

The Dancing Moon

February, 2012

THE
MURDER



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The Favor

Table of Contents

The Dancing Moon 1
Art, Article and Photo Credits 3
Local Announcements 4
Medieval Aphrodisiacs 5
Yet Another Pictorial of Gulf Wars 2011 6-7
February's Medieval Moment..... 7
Officers of the Shire 8
Calendar: January, 2012..... 9
List of Events & Driving Directions 10



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A Prayer Before Battle

Gulf Wars - 2011

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Local Announcements:

Due to other commitments, the Fighter Marshal will not be scheduling any fighter practices for March.

If you find an error that needs correcting in the shire newsletter or the shire website, please inform your webminister/chronicler ASAP. It may make her grumpy, but she needs to know.

Please submit March announcements to the Chronicler by February 26.



Photo by Lady Dulcibella de Chateaurien. Used by permission.

Lord James Makes his Mark in the Battle Book

Gulf Wars 2011

Medieval Aphrodisiacs

(reprinted with some authorial revisions from the February, 2003 issue of the Dancing Moon)

By Lady Dulcibella de Chateaurien

Love, sex, and marriage in medieval Europe were hemmed in all around with rules dictated by both the Catholic Church and the social and moral attitudes of the era. Yet lovers still met, married, and had children. With both church and state looking over their shoulder, though, sometimes, they needed a little a help. They often turned to aphrodisiacs to create love where love did not exist, to be better lovers, or to jumpstart procreation. Medieval love potions, powders, charms, and spells were many and varied; some were even deadly, so do not try a medieval aphrodisiac without checking things out for safety first.

Many foods considered aphrodisiacs during the Middle Ages were deemed so because they looked like or shared certain characteristics of human male or female genitalia. For instance, carrots, cucumbers, ginseng, mandrake root, chick peas and pine nuts are just a few of the vivacious vegetables and roots that could put the “love” back into your lover, but the animal kingdom was not reticent in romance either. Oysters, eels, rhinoceros horns, and the body parts of snakes, bulls, rabbits, and beavers were also quite popular.

Pokerounce, a medieval English dish of toasted bread spread with a spicy, warmed honey, was considered an aphrodisiac because it was made up of a number of individual aphrodisiacs. It contained honey, ginger, and pine nuts. Ancient Egyptians had passed down the belief that honey could cure sterility and impotence. Medieval people also felt that it “sweetened” a marriage. Ginger was supposed to stimulate the circulation system and increase the pulse rate. Pine nuts were believed to stimulate the libido. Combining all these aphrodisiacs in one sweet dish, the medieval mind reasoned, was bound to result in a romantic night.

However, medieval people did not rest their chances at love solely on Viagra-like desserts. Many other options, edible and inedible, poisonous and benign, were available to them. According to The Book of Secrets of Albertus Magnus of the Virtues of Herbs, Stones, and Certain Beasts, which dates from 1550, periwinkle, when beaten into a powder with earthworms and cooked in their meat, “will induce love between man and wife.” Henbane will make one attractive to the opposite sex. An eaglestone (which is a type of geode), if hung over one’s left shoulder, “getteth love between the husband and his wife.”

In the later part of the Middle Ages, chocolate was also considered an aphrodisiac. The Spanish conquistadore, Hernan Cortes, first encountered it during his conquest of the New World in the early sixteenth century. Writing some fifty years after Cortes’s 1521 conquest of Mexico ended, Bernal Diaz of Castillo noted in his book, Verdadera Historia de la Conquista de Nueva Espana (True History of the Conquest of New Spain), that the Aztec emperor Montezuma drank fifty thimble-sized cups of chocolate or xocolatl, as he called it, each day to enhance his libido. When Cortes brought chocolate home to the Spanish royal court, the story of its aphrodisiac properties came with the fashionable new concoction. However, for sixteenth and seventeenth century Europeans, chocolate proved to be a mental aphrodisiac as well as physical aphrodisiac. Because chocolate was rare and expensive, it became a courtship gift with a message. The suitor hoped that his lady would realize that he had spent a great deal of money on a luxurious gift for her because he valued her and her affections as highly as he valued the chocolate. The gift also showed that he could be a good provider.

