



**Most Excellent Grand High Priest 2017-2018
Robert Peelman**

Call me the Chapter office for details.

Companions, there will be a York Rite festival in Paintsville on Jan. 13th and 14th. I hope to see you there. Until next month, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Fraternally Thine,

Bob Peelman, MEGHP

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Robert Peelman, GHP

Companions,

Greetings Companions

Well another busy month has some and gone. I only managed to visit five of our chapters this past month. This will change. In the upcoming year I year I will be traveling about every day. So I will be seeing you soon.

As wonderful as it is visiting our chapters, one event stands out. On December 16th we celebrated the 200th anniversary of the Royal Arch Chapter of Kentucky. The dinner was hosted by Companion Billy Riggs, who did his usual fantastic job. It was attended by Grand Master, Tim Sanders; along with so many dignitaries from all the bodies of our Fraternity. A commemorative glass and coin were given to those in attendance and the coin is now for sale.



One thing is Certain By Howard Coop

The old year is about gone. In a few days, a new year will replace it, and the old year will become only a memory. So, the question is: How will the old year be remembered? One thing is sure: Each one of us will remember the old year from our own perspective.

As I pondered that question, the word “bittersweet” came to my mind. Now, according to Webster’s New World Dictionary, one definition of bittersweet is “pleasure mixed with overtones of sadness.” With that definition in mind, looking back on the events of the old year is, indeed, bittersweet, for it, for many of us, has been a year when many pleasant experiences were mixed with a few unpleasant experiences, some of which may have been very unpleasant. But that’s just the way life is, for life seldom is that proverbial “bed of roses.” It is more like Langston Hughes described it when he said, “Life for me ain’t been no crystal stair. It’s had tacks in it, and splinters, and boards turned up, and places with no carpet on the floor...”

It is easy, when looking back upon the old year, to recognize that it may not have given us everything we wanted, but most of us have to admit that it did give us much of that which we wanted. Therefore, life in the old year, in spite of the rough places, was good, and like Langston Hughes, we just “keep on climbing” and believing that the New Year that is ahead will bring much that is good. So, like another individual who lived almost two thousand years ago, “The one thing I do, however, is to forget what is behind me and do my best to reach what is ahead. So I run straight toward the goal in order to win the prize...” With that in mind, among all the uncertainties of life, one thing is certain: Whatever the old year may have been, the New Year that is ahead will be good.

Howard Coop, PM and Chaplain
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