

Rover Scouting Ceremonies, Together We Serve

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FOREWORD



This is the first Rover Scouting Ceremonies pamphlet. It is enriched by experience gained from Rover Leaders who conducted Vigil and Investiture ceremonies over the years. This pamphlet is also the result of research and recommendations made by the Rover Review task Group and Staff of the Program Division, BSP.

Rover Leaders and Vigil Masters who have conducted similar ceremonies in the past will find some revisions in this pamphlet. It is therefore a must that recommendations herein are properly adhered to at the same time allowing creativeness of the Rover Leader and the Vigil Master to add more color and meaning to the occasion.

We hope Rover Scouts will make full use of this pamphlet. This has been prepared with you as our inspiration.

Happy Scouting!

(Signed) **J. RIZAL C. PANGILINAN**

Secretary General

INTRODUCTION

Since the dawn of history, ceremonies played a prominent role in human affairs. Mankind has performed ceremonies in every social occasion in his life, from baptism of the new born, to burial rituals, to thanking Providence of a bountiful harvest.

Ceremonies are found in every culture in the world. They form an important part of our cultural heritage and tradition. Ceremonies make life colorful. It is hard to imagine a world without it. The world would be dull and boring.

Ceremonies make occasions dramatic and appealing. It makes a lasting impression upon the participant. Nowhere is this truer than in the Scout Movement.

Like the other Scout sections, Rovering is replete with ceremonies. Ceremonies are intended to make significant occasions more meaningful to the participants. The two most important ceremonies in a Rover's life are the **Self-examination Vigil** and the **Investiture Ceremony**, the formal acceptance of an Aspirant as a full-fledge Rover.

CEREMONIES

The purpose of Ceremonies in Scouting in general and Rovering in particular is to uplift the aspirant's spirituality and strengthen his resolve to live clean and righteous, a keen example of a true Rover.

Ceremonies mark milestones in the progress of a member in Rover Scouting and serves to make an impression upon him and those witnessing the ceremony.

Ceremonies are usually held during the following occasions:

- 1. Installation of a Rover Circle.** When a new Circle has been organized and duly chartered, it will involve the induction of new leaders, the presentation of the Charter to the Institution, induction of the Rover Leader and his assistants and other officers.
- 2. Reception of a Rover Aspirant.** This ceremony is administered to a recruit who has not been a Scout.
- 3. Rover Rank Progression.** A simple ceremony to recognize a member who advances to the next higher rank. This ceremony should be held as often as needed.
- 4. Opening and Closing Ceremonies.** These are formal ceremonies during meetings or activities held by Rovers. These ceremonies should be very short and simple, although camp fire ceremonies may be a little longer and more elaborate.
- 5. Rover Vigil and Investiture Ceremony.** The two most important ceremonies in a Rover's life are the Vigil and the Investiture Ceremony - the formal acceptance of an Aspirant to become a Full - fledged Rover.

The Vigil — a ceremony held before the Investiture, where Aspirants spend a few hours in self-examination and solitary communion, preparatory to accepting the responsibilities of a full-fledged Rover.

The Investiture — where the Aspirants who have successfully undergone the Vigil, are formally invested as full-fledged Rovers.

THE RECEPTION CEREMONY

This ceremony is used when the Candidate is new to the Scouting Movement, a pre-requisite of which are the passing of the Membership (Entry) Requirements to the satisfaction of the Rover Leader and registration with the Boy Scouts of the Philippines.

The Reception of an Aspirant

The Rovers form a semi-circle with the Candidates at the rear. The R.L. is at the centre. The Candidates are presented, one at a time to the R.L. by the Sponsors for the formal interview.

Sponsor: Brother Rovers, I present <Name of Rover Aspirant> for reception as a Rover Aspirant.

R.L.: Are you satisfied that he will try to live up to a Scout's obligation, including the doing of Good Turns, and is likely to become a worthy member of this Circle?

Sponsor: I am.

R.L.: (To Aspirant) Rovering is a Brotherhood of the Open Air and Service. In seeking to join that Brotherhood, are you ready to improve your knowledge of practical Scouting and to pursue the open-air life?

