

Ceremony of the Shell
Written by Laurie Etling, SP Bethel No. 2 (1988)

- 1M** Although on the outside so attractive and bright,
This shell on the inside is as dark as night.
When sometimes our lives are lonely and black,
We look to God for love and light.
- 2M** This shell is sometimes grimy and soiled,
As when my heart is smashed with guilt.
But like the shell which is cleansed by the sea, s\
So can God's love purify me.
- 3M** Shells in countless colors come,
More numerous than the stars which hover,
When tribulations rise up, innumerable and large,
These troubles God will crush and smother.
- 4M** This beautiful shell is a work of art,
Special and unique.
We are all like this shell in the eyes of God,
That thought you should always keep
- 5M** This shell has been tempest tossed and lost,
But it now lays before me on the beach.
Remember that no matter how deserted you feel,
You are always within God's sheltering reach.