



Beta Sigma Phi

THE RITUAL OF JEWELS

Instructions: *A narrow table is covered with a white cloth reaching to the floor on all sides. Two groups of tall candles, each containing a red, yellow, blue, orange, green, and violet tapers arranged in individual holders in the order named, are placed in a row or semi-circle on each end of the Ritual Table. An officer or Honorary Member, holding a lighted large white candle stands at the right of the one reading the Ritual. (Or, if you prefer, two persons—one standing on either side of Officiant—may hold lighted white candles. This provides the light for reading and is significant of the "Great Torch Held Aloft." A vase containing yellow roses should be in the center of the table. The Ritual of Jewels pins (each attached to two ribbons, one black and one gold, fastened together by the pin at one end and sewed together at the other) are placed in front of the flowers in a semi-circle, the ribbons being allowed to fall over the table edge to form a part of the decoration. The ribbons with the pins attached are slipped over the candidates' heads at the time of presentation.*

Any subdued lighting in rainbow colors will add much to the impressiveness and effectiveness of the occasion.

The Ritual Book is on the table.

Sponsor, Director and President stand back of the Ritual Table if they wish, or only the one who is to read the Ritual and her one assistant (or two assistants if desired) may stand there. The other members form a semi-circle facing the table, each holding a lighted candle. The candidates are brought into the room by one or two attendants, depending upon the number receiving the degree. They form a semi-circle before the Ritual Table, thus making a semi-circle within a semi-circle. After

ushering the candidates in, the attendants take their places in the outer semi-circle.

Beta Sigma Phi songs may be played softly when the candidates are being brought into the room.

The reading of the Ritual then proceeds as follows:

Please Note: *Asterisks have been inserted to suggest places to pause for breath. By practicing, you can determine which places are best for you.*

The reading of the Ritual then proceeds as follows:

Sisters, are gathered together again * to receive instruction in Life, * Learning and Friendship. The beliefs of our Sisterhood are now written upon your minds * and imprinted in your hearts. *

You remember that you were given a torch as a symbol of womanhood * and a light of learning to guide you in a queenly quest. *

By that light you were inspired to know * the first great lesson of our sisterhood, * which is the fellowship of Beta Sigma Phi, * a vision of the pure white flame of love. * Have you kept that lesson in your hearts? *

If so, answer, "I have." *

Do you believe that you have taken that love into your minds * and into your hearts * until it is a living, glowing part of you * to the end, that it guides you * and you in turn guide others? * The answer is, "I do." *

Then you have proven yourself worthy. *

But the torch leads onward. * Sometimes darkness and difficulties threaten, * and long ways will grow wearisome. * Knowing this, * are you ready to follow the light? * If so, answer, "I am ready." *

Pause now and consider. * In the months past, * as a pledge of Beta Sigma Phi, * were there not times when it was hard to have faith * under the stress of daily life, * and when the ideal seemed a thing of only words * instead of living love, * when it was masked by self concern or self doubt? * Know that these are the trials we must all endure * as we continue our way * onward * toward the light. * Even so, * is it still your desire to proceed? * If so, answer, "it is." *

Advance then in further light and privilege and receive the next high lesson of our sisterhood, the lesson of beauty. *

Think of the great torch held aloft * and see that white light passing through a crystal prism, * to come out on the other side in color * — red, yellow, blue, orange, green, and violet. *

The white of love passes through the prism of your life * and comes out to compose for you * the spectrum of beauty * — six hues from one white light, * six great perfections of yourself, * six wonderful aspects of love. *

By the light of love, all things are beautiful. *

Assistants now light each colored candle as the color is named.

The Red ray of that flame shall be courage * — that courage which shall make us fearless in pursuit of our ideals, * before which difficulties disappear * and obstacles vanish, * that virtue without which nothing is achieved * and talent is wasted.

The Yellow of that flame shall be vision * — which give enthusiasm to courage, * that attribute which is the perception of things hoped for, * the assurance of things not seen. *

The Blue of that flame shall be humility * — the sense of proportion which makes us meek * in the presence of the miracle of being. * It is the sense of honor which causes us to seek good for others & and, when we have done a favor for another, * to forget what we have done. *

The Orange of that flame shall be loyalty * — that unswerving purpose which accepts every result * without discouragement * and keeps us true and steadfast in obligation. *

The Green of that flame shall be fellowship * — that love of comrades which displays itself * to those who wear our pin * and extends itself in consideration and enjoyment * of all fellow beings, * that warm flow without which * life is a barren waste. *

The Violet of that flame shall be service * — born of humility and courage, * the gift of yourself to life. * It is that performance of duty * which lightens the burdens of another; * for in loyal and loving service to others, the love of self is forgotten. *

The Sum of all these colors is beauty. * With them we shall paint loveliness * on the canvas of life. * And the sum of these rays shall be light, * that perfect light — beauty, love, and truth. *

The symbol of these six colors * and these virtues * shall be the six jewels you shall wear, * a token of special recognition, * the second pin of our sorority. *

Once before you pledged yourself to love, * and as you have come to evidence that love * in your thoughts, conduct, and

purpose. * Will you now pledge yourself of beauty? * Will you make your mind a place of loveliness? * And, though you journey to the ends of the earth alone, * without a sister near, * with only yourself to see, * will you keep the torch burning * bright and steady in your heart, * and, living in beauty, shed its light throughout the world? *

If so answer, "I will." *

Come forward as your name is read * and receive the jewels of the Ritual of Jewels degree. * When you have received them, * accept them with these words, * "I pledge myself to loveliness." *

Now know the names of the jewels you are privileged to wear, * which will represent the six flames of beauty * you now carry in your heart. * They will be visible to the world * only as the white light of love shows through our lives * and in our purposes and ideals. * These jewels are the six symbols of * — repeat their names after me * — courage, vision, humility, loyalty, fellowship, and service. *

Just as the white light of existence * shining through experience * is transmitted into gorgeous colorful life, * so shall the flame of love * passing through you * divide itself into six lovely attributes, * six radiant hues combining to produce * the perfection of our quest. * speak to you of beauty. *

Through the spectrum of beauty, * you shall see that smile on nature's face * where light and color join * in harmony with the movement of living creatures. *

Through the spectrum we shall see * how to make of life a festival every day. * It shall unfold for us * the numberless flowers of spring, * the waving branches of trees, * the starry skies, the tumbling seas, * the rising and the setting sun. *

The universe shall be its home. * We shall learn that beauty is truth, * and truth, beauty. * We shall learn the ultimate beauty * — that truth is the shadow of perfection, * the form and color of eternal good. *

FORGET NOT THIS LESSON OF THE LIGHT.

Honorary Members and all members in the outer semi-circle now file past those who have just received the degree, congratulating them.