

## STUDY OF THE STARS

It seems appropriate that the first meeting after initiation we start our study of the P.E.O. star. From our ritual we learn that our founders chose the star as our emblem because it has shed radiance and light through the centuries. Christians followed a star to the Christ Child and our way of life was born with that child.

Through history a star has been an inspiration. In early nautical history, men followed the stars and never lost their courses but reached their destinations.

In desert countries where land marks are scarce, the stars are still used as directional signals and have been since long before the compass was a part of every safari's equipment.

In our own country the settlers who ventured to the land of the Atlantic seacoast were led many times by the stars.

In astronomy a star is any self-luminous celestial body. From this scientific definition, I propose to point the way for P.E.O.s. We are to be not luminous to attract attention but be rather like the billions of stars seen only by their closest neighbors. There are a few people of any generation whose influence reaches farther than a limited community and I am assuming we probably we probably will not be part of that few. . . to those of you who will become famous, I apologize, so we must think of ourselves as being luminous to our limited circle. Our circle will be our family, our friends, those with whom we work, our church, and others in the community in which we live. To all these we are to be an inspiration and draw from within ourselves in order that we will be self-luminous like a star.

Further accepting the concept of a star from the science of celestial bodies we can draw another parallel which should be an inspiration to us. The sun of our solar system is the largest of the stars in astronomy, and is our source of all energy and light. We should so live that we are a source of energy and light to those with whom we come in contact.

The P.E.O. star is the Christian star of five points and each point symbolizes for us a Christian virtue. We try to cultivate faith, love, purity, justice and truth. Each of these virtues will be treated individually at later meetings. My aim is to show how they are interwoven and their cultivation leads us to self sufficiency and the ability to lead others whose lives are touched by ours. If you have not already done so you should quickly learn to take care of your health and time that your life will contribute to the welfare, education, and enjoyment of your family. Don't spread yourself so thin that you and others wonder if you are going round in circles. You are ignoring love of self if this has happened in your daily life. There are many organizations which could survive more than a day and a half without you. Choose wisely your outside-of-the-home activities. Don't just keep adding one more thing. Evaluate and then add it if it will enrich you, your family, and if your contribution will be needed. Truth is an influence unlimited and

its results are not always known. First, always be truthful with yourself. Those of us who have children of our own, or intimate contact with others' children, have a trust to fulfill that they will have a background of truth to affect their moral, spiritual, and social life. Each experience of a child should be approached in truth. With the prejudice of the headlines we must search in truth and guide others to do the same. After you have found truth for yourself, so live that your star will guide others.

These virtues of our star are so closely related. Purity – having found truth and love, you will be motivated to live in purity that your life can be an inspiration to others. We should so live and speak that we influence only pure thoughts and actions.

Justice is probably the most difficult to live. There are so many temptations to listen and repeat gossip. Great minds speak of ideas, average minds speak of events and small minds speak of people. If we train ourselves to be in the "great minds" class, we can avoid the ever-present temptation to judge other people.

Faith is the least tangible of the virtues of our star. Faith in God is an individual matter but faith in self is expressed by everything you do and say and its results are widespread. Beyond faith in self you should have faith in the members of your family. If you have taken a constructive interest in election of government officials, you must have faith in their judgments. We must cultivate faith probably the most carefully because its results are not always visible. All things are possible with faith.

Faith, love, purity, justice and truth were the vision of our founders. They are responsibility to the future. So live your lives that you are the guiding star in the horizon of those around you.

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