Aspirant: I am.

R.L.: Do you realize that your first duty is to God, then to other people, to your home and to be established in life?

Aspirant: I do.

R.L.: Are you willing to train yourself to do selfless Service to the Community?

Aspirant: I am.

R.L.: Do you accept way of life set forth in the Scout Oath and Law

Aspirant: I do.

R.L.: Thus assured, I now ask you to make the Scout Oath, as a token of your sincerity and to formalize your Reception as a Rover Aspirant.

Aspirant: On my honor I will do my best —To do my duty to God, and my country, the Republic of the Philippines To help other people at all times, and To obey the Scout Law. To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

R.L.: I trust you, on your honor, to do your best to keep that Promise. I now receive you as a

member of the Worldwide Brotherhood of Scouts in the Boy Scouts of the Philippines attested to by this Membership Certificate. You will now be treated officially as a Rover Aspirant (giving him the left handshake).

I grant you the use of this Rover Medallion with the colors of the Scout Sections of the Brotherhood. This is to remind you that it is now your duty to prepare yourself for full-fledged membership of the Circle; to which end I now entrust you to your Sponsors, who will assist you in your efforts.

(The Sponsors lead the new Aspirants, one at a time, to join the Circle at the end of the formation. After all the Candidates have been received as Aspirants, the R.L. leads the other Rovers in welcoming the new Aspirants while everybody sings the Rover Song.)

THE ROVER VIGIL AND INVESTITURE

The Vigil and the Investiture may vary and depend on the wishes of the Rover Circle and the Aspirants. The central idea of the Vigil is to give the Aspirants an opportunity to think quietly of what they are proposing to do with their lives, to determine whether they are prepared to take the Scout Oath and Law from an adult's point of view and be invested as Rover Scouts.

It should be made clear to every Aspirant that he should not accept Investiture until he is quite sure that he can honestly observe the Scout Oath and Law. He should think carefully before taking this step and should not commit himself to the Scout Oath if he is not resolved to do his best to keep it. His participation in all Scouting activities is voluntary and this should be made clear.

Only Aspirants who have satisfactorily complied with the requirements should be permitted to participate in the Investiture.

During the self-examination phase of the Vigil, the Aspirant reviews his past, thinks of the future and resolves to dedicate himself to the service of God and his fellowmen. Without this, the Investiture cannot be what it is meant to be: an outward sign of an inward change of attitude in life.



It is the Rover Leader's responsibility to see that no young adult joins the Brotherhood of Rover Scouts unless he is determined to shape his life according to the Rover ideals. It is also his responsibility to appoint the Vigil and Investiture Master from among the full-fledged Rovers who are conversant with the procedures.

The Vigil and the Investiture Ceremony may be held in a church, a chapel, the Rover Den, in the open air, or in any other place where serenity is assured. The Sponsors should accompany the Aspirants to the place of Vigil. He may retire later if he desires, and leave the Vigilists to examine their conscience during the few hours required for the Vigil tests.

The important point is that the Vigil is intended to bring the Aspirant face to face with two self-pictures. Firstly, a picture of himself as he is, and secondly, a picture of the adult he wants to be when he becomes a full-fledged Rover. When he is sure that he can see the difference between those two self-pictures, he is ready to be invested.

If an Aspirant cannot gain, above all, INSPIRATION and an insight into the ideals of Rover Scouting, then why take a Vigil? Why be invested as a Rover Scout? Why be a Rover Scout after all?

The investiture is simply a homely, intimate ceremony, within the Circle. It means, an Aspirant has gone through the testing time and is ready to take his Scout Oath and Law as an adult, and then to prove himself to be among the fellowship of those who have taken the same Oath.

Because the Investiture ceremony is essentially homely, intimate, and domestic, it is not made a public spectacle.

The Aspirant may choose his own place of Investiture — a Church (if he likes) or the den, or at Camp, or in an open-air or at a training camp, are only a few suggestions. The degree of importance attached to the Investiture is emphasized by the fact that the whole Circle is there in uniform, ready to congratulate and wish happy, healthy Rover Scouting to the new Rover Scouts.

