

INVESTITURE OF THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF OERTHA

(There shall be a procession, consisting of: The Heirs, a spokesman, a cupbearer, a lady-in-waiting, and a page, as well as any other retainers as shall be deemed fitting by the Heirs, i.e., banner-bearers, men-at-arms, etc.)

Spokesman: May it please Your Highnesses, _____, here presents [him | her] self with [his lady | her lord], _____, to claim [his | her] right.


Herald: What right is this? If it is indeed [his | hers] by law and custom, Their Highnesses shall surely recognize it.

Heir: By right of honorable combat we claim the Thrones and Coronets of the Principality of Oertha.


(The Seneschal, Marshall, and Herald of Oertha are required by Principality law to witness the Coronetting of the new Prince and Princess. It is assumed that Stellanordica Herald is heralding this ceremony, if not, Stellanordica should be called forward here also.)

 **Prince:** Call forth the Seneschal [,Stellanordica Herald] and Knight Marshall of Oertha to bear witness.

Herald: Let _____, Seneschal of Oertha, [_____, Stellanordica Herald,] and _____, Knight Marshall of Oertha come forward to bear witness to what is about to transpire.

 **Princess:** Who bears witness that you are the victor of combat, and that this is the [lady | lord] whose favor you bear?

(Witnesses answer from those assembled at Court. It may be necessary to prime someone in advance.)

 **Prince:** As these noble folk say, you are indeed Our Heirs. Come now and kneel before Us.

(The Heirs come forward, kneel, and join hands with Their Highnesses.)

Herald: Do you, _____, now swear fealty to the Principality and people of Oertha, and do you swear that you will be a true Liege to your people, fostering and protecting them, and that you will uphold the laws and traditions of the Principality of Oertha and the Kingdom of the West, for as long as you shall reign?

(Investiture of the Prince and Princess of Oertha, Cont.)

Heir: I so swear.

Herald: *(Backup herald stamps staff loudly, thrice in quick succession)*
Before the Great Lords, swear it.

Heir: I so swear.

Herald: *(Stamps staff x3.)*
Before the people, swear it.

Heir: I so swear.

Herald: *(Stamps staff x3.)*
So be it.

(To Consort) Do you, _____, now swear fealty to the Principality and people of Oertha, and do you swear that you will be a true Liege to your people, fostering and protecting them, and that you will uphold the laws and traditions of the Principality of Oertha and the Kingdom of the West, for as long as you shall reign?

Consort: I so swear.

Herald: *(Stamps staff x3.)*
Before the Great Lords, swear it.

Consort: I so swear.

Herald: *(Stamps staff x3.)*
Before the people, swear it.

Heir: I so swear.

Herald: *(Stamps staff x3.)*
So be it.

(The banner-bearers furl the banners of the Heirs. The Prince and Princess remove their Coronets together. Prince holds his over the Heir's head and says:)

 **Prince:** **Now, in accordance with law and custom, I, _____, crown you, _____, Prince of Oertha.**

(Prince places Coronet on Heirs head. New Prince rises.)

 **Princess:** **Your Highness.**


(Investiture of the Prince and Princess of Oertha, Cont.)

(Retiring Princess hands Coronet to former Prince, and he hands it to the New Prince, who holds Coronet over the head of his lady.)

 **Prince:** **Now I, _____, by right of arms Prince of Oertha, do crown you, _____, Princess of Oertha, and Lady of the Snows.**

(Prince places Coronet on Consorts head, new Princess rises.)

Herald: Long live _____ and _____, Prince and Princess of Oertha! Hip, Hip ...

 **Prince:** *(To former Prince and Princess)* **You have served our land well. You have our leave to depart.**

(Banner-bearers of the former Prince/ess unfurl their banners and they depart. The Seneschal and Marshall also depart. After all have departed, the cupbearer approaches Their Highnesses.)

Cupbearer: Your Highnesses, pray accept these cups as a symbol of the wish of Your people that You drink deeply of prosperity during Your reign.

(Prince and Princess take cups.)

  **Prince/Princess:**
To Oertha.

(They drink, then hand cups to cupbearer, or page, who departs.)

Herald: Let the Great Officers of Oertha come before Their Highnesses.

(The Great Officers assemble in a semi-circle before the Thrones. Each approaches, in turn, to speak his/her part. Before the ceremony, the lines should be on numbered cards, so that new officers know in which order they are to speak.)

