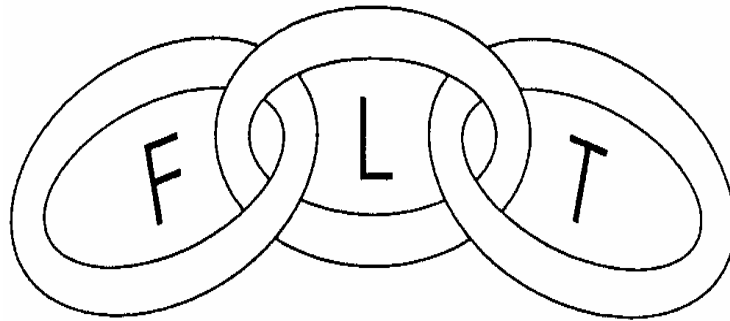
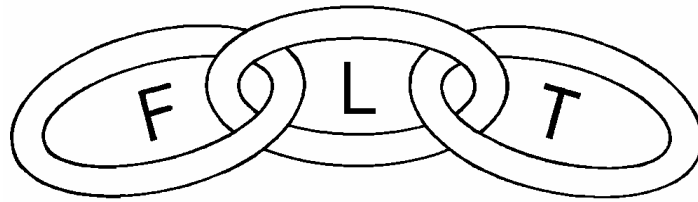


# Odd Fellowship





#### THE FOUNDATION OF ODD FELLOWSHIP—

Rests securely upon a belief in the Fatherhood of God (a Supreme Being) and the Brotherhood of Man.

Its aim is the development of a higher, nobler, practical manhood; the elevation of character to antagonize selfishness; to extend sympathy and aid to those in need, making their burdens lighter, relieving the darkness of despair; to war against vice in every form, and to be a great moral power and influence for the good of humanity.

The first tenet of the Order is **purity**—a purity of life and conduct; the three golden links, **friendship, love** and **truth** weld us together—the foundation of our Order. The three pillars of, **faith, hope** and **charity**, staunchly support us through the journey of life. As a final crown, our Order teaches **universal justice** for one and all.

True fraternity is of the spirit. If you have true spirit of fraternity, you will live and promote the principles of Odd Fellowship.

### **The Door of Odd Fellowship**

The Initiatory Degree is the door of Odd Fellowship. Once across the threshold we find the first lesson of our fraternity, in which there is an endeavor to create a light of understanding, to remove the bonds of selfishness or envy, to establish the first lessons of faith, hope, purity of life and conduct, love, truth and to offer a challenge for a pathway of life.

Here is unfolded in brief the story of creation, wherein God created the heavens, the earth, the plants, all forms of animal and bird life, and as his final masterpiece he made Man. Here is awakened the responsibility of the individual to God the Creator.

As the sands in the hour glass slowly trickle through the narrow neck to the bottom of the glass, so are we reminded that our span of life here on earth is slowly passing away. It therefore behooves us to awaken to a sense of our responsibility, utilizing, to the best of our ability, the amount of time we have upon this earth in the services and causes of humanity. In the performance of such services there will be found a happiness, a contentment, and a fuller and richer life.

Only one life, so live it well,  
Keep thy light trim and bright;  
Eternity, not time, will tell  
The worth of that Life's light.

As the evening of life draws to a close, may we hear that plaudit, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of the Lord." Thus is the lesson of frail mortality brought forth; an admonition for purity of life and conduct, with a pathway of life presented for us to follow, but there is also presented the **Hope** of eternal life.

Upon this broad basis the door of Odd Fellowship is opened—a fraternity established, and as other degrees of the Order are presented, a richer and fuller aspect of Life is given, extending through the Odd Fellow Lodge and into the Encampment or Patriarchal Branch, wherein is unfolded deeper lessons in **Faith**, a broader scope of labor in the cause of humanity, a richer meaning for **Hope** and **Charity**.

