#### PATRIARCHAL-ODD FELLOWSHIP

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.



# 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

#### **ODD FELLOWSHIP**

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 **Toleration** 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

#### ODD FELLOWSHIP

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.