

Lora's Rainbow Story

by Lora Brown

The International Order of Rainbow for Girls ("Rainbow") is one of several orders affiliated with Freemasonry that was created for the daughters of Masons and their friends.

A friend who was a Rainbow Girl has discussed the trivial details of Rainbow with me. She approached me at recess on my 12th birthday, and gave me a petition to join. When the local assembly received my petition, they sent an Investigating Committee to my home to discuss Rainbow with me and my mother. Soon after, the Rainbow Assembly balloted on my petition. I was notified of my acceptance and then initiated.

At that time, the only portion of the ceremony that my mother was allowed to observe was the Rose Lecture, which was given by the Orator after the Assembly had been closed. A couple of years went by, and then I was elected to serve as the Sister of Faith, which is the first of five chairs "going up the line" of offices to become the Worthy Advisor who presides over the local Assembly. I was installed as Worthy Advisor at age 15, and installed as a Grand Representative at Grand Assembly (state level of Rainbow) the following year.

There were fewer than a handful of regular *and* installing offices that I had not occupied in the Assembly during my nine-year membership. My Assembly had bestowed several awards and an honor upon me, and my name was supposedly on the waiting list to receive the Grand Cross of Color, which is the honorary second degree of Rainbow.

I took a total of 18 vows, pledges, oaths and obligations at the Rainbow altar, which were renewed annually in a ceremony with my Rainbow sisters. I have since repented and renounced all of them. Numbers 30:3-5, Holy Bible states:

“When a young woman still living in her father’s house makes a vow to the Lord or obligates herself by a pledge and her father hears about her vow or pledge but says nothing to her, then all her vows and every pledge by which she obligated herself will stand. But if her father forbids her when he hears about it, none of her vows or the pledges by which she obligated herself will stand; the Lord will release her because her father has forbidden her.” (NIV)

At age 18, I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior and Lord, but at that time did not have the spiritual maturity to see any conflict between the teachings of Rainbow and Christianity. Christian friends advised me to leave Rainbow but could not provide specific reasons why. I had put so much time, money, and effort into Rainbow in exchange for the friendships, fun, leadership, direction, "spirituality" and opportunities to excel that Rainbow seemed to provide. But God urged me to leave, so I petitioned for a withdrawal from Rainbow. In this letter I stated that Rainbow's beliefs and practices were opposed to my faith in Jesus. Only after I was obedient to God and trusted Him in applying for this withdrawal did the reasons why I should leave Rainbow begin to emerge.

I was active in Rainbow for the first seven years of my membership, during which time I fed on the watered-down, candy-coated doctrines of Masonry. Spiritually I was starving, but I didn't even realize it until I had fed on the "Bread of Life", Jesus Christ. After much prayer, research, and many letters and phone calls to Christian ministries and past Lodge members, I had a pretty good idea of what the Masonic Lodge was all about, but I still could not connect those atrocities with the beauty I saw in Rainbow. The eighteen vows, pledges, oaths and obligations I swore at the Rainbow altar had bound me, numbed me, and blinded me spiritually to the dangers of being in an affiliated Masonic order. I had been desensitized.

Months passed, and the Assembly still maintained my membership. My withdrawal was ignored, so I tried to be suspended for non-payment of dues. Mysteriously, they were paid — two years in a row. Eventually, I reached the age of majority (21 years), at which point I was to have gone through the Majority Service and receive Majority Member status (a life-time, honorary membership). The Assembly (Rainbow Girls and their adult sponsors) urged me to return to go through the Majority Service so I could proceed into the Order of the Eastern Star. I almost gave in to them, but just two months before my 21st birthday and 22 months after I had originally petitioned for the withdrawal, they finally mailed me a Majority Member card without my returning to the Order. By doing this, they had given me a life-time membership in Rainbow, and I could return to any Assembly in the world, be presented in the East, and be hailed with Grand Honors for my previous participation in Rainbow.

I rejected the Majority membership and am now a proud participant of Ex-Masons For Jesus (www.emfj.org) and member of Evangelical Ministries to New Religions (www.emnr.org). You can contact them as well as Ephesians 5:11

Ministries (www.ephesians5-11.org) for more information about Masonry and they will be glad to send it to you.

If you would like to ask me questions about my Rainbow participation or find out more about this particular Order, please contact me. I'd be glad to discuss it with you further. — Lora Brown

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