Suggested Program

To guide Rover Circles which are about to hold a Vigil for new members who have passed satisfactorily the administrative requirements to join a Rover Circle, an outline of a suggested program and the details of a sample pattern for a Rover Vigil and Investiture Ceremony are given here. The Rover Circle can make necessary adaptations to suit local needs and conditions.

6:00 p.m. — Sunset trek to the Vigil Camp

8:00 p.m. — Pre-Vigil Supper

9:00 p.m. — Vigil Rendezvous

1. Review of entry requirements, Rover Ideals, etc.
2. Singing of Vigil Hymns and Rover Songs
3. Inspirational talk or forum on: *“Five Rocks in a Person's life”*

11:00 p.m. — Vigil Proper

1. Vigil Master and Sponsors take the Vigilists to their Vigil posts
2. Self-examination and prayers

12:00 am. — *“Turn-over a Clean Outlook in Life”* Meditations: Prayers and Resolutions

1:00 a.m. — Dawn Round-up (next day)

- The Vigil Master and Sponsors gather the Vigilists
- The Scout Law Challenge

2:00 a.m. — Rest period

6:00 a.m. — Investiture Ceremony (If desired, this may be held with a religious service appropriate to the group)

7:00 a.m. — Fellowship Breakfast

Program Details

Pre-vigil Activities

- a. At the Vigil Rendezvous, the Vigil Master reviews the Vigilists on the entry requirements, Rover Scout Ideals, etc.
- b. Singing of Vigil Hymns and Rover Scout Songs according to Vigilists' preference.
- c. Pre-Vigil inspirational talk or forum by selected Speakers on the *“Five Rocks in a Person's Life.”*
- d. Final instructions by the Vigil Master, ensuring that attires are suitable to local conditions.
- e. Distribution of Self-Examination Questions, candles, matches, pieces of paper, small envelopes, etc.

The Vigil Proper

- a. The Sponsors lead the Vigilists to their Vigil posts silently and then leave.
- b. At the Vigil posts, the Vigilists light their candles, settle down comfortably, and, after saying some prayers, start with the Examination.



- c. They recall their past misdeeds or sins and list them down on a sheet of paper. (*It should be emphasized and clarified beforehand that this list will not be collected nor be presented to anybody.*)
- d. They make their resolutions which they write on another sheet of paper.
- f. The Sponsors with the Vigil Master may go around checking the Vigilists especially regarding their comfort and safety.

The Self-Examination

A.

Being a program for young adults, Roving is characterized by a significant act on the part of the Aspirants or those who want to be part of the Roving Movement. It is done through a series of voluntary decisions all leading towards the expression of determination to seriously think about his purpose in life. Some process of self-examination (in the form of a Vigil) before his Investiture is essential to emphasize the fact that, as a Rover, he is undertaking certain definite responsibilities. The central idea is that, before becoming a Rover, he shall, with the aid of the questions drawn up by the Founder and his interpretation of the Scout Promise and Law for Rovers, quietly think out what he is doing with his life, and whether he is prepared to be invested as a Rover, making his Scout Promise from an adult's point of view.

It should be made clear to the Aspirant that he should not be invested until he is quite sure that he is really prepared. The Rover Leader should point out that a responsible person thinks carefully before making an important decision. Scouting is voluntary, and this cannot be made too clear to the would-be Rovers.

B.

In his self-examination the Aspirant reviews the past, thinks of future possibilities, and dedicates himself in silence to the service of God and his fellowmen. Without this the Rover Investiture cannot be what it is meant to be - an outward sign of an inward determination.

A Vigil may be conducted even without any pompous ceremony, and it can even be done in the Aspirant's own room, under the supervision of the Rover Leader or any of his Sponsors, but it is the Rover Leader's responsibility to see that nobody joins Rover Scouting without being fully determined to shape his life in accordance with the Ideals of Rover Scouting. If this is the option chosen, the sponsor reviews the "five rocks" with him.

