

Upon a Lofty Journey



Save this booklet for future reference, and *bring it with you to your Ordeal.*

Ponder my words carefully.

My friend, I congratulate you on your election to the Order of the Arrow.

You may not realize it now, but you will look back on today as a day of beginnings.

The honor you have received is truly a great one, for it is bestowed upon you by your peers — the members of your unit.

But, such an honor is not without its price.

Those who chose you are *watching*.

They have *faith* in you.

Will you be able to live up to their expectations? They have challenged you to do so.

In a short time you will be given the opportunity to undergo an *Ordeal* — your induction into the Order of the Arrow.

This will test not only your physical strength, but your inner strength.

But, by taking full advantage of this opportunity, you will find yourself better able to serve Scouting and your unit... *the ones who chose you.*

By accepting their challenge, you embark upon a journey that many before you have taken.

Along its path lies true Brotherhood.

However, this destination is many months — maybe even years — away.

Who am I? I am one of those who are here to help you find your way as you travel — as an arrow driven skyward — along this lofty journey...

I am here to help you prove to yourself your *worthiness* for the honor your unit has bestowed upon you.

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Are You Prepared?



My friend, I again congratulate you on your election to the Order of the Arrow.

Your election into the Order was indeed unique. There are very few organizations in the world in which members are elected primarily by non-members.

The Scouts in your home unit were just such non-members. They selected *you*.

Why?

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Ponder my words carefully.

Because you were kind, helpful, easy to get along with, and a friend to all.

Because you were cheerful, even when you had many tiresome jobs to do.

Because you were always ready to give unselfish and wholehearted service to others.

Your fellow Scouts saw something in you that was straight and true.

Are *you* prepared?

If you are weak in *spirit*, you will not reach the goal. But if you are brave, strong, and cheerful, you will remember this Ordeal as one of the happiest events of your life.

Yet, the strength you will need does not come from muscles alone.

In the next 24 hours, you will start a long and toilsome journey. It will require sacrifice on your part, and will test your strength to the utmost.

But, *why are you here?*

You are here to undertake the Ordeal of our Order.

But, why are you here?

You are here to prove to yourself your willingness to dedicate yourself to a life of cheerful service.

Notice I said *prove to yourself*.

Think about it.

I am the spirit of the Order of the Arrow.

When you discover my full meaning, you will be able to better serve both your unit and Scouting.

There is obviously a little of me in you already since you demonstrated to the members of your unit the qualities that I represent.

Only *you* can commit yourself to the great task of leading a life of cheerful service.

But you will not be alone.

I will be an inner voice that will guide you. Through these pages, other booklets, and perhaps other ways, I will be the strength that will help you to do more when you feel you cannot.

Think about it.

I am the spirit of the Order of the Arrow.

Good Morning, My Friend



Save this booklet for future reference.

I have said a great deal, and we will likely talk further. There fore, I bid you good morning, my friend, and wish you well in the day ahead.

He cares about you and wants you to succeed.

Ponder my words carefully.

These brothers know and represent me very well.

You will soon begin to realize the great purpose before you, and how I fit in. Thoughtful completion of the Ordeal will prepare you for this purpose.

He knows and represents me very well.

I feel it important to point out to you that Kichkinet is a very fine brother and guide.

You might see him during the day, as well as others who are already members, working with you, maintaining silence, and eating scant food — honoring and reliving the tests of the Ordeal they undertook when *they* were candidates.

Having already spent the night alone, the remaining three tests

- eating scant food
- maintaining strict silence, and
- spending a day in arduous labor

will be the focus of the remainder of your Ordeal.

Nutket, the Guard, reinforced this last evening when he said:
...*your companions, taking note of your devotion to the high ideals of Scouting, have proposed you to the Order.*

You were sent to seek a vision of yourself, and of your purpose...

He then went on to challenge you:

...*So [today] eat you nothing but the scant food you'll be given. So [today] learn by fasting, sacrifice, and self denial to subordinate desires to the spirit's higher purpose...*

Meteu, the Medicine Man, showed you the bowstring and counseled:

...*from this moment onward, till you take the Obligation strictly keep a pledge of silence. Hours spent in thoughtful silence help us make the right decisions more than days and days of talking...*

The mighty chief, Allowat Sakina, then exhorted you to:

...*spend the day in arduous labor working gladly, not begrudging, seek to serve, and thus be faithful to the high ideals and purpose of the Order of the Arrow...*

He went on further to inform you, drawing an arrow from a quiver:

...*Friends, the ones who chose you need you. Who among you now is ready? Who will go upon this journey?*

That you *took one step forward* toward the firepit and *rested the bow* is evidence that you desired to continue with the Ordeal, despite the hardships you knew were before you. Your courage and firmness of purpose gladden me, for you apparently have a desire to overcome obstacles.

Lastly, Kichkinet, the Guide, bid you:

...*leave all daily cares behind you, leave the crowd and its opinions...*

...*All your strength will be required when you face the isolation that a leader often faces.*

So [last night] beneath the heavens sleep alone upon your groundsheet. Be you steadfast as the Polestar, self-reliant, undiscouraged...