Seneschal: Your Highnesses, I surrender to Your keeping the Great Key of Oertha, symbol of Your dominion over all this land, and over the possessions of this Principality.

 **Prince:** **My [Lord | Lady] Seneschal, We thank you, and ask that you keep it safe until We have need of it.**

Stellanordica: Your Highnesses, I surrender to You the Great Seal of Oertha, the symbol of Your rights as give of Law for the Principality.

(Investiture of the Prince and Princess of Oertha, Cont.)

 **Prince:** My **[Lord | Lady]** Stellanordica, We thank you, and bid you hold Our Seal until such time as We call for it.

Marshall: Your Highnesses, I present You with the War Axe of Oertha, the rallying point for Your armies.

 **Prince:** My **[Lord | Lady]** Marshall, We thank you, and bid you hold it until the day of its use.

Exchequer: Your Highnesses, I surrender to You the Coffers which contain the Treasury of Oertha.


 **Princess:** My **[Lord | Lady]** Chancellor, We return it to you, and command that you keep it safe against Our need.

(Ministers of Arts and Sciences come forward together.)

M o A: Your Highnesses, **[I | we]** present to You this scroll and candle. . .
M o S: . . . which symbolize the skills and artistry of Your people.

 **Princess:** My **[Lords | Ladies | Lord and Lady]**, We thank you, and bid you employ your talents for the benefit of Our Principality.

Chronicler: Your Highnesses, I present to You the History of Oertha.

 **Prince:** My **[Lord | Lady]** Chronicler, We thank you, and bid you keep it safe, adding to it all that is worthy of remembrance.

Chirurgeon: Your Highnesses, I present to You this bottle of medicinal spirits, in the hope that it will keep Oertha happy and healthy.


 **Prince:** My **[Lord | Lady]** Chirurgeon, We thank you, and bid you do all in your power to maintain the well-being of Our people.

Chatelaine: Your Highnesses, I present You with this cloth.

 **Princess:** My **[Lord | Lady]** Chatelaine, We charge you to keep it, and use it to clothe newcomers to Our Realm.

(Investiture of the Prince and Princess of Oertha, Cont.)


Constable: Your Highnesses, I surrender to You this mace, symbol of Your protection of the populace of Oertha.

 **Prince:** **My [Lord | Lady] Constable, We return it to you, and bid you wield it wisely, ever mindful of the peace and safety of Our people.**


(All Officers now kneel.)

Herald: Do You, the Great Officers of the Principality of Oertha, now swear fealty to _____ and _____, your Prince and Princess, and through them to the King and Queen of the West, that you will faithfully discharge your offices, that you will obey Their lawful commands in all such matters as concern the Principality, that you will support all who serve you, and that you will treat courteously with those of every station and degree, until the Prince depart from His Throne, or death take you, or the world end?

Officers: I so swear.

 **Prince:** **And We for Our part
do swear fealty to these,
Our Great Officers,
and to those who serve them,
to support them in their offices,
and to protect and defend them
with all Our power,
until We depart from Our Throne,
or death take Us, or the world end.
So say We, _____, Prince of Oertha.**

 **Princess:** **So also say We, _____, Princess of Oertha.**

 **Prince:** **We now reward Our Officers in this small manner, and shall continue to honor them for their services, for which We are most grateful.**

(The Prince and Princess now distribute tokens to the Great Officers then the Officers are given leave to depart.)


Herald: Let the Barons and Baronesses of Eskalya and Winter's Gate come before Their Highnesses.

(Investiture of the Prince and Princess of Oertha, Cont.)

(The Barons and Baronesses come forward and kneel.)

Herald: Do You now swear fealty to _____ and _____, your Prince and Princess, and through them to the King and Queen of the West, and do you swear to obey Their lawful commands, to faithfully administer your Baronies, to support your people in all their endeavors, to bring all good works to the notice of Their Highnesses, and, mindful that the harmony of your Baronies springs from your own deeds, to treat courteously with all, until the Prince depart from His Throne, or death take you, or the world end?

Baron/esses: I so swear.

 **Prince:** **And We for Our part do swear fealty to you, and to Our people in your Baronies, that We will protect and defend you with all Our power, until We depart from Our Throne, or death take Us, or the world end. So say We, _____, Prince of Oertha.**

 **Princess:** **So also say We, _____, Princess of Oertha.**


Herald: Let the Knights of the Principality of Oertha come forward with their swords girded on.

(Knights assemble and kneel.)

