

## Kentucky Rose Ceremony

The order of Rainbow teaches many beautiful lessons, but none more important than the honor and respect for womanhood, and especially for motherhood. I feel that it is fitting and proper to dedicate this occasion to our mothers, whose love never fails.

An angel was sent down upon the earth to bring back the most beautiful thing he saw. He hunted long and carefully. At last he saw a bed of full blown American Beauty roses, he gathered an arm full. Turning, he saw a baby's smile filled with rapture, he took it along too. By its side he discovered a mother's love. With all three in his arms he mounted to the sky. Just outside the pearly gates he paused for a moment. And lo, the baby's smile had vanished, the flowers withered and died, but the mother's love remained. He laid it at the Master's feet as the most loving and lasting thing upon the earth.

Our Savior, in the unutterable agony of his death upon the cross, was ever mindful of his mother, to teach us that his holy love should ever be in our worldly thoughts at all times, for:

It was a mother who loved you long before you were born  
Who carried you months while your body took form

Close to her heart in the fullness of time  
She took God's hand in hers this mother divine

She passed through the valley of shadows I'd say  
To give life to you in a miraculous way

She nursed and watched over you as a babe at her breast  
In the years of your childhood her council was best

As you've grown less dependent she has done countless things  
To make your life full of what happiness brings

Perhaps you've been careless in a sort of way  
And never fully appreciated the nice things she'd say

You just took for granted each deed and each act  
And accepted her devotion as a matter of fact

But now you are approaching a time in your life  
When one countless decision may mean sorrow or strife

So star counting your blessings while you are still young and gay  
Life's full of dark pitfalls choose carefully your way

For the tie that have bound you to your mother will wane  
But deep in her heart you are her Baby just the same

(PAUSE)

Were I to draw you a picture portraying love divine  
It would not be of an angel stately and sublime

It would be of a tired toiled worn other with a grave and tender face  
God in His infinite wisdom found mother to take her place,  
There roses are a symbol of that mother's love. I have one for each of you. When you go home tonight, give it to your mother, or the one that has taken her place. Tell her it is recognition of God's best gift... your mother's love. Take her in your arms, kiss her, and say, "Mother dear, I've learned a great lesson tonight. These ceremonies have helped me to realize more fully how much you mean to me, I'm going to try and show you daily how much I appreciate the sacrifices you have made and the love and care you have given me."

Some day you will find the rose, I know not where, perhaps in her Bible or Prayer book, or some other sacred place, a silent witness to what this night has meant to the one whose love for you, her daughter, is beyond comprehension of any man. Rainbow can ask no more of you than to be worthy of that love.