

## Handfasting Ritual with Six Cords

(Handfasting is a Celtic Ritual You May have seen this in the movie Braveheart in the scene in the woods/forest)

Know now before you go further, that since your lives have crossed you has formed ties between each other. As you seek to enter this noble state of matrimony, you should strive to make real, the ideals which give meaning to both this ceremony and the institution of marriage. The promises made today and the ties that are bound here greatly strengthen your union; they will cross the years and lives of your growth. Do you still seek to enter this ceremony? (Yes. We seek to enter).

I bid you to look into each other's eyes.

Groom, will you share in Bride's pain and seek to alleviate it? I will.

Bride, will you share in Groom's pain and seek to alleviate it? I will.

1. And so the binding is made. Please join you hands (in a figure 8 position). The first cord is placed on the bride and groom's hand.

Groom, will you share in Bride's laughter and look for the brightness and the positive in her? I will.

Bride, will you share in Groom's laughter and look for the brightness and positive in him? I will.

2. And so the binding is made. The second cord is placed on the bride and groom's hands.

Groom, will you share in Bride's burdens so that your spirits may grow in this union? I will.

Bride, will you share in Groom's burdens so that your spirits may grow in this union? I will.

3. And so the binding is made. The third cord is placed on the hands.

Groom, will you share in Bride's dreams? I will.

Bride, will you share in Groom's dreams? I will.

4. And so the binding is made. The fourth cord is placed on the hands.

Groom, will you take the heat of anger and use it to temper the strength of this union? I will.

Bride, will you take the heat of anger and use it to temper the strength of this union? I will.

5. And so the binding is made. The fifth cord is placed on the hands.

Groom, will you honor Bride as an equal in this union? I will.

Bride, will you honor Groom as an equal in this union? I will.

6. And so the binding is made. The sixth cord is placed on the hands. Tie the cords together.

The knots of this binding are not formed by these cords buy instead by your vows. Whether this union will last or break is in your hands based on your communication, love, honor and trust of one another.

## **Handfasting Ceremony (One Cord/Ribbon)**

Do you (Groom) take (Bride) to be your wife, To be her constant friend, her partner in life, and her true love?  
To love her without reservation, honor and respect her, protect her from harm, comfort her in times of distress,  
and to grow with her in mind and spirit?

Do you, (Bride), take (Groom) to be your husband, To be his constant friend, his partner in life, and his true love?  
To love him without reservation, honor and respect him, protect him from harm, comfort him in times of distress,  
and to grow with him in mind and spirit?

## **Handfasting Ceremony - Blessing**

In times past it was believed that the human soul shared characteristics with all things divine. It is this belief which assigned virtues to the cardinal directions; East, South, West and North. It is in this tradition that a blessing is offered in support of this ceremony.

Blessed be this union with the gifts of the East. Communication of the heart, mind, and body, Fresh beginnings with the rising of each Sun. The knowledge of the growth found in the sharing of silences. Blessed be this union with the

gifts of the South. Warmth of hearth and home The heat of the heart's passion The light created by both to illuminate the darkest of times.

Blessed be this union with the gifts of the West. The deep commitments of the lake The swift excitement of the river The refreshing cleansing of the rain The all encompassing passion of the sea.

Blessed be this union with the gifts of the North Firm foundation on which to build Fertility of the fields to enrich your lives A stable home to which you may always return.

Each of these blessings emphasizes those things which will help you build a happy and successful union. Yet they are only tools. Tools which you must use together in order to create what you seek in this union.

### **Handfasting Verse**

Now you are bound one to the other with a tie not easy to break. Take the time of binding before the final vows are made to learn what you need to know - To grow in wisdom and love, that your marriage will be strong that your love will last in this life and beyond.

### **Oathing Stone (Scottish Tradition)**

(Bride) and (Groom) will now take their vows using the tradition of the oathing stone. For those of you not familiar with this tradition it is when the bride and groom either hold or put their hands together on a stone as they repeat their wedding vows. An oath given near a stone or water was considered to be more binding. Some believe that it is where the phrase 'set in stone' comes from.

