

## The Return of Father Job

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**THEME:** Father Job has returned to the Bethel. He has come to find out if the teachings of Job are being communicated to the new daughters.

**SETTING:** This ceremony is to be performed following a meeting, and from memory. Participants should have good speaking skills and project their voices so that all in attendance can hear what is being spoken. As this is not an official ceremony, the Bible will be closed. Father Job will be in costume.

**CAST:** Inner and Outer Guards  
Chaplain  
A Messenger (preferably the 5<sup>th</sup> Messenger)  
Newest Daughter (preferably a member less than 1-2 years)  
Honored Queen (Keren Happuch)  
Bethel Guardian  
Father Job (Master Mason)

The ceremony begins as:

Four knocks are given at the Bethel door by the Outer Guard. The Inner Guard responds in the usual manner.

**OG** Inner Guard, a distinguished visitor has arrived. He has traveled a long distance and has many questions. Please advise the Honored Queen that he seeks admittance.

The door is closed in the usual manner and the Inner Guard returns to her station. If the Honored Queen is seated, she rises at this time.

**IG** Honored Queen, the Outer Guard has informed me that a distinguished visitor has arrived. He has traveled a long distance and has many questions. He seeks admittance to our Bethel.

**HQ** That must be Father Job, please admit him.

The Inner Guard returns to the Bethel door and opens it.

**IG** Outer Guard, admit Father Job.

Father Job enters the Bethel room and stands inside the Bethel door. The Inner Guard returns to her station. The Outer Guard will take her customary place in the Bethel room.

**FJ** Keren Happuch, I have traveled many miles, over many years. In my travels, I have heard often of the Daughters of this Bethel. May I stop here to rest and to visit with them?

**HQ** Please visit with us Father Job, we do love you and this Order. We try to live up to your teachings, and I hope that you will find us worthy of your name.

Father Job walks in the direction of the Treasurer's station. As he passes the station of the Second Messenger, he begins to speak.

FJ Daughters, I have heard many good words about you, during my travels. The good work you do for the community and numerous charities...., the help you give to the Masonic Organizations, and your compassion and hard work for children with hearing problems. I am certainly proud of you... (Father Job stands near the Altar, and looks at the Daughters while speaking) But that is not why I came here tonight.

Father Job turns toward the East, and looks to the Honored Queen and Princesses.

FJ Keren Happuch, Kezia, Jemima ...

The Honored Queen motions for the Princesses to rise.

FJ Are you and your Officers fulfilling your vows and teaching the story of my trials and my tribulations to the new Daughters...Are you teaching them that faith in God will overcome all of life's challenges... You must teach this to them, so they may in turn, teach it to those who will come after you. (This is said with feeling and with a sense of urgency).

HQ yes, we are Father Job, but ask the Daughters themselves, if they have learned the story.

Father Job turns and looks around for a moment, the Honored Queen and Princesses sit down. Father Job walks to the sidelines.

FJ Where is our newest Daughter? (He looks out over the floor)

ND (After a brief moment, she rises and says) Here I am, Father Job.

Father Job turns toward her and holds out his hand.

FJ Join me Daughter, I want to get to know you better, and for you also to know me.

The newest daughter walks to Father Job, takes his hand, they walk into the semi-circle. The newest daughter begins to speak as they walk.

ND Father Job, I learned some about you when I was initiated, but I admit, I didn't remember everything. I was a little nervous that night.

FJ It takes time to learn about the teachings of Job and this Order...but listen well to the ritual and take every opportunity to learn. And remember also, the Obligation you took at the Altar, that first night...Let us talk with the Bethel Officers.

FJ Daughter Messengers, (He motions for them to rise) you have the privilege of telling the story of my eventful life, the pleasure, the trials, the temptations and my final victory over the Adversary, to the Daughters. There are many lessons found in these words...Have you taught them well?

M Yes, Father Job, we try our best. It is a long story, but we try to tell it with feeling and understanding. There is much to learn from these words, and many times they do not become apparent until we have studied them.

FJ You are right Daughter, but I urge you all, learn it today, and study their meaning not just their words...It speaks about how I had so many riches...vast estates and animals...and a large, happy family. It spoke of how the Adversary challenges my faith in God, how everything I

had was destroyed, and my children lost...Yet, no matter how my faith in God was tested, it never faltered. And in the end, the Lord rewarded me many times over.

FJ Daughter Messenger(s) (looking at the Fifth Messenger) your lesson(s) deals with life today. You relate how my trials are just as important today as they were during my time. (Father Job looks around) Listen well to this story. It tells how each of you may experience difficulties in your life...and how with God's help...you will overcome them.

Father Job and the Newest Daughter turn and walk out of the semi-circle, the Messengers sit down. They walk toward the Chaplain.

FJ Daughter Chaplain... (the Chaplain rises) You have such a responsible position. You must lead the devotions of this Bethel, do this with respect and reverence for God. During the ceremony of initiation, you must confer the Obligation to the new Daughters. This Obligation is not to be given or received lightly.

