

(Processional)

Officiants: Whom are ye who come before us?

Groom: I am _____ son of _____.

Bride: I am _____ daughter of _____.

Officiants: For what purpose have ye come?

G & B: We have come to submit ourselves to ye, that our hands may be joined and our rings exchanged, and our vows given each to the other before witnesses and the appropriate powers of earth and sky, fire and sea, and to ask ye to perform for us these services of marriage.

(Officiants confer briefly)

Officiants: It is our decision to accept your charge.
Come forward, _____ (Groom). Dost thou now declare and affirm that thou art free to speak these vows and enter the marriage bond this day?

Groom: I do so declare.

Officiants: Come forward, _____ (Bride). Dost thou now declare and affirm that thou art free to speak these vows and enter the marriage bond this day?

Bride: I do so declare.

Officiants: (Invocation to Goddess & God). Be Blessed all here met.
Let love fill your hearts and leave all your woes flee.
Tell now, _____ (Groom) and _____ (Bride) why ye have come to be thus bonded.

G & B: (They speak in own words why they wish to be bonded.)

Officiants: It is well. Blessed Be _____ (Groom). Blessed Be _____ (Bride). Be Blessed with both, strength and gentleness, excitement and calm, inspiration and patience, perfect love, and perfect trust. Blessed Be the marriage with offspring of flesh and blood, or of inspired achievements that ye may be further drawn together. (They join G & B's hands together) O _____ (Groom) give thy marriage pledge.

Groom: (Pledge in own words.)

Bride: (Responds to pledge.)

Officiants: O _____ (Bride) give thy marriage pledge.

Bride: (Pledge in own words.)

Groom: (Responds to pledge.)

Officiants: It is well. Do ye have any tokens to exchange to seal these bonds?

G & B: We have these rings.

Groom: As joined these metals of this ring so now do I join my life to thine.

OVER

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Bride: As joined these metals of this ring so now do I join my life to thine.

Officiants: This bond we draw between you, that though ye are parted in mind or in body, there will be a call in the core of ye, each to the other, that nothing, and no one else will answer to. By the secrets of earth and water, this bond is woven, by the secrets of fire and air, this call is set in your life and beyond so rejoice. You may seal this bond with a kiss.

(Recessional)

HANDFASTING #2

(Processional)

Officiant#1: May the place of this rite be consecrated before the Gods, for we gather here in a ritual of love with two who would be wedded.

Officiant#2: _____ (Bride) and _____ (Groom) come forward and stand here, before us and before the Gods of Nature.

(Calling of quarters)

Officiant#1: _____ (Bride) and _____ (Groom), your love for one another is great. Have you pledged to give to one another to show the shape of the love which flows through you?

B & G: Yes, we do.

Officiant#2: _____ (Bride), give your pledge to _____ (Groom).

Bride: (Pledge in own words, ending with , Take now this ring/chalice as a sign of my love.)

Officiant#1: _____ (Groom), give your pledge to _____ (Bride).

Groom: (Pledge in own words, ending with, Take now this ring/chalice as a sign of my love.)

Officiant#2: Seal your pledge with a kiss. (B & G hold hands.) By earth and wind, by flame and rain spirit to spirit you are bound. Above you are the stars, below you are the stones. As time passes remember, like a star may your love be constant, like a stone may your love be firm. May you be close, yet not too close, may you possess one another, yet not own them. Have patience with each other, for storms will come but will go quickly.

Officiant#1: Be free in giving affection and warmth, make love often and be sensuous with one another. Have no fear, and let not the ways or words of the unenlightened give you unease, for the Goddess & God are with you now, and always.

(Quarters are dismissed, followed by recessional)

OVER

(Introduction, in which Guests are told what is going on and what will be expected of them.)

Officiant(s): We are here to celebrate an ongoing relationship, and to witness an affirmation of commitment to that relationship.

We cast a circle to recognize the creation of sacred space and time, where it is safe for us to shift from ordinary to mystical consciousness, a place where we give recognition to the specialness of this event in which we are participating. We ask that when we cast the circle, you fall in behind us, and walk the circle with us. We ask that you listen, with open hearts and minds, to the invocations, and allow yourselves to experience whatever feelings or perceptions they evoke.

(Circle is Cast)

Officiant(s): May the place of this rite be consecrated before the Gods, for we gather here in a ritual of love with two who would be handfasted.

Who are you who comes before me(us)?

Bride: I am _____ daughter of _____ (Mother & Father) from the clan of _____ (last name)

Groom: I am _____ son of _____ (Mother & Father) from the clan of _____ (last name)

Officiant(s): For what purpose have you come?

Bride: I wish to acknowledge _____ (Groom)'s place in my life.