Herald: Do you now swear fealty to _____ and _____, your undoubted Prince and Princess, and through Them to the King and Queen of the West, that you will obey Their lawful commands in all such matters as concern the Principality, uphold the Coronet and Principality of Oertha and the Crown and Kingdom of the West, pay heed to Her Highness' example in matters of courtesy, and treat with chivalry those of every station and degree, until the Prince depart from His Throne, death take you, or the world end?

Knights: I so swear.

(Investiture of the Prince and Princess of Oertha, Cont.)

 **Prince:** **And We for Our part,
swear fealty to Our Knights of Oertha,
and swear to protect and defend them
and their households with all Our powers,
until We depart from Our Throne,
or death take Us, or the world end.
So say We, _____, Prince of Oertha.**

 **Princess:** **So also say We, _____, Princess of Oertha.**


(Knights salute the Prince with their swords, and are given leave to depart .)

Herald: Let all those Viscounts, Viscountesses, Companions of the Order of the Laurel, and Companions of the Order of the Pelican of the Principality who wish to swear fealty at this time come before Their Highnesses.

(All other Peers, royal or otherwise, now assemble and kneel.)

Herald: Do you now swear fealty to _____ and _____, Prince and Princess of Oertha, and through them to the King and Queen of the West, and do you swear that you will faithfully perform the duties of your Noble Orders, obey Their lawful commands, and treat courteously with all, until the Prince depart from His Throne, death take you, or the world end?

Peers: I so swear.

 **Prince:** **And We swear fealty to these Peers of Oertha,
and swear to support their Noble Orders,
and to protect and defend them with all Our power,
until We depart Our Throne, or death take Us,
or the world end.
So say We, _____, Prince of Oertha.**

 **Princess:** **So also say We, Princess of Oertha.**

(The Peers are given leave to depart.)

★ **HOMAGE -- OPTIONAL**


(Note: The following ceremony, the homage of the populace, may be considered optional. If Their Highnesses so desire, it may be skipped. Also optional is the Prince's fealty to the King, which should be inserted after the homage of the populace.)

Herald: Let all members of the populace who wish to do homage to Their Highnesses of Oertha come before the Thrones.

(Allow time for populace to assemble and kneel.)

Herald: Do each of you here assembled do homage to the Prince and Princess of Oertha, and do you further promise you will support the Coronets of Oertha in all such matters as concern the Principality, uphold the Principality Laws and treat courteously with those of every station and degree, until the Prince depart from His Throne, death take you, or the world end?

Populace: I do.

 **Prince:** **And We, for our part, acknowledge these,
Our subjects of Oertha,
and We will support them and their households
as We have sworn,
and will protect and defend them with all Our power,
until We depart from Our Throne,
or death take Us, or the world end.
So say We, _____, Prince of Oertha.**

 **Princess:** **So also say We, _____, Princess of Oertha.**

(Give the populace leave to return to their seats.)

★ **CONTINUE**


★ **FEALTY TO THE CROWNS OF THE WEST**

(Prince/Princess' Fealty to the Crowns of the West. If the King and/or Queen are present, use option A (page 26), otherwise, use option B (page 27).)


(Investiture of the Prince and Princess of Oertha, Cont.)

Herald: Let the following Ladies assemble before Her Highness, (*read names from list which Princess provides.*)

(*Allow time for Ladies to approach and kneel.*)

 **Princess:** **On occasion, We will find Ourselves
in need of assistance and counsel,
and We know that you are all
both skillful and wise.
Will you consent to aid Us
as Our Ladies of the Chamber?**

Ladies: I will.


 **Princess:** **Then accept from Us these favors
as token that you are in Our service.**

(*Princess distributes tokens, Ladies reverence and depart.*)


Herald: For the Ladies of the Chamber, hip, hip ...

Herald: Let the following fighters assemble before Her Highness, (*read names from list which Princess provides.*)

(*Allow time for the fighters to gather. Note-the fighters need to be advised ahead of time, and should be primed with the proper responses.*)

 **Princess:** **We are greatly pleased with
your chivalry and prowess
on the field of battle,
and are therefore minded to
name you to the Princess' Escort.
Will you accept from Us this position,
and come to Our aid
whenever We have need of you?**

Fighters: There is no answer but Yes!

 **Princess:** **Then accept these tokens from Us
that all may know that you are in Our service.**

(Investiture of the Prince and Princess of Oertha, Cont.)