As a new day dawns upon us, we have much to discuss. You have already been through quite a bit... and your Ordeal third over:

Remember when we last talked, we discussed the reason you were here — the *real* reason: *To prove to yourself your willingness to lead a life of cheerful service.*

Last night you participated in a ceremony of great significance. In it four Indian figures challenged you to complete four tests of your determination to lead such a life.

As I stated before, "Your fellow Scouts saw something in you that was straight and true."

What Am I?



My friend, by this point you may be tired and hungry after a hard day's work. But I can sense you are beginning to understand me.

As dusk approaches, you are probably wondering what the evening has in store for you. This is only natural.

Earlier we talked about why you are here. But before you made the decision to "prove to yourself your willingness to lead a life of cheerful service," your fellow Scouts were called upon to elect candidates for membership in the Order of the Arrow.

Save this booklet for future reference.

Ponder my words carefully.

Just prior to the election, those voting were asked to consider these and other questions when they chose candidates for the Order:

- Who is a friend to all and a brother to every other Scout?
- Who is cheerful, even when he has many tiresome jobs to do?
- Who smiles whenever he can?
- Who is always ready to give unselfish and wholehearted service to others?
- Who can forget his own desires and interests? Who has served your unit all year round, faithfully attending meetings and helping with service projects? Do you think he will continue his service in the future? If you were his patrol leader, could you depend on him?

In a few hours you will hear more about what has happened in the past day, and of tasks that lie ahead.

You will take a pledge — the "Obligation" — that will help preserve me in your conscience.

In a whisper, you also will be given a solemn reminder — "the Admonition." *Remember and follow it always.*

Take heart, my friend... your Ordeal has almost reached its end. While it may be difficult to understand right now, if you have *done your best to meet its tests*, you will likely look back on this experience as one of the most meaningful of your life.

And, what I have seen of you and the others today makes me very happy. The unwillingness to pitch in, that I often see in camp and other unit activities, just hasn't been present here today! Yet, Scouts just don't get together for a day of cheerful service unless I am part of them.

But, "What am I?"

I am the *spirit of brotherhood, cheerfulness, and service*. I am the part of your character your fellow Scouts saw when they elected you.

- Who, by living up to the Scout Oath serves his fellow Scouts with such an example of brotherhood and cheerfulness that you look up to him with deep respect and admiration?

After careful consideration of these things, you fellow Scouts chose you.

They saw these traits in you.

But, what made you demonstrate these traits? *Why might they be important?*

Will you help Bob with that merit badge he's been working on?"

"Why? He never did anything for me!"

"Looks like it's going to rain. Hey, someone left his sleeping bag out! Who will take it in inside while I help Jim and Doug with their tent?"

"It isn't mine... let him take care of his own stuff..."

"Yeah... besides, we have enough to do without having to look out for everybody else."

Do these Scouts sound like they might be worthy of election?

Your unit needs you... and me.

A New Task Lies Before You



Ponder my words carefully.

Save this booklet for future reference.

My brother, I congratulate you on achieving Ordeal membership in the Order of the Arrow.

Your tests have not been easy, but in completing them you have proven yourself capable of fulfilling the great task that lies before you.

As the mighty chief Allowat Sakima told you soon after you took the "Obligation" of our Brotherhood, which commits you to a life of cheerful service:

...membership in our Order is given, not only for what you have done but for what you are expected to do in the future...

"He who serves his fellows is of all his fellows greatest!"

Therefore, a new task lies before you. Return to those who chose you and try to live the Obligation.

In this way, you will be helping to fulfill the purpose of the Order.

After ten months of striving to fulfill this promise, you will be eligible to "seal" your membership in the Order by participating in another ceremony to become a "Brotherhood" member.

Much has taken place in the past day. Many of the events were explained by the ceremonial figures.

As the excitement of the ceremony may have made it difficult for you to concentrate fully on what was said, I will remind you that Nuiiket, the Guard, gave a thoughtful explanation of your activities.

Prior to this explanation, Allowat Sakima gave you the Obligation of our Order ... a solemn promise that it is my hope you will follow always:

He who follows such a pathway in unwavering cheerful service will be seen by many others and, by inspiration, lead them.

What you have promised will not be easy. As Kichkinet said before your Ordeal:

Sometimes even friends will mock you, tempt you to betray your promise, test your resolution often, often try to make you faithless.

But your unit needs you and me.

The Obligation of the Ordeal is basically one of service to those who chose you. As Allowat Sakima has previously counseled:

I do hereby promise on my honor as a Scout, that I will always and faithfully observe and preserve the tradition of the Order of the Arrow, Winiwachentientenk, Wingolachusk, Wihahemui.

I will always regard the ties of brotherhood in the Order of the Arrow as lasting, and will seek to preserve a cheerful spirit even in the midst of irksome tasks and weighty responsibilities, and will endeavor, so far as in my power lies, to be unselfish in service and devotion to the welfare of others.

Those Who Chose you, Need You



My brother, it has been a long time since we have talked.

Do you remember me, the spirit of the Order of the Arrow, from your Ordeal?

You returned from that event a tired, but happy, traveler.

Your new Obligation was fresh in your mind.

