

**Initiation into the Mysteries: The Laurel Ceremony of Mistress Rosalind Mihrimah
Based on the Bacchanalia and the art work of the Villa of Mysteries.**

To be put on Vigil:

TRM The strength and stability of the Kingdom lie in the virtues of its people: service, chivalry and creativity.

For if any one of these are lacking the Kingdom Fails.

The Artists and Artisans of the kingdom glorify it with their work and the teaching of their skills brings to its populace the Light of Learning

Herald, call the Order of the Laurel to attend us and let Us hear their wishes

Laurels There is one among the populace who by her skill with needle and cloth and her skill in dance has earned the right to traverse the path of the Laurel and be counted our Equal.

TRM Call this Daughter of Gleann Abhann forth!

Laurel We call...Rosalind Mihrimah

<Rosalind is escorted into the Presence>

TRM You, Rosalind Mihrimah, are placed on vigil to reflect upon your elevation to the most noble Order of the Laurel.

Let it be a time of discarding things that are no longer valid and a time to consciously take up new ones for your new position within the mysteries of the Laurel

***** *<another armed escort enters unannounced into the presence of*

TRM –interrupting proceedings>

Herald Who dares enter into the presence of TRM unannounced!

Aeruin It is I, Aeruin ni Hearain of Connemara. Rumors have reached my ears that my fosterling has reached a level of skill in the arts and sciences that she is to be added to the rolls of the Laurel in the kingdom of Gleann Abhann.

I claim my right as her foster mother to be present.

TRM So be it!

TRM The Initiation into the Mysteries of the Laurel will take place

During our Court this evening

The populace is invited to bear witness and attend this event. The ceremony is based on Rosalind's own research into Bacchanalian initiation ceremonies.

Herald *<opens court>*

We call forth the Order of the Laurel

Chorus *<3 lauresl- Jennet, Julian, Arielle>*
of
Gerarai

C1 We, the companions of the Order of the Laurel, feel our numbers are not complete

C2 That there is a Daughter of Gleann Abhann whose honor and achievement in the arts and sciences entitles her to be recognized as our peer.

C3 Let the Initiation into the Mysteries of the laurel begin!

Shield Beaters - warriors begin beating shields in a slow march. Line the walkway in the back.

Shouts and Zhagrheets are appropriate.

Maenads enter- Walking/dancing, tossing flower petals, holding jugs of wine, thrysas, veils

C1 The key to initiation is recognizing you have reached a turning point

C2 You are aware of being in a period of transition – between past and future

C3 In order to move forward you must make peace with your past

<Aeruin says a few words about the beginning. It would appropriate for her to read a “scroll” about what a laurel is..

Aeruin “In order to share the joys of the Laurel, one must suffer for it.”

C1 We ask you now

C2 Do you wish to be a member of the Order of the Laurel

Roz It is my wish

C1 To bestow the grace of the Laurel, you must have the confidence to rely on your intuition about what is right...

C2 ...Rather than what has been told as correct

C3 By moving from ignorance to knowledge and taking up the role of a Laurel

(chorus stands in semicircle – Aeruin removes wreath from the liknon. Holds high for populace to see)

Aeruin In ancient times the Laurel wreath was the symbol of excellence, where the wreath was awarded to great scholars, artists, soldiers, and those athletes who won in competitions

C1 Wear this wreath – as a symbol of your achievements

C2 and your excellence in the Arts & Sciences

<Aeruin places on head. The other laurels have hands on Aeruins Shoulders. Steps aside>

TRM The Laurels have spoken. Is there a member of the Order of the Pelican who will speak for Rosalind?

Eilidh I will.

<says why she is suitable.>

Takes robe from liknon

robe = a decorated palla - with laurel leaves

Eilidh I offer this robe, so that all may see and know Rosalind as a Laurel

(drapes palla – over left shoulder, around back, under right arm)

- May you never rest on your laurels.

TRM The Pelicans have spoken. Is there a member of the Ladies of the Rose who will speak for Rosalind?

Meaghan I will.

Removes a ring from the basket – ring will need to be on a rolled up piece of fabric.

~Says why she is worthy~

~Places ring on finger~

Now you are married to the Mysteries of the Laurel ~ and as with any marriage, for it to be a good one, there is give and take, honesty and a sense of humor.

TRM Is there a member of the Order of Chivalry who will speak for Rosalind?

Sir Aengus I will

<says why she is suitable. >

Takes chain-medallion from Liknon

< Says something about the chain and Rosalind. holds medallion by chain offers to TRM >

TRM Rosalind, are you prepared to swear your oath of fealty to Crown & Kingdom?

Rosalind I am

<medallion is laid across sword>

Rosalind I, Rosalind Mihrimah
(this could be the usual OofF.)
Swear fealty and service to the crown of Gleann Abhann
To ever enrich the Kingdom with my talents and abilities
To promote the diverse arts
To continue instruction to all those that wish it;
To increase the glory and honor of Gleann Abhann
And to be worthy of the Wreath I wear
Thus I swear

TRM This do We hear
Nor fail to remember
And We, for our part, swear to you,
Rosalind Mihrimah, to protect and defend you
With all our power
Until we depart from the throne

Or death take us or the World end

So say We

Havordh, King of Gleann Abhann

Mary Grace, Queen of Gleann Abhann

<places chain around neck>

Chorus 1 You have walked the long rough road

C2 You have changed

C3 Now rise and take your place with the Order of the Laurel!

Herald Mistress Rosalind!

If court does not close – maenad process out to beating shields, cymbals & zhagarheets.

<court closes>