have grown less dependent, she has done the countless, thoughtful, trouble-healing, helpful and encouraging things which somehow only Mothers seem to know without conscious gratitude or any expression of our appreciation. We are rapidly approaching the time in life when we will be entirely independent of our Mothers. The ties with which dependency has bound us to her will be severed as we grow older, but the tie of Mother's love can never be broken.

These flowers which we see on our altar are symbols of that Mother-love. The white flower represents the love of the Mother who has gone; the red represents the Mother who still lives to bless our lives. God first created Eden for a home, then called forth Eve to keep it beautiful.

Man finds the timbers and he builds the house;
But woman, lover and artist, makes it home.
He kindles the flame upon the hearth,
But she keeps it alive with watchful mother-hands.
The man stands every ready to defend the endangered brood;
The woman to comfort them, to care for them in all love's tender ways.
She never asks if duty should be done, but how to do it.
So she ever stands, close to the life-tree nourishing its roots.

And yet, her grief's are greatened,
From the hour she brings her babe into the light of day.
A host of fears press ever at her heart.
And still she never knew her joy before:
What bliss to hug the child against her breast;
What bliss to lay the fondled baby to sleep.
In this full joy she tastes eternity -
Joy not to be told in words, only in tears.

O, mothers of the world, I lift this cry of honor to your name.
But in my heart there is another cry.
That each of you be mother to all babies.
Share in a universal motherhood.
Reach out your hands to every child in need.
Even as Christ commanded, when of old He would make us all one family,
Reach out your hearts in love, becoming hands and feet and lips for God.

We want each of you to take a rose from this altar. *(Speaker picks up an appropriate flower which she will later give to the Worthy Advisor.)*

If your Mother has passed over to the other shore, take a white rose and keep it always sacred to her memory. May the sight of it always quicken every tender memory of her and strengthen you anew in your efforts to be worthy of her hope and aspirations for you.

If your Mother is living, take a red rose. This small rose symbolizes a Rainbow girl's love and devotion for her mother who made this day possible for her to enjoy through sacrifice and prayer. So tonight, when you tell your Mother or someone who has taken her place, about this ceremony, give her the rose and when you kiss her good night, remind her that you love her.

(The Worthy Advisor raps 3 times. Officers, except the Worthy Advisor, approach the altar, in same order as when balloting, followed by the members, to choose a rose; returning to their seats. When all have returned to their stations, while the Speaker remains at the altar, the Worthy Advisor seats the group.)

Someday you'll find that rose, I know not where, perhaps in your mother's Bible or prayer book or some sacred place, a reminder of the deep love of a Mother. Rainbow can ask no more of you than that you endeavor to live so as to be worthy of that love.