## The First Link in Odd Fellowship



### Friendship

The greatest lesson of **Friendship** is that portrayed by the lesson of Jonathan and David in the book of Samuel, for here you find one who was born of royalty, raised to be a King, an heir to a Kingdom, every want, desire and wish to be his, drawn close in the bonds of a deep faith, love and tenderness, to a shepherd lad of lowly position, through his virtues of courage, judgment, faith and wisdom; a friendship so deeply rooted that Jonathan was prepared to sacrifice not only his rights to a Kingdom, but his own life in defense of his friend.

We find so many elements in friendship—faith, tenderness, love, truth, sympathy, sincerity, unselfishness, confidence, generosity, all of which are freely given; for we do not choose our friends—they are self-elected. The root of all friendship is **Faith**, the first pillar of Patriarchal Odd Fellowship, for without faith the other elements of friendship would vanish as though non-existent, for there would be no bond to cement all the other elements into that firm compact of understanding and trustworthiness.

When friendships are real, they are not fragile—but the solidest things we know. A friend is a person with whom one may be sincere; be one's self, taken at his own values and respected for what we each may be. A friend would not have you other than you are, with all your faults; yet may criticize you in a tender manner, will be truthful, sincere and devoted.

**Friendship** is that higher virtue which destroys envy; releases man from his tendency towards selfishness and isolation, placing him on that higher plane where generous deeds, unselfish purposes, tenderness, sympathy, love and protection rule his thoughts and actions, uplifting his character and bringing joy and happiness to all with whom he comes in contact. Life is sweet because of the friends we meet; the smiles we share, the clasp of hand; for where would we be if we did not have a friend?

In Odd Fellowship, **Friendship** extends to many cities, states, provinces and lands, assuring you a warm reception in clasp of hand and a welcome such as only a friend can give.

## The Second Link of Odd Fellowship



### Brotherly Love

The central link in the chain of Odd Fellowship was forged by the fires of Friendship. **Love** is one of the basic elements of a true friendship, creating within the individual unselfishness, tenderness, sympathy and understanding. **Brotherly Love** hears the cry of humanity and answers its call. Thought of one's self is pushed aside in answering the call of humanity, in the performance of deeds of goodwill to those less fortunate; assisting in the building of a stronger character; affording the opportunities of education to those who need it; rendering assistance for the physical needs of those less fortunate; uplifting those who are despondent by a cheery word, a smile, a comforting thought and a clasp of hand. Through **Brotherly Love**, unselfish purposes and generous deeds form a bond of unity, creating an estate wherein no man lives unto himself alone.

In **Brotherly Love**, forged by the fires of **Friendship**, wide vistas of opportunity are opened before us—opportunity for service to humanity, to our friends, to society and to God. Those opportunities are ours to grasp and whenever we accomplish one of these opportunities it enlarges the field of our labors and opens up to us new and greater opportunities for our accomplishment. Love gives us the strength and ability to perform these greater responsibilities; to make of our own life a richer meaning; to enrich the principles of our great Order by acts and deeds and to strengthen the importance of Odd Fellowship by its usefulness.

A component part of **Brotherly Love** is the principle of **Charity**, the third pillar of Patriarchal Odd Fellowship, wherein these lessons in **Charity** are the motive and power which provides the means for creating all of the opportunities for greater responsibilities for the betterment of mankind. Without **Charity**, the journey of life, **Brotherly Love** would have no meaning and acts of humanity would be non-existent, for there would be no thought of welfare of others, but only selfishness and greed.

Our bonds of Unity, **Brotherly Love** and the Pillar of **Charity**, bring richness to our principles and through their acts and deeds show to the world the usefulness of Odd Fellowship.

## The Third Link in Odd Fellowship



### Truth

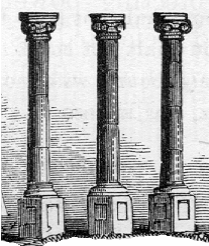
The third link of Odd Fellowship — **Truth** — is a natural result of faithfulness to the duties and principles of friendship and love. It is the fundamental element of true moral character.