### **Loving Cup Wine Ceremony**

Red & white wine ~ 2 carafes ~ Center Carafe~1 wine glass small decorated table

The couples parents will carry the carafe to the front and place them on the table or it may be there already

This ceremony takes place following the vows

#### **Ceremony:**

**We will now perform the wine ceremony:** Groom and Bride, you have exchanged vows and rings expressing your desire to be united as one in a marriage. The individual wines represent your individual lives before today; the combined wine represents your new life as one. May that truth be reflected as you now take the white wine representing you (bride) and the red wine representing you (groom) and blend them into the one center loving Cup. May the sweetness of the wine unite you with one love. I ask you to each drink from the Loving Cup sealing your new lives as one

### **(A) Traditional Celtic Wedding Vow**

Ye are Blood of my Blood, and Bone of my Bone. I give ye my Body, that we Two might be One. I give ye my Spirit, `till our Life shall be Done.

You cannot possess me for I belong to myself But while we both wish it, I give you that which is mine to give  
You cannot command me, for I am a free person But I shall serve you in those ways you require and the honeycomb will taste sweeter coming from my hand.

### **(B) Traditional Celtic Wedding Vow**

I vow you the first cut of my meat, the first sip of my wine, from this day it shall only your name I cry out in the night and into your eyes that I smile each morning; I shall be a shield for you back as you are for mine, no shall a grievous word be spoken about us, for our marriage is sacred between us and no stranger shall hear my grievance. Above and beyond this, I will cherish and honor you through this life and into the next.

**(C) Celtic Wedding Vow (said to each other not repeated)**

"I pledge my love to you, and everything that I own. I promise you the first bite of my meat and the first sip from by cup. I pledge that your name will always be the name I cry aloud in the dead of night. I promise to honor you above all others. Our love is never-ending, and we will remain, forevermore, equals in our marriage. This is my wedding vow to you."

**(D) Celtic Wedding Vow**

"I pledge my love to you, and everything that I own. I promise you the first bite of my meat and the first sip from by cup. I pledge that your name will always be the name I cry aloud in the dead of night. I promise to honor you above all others. Our love is never-ending, and we will remain, forevermore, equals in our marriage. This is my wedding vow to you."

**(E) Celtic Wedding Vow by Morgan Llywelyn (not repeated said to each other)**

You cannot possess me for I belong to myself But while we both wish it, I give you that which is mine to give You cannot command me, for I am a free person But I shall serve you in those ways you require and the honeycomb will taste sweeter coming from my hand.

I pledge to you that yours will be the name I cry aloud in the night and the eyes into which I smile in the morning I pledge to you the first bite of my meat and the first drink from my cup I pledge to you my living and my dying, each equally in your care I shall be a shield for your back and you for mine I shall not slander you, nor you me I shall honor you above all others, and when we quarrel we shall do so in private and tell no strangers our grievances.

This is my wedding vow to you. This is the marriage of equals.

**(F) Irish Wedding Vow**

By the power that Christ brought from heaven, mayst thou love me. As the sun follows its course, mayst thou follow me. As light to the eye, as bread to the hungry, as joy to the heart, May thy presence be with me, oh one that I love, 'till death comes to part us asunder.

**(G) Medieval Celtic Wedding Vow**

I (Groom) take thee (Bride) to my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, for fairer or fouler, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us depart, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereunto I plight thee my troth.

I (Bride). Take thee (Groom) to my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to be bonny and buxom at bed and at board, to love and to cherish, till death we depart, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereunto I plight thee my troth.

### **(H) Secular Wedding Vows**

I, (grooms full name), in the name of the spirit of God that resides within us all, by the life that courses within my blood and the love that resides within my heart, take thee (bride's full name) to my hand, my heart, and my spirit, to be my chosen one. To desire thee and be desired by thee, to possess thee, and be possessed by thee, without sin or shame, for naught can exist in the purity of my love for thee. I promise to love thee wholly and completely without restraint, in sickness and in health, in plenty and in poverty, in life and beyond, where we shall meet, remember, and love again. I shall not seek to change thee in any way. I shall respect thee, thy beliefs, thy people, and thy ways as I respect myself.

I (bride's full name), in the name of the spirit of God that resides within us all, by the life that courses within my blood, and the love that resides within my heart, take thee, (Groom's full name) to my hand, my heart, and my spirit to be my chosen one. To desire and be desired by thee, to possess thee, and be possessed by thee, without sin or shame, for naught can exist in the purity of my love for thee. I promise to love thee wholly and completely without restraint, in sickness and in health, in plenty and in poverty, in life and beyond, where we shall meet, remember, and love again. I shall not seek to change thee in any way. I shall respect thee, thy beliefs, thy people, and thy ways as I respect myself.