It is most important that the aspirant is given the opportunity to choose how he is going to conduct his Self-examination Vigil. He may prefer to think over the prescribed questions in any quiet place - in Church, or perhaps during a week-end camp with his Sponsors. As this is a very personal matter, he should never be forced to conduct his self-examination under artificial or uncongenial conditions. The wishes of the aspirant should always be respected.

The Rover Leader may, however, offer advice on the location for the Vigil.

In such cases the Rover Leader and the two sponsors might accompany the aspirant to the place of vigil. The Rover Leader and the sponsors could then retire, if desired, arrangements should be made to see that there are no interruptions, and so, leave the aspirant to consider the questions by himself.

Whatever plan is adopted; simplicity and sincerity should be the keynote, and the spiritual strengthening of the aspirant the main objective.

C.

The aspirant should go through the Self-examination questions beforehand and, if there is anything he does not understand, he should get the Rover Leader or his sponsors to explain it to him before he undertakes his vigil.

D.

Before an aspirant undergoes a Self-examination Vigil, he should be made aware of the "five rocks" in a person's life and possible steps he may take to overcome them. This may be done as a series of talks during several Circle meetings or taken up individually with the aspirant by his sponsor long before the vigil.

E.

Where there are more than one prepared to go thru the Self-examination Vigil, a program may be held where speakers may be invited to review the "five rocks." Where a vigil program is followed, a Vigil Master must be assigned to ensure the smooth running of the proceedings.

F.

During the vigil, the aspirant must provide himself with two sheets of paper, pen or pencil, a candle or flashlight and a Bible, Koran, prayer book of his faith, icon, or whichever is desirable. He will use one sheet of paper to write the things he resolves to do in his effort to improve his life. He will use the other to write his past misdeeds, which he wants to renounce. He should be assured from the start that both will be personal to him. He will keep the first to guide him in his future life while the other will be burned by him in the presence of his Rover Leader or sponsor(s).

G.

After the vigil, the sponsor will meet the aspirant and brief him in preparation for the Investiture, which may be held immediately after or when it is convenient to do so, but which should not be beyond one week after a successful vigil.

The sponsor will ensure, without violating privacy, that the aspirant has accomplished the two sheets of paper. He will ask the aspirant to burn the sheet of paper with the past misdeeds during the investiture ceremony explaining the significance of the action. He will advise the aspirant on the commitment he has made in the other sheet of paper.