Although many aphrodisiacs have been discredited over time, at the dawn of the twenty-first century, chocolate remains a potent aphrodisiac, at least mentally. Still the quintessential Valentine’s Day gift, a present of chocolate is always sure to secure a lady’s affections and has a permanent place in the arsenal men use to win the hearts of women.

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Yet Another Pictorial of Gulf Wars 2011

Lady Dulcibella de Chateaurien



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Unloading Armor Before the Fort Battle



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Gentles on top of the fort, waiting for the battle to start



A Brief Chat...

Another Brief Chat...



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February's Medieval Moment

by Lady Dulcibella de Chateaurien

On February 15, 1113, the knightly order of the Hospitallers of Saint John of Jerusalem was formally acknowledged in a papal bull issued by Pope Paschall II. Based in a Benedictine abbey founded in Jerusalem some sixty years before, the order supported an extensive hospital system set up by Brother Gerard to serve the Western Crusaders. To be a Hospitaller knight, a candidate had to prove his nobility for several generations.

Although the order has gone through several permutations, it still exists today as the order of the Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes, and of Malta. The order no longer possesses any actual territory, but the Vatican and a few other Catholic countries still respect and recognize the Hospitallers as a sovereign nation. Proof of nobility going back several generations is still required to join the order.

Source: Snell, Melissa. About.com-Medieval History website. <http://historymedren.about.com/od/hospitallers/p/hospitallers.htm> Accessed 17 Feb. 2012.
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Well-Deserved Adoration for a War Hero at Gulf Wars 2011

Shire Calendar - February 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Fighter Practice at St. Roberts Community Center – 6:30 PM	2	3	4
5 2 PM: Archery Prac- tice, Lord Alan's House a	6	7 6:45 PM: Weekly Meeting Project Night Newburg United Methodist Church, Newburg, Mo.	8	9	10	11
12 2 PM: Archery Practice, Lord Alan's House	13	14 6:45 PM: Weekly Business Meeting Newburg United Methodist Church, Newburg, Mo	15 Fighter Practice at St. Roberts Community Center – 6:30 PM	16	17	18
19 2 PM: Archery Practice, Lord Alan's House	20	21 6:45 PM: Weekly Meeting Project Night Newburg United Methodist Church, Newburg, Mo.	22	23	24	25 Chieftains, Barony of Three Rivers, St. Louis, MO
26 2 PM: Archery Practice, Lord Alan's House	27	28 6:45 PM: Weekly A&S Class Newburg United Methodist Church, Newburg, Mo.	29 Fighter Practice at St. Roberts Community Center – 6:30 PM			

List of Shire Events – February

1	Feb	6:30 PM	Fighter Practice
5	Feb	2 PM	Archery Practice
7	Feb	6:30 PM	Shire Meeting – Project Night
12	Feb	2 PM	Archery Practice
14	Feb	6:45 PM	Shire Business Meeting
15	Feb	6:30 PM	Fighter Practice
19	Feb	2 PM	Archery Practice
21	Feb	6:45 PM	Shire Meeting--Project Night
25	Feb		Chieftains, Barony of Three Rivers, St. Louis, MO
26	Feb	2 PM	Archery Practice
28	Feb	6:45 PM	Shire Meeting-- Arts and Sciences Class
29	Feb	6:30 PM	Fighter Practice

Driving Directions:

Archery Practice: Beaver Creek Conservation Area: No Crossbows. No Archery in freezing temperatures (32° F). From Rolla, take Highway 63 south for several miles. The range gate will be on your left, immediately across the highway from the VFW post. Drive through the gate to the top of the hill, park and take the line!

Shire Meetings: Newburg United Methodist Church: Take I-44 to the Newburg Exit. Turn south. The church will be on your right, a little past the patrol car waiting at the bottom of the hill to catch all of you scoff-law speeders.

St Robert Community Center: Take I-44 to Exit 161. Turn towards Ft Wood (South). Immediately south of the highway, turn right. Take a quick left through the median and continue towards the Skate Board park. The Center is the big building near the radio tower.

Website: <http://www.shireofcalanaisnuadh.org>

Chat group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/calanaisnuadh/>

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