



Eighth District Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 25, 2026

The Five Heroines: Their Symbols, and the Prince Hall Eastern Star of Today

The teachings of the Order of the Eastern Star are preserved not only in our ritualistic words, but in the symbols assigned to each heroine. These emblems remind us that virtue must be seen and lived with intention and demonstrated through action. When we reflect carefully, we can see these same virtues exemplified in the lives of Prince Hall Eastern Stars of today.

Adah and the Veil: (Judges 11:30–40)

Adah's symbol, the veil, represents obedience, fidelity, and devotion to sacred duty. The veil signifies humility before God and unwavering commitment to principles, even when obedience requires sacrifice. Her willingness to sacrifice her life to preserve her father's honor is held up as the highest example of moral courage.

My Sisters command this virtue and powerfully reflect it daily. Always recognize how Adah's veil still rests upon us who serve and Sisters, lead with integrity rather than personal ambition. Keep in mind, a person of integrity keeps their word, even when it requires a great personal cost.

"It is better to die with honor than to live with a stained conscience."

Ruth and the Sheaf: Book of Ruth

Ruth's symbol, the sheaf, represents loyalty, humility, and the reward of faithful labor. Ruth gleaned in the fields not for recognition, but with quiet devotion and love, trusting that steadfastness would yield provision.

My Sisters exemplify this virtue like Ruth, showing loyalty and work steady to yield harvests that continue to bless others and generations to come. Appreciate the value of humble service and the importance of remaining faithful to one's convictions and loved ones, even in times of extreme poverty or displacement.

"Labor is honorable and that a "widow's portion" is not just about material charity, but about the respect and protection due to those who have suffered loss."

Esther and the Crown and Scepter: Book of Esther

Esther's symbols—the crown and the scepter—represent royal authority guided by wisdom balanced with courage and moral resolve. Esther approached her position not for comfort or to seek favor for herself, but to intercede and protect her people at great personal risk.

Sisters mirror this courageous virtue like Esther, Sisters wear your crown of leadership and wield your scepter of advocacy with wisdom, courage, and purpose. "Power is a trust" and must be used for the benefit of the oppressed. It is important to standing up for our Order and its members. Sisters and Brothers, we are bound by a common cause, and we all must be willing to intercede for one another in times of disorder. *"If I perish, I perish."*

Martha and the Broken Column: Gospel of John (John 11:1–44)

Martha's symbol, the broken column, represents faith in the face of loss, hope amid sorrow, and strength that endures even when support appears shattered. Although her column is broken, her faith still remained unbroken.

Sisters seize this virtue in your life's journey and reflect perseverance like Martha, whose faith was demonstrated not merely in words, but in service that uplifted and supported others. Even when our hearts are

broken by death or misfortune, we must maintain a "steadfast faith" in God's promises. Remember that the "broken column" of our earthly lives will be made whole in the hereafter.

"Through faith, we have the assurance of a glorious immortality."

Electa and the Cup: "Elect Lady" (2 John 1:1)

Electa's symbol, the cup, represents patience, enduring love, and the willingness to accept life's trials with grace and steadfast faith. Electa teaches us to drink from the cup of adversity without bitterness and that true devotion remains constant even in suffering.

Sisters emulate this virtue expounding on the courage of Electa remain unwavering in your devotion, prove that true love is a commitment that flourishes even under the weight of life's most heavy crosses. Represent with a spirit defined by "charity and hospitality," meets every adversity with quiet grace and an unbreakable faith that refuses to falter in the face of victimization.

"While faith and hope are vital, the greatest of these is charity."

In Closing

Sisters, the Five Heroines and their symbols remind us that the lessons of our Order are alive and active. May we encompass the color blue and wear the veil with obedience, recognize the golden tints of yellow and gather a sheaf with loyalty, in our bask in white and bear the crown and scepter with courage, thrive in green and stand firm even when the column is broken, and flourish in red and drink from the cup with dignity and enduring love—so that we may continue to walk worthy of a Prince Hall Eastern Star.

Fraternally,

Sister Monica Michelle Smith

Grand Assistant Lecturer

Oziel Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, P.H.A.