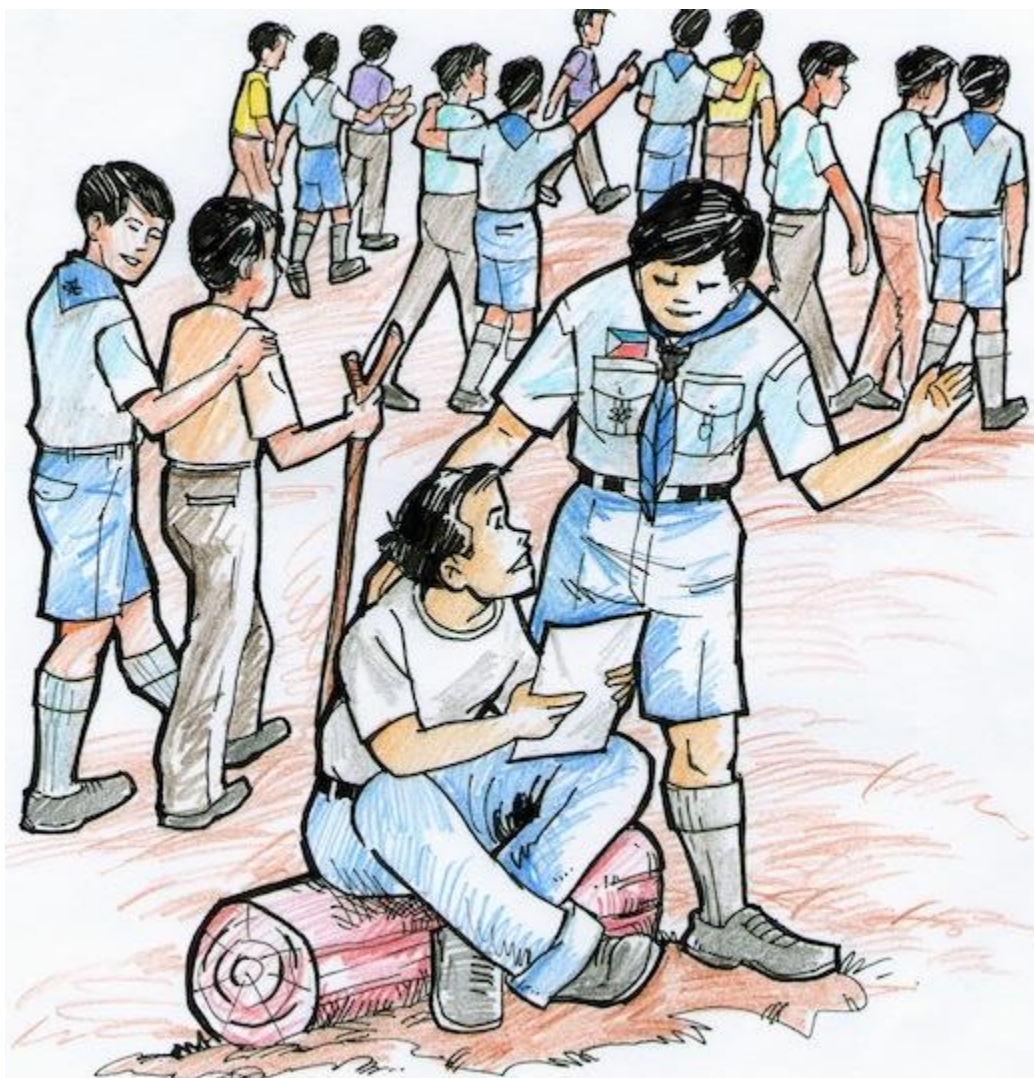
Before going thru the Self-examination questions, the Rover aspirant may read appropriate passages from the Bible or the Koran. The explanations of the Scout Oath and Law will help in understanding them from an adult's point of view.

The Round-up

A.

At the designated time, the Vigilists are assembled. The Vigil Master and Sponsors gather the Vigilists and take them altogether in silence to the "Investiture Hall." All instructions are made through whispers.

Along the trail to the Investiture Hall, there are posted at strategic places candles or torches that represent the twelve (12) points of the Scout Law, where the Vigilists are asked to stop and meditate for a while at each point, and think how they may be able to fulfill their duties as Rovers in conformity with the Law.



THE INVESTITURE CEREMONY

[The Aspirant is brought before the Circle, and stands with his two sponsors, one on either side of him, before a table, upon which is set a ewer of water, a basin and a hand towel. The Rover Leader stands facing them behind the table, a Philippine Flag on a flag staff is posted at the right of the Rover Leader. Calling the Aspirant by name, the Rover Leader (RL) says]:

RL: <Name of Rover Aspirant> have you come with a desire to become a Rover in our world-wide Brotherhood?

Aspirant: I have.

RL: Do you understand that by becoming a Rover you are joining a Brotherhood, which will help you, carry out your ideals. . . and in which you are asked to obey its rules . . . and carry out the motto of Service for others?

Aspirant: I do.

RL: Do you understand that Service means that at all times you will be good-natured towards all other people . . . and will do your best to help them, even though it may not be convenient or pleasant or safe for you . . . and that you will expect no reward for doing so?

Aspirant: I do.

RL: In spite of difficulties you may have had in the past, are you now determined to do your best to be honourable . . . truthful and straight-forward in all your dealings . . . clean in what you think... in what you say . . . and in what you do?

Aspirant: I am.

RL: Have you carefully thought about what you are doing with your life?

Aspirant: I have.

(Thereupon, the Aspirant is asked to burn the sheet of paper where he has written his past misdeeds, place the ashes in an envelope and hand it to the Rover Leader. He then places his hands together over the basin; one Sponsor takes the ewer and pours water over them, while the other takes the hand towel and dries the Aspirant's hands).