**Truth** condemns the wrongs, the sins and the falsehoods of society—the culmination of calm investigation by an open mind. **Truth** strengthens character; affects man's speech and actions; creates justice; wins respect from one's neighbor; purifies the soul and blesses all with whom it comes in contact.

**Truth** as taught by Odd Fellowship is derived from the person and life of Jesus of Nazareth, thus presenting to all Odd Fellows, a pattern for a way of life. Following this pattern of the pathway of life required a reverence for God, a trust and belief that He guides and directs our daily walk of life, a realization that our actions, our deeds and our thoughts and speech affect all with whom we come in contact, requiring a striving for perfection in the practices of the principles of **friendship, love and truth**.

Exemplification of this way of life has its material reward in sterling character, the securing of involuntary respect from all with whom one comes in contact, the knowledge that this way of life has been one of justice towards all and an inspiration for others to live the truth from day to day, spreading not darkness and doubt, but a shining light to all the world.

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## The First Pillar of Odd Fellowship

### Faith

Man must have **faith** in his journey of life—an adventure into the unknown. **Faith** brings him courage, a real necessity to meet life's adventures. Should a man lose heart in his daily walk of life, he may lose everything. He must not lose courage nor have a faint heart in meeting the stress and trials of life, in surmounting the difficulties and disappointments in his journey and his ability to achieve the ultimate in success comes not from his own experiences and knowledge alone, but from **Faith**.

Life demands from each of us that ability sometimes to endure things we do not understand—patience, perseverance and hardest of all, waiting—to sometimes achieve the ultimate success we have set as our goal. This we could not do without **Faith**.

In life, the building of character is one of the greatest adventures and problems. Character is formed by ideals and the devotion of each one to those ideals. **Faith** as a consequence is necessary to the building of character.

To live in the world of today, we must have vision, courage and firm convictions and beliefs as to not only the problems existing in life as they are at the present time, but vision beyond even what may be existing now and; the conviction and courage that these ideals may be achieved for the betterment of the world we live in and the society we enjoy.

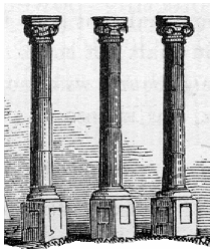
**Faith** is an ideal, or a way of life, provides the motive power, the refuge in time of disappointment, the vision to carry on, and the hope to achieve.

Thus the first pillar of Patriarchal Odd Fellowship—**Faith**—plays an important role in life's adventures. It inspires the building of character, belief in ideals, achievements in the in the fields of science, business, industry, social progress and fraternalism.

An Odd Fellow must have **Faith**—the foundation of all principles; **Faith** in his lodge, in his fellow man, in his country and in God.

This **Faith** in Odd Fellowship, brings the knowledge that his character has been benefited and that he is working for ideals towards the betterment of the world we live in and the society we enjoy; that he will have comfort, encouragement, advice from his brothers in time of need; that from Odd Fellowship he is assured that his family will have assistance if needed in time of sickness; that his brothers will aid his family in time of bereavement, giving assistance in the internment of his body, plans for their future and the caring of the interest of his family.

Staunch is the first pillar of Patriarchal Odd Fellowship.



## The Second Pillar of Odd Fellowship

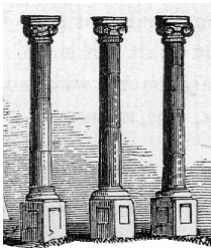
### Hope

The first pillar of Patriarchal Odd Fellowship was Faith. Without Faith there could be no **Hope**. With Faith as the bulwark, let us look into the intrinsic worth and meaning of this second pillar of our Order.

**Hope** is the central link between **Faith** and **Charity**. It is the anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast. A man without **Hope** is lost. **Hope** for Eternal Life beyond this earthly span brings forth in man his more noble characteristics, and spurs him on to greater and nobler deeds, that whatsoever he may accomplish within his lifetime on earth will make some contribution for the good of others.

