



FATHER TALK

(Speaker goes to apex of the candles and stands in front of the fourth candle, facing West)

The Order of DeMolay honors womanhood as one of its seven cardinal virtues. And we realize our more important duty to honor motherhood; but we as young men also need to recognize the other portion of Filial Love that shapes our growing years: Fatherhood. Tonight, my Brothers, we dedicate this evening to our fathers; men who desire to guide and mold their sons to emulate or better their manhood years. A son, to rear a son; that is one of the splendid things of life. A son is as good as an absolute assurance of immortality. To take your son by the hand when he is young, to lead him out into the spring, to show him the glories of God, the way he will go. Well, you should know how it is. A father wants to leave the best part of himself to someone else, his son. And we as sons may be aware of our father's desires to do so, or may seldom even appreciate the task that he tries to accomplish.

We, growing up in a confused world as an adolescent, find it unusually difficult to really communicate with our dad. He does not seem to understand us, our beliefs, our speech, our behavior, our wants. We think he and perhaps his beliefs are wrong, or he is unable to help us with our big problems. But later, we as grown men, will eventually see his side of the story and face the problems in raising our own sons, even though it is hard to believe now. It is the Order of DeMolay that enables us to grow up to be better men, better citizens for tomorrow's world. Our Chapter dads also try to aid us if we think our fathers unable to do so. Or perhaps we lost a father and then look to an advisor as a father substitute. Such as the founder of our Order when Dad Land saw fatherless Louis Lower groping for an adult guiding hand. DeMolay, based on such a foundation, has given three and a half million young men a helping and guiding hand along the path. We, therefore, wish to extend to our fathers and Chapter dads the most heartiest token of our appreciation as sons and as DeMolays'. Father, help us further to be good men.

Father, light our way the best you possibly can

For when we reach the ripening years of manhood

Teach us to live in the spirit of the universal Brotherhood.

My Brothers, when you go home tonight, you should give due thanks and tribute to your father. Flowers are inappropriate token material; but walk up to him tonight, smile and grip his hand firmly, saying: "Thank you, dad, for all you have given me so far. May I, with the help of the lessons of DeMolay, grow up to be worthy of your name." DeMolay asks you to do this small favor as an appreciation of your fathers and of the manhood you hope you will come to inherit.