Save this booklet for future reference.

Those who chose you, need you.

As a member, you too must *set the example for those around you.*

Ponder my words carefully.

Now, however, many days have come and gone, and your memories of that experience grow fainter.

This too is part of the journey.

When you took part in the Ordeal, you worked along with others who were *also* serving cheerfully.

How much more difficult it is to represent me now that you may be the only one in your unit doing so!

The lessons you have learned through the tests of the Ordeal taught you strength in the face of isolation, and the virtues of self-denial and cheerful service.

Draw on you new knowledge as you strive

- to represent me to your fellow Scouts.
- to faithfully serve your unit
- to *live* your Obligation.

Rather than *forcing* others to do what was necessary to save their people, they led *by their example*.

And, as they travelled from village to village, a small number of others *followed* this example, volunteering to help with their important task.

Our brotherhood is patterned after the one formed by Chingachgook to honor those who “first themselves had offered for the service of their brethren.”

Many Scouts do not know the satisfaction that comes from giving cheerful service...

...from putting the needs of others before their own.

They need our help ...*your* help.

Recall the *Legend of the Lemmi Lenape* from the Ordeal ceremony.

No one was willing to warn other members of the tribe of the danger that threatened their hunting grounds ...and their survival.

Refusing to stand by and permit the destruction their nation, Chingachgook, the mighty chief, and his son Uncas took it upon themselves to “catch the higher vision” and spread the alarm.

The Ties of Brotherhood



Strengthen the ties of brotherhood, build upon the fire of cheerfulness, ease the burdens from the shoulders of your fellow Scouts! When you have done these things, you will again find yourself before me, prepared to see the full meaning of the Arrow.

My brother, this challenge was issued to you by the mighty chief, Allowat Sakima, the last time you stood in our circle.

Save this booklet for future reference.

Ponder my words carefully.

Have you accepted this challenge?

Have you continued your service to your unit?

Do you strive to understand the tests of the Ordeal?

Do you fully understand the "Obligation," and try to live by its words?

Do you know the "Admonition?"

Those who have gone before you await your answer in the circle.

Will you take the next step along this journey that leads to true Brotherhood? Will you participate in the Brotherhood ceremony?

Yet, only *you* can decide if you have lived up to its demands.

I have faith in your ability to meet the challenge put to you by Allowat Sakima, for I have seen you meet many others along this journey.

Even today your journey continues. I have seen you try — really try — to set the example for others to follow.

But I have also seen you falter when the going has been rough.

You have found, like many before you, that it is not easy to serve when others just stand around...

To be cheerful when the job to be done is difficult...

Or to be a brother to a Scout who thinks only of himself.

Or was the **real** enemy to their survival the *selfish attitude* and *apathy* of those who did *nothing* in the face of the threat?

But, what was the enemy of the Delaware? Was it the "fierce marauders"?

one else was willing.

When "distant enemies suddenly disturbed their hunting," these two took it upon themselves to warn the other villages of the danger when no

Lenni Lenape were a part.

When we last talked, I reminded you of the efforts of Chingachgook and Uncas to save their people, the nation of Delaware Indians, of which the

You have found that upholding the "traditions" of the Order of the Arrow — brotherhood, cheerfulness and service — is not as simple as you may have first thought.

Unless you understand how these traditions apply to real life, your Obligation is nothing but empty words.

Journey's End and a New Beginning



Save this booklet for future reference.

SIGNATURE

Ponder my words carefully.

In the interest of continuing to serve my fellow man, I personally commit myself to the following:

As you take the last steps leading to the end of the lodge, you are about to end a journey that your unit had great confidence you would make...

A journey, you have learned, that can only be made by giving *leadership in service.*

As you await, in silence, the coming ceremony, I hope that the end of this journey will also mark for you a *new beginning.* In keeping with this spirit, spend a few moments to *privately* complete the following page, which outlines your intent for the future.

What is the Admonition, my Brother?

Many years ago there was a man with a vision.

I am that vision.

This man — Dr. E. Urner Goodman — believed that Scouting had many fine points, and that it could be even *better* as a program if it had a special way to emphasize its ideals to the young men participating.

And, he saw a means of achieving this goal.

He saw me.

He knew that no amount of talking would bring Scouts to know me.

But he realized that they would take notice when someone they knew and respected *set the example* by giving unselfish service.

So the *Winachtendienk* of the *Lemmi Lenape* was reborn to fill the needs of Scouting.

You were chosen by your fellow Scouts to bring me to them.

But Dr. Goodman understood that you would need help, knowledge, experience, and encouragement. So he planned that you would learn more about me before you were called on to set the example:

First you spent the night alone, and gained strength to act as an individual.

Then you spent the day in arduous labor, and discovered the joys of service.

You ate only the scant, simple food given to you, and learned to give up personal comfort to represent me.

And, all the while you were silent, so you might concentrate on your innermost thoughts.

As your Ordeal came to an end, you promised to put into practice what you had learned, pledging to make me part of your life, and, by doing this, bring me to your fellow Scouts.

What is the Admonition, my Brother?

By now, I trust you know the answer both in your mind and your heart.