

## Handfasting

*Celtic Wedding Vow*  
by Morgan Llywelyn

*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.*



- ♥ Unity Candles
- ♥ Unity Sand
- ♥ Unity Stones
- ♥ Rose Presentations to Mothers

## Apache Wedding Blessing

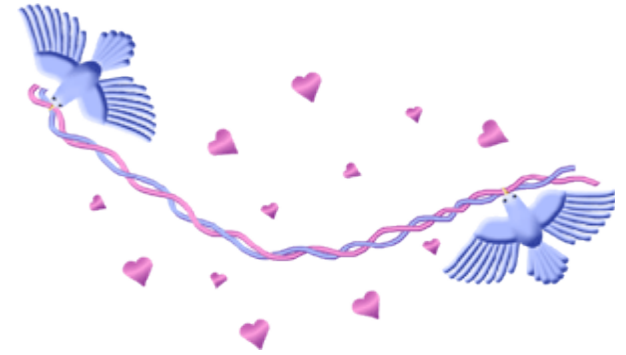
*Now you will feel no rain, for each of you will be shelter for the other.  
Now you will feel no cold, for each of you will be warmth to the other.  
Now there will be no loneliness, for each of you will be companion to the  
other. Now you are two persons, but there is only one life before you.  
May beauty surround you both in the journey ahead and through all  
the years. May happiness be your companion and your days together be  
good and long upon the earth.*

*Treat yourselves and each other with respect, and remind yourselves  
often of what brought you together. Give the highest priority to the  
tenderness, gentleness and kindness that your connection deserves. When  
frustration, difficulties and fear assail your relationship, as they threaten  
all relationships at one time or another, remember to focus on what  
is right between you, not only the part which seems wrong. In this way,  
you can ride out the storms when clouds hide the face of the sun in your  
lives — remembering that even if you lose sight of it for a moment, the  
sun is still there. And if each of you takes responsibility for the quality of  
your life together, it will be marked by abundance and delight.*



## Scottish Wedding Blessing

*May joy and peace surround you both,  
Contentment latch your door,  
May happiness be with you now;  
God bless you evermore.*



# Preacher to Go

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## Wedding Customs From Around the World

*Want more than the traditional something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue? Honor your heritage or borrow from another culture!*

**Wales.** Daffodil boutonnieres - daffodils are the national flower of Wales. I have plenty during the season, and you are most welcome to some.

**Germany.** Do the “umbrella dance”! Leave a white umbrella at the entrance to the reception, and ask guests to sign it with colorful markers. Hold it over your heads during your first dance while guests throw confetti at you. Substitute bubbles for confetti, if you desire.

**Africa and Ireland.** Jumping the broom. Although a wedding broom can be purchased at ethnic stores, you may prefer to decorate a plain ol’ household broom with flowers and ribbons and bows in your wedding colors. You may jump the broom before or after your wedding ceremony. A toast or blessing may be said as you jump the broom. Example: May the new life of this couple be filled with much happiness, joy and blessings.

**Spain.** The groom gives the bride thirteen coins in the memory of Christ and His twelve apostles. As a symbol that the groom promises to support her, the bride carries the coins in a small bag. **Mexico** also has a similar custom.

**Greece.** Since ivy is considered the symbol of eternal love, carry it in your wedding bouquet or use it in centerpieces. Carry a lump of sugar in your glove on your wedding day to ensure a sweet married life.

**Hebrew.** At the beginning of the wedding ceremony, the bride can observe the Biblical custom of Circling the Groom seven times. Jewish giving of the wedding ring: “Behold, you are betrothed unto me with this ring, according to the law of Moses and Israel.” To signify that a marriage is fragile and may be easily broken, at the end of the ceremony, or at the reception, a glass is placed on the floor, and the groom shatters it with his foot. The breaking of glass also reminds us that marriage vows are as permanent as the fragments are unchangeable.

**Japan.** Add cherry blossoms or jasmine to your bouquet. Fans are considered a symbol of happiness in China and Japan, so use them as table decorations or in place of bridesmaids’ bouquets.

*Use your imagination, and enjoy your day!!! Mix and match the customs to further personalize your wedding.*

- ♥ Mansions, Franklin Park Conservatory, private clubs, covered bridges, gazebos, churches, backyards, living rooms, prisons, museums, conservatories, baseball diamonds, the shores of Buckeye Lake, city parks, ponds, art museums, Ash Cave, chapels, OSU stadium, locks from Ohio’s canal days, lodges, golf courses, and the Topiary Garden are all locations where I’ve officiated.
- ♥ Your vows may be spiritual/religious (any religion), traditional/civil, write your own or any combination
- ♥ Although I am a non-denominational minister, we can write inter-denominational vows
- ♥ Rehearsals are seldom necessary, and can be performed the day of the wedding
- ♥ Counseling of individuals above the age of consent is not necessary
- ♥ Pastoral counseling available for under-age brides and grooms as required by law
- ♥ Planning via email and/or phone
- ♥ Confidentiality guaranteed!
- ♥ Casual, yet romantic, ceremonies - as stressfree as a wedding can be!
- ♥ Yes, your dog is welcome at your wedding!
- ♥ Last minute weddings welcome!
- ♥ Elopements available!
- ♥ I work with any budget!