(Princess distributes tokens. Escort remains kneeling.)

Herald: Her Highness recognizes that leadership, valor, and honor are necessary qualities in one who would defend Her person, and lead Her Escort in times of danger. She therefore calls _____ to come before Her at this time.

(Fighter comes forward and kneels before Her Highness.)

Herald: _____, whereas Her Highness has found you gracious of manner, stout of heart, and strong of limb, She would name you Princess' Champion. Will you accept this honor?

Champion: I will.

Herald: Then accept from Her Highness this token of Her faith that you will defend and further Her honor.

(Princess gives token to Champion.)


 **Prince: We thank you all for your service to Our Princess.**

Herald: For the Princess' Escort and the Princess' Champion, Hip, hip ...

(The Champion and Escort are given leave to depart. Champion and Escort cheer the Princess, then leave.)


Herald: It is the tradition in the Principality of Oertha that the finalist in the Coronet Lists, and the [Lady | Lord] who inspired [him | her], shall nonetheless be honored. Let _____ and _____ now come before Their Highnesses.

(They come forward and kneel.)

 **Prince: In recognition of your valor and skill
on the field of the Coronet Lists this day,
We name you Lord Guardian of Oertha.
Wear this mantle as a symbol of your position,
for as long as We shall reign.**

(Prince places mantle around the Lord Guardian's shoulders.)


(Investiture of the Prince and Princess of Oertha, Cont.)

 **Princess:** **By your honor and virtue,
you have inspired your champion
to great achievement.
In recognition of this,
We name you Lady Guardian of Oertha.
Wear this mantle as a symbol of your position
for as long as We shall reign.**

(Princess places mantle around Lady Guardian's shoulders.)

Herald: For _____ and _____, Lord and Lady Guardian, Hip, hip ...

(Lord and Lady Guardian depart.)

 *(Note: If former Prince/ess need Viscounty Ceremony, insert it here.)*

(Check with Their Highnesses, -and Their Majesties, if present- to see if They have any last minute business, or final words. . . if there is no other business. . .)

Herald: All rise for _____ and _____, Prince and Princess of Oertha.

(The Prince and Princess process out, as well as Their Majesties, if present. As they are processing. . .)

Long live the Prince! (echo)

Long live the Princess! (echo)

Long live the King and Queen of the West, Hip, hip ...

(Don't forget to give the populace leave to depart . . .)

(Investiture of the Prince and Princess of Oertha, Cont.)

PRINCE'S FEALTY TO THE KING - OPTION A

(King and/or Queen Present)


Herald: Your Majesty, the Prince and Princess of Oertha request permission to swear fealty for the lands They hold in trust for You.

 **King: Let Them come before Us.**

(The Prince and Princess stand up, bow, and kneel before the King and Queen.)


King's Herald: Do you now swear fealty to _____ and _____, King and Queen of the West, that You will honorably maintain Your Principality, obey Their lawful commands in all matters that concern the Kingdom, uphold the Crown and Kingdom of the West, and mindful of the harmony of Your Principality, that You will treat courteously with those of every degree until the King and Queen depart from Their Thrones, or You from Yours, or death take You, or the world end?

  **Prince and Princess:**
I so swear.

 **King: And We, for Our part,**
do swear fealty to _____ and _____,
Prince and Princess of Oertha,
to support, protect and defend You
and Your Principality with all Our power,
until We depart from Our Throne,
death take Us, or the world end.
So say We, _____, King of the West.

 **Queen: So also say We, _____, Queen of the West.**

★ OPTIONAL - Leaves of Achievement

 **King:** In recognition of the responsibilities that this Coronet holds, we wish it known that we reaffirm and uphold all charters and traditions that exist between the West and Oertha, and we specifically grant our loyal Prince and Princess the privilege of bestowing Leaves of Achievement on those subjects they find worthy of such honor.


★ CONTINUE

(The Prince and Princess return to Their Thrones)

PRINCE'S FEALTY TO THE KING - OPTION B

(King and Queen Not Present)

Herald: Let all here present now bear witness unto the words of Their Highnesses.

 **Prince:** **Here now do We swear
that We are in truth the Kings's man,
and that We will send to Him forthwith
Our Oath of Fealty to be received
and returned by Him,
and that We will, by Our word,
uphold the Crown and Kingdom of the West
in all Our deeds.
So say We, _____, Prince of Oertha.**

 **Princess:** **So also say We, _____, Princess of Oertha.**

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