Groom: I wish to acknowledge _____ (Bride)'s place in my life.

Officiant(s): Walk the circle with me(us) as we call the quarters.

(Quarters are called wedding couple follows Officiant around the circle to each direction, as it is called.)

(Goddess and God are invoked.)

Officiant(s): Are you both prepared to exchange vows and tokens of your love here before these witnesses and the Goddess and God?

B & G: We are.

Officiant(s): You may now join hands.

_____ (Bride) give your marriage pledge.

Bride: (In own words gives pledge)

Officiant(s): _____ (Groom) give your marriage pledge.

Groom: (In own words gives pledge.)

Officiant(s): It is done. You may now exchange tokens of your love (B & G exchange rings/chalices etc.)

(Officiant(s) get sword and broom from behind the altar, and lay them down, broom tail facing the west, and sword handle facing the east, slightly crossed.)

OVER

Officiant(s): Long ago, marriages were sometimes made by the sword, a mate carried off by a warrior of the neighboring tribe, they would be enemies until they formally allied themselves with one another. In jumping the sword they gave formal, direct, symbolic recognition to the leaving behind of enmity.

As times changed, and marriage evolved, the symbolism evolved. The negative aspect of letting go of enmity became less important than the positive aspect of affirming alliance. The couple that leapt the sword indicated a willingness to care for and defend one another. It is this latter meaning that we ascribe to the leaping of this sword.

Yet the practice of leaping evolved. When the lovers were of oppressed peoples, disallowing the use of swords, a broom was substituted. The symbolism shifted again. Rather than defence, a broom symbolises the keeping of a home, and those jumping of over it are affirming their willingness to make their home a warm and loving place for one another.

With this in mind, we also have this broom.

(Couple jumps over broom and sword either holding hands, or with their hands tied together by Officiant with a red cord.)

Officiant(s): You may now seal your bond with a kiss.

(Goddess and God are dismissed as well as quarters, circle is opened.)

(Recessional)

HANDFASTING #4

(Procession)

(Circle is cast)

Officiants: We are gathered to witness the rite of two who choose to merge their lives together. As conscience recognition of their love, they have created this ritual. Would those who wish to be joined please come forth.

(G & B walk up to Officiants)

Officiants: Speak and tell us who you are.

Groom: I am _____.

Bride: I am _____.

Officiants: _____ (Groom) and _____ (Bride) do you here and now announce publicly that you are free to exchange vows before the Lord and Lady of all things?

G & B: We do.

Officiants: Then come with us, to call the 4 quarters.

(Quarters are called with couple following.)

OVER

Officiants: Let us now invite the Lord and Lady, that they may honor us with their presence, and bless this rite.

(God and Goddess are invoked.)

Officiants: Each relationship comes with its own tests and rewards, may you bring your lives to fruit and flower, but you must be ready and willing to go through the difficult times in your lives as well. The challenge is to love each other through all circumstances and have beauty and grace.

(Officiants then tie a ribbon around the couple's wrists, Officiants then hand couple first a chalice, and then a bottle of wine, with tied hands, the couple pour the wine into the chalice. They then face each direction in turn in salutation, pour some on the ground, and then drink together.)

(Officiants then unties couple)

Officiants: Now let us hear in the presence of the Lord and Lady, _____ (Groom)'s and _____ (Bride's) vows to each other.

Groom: (Gives vows in own words)

Bride: (Gives vows in own words)

Officiants: Do you wish to exchange tokens of these vows?

G & B: We do.

Officiants: Blessed be these rings which are a symbol of the eternal circle of love and trust which binds this couple together.

Groom: As the circle of this ring is eternal so is my love for you.

Bride: As the circle of this ring is eternal so is my love for you.

Officiants: In the name of the Lord and Lady and of the elements air, fire, water, and earth, and the mystery that breathes wonder into all these things, we now pronounce you husband and wife, man and woman, _____ (Groom) and _____ (Bride) you may seal this bond with a kiss.

In olden days a symbol of affirmation and willingness to create a loving and warm life for each other was the practice of those newly wedded to jump over a broom, so now we present this ancient tradition to you, and wish many blessing to this couple as they jump.

(The couple jumps over the broom, hands held.)

(God and Goddess are dismissed, as are the quarters, circle is opened.)

For ideas on various invocations, recommended books are:

"Eight Sabbats For Witches", Janet & Stewart Farrar

"The Spiral Dance", Starhawk

"The Holy Book Of Women's Mysteries", Z. Budapest

"The Tree: Book Of Saxon Witchcraft", Raymond Buckland

"Magical Rites From The Crystal Well", Ed Fitch

"Witchcraft For Tomorrow", Doreen Valiente

BLESSED BE!