### **The Giving of Rings Verse**

I take you my heart at the rising of the moon and the setting of the stars. To love and to honor through all that may come. Through all our lives together in all our lives, May we be reborn that we may meet and know And love again, And remember

### **Irish Wedding Blessing**

May God go with you and bless you, May you see your children`s children, May you be poor in misfortune and rich in blessings, May you know nothing but happiness from this day forward.

May joy and peace surround you both, Contentment latch your door, And happiness be with you now And God Bless you ever more. May you live your life with trust, and nurture lifelong affection, May your lifelong dreams come true for you, Move ever that direction.

May the road rise to meet you, May the wind be always at your back, May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields. May the light of friendship guide your paths together, May the laughter of children grace the halls of your home. May the joy of living for each other trip a smile from your lips, a twinkle from your eye. And when eternity beckons, at the end of the life heaped high with love, May the good Lord embrace you with the arms that have nurtured you the whole length of your joy-filled days. May the gracious God hold you both in the palm of His hands. And, today, may the Spirit of Love find a dwelling place in your hearts.

### **(A) Celtic Wedding Blessing**

May the road rise to meet you, May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

May God be with you and bless you; May you see your children's children. May you be poor in misfortune, Rich in blessings, May you know nothing but happiness from this day forward. May the road rise to meet you May the wind be always at your back May the warm rays of sun fall upon your home and may the hand of a friend always be near. May green be the grass you walk on, May blue be the skies above you, May pure be the joys that surround you, May true be the hearts that love you.

### **(B) Celtic Blessing**

You are the star of each night, you are the brightness of every morning, you are the story of each guest, and you are the report of every land. No evil shall befall you, on hill nor bank, In field or valley, on mountain or in glen. Neither above, nor below, neither in sea, Nor on shore, in skies above, Nor in the depths. You are the kernel of my heart, you are the face of my sun, you are the harp of my music, and you are the crown of my company

### **(C) Celtic Wedding Blessing**

May God be with you and bless you. May you see your children's children. May you be poor in misfortune; rich in blessings, May you know nothing but happiness. From this day forward.

### **(D) Celtic Wedding Blessing**

Happy is the bride that rain falls on May your mornings bring joy and your evenings bringing peace. May your troubles grow few as your blessings increase. May the saddest day of your future be no worse than the happiest day of your past. May your hands be forever clasped in friendship and your hearts joined forever in love. Your lives are very special; God has touched you in many ways. May his blessings rest upon you and fill all your coming days. We swear by peace and love to stand, Heart to heart and hand to hand. Hark, O Spirit, and hear us now, confirming this Sacred Vow.

### **Celtic Wedding Song**

There they stand, hand in hand, and exchange wedding bands. Today is the day of all their dreams and plans. And all of their loved ones are here to say, God bless this couple who marry today.

In good times and bad times, in sickness and health, May they know that riches aren't needed for wealth. Help them face problems they'll meet on their way --God bless this couple who marry today.

May they find peace of mind comes to all who are kind, May the rough times ahead become triumphs in time, May their children be happy each day -- God bless this family who started today.

As they go, may they know every love that was shown, and as life it gets shorter may their feelings grow. Wherever they travel, wherever they stay, God bless this couple who marry today.

### **Scottish Wedding Prayer**

Lord help us to remember when we first met and the strong love that grew between us. To work that loves into practical things so that nothing can divide us. We ask for words both kind and loving and hearts always ready to ask forgiveness as well as to forgive. Dear Lord, we put our marriage into your hands.

### **My Luvie by Robert Burns**

My Luvie - by Robert Burns O my luvie is like a red, red rose, That`s newly sprung in June: O my luvie is like the melodie, That`s sweetly played in tune. As fair art thou, my bonie lass, So deep in luvie am I; And I will luvie thee still, my dear, Till a` the seas gang dry. Till a` the seas gang dry, my dear, And the rocks melt wi` the sun; And I will luvie thee still my dear, While the sands o` life shall run. And fare thee weel, my only luvie! And fare thee weel a while! And I will come again, my luvie, Tho` it were ten thousand mile