**Hope** fathers the principle of **Universal Brotherhood, Tolerance** and the **Golden Rule**. Odd Fellowship has as one of its principles Universal Brotherhood, not alone between races and nations, but between individuals and their organizations. Before we can have Universal Brotherhood we must have toleration, which permits each individual to think and act according to his own belief, ideals and opinions, so long as it may contribute to the welfare of society. To further achieve the principle of Universal Brotherhood we must exercise the principle of the Golden Rule, which commands us to “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

Thus the second pillar, **Hope**, brings forth the prospect of a time when man shall exercise the principles of **Tolerance** and the **Golden Rule**, to the culmination of **Universal Brotherhood of Man**.



## **The Third Pillar of Odd Fellowship**

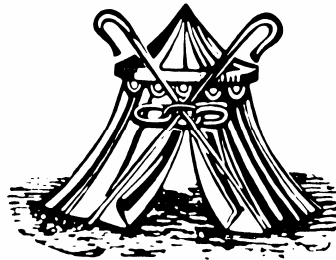
### **Charity**

This, the third pillar of our Order is brought forth in the Royal Purple Degree, wherein is symbolized the journey of life under the careful direction of a guide. This journey of life is not created for mere idle amusement or sport, but to impart the lesson of the importance of adequate preparation for this journey; the importance of learning to practice the living and immortal virtues symbolized by the principles of Odd Fellowship.

The pathway traveled in this degree is symbolical of the pathway of life. The traveler encounters many things which hinder his progress—sometimes seeming insurmountable, but under leadership of his guide, he continues to struggle on and reaches the end of his journey in safety. This guide has only one desire—to make atonement for some of his former evil ways of life; through **Charity** to make the pathway easier for those who must travel this way.

Here the guide is the symbol of charity, illustrating to all Patriarchs that we should wear the mantle of **Charity**, extending to all our brothers and sisters and to our fellow man the helping hand of **Charity**. **Charity** does not mean the extending of monetary assistance alone, but has myriad meanings; forgiveness, consideration, love, unselfishness—a **charity** of heart as well as hand.

If your brother shall make an error or wrong you, forgive him; give consideration to the thoughts, the desires, the wishes and the beliefs of your brothers; give credit where credit is due; give your time and efforts to your brothers, not only in time of sickness or distress, but in education of rituals and principles of Odd Fellowship. He who wears the mantle of **Charity** beautifies, enriches and ennobles his own character and the character of those to whom he has extended this **Charity**. He has taken as his guide the true Guide who, through the Apostle Paul, inspired the words, “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not **Charity**, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal”, and has proven himself a guide worthy of his followers.





## Rebekah — Odd Fellowship

Odd Fellows, recognizing the need of a woman's touch and her helpfulness in carrying out the principles of Odd Fellowship, brought into being the Rebekah Degree, founded upon the principles of faithfulness, hospitality, unselfishness, helpfulness, purity and dedication of self to the principles as portrayed by women characters of the Bible.

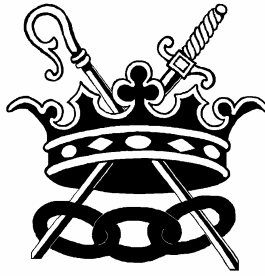
Among the duties of Odd Fellowship are '*visiting the sick and relieving the distressed, caring for and educating the orphan*'. Woman is especially adapted for this work—a natural and practical nurse, and with experience of sickness in her own home – better qualified to minister to the sick in other homes. Sympathy and tenderness with the ill and suffering is intensified by her own past experience and she has learned the best course to pursue to relieve pain and to quiet restlessness. She has thoughtfulness and a delicate caution, a depth in her sympathy, a magnetism to her touch and more tenderness than that of man, better qualifying her for the care of orphans. Men have not the yearning pity and the delicate tact of woman, and there is helpfulness in everything that she does and very often in what she may say. Women know all the minute details of homemaking and the material needs to make a family comfortable—they know what to do and just how to do it, and have more delicacy and tact in learning the needs of the family and the best way to supply without causing humiliation or giving offense.

She is the natural comforter for those in sorrow, for her tender, sympathetic nature enables her to share the sorrow of others, lighten their burdens, lessen their grief, provide them with courage and show them there are those who care and wish to help them carry the load of sadness.

