

INTER FRATRES *HERITAGE AND DESTINY*

Seth R. Brooks, *St. Lawrence '22*
February 1953

Two words constantly come to mind when I think of Beta Theta Pi. These two words are heritage and destiny. The terms have in them a sense of historical movement. Heritage is the accumulated store of achievement, history and attainment built in the past and given as a legacy to the present. Destiny is that toward which persons and things move in terms of their fortune or fate. Although destiny often connotes the propelling power of a predetermining agency, it also in the historical sense means that end which a person or thing is rightly meant to fill.

In speaking of the American heritage, one means the blessings he receives as a birthright because of the kind of legacy his American forbears bequeathed. In speaking of America's destiny, one means the fulfillment of the role the American society is historically meant to play.

Reduce Beta Theta Pi to its simplest terms. Define it as a Greek letter college fraternity which is organized around obligations voluntarily taken to certain enduring moral principles and spiritual ideals. The definition may be simple, but the inherent values in the definition are the profound things of human existence.

The fraternal values we have today are our heritage. They have been cherished and passed on for over a century. They were upheld, supported, avowed and lived by those who went before us. They have been handed down in our Ritual. They have been enunciated in the greatest addresses made by our speakers. They were transparent in our long line of exemplars. So we of the present have a heritage. It is what our Fraternity in the past built into a body of tradition, performance and purpose and has given to us as its testament.

The Fraternity also has a destiny. It is the part we are meant to play on the campus, in the Chapter house, in our Alumni Associations and in the world. Commitment to what is our rightful destiny excludes anything unbecoming to our high and noble purposes. Devotion to our destiny means that we will strive to see that we move toward the accomplishment of our mission. No one can honestly question the value of an association like ours, if it carries out those ends for which it was created. They are ends which spell better intellects, lasting friendships, mutual assistance and more moral and useful men.

We have a great heritage. That has been established and is our by inheritance. The question for us of the present is, will we give ourselves to the fulfillment of our destiny as a great and good fraternity.

The Beta heritage and the Beta destiny go hand in hand.