

The Travance Chronicle

June 1213

Amizar Wuzwhir, Editor

Wedding Edition

A Groom's Reveries

by Guildmaster Arden Silberbow

When, the day you entered Travance changed my life forever. I still remember your shy smile the day we first met. I realized very quickly that you were special to me. You accepted me for who I was on the inside, despite my concern over appearances. I knew that at the Winterdank Ball that I wanted you to be my wife. I look forward to the day our houses will unite under the Silberbow banner. I swear by the Weave that I will care for you and make you happy as we start our life together.

Well-Wishes From Townsfolk

May a star shine on the hour of your union. -Gideon

May you walk forever together in love and happiness. -Carlotta

To the most lovely bride and groom, your happiness brings wonder and beauty to all of Aratwyn. The song of your lives shall resound for generations. -Rowan Aidir

You two are gonna make beautiful magic together, even though magic isn't real. -Jonas Kane

You two are masters at the alchemy of love. -Rudolf Von Kreutzdorf

Congratulations! You two are so perfect together, I couldn't imagine either of you with anybody else. -GinGinny GinRum

May your love forever keep you together and warm your hearts as one. -Angeliana

May your marriage be as magical as the blood in your veins and spirits in your heart. -Trisana Moss

May Andorra bless your union. The light and love surrounds both of you, and I love you both and what you have. -Bishop Kwildar Darkheart of the Gilded Rose

Congratulations! Love each other and look out for each other. -Oakroot

May the chains of love bind, but not burden, you. (unsigned)

I wish you all the happiness of a freshly grown beard. -Alander Lim Claver

It's so wonderful to see the love that you share with each other. -Gwynedd

Good luck, I wish you lots of love and happiness. -The Matchmaker

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A Guide To Quinarian Weddings

by Mother Aemorniel Silverbow

Some aspects of a traditional Quinarian wedding may seem quite common throughout various cultures, such as an exchange of rings, but there is much more to the ceremony than meets the eye. Below I will give those interested a “run down” of the ceremony and how it typically goes.

1) The groom stands beside the priest, or in this case priestess, to await his bride. Beside him stands a fellow of his House, usually a brother or father—someone close to him. In this ceremony it will be the brother of the groom. The humans might refer to this as a best man. This is the only wedding party member you will see who is not part of the couple getting married.

2) The bride is escorted by her father, or father figure if he cannot be present, and presents her before the priestess to say he brings this woman to marry. The bride is dressed in a cloak of her family colors to represent her protection under the House of her father. The groom states to the priestess when the question is asked who comes to marry this woman that he does.

3) The exchange of cloaks happens at this point. The father removes the cloak of her family and neatly folds it while the groom takes the cloak of his family from his fellow who has been holding it this entire time, unfolds it, and wraps the bride in the colors of her groom's house—thus signifying that she is moving from the protection of her father's House to the House of her groom.

4) The priestess asks three questions of the couple, a tradition of the Silverbow family who have historically been Chroniclerites. If the priestess is pleased with the answers, she says her blessing over them and has them exchange their rings that symbolize their eternal love for each other—never ending like the circle.

5) Finally—like any good wedding—their pledged words of love are sealed with a kiss. While not of the Weave, it is believed in our culture that a kiss is the most powerful magic of all.

Romani Tales

by Dame Zafriu Vhatri

We take a break from Esmerelda's incredible story to discuss something more topical this week.

So you want to marry a gypsy?

I can say with absolute confidence that when it comes time to get married, the gypsies have the most intricate and involved rituals of all the people of Arwyn. It's very rare for a gypsy man and a gypsy woman to marry for love alone, if at all, and it's rarer still for a gypsy to marry outside their culture. Most gypsies will never accept someone from outside the culture into their family so if a gypsy marries a gadje, that person is always treated like an outcast.

We are a proud people and take our heritage very seriously. It's all we have to call our own in some cases. If you want to marry a gypsy girl, you must first ask the parents (or the matriarch/patriarch of the compania if no parents are present) for permission. The proper way to do so is invite them for dinner and give them each a bottle of alcohol. Then you ask the girl for her hand, in which the parents give her permission to answer. If permission is denied, then you've already lost your chance. If you are to marry a gypsy boy, then he must do the same, but his parents permission does not openly need to be granted. If either set of people do not show up to show their support, then you cannot go on with the marriage without angering the family. “Bride price” is discussed with the new husband-to-be and the parents of the bride at this time, for example: six chickens and a couch. A bride price is paid to a family who is losing their daughter because in gypsy culture, once a gypsy woman is married, she belongs to that family heart and soul.

The courtship doesn't tend to be very long in gypsy culture; a month or two at most. A gypsy woman will plan the wedding while the betrothed gypsy man is expected to pay for it. The night before the ceremony is another dinner celebration as well, what the gadje call an “engagement party.” All the male friends of the husband-to-be give gifts of money to help pay the bride price. At the end of the night, the husband-to-be gives the bride price in full to the family.

On the day of the wedding, the gypsy woman wears all red—which is a lucky color in gypsy culture. The husband-to-be's male family members steal the bride after she is done getting ready and the husband-to-be has to find her (with or without clues depending on how mean they want to be), to signify that he is prepared and committed to his wife-to-be. Once she is found, the couple travel to the where the wedding is to be performed. The gypsy ceremony is very short, performed by a local priest of whatever faith will come and then there is a party to celebrate. The parties can be incredibly wild with at least two fistfights breaking out before cake is served. Cake fighting is another gypsy culture, one which only the bride and groom are immune to participating in. Weddings are the most expensive endeavors to gypsies—trying to outdo one another in as many outlandish ways they can find. It is not uncommon for the authorities to be summoned to a gypsy wedding for getting out of hand.