C Father Job...It has taught us, to do at least one useful act each day...to uphold the laws of our country and its flag...To respect our parents and guardians...and most important.../That I will love the Lord my God...with all my heart.

Silence for a brief moment

ND Father Job...I do.

FJ Thank you Daughter, come...let us travel some more.

Chaplain sits down, Father Job and the Newest Daughter walk toward the East. Father Job motions for the Honored Queen and the Princesses to rise.

FJ Kezia and Jemima...you have much to teach the Daughters. The first and second Epochs are under your supervision. Your words inspire faith and offer guidance for living.

The Honored Queen motions for the Princesses to sit down.

FJ Keren Happuch...the third Epoch is under your charge. Learn it well...You are the Honored Queen. These new Daughters look to you for your wisdom and your guidance. Be fair and truthful in your dealings, and provide an example to all the Daughters, not only these here today, but to those who have come before you, of what a Job's Daughter truly is.

HQ I will...Father Job.

FJ Keren Happuch, you have many duties, and in turn you receive many honors. (Father Job turns and looks to the Daughters on the floor) But remember this well my Daughters...In my eyes, you are all equal. It takes the work and support of all the Daughters, to make this Bethel flourish.

Father Job and the Newest Daughter start walking towards the Bethel Guardian, then stop. He turns toward the Daughters.

FJ Now Daughters, let me ask you this...is your Bethel Guardian worthy of her station?

All Daughters Yes she is, Father Job.

The Bethel Guardian stands, when addressed.

FJ We shall see...Bethel Guardian...the Daughters speak well of you. I am pleased. But I must now ask you...have you lived up to your Obligation...both to the Daughters and to this Order?

BG I have, Father Job.

FJ It is your duty to supervise the transactions of this Bethel, to see that the Officers are proficient in their ritualistic work...and to teach them the principles of this Order. These duties are not to be taken lightly. Into your hands...I have placed the perpetual care of this Bethel. (This is said with emotion, charging the Bethel Guardian in a stern manner)

BG I do my best, Father Job. It is not an easy job. There are many things to be done, it does take a lot of time...and sometimes I must say no.

FJ I understand, and I hope that the Daughters and their parents...understand as well. Thank you Bethel Guardian...watch over these Daughters for me.

Father Job and the Newest Daughter walk back into the semi-circle, the Bethel Guardian sits down.

FJ Now Daughter...tell me about yourself.

ND Well, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, I joined Job's Daughters \_\_\_\_\_ months ago, and I am now \_\_\_\_\_ (office) and I really like it, we really have a good time. (This is said with enthusiasm)

FJ How did you become interested in Job's Daughters?

ND I had never heard of Job's Daughters before \_\_\_\_\_ said something to me. She signed my petition.

FJ \_\_\_\_\_, there are a lot of young girls who are eligible to join this Order, but just do not know anything about us...Please tell your friends about Job's Daughters and the good things that you do...Who knows,,,maybe someday it will be your turn to sign a petition for a new Daughter.

FJ Now let me ask you this...have you started learning your Proficiency yet?

ND No, I haven't, but I plan to real soon.

FJ Please do it as soon as possible. There is so much to learn. Your Bethel sisters and Guardians will be glad to help you in any way. And don't just learn it to be able to repeat the words...Understand what it says, if you have questions...ask.

Father Job turns and looks out over the Bethel room.

FJ Well Daughters, it is time for me to leave you now.

ND Bye...please come back again.

FJ I will try, \_\_\_\_\_.

The Newest Daughter gives a quick hug then returns to her seat. The Honored Queen rises.

FJ Thank you for allowing me to visit with you tonight. I have enjoyed my time here. I would like to urge you to continue your good work...and to study your ritual. And please...remember, the Master Masons who gave you your heritage, thank them for this gift...let them know that you are proud to be a Job's Daughter.

Daughters...think of the Bethel as a sanctuary...there are many problems in this world today...just as there were in my day...but when you pass through the Bethel doors...you can leave many of those problems behind...and concentrate on more positive thoughts and ideals. To the parents and Guardians of these Daughters...Be proud of them...they need your support and your encouragement...they sometimes make mistakes, but then again, don't we all. Daughters you have done well. The reports I have heard about you are correct...The Daughters of this Bethel are truly...the fairest in the land.

Father Job turns and extends his hands. The lights may be dimmed at this time.

FJ Dear Lord...Bless these Daughters of Job, endow them with the wisdom to choose right from wrong...bless them with compassion for those less fortunate than they are...teach them to follow your Commandments...and fill them with love for all things. Amen.

I have one last word for you before I leave...Trust in God...Respect your elders...and believe in yourself.

Keren Happuch, may I retire at this time?

HQ Yes, you may Father Job, but please come back again. You are never far from our hearts, but it is nice to visit with you.

The Honored Queen raps twice, the Officers stand, an appropriate song is sung (Faith of Our Fathers is a suggestion). Father Job stands in the doorway until the song is finished, then departs. The Honored Queen raps once, the Officers sit down.

This ends the ceremony.