

INVESTMENTS – O.E.S. STYLE

Good Afternoon. Today, I would like to speak to you about Investments – O.E.S. Style.

In the financial world, we are always told it is best to have a well rounded financial portfolio. One that will yield the best return on your principal investment which is currency or what we call cold, hard, cash. A well rounded financial portfolio consists of: 1) Low risk stocks; 2) Moderate risk stocks and 3) Risky or Volatile stocks.

The low risk stocks are those stocks that will yield a low but predictable return and no loss to your principal investment. The Moderate stocks will give you a higher return but they may expose you to some loss of your principal investment. The High risk stocks are those stocks that will earn you the highest return on your principal investment but they will also expose you to the greatest loss.

OK, all that's very nice to know, but you are wondering how that relates to the Ritualistic side of the Order of the Eastern Star. I'm glad you asked! In the financial world, your principal investment is currency. In the Order of the Eastern Star, your principal investment consists of three components: dedication, time and energy.

The members who hold seats in your Chapters have already activated their OES portfolios. Your chapter dialogue and floor work is your low risk stock. You have a steady return on your investment of dedication, time and energy at each meeting. Every time you execute the Line of March, each time you recite your dialogue from the Book of Instruction, whenever you commit your part to memory, anytime you perform the signs and passes you yield a return, a certain degree of satisfaction that you did your part well.

Let me, if I may, recommend that you now take the next step and invest some of your principal into the moderate stock and learn a part in the OES Degree. Degree work is moderate risk because you expose your principal investments of dedication, time and energy to more of a challenge.

In the OES Degree, you along with others take on the responsibility of being part of the *first and lasting impressions* on a candidate. For example, the Conductress teaches the Candidate the first lesson of, _____ and _____. I want to let you all know, that I still remember what happened that night. I remember how the sister said it and what she did when she said it!

As Conductress, you guide the candidate through her initiation ceremony, stopping at each of the five points of our central star. There, the candidate learns additional lessons and receives degrees from others who like you, have invested some of their principle in moderate stock of degree work.

Now, turn further into the Ritual and invest more principle in moderate stock by becoming versed in a part for the Queen of the South Degree. Dare to be one of the Princesses or the Queen who intercedes on behalf of the Queen of Sheba for the royal favor of Most Excellent King Solomon. Your return and your level of satisfaction with your work, will be much higher when you decide to do it successfully.

From there, dig deeper into your Ritual and invest your principal into a risky stock. Learn a part for the Burial Service. The Burial Service is a high risk stock because you are now before the Public; outside the security the Chapter room provides. You have the opportunity to obtain the maximum return on your investment by performing that last duty we owe to our departed sister or brother and also to display to the public how proficient we are by committing our parts to memory. We also make them curious and desirous to join our order because they were impressed with our actions and behavior.

To our seasoned members, just as investors decide to withdraw from the investment world for many reasons you too may have withdrawn from our Order. You may have withdrawn from studying and participating in the Chapter in a major way because you passed out of the East and are a Past Matron or Past Patron. You may have had an experience that was not pleasant. Whatever the case may have been, I invite you to come back and put down a small principal investment. Give it and yourself a chance to grow once again. Before long you will see the return on your investment multiply by leaps and bounds.

And now the disclaimer read your prospectus, all results will not be the same. It will base solely upon your input of Dedication, Time and Energy. Thank You.

Brother Clifton J. Hardy, Grand Assistant Lecturer

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