She is refined, has a moral sense of right, a love of the pure and good, and an abhorrence of all things vile, and a direct influence for good upon the character of man. She is thus endowed with the characteristics necessary for the promotion of the principles of Friendship, Love and Truth.

Such are the object and purposes of Rebekah - Odd Fellowship. It is therefore highly essential that there be a close harmony and cooperation to the fullest extent between the Rebekah and Odd Fellow Lodges if the obligations they have assumed are to reach full realization, that the true principles of Odd Fellowship may render the service to their communities for which it was organized. — **SERVICE IS OUR GOAL.**

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## **Patriarchs Militant Army of the Crown; and the White Rose**

The name “Patriarchs Militant” conveys the two-fold idea of peace and soldierly valor. By combining the term “patriarch” variously derived, but with the common meaning, ‘a leader or chief by lineage’, and in Eastern churches, a dignitary superior to an archbishop, hence, freely interpreted, a peaceful ruler. The word “militant” derived from the Latin of militants, defined ‘serving as a soldier’. The liberal interpretation thus being, ‘a peaceful ruler serving as a soldier’ or with reasonable license, a *just soldier*.

### **Universal Justice**

The motto of the Patriarchs Militant, *justitia universalis (universal justice)*, and the battle cry of action, *pax aut bellum, (peace or war)*, are very appropriately blended with the ever-living characteristics of many of historic fame, heralded as models of human perfection in upright morals, lofty principles, soldiery manhood and chivalrous bearing. Hence the names Chevalier and Lady (*a patent of nobility*), applied to individual members of this branch of the Order, conveys in brief, an idea of the honorable and military teachings thereof. As the motto indicates, this degree is based upon the principle of universal justice and the doctrine of rights, advocated by peaceful methods, but if necessary, defend with exercise of force. It is purely military in its character, organized for purposes of display, and is admirably fulfilling its mission.

Emblems of the Degrees:



A regal crown, with crossed crook and sword, and the Three Links, with the left link being filled with scarlet enamel, the center link with white and the right link with purple. The Army of the Crown is so termed for the reason that the Crown is the symbol of rank; the Sword, of justice; the Shepherd’s Crook, of peace; and the Three Links, the bond of our fraternity. The decoration to be a constant incentive to chivalric deeds.



The White Rose, symbol of purity. Its spotless purity of color and its symmetry of form serve to impress us that in our daily lives our words and our actions should be such that, like the rose, we shed around us a halo that is felt, a presence that falls upon our fellows as does the fragrance of the flower, unseen, unheard, yet sweetly refreshing. It is also a symbol of what our thoughts should be and reminds us that in all things it is possible to draw around us the mantle of purity.

The Chevalier and Lady wears the uniform from love of display and they are rarely seen alone, as in union there is strength, and in comradeship enjoyment. The uniform is also worn as a regalia of honor and esteem, because of admiration of the Order, and a wish in so far as may be possible to present the same for public inspection in the most creditable form and create an uplift within and for the Order. However erroneously, it is oft times cited as the degree for young men and women, those with a love of military and display, when as a matter of fact it is those who are most interested within the Lodge and Patriarchal Odd Fellowship, are found enrolled within its ranks, be they old or young. The Militant is the great leveler of social, professional and business distinction, all are exactly alike, an attainment of equality not otherwise obtainable and one appreciated and enjoyed by all members.

The Army of the Crown is ever a legion of the best there is in Odd Fellowship, the Chevaliers and Ladies are the Honor of the Order and pride of their families. The standard of excellence may not always be had when so observed, it were better a recruit of one than critic for all. Standing at the summit of the creation of possibilities will not make a Chevalier, a Canton or an army, the individual effort, “one for all and all for one”, will bring about the glorious realization now as in the end. Be prompt in response, brave in defense, unyielding in protection, maintain with firmness, wield with justice and ever wear with honor, surrounds as with a halo the individual Chevalier or Lady within the Army of the Crown.