RL: Understanding these things then, I ask you now to dedicate yourself to the Scout Oath, bearing in mind that you are expected to interpret it from an adults' point of view.

(The Aspirant advances and at the same time an Assistant Rover Leader steps forward bringing the Philippine Flag between the Rover Leader and the Aspirant, who takes hold of the Flag with his left hand, and makes the Scout Sign with his right. The other Rovers also make the Scout Sign.)

Aspirant: *(Led by the Rover Leader; recites the Scout Oath, phrase by phrase):* On my honor, I will do my best To do my duty to God, and my country, the Republic of the Philippines, To help other people at all times, and to obey the Scout Law; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.

RL: *(Gives the Rover the envelope containing the symbolic ashes of his past misdeeds, saying):* Receive this envelope containing the ashes of where you wrote your past misdeeds, which you desire to keep away from... This will remind you of your commitment to turn over a new leaf in your life...

(He dons the neckerchief on the new Rover and places his hands on his/her shoulders and says): I trust you to keep your Promise and remind you, like the others, that you have one tender point, namely, your Honor — nothing should be more quickly felt than that which will tarnish it. *(Gives the new Rover a buffet on the left arm and a handshake.)*

(The Sponsors follow, then lead him/her aside to wait for the others still to be invested, if any. When all Aspirants have been invested, one of the ARLs leads the Closing Prayer. The members sing "The Rover Scout Song," as they close in on the new Rover/s and give him/them the Rover embrace.)

Prayer

O Father of mankind, who has committed certain souls to our direction, grant us the grace to lead them to You by proper word and example. Teach us both what to give and what to withhold; when to reprove, and when to forbear; make us gentle yet firm, considerate yet watchful. Mercifully supply whatever is wanting in us through frailty or negligence. With Your aid we will do our best to prove worthy of our charge by helping others to know and to live the principles of Scouting as based on Your Commandments. In the spirit of cooperation with each other and the spirit of sacrifice for the well-being of each, we pledge our loyalty to You, our Great Leader. Amen.

The Rover Song

Bold Rovers are we and happy to be together.
A shake of the hand, a pledge that we stand together.
Wand'ring out in God's good air Finding sunshine everywhere.
We're hitting the trail through mountain and dale together,
Happy, healthy pals are we.
**Though winds may blow across the sea
Whate'er maybe our destiny
Comrades we'll always be until our life is done.
We'll share our laughters and our tears
We'll share each other's hopes and fears
And like three famous musketeers. "One for all and all for one."*
We steer to the right with hearts that are light together.
At night by the fire a song we inspire together,
Shouting greetings 'round and 'round
Through the world our camping ground.
Our life we shall spend wisely to the end together,
Singing out our Rover song.
(repeat *)

RESPONSIBILITIES AT INVESTITURE

Sponsor(s)

The Sponsor(s) must be absolutely certain that the Aspirant is ready for the Vigil and Investiture. It is best to have one or two Rovers appointed as Sponsors for each Aspirant from the outset, who should, if possible, be already known to him. It is not advisable that the Rover Leader should act as a sponsor. He is the sponsor of the Circle and of the Rovers in general, and not of a particular Aspirant. The responsibility of Sponsorship is in itself good training and service for a Rover.

The selection of the Sponsor should be made right from the entry of the recruit. The R.L., will discuss with them their duties and the particular needs of the Aspirants. The sponsors are in effect the R.L.'s deputies or agents, his close helpers and advisers. They do not push him out of the picture or relieve him of his responsibilities. Their duty is to guide the Aspirant, to see that he is at home with the Circle and is taking part in its activities, to bring him into closer contact with the Rover Leader, Assistant Rover Leader, and eventually to speak for him and present him for Investiture.

They should have the necessary knowledge and ability, if possible, not only to take an Aspirant through his training, but to talk to him generally about Rover Scouting. In other words, they should be "First Class Rovers" themselves.

Rover Leader [R.L.]

The R.L. keeps a special eye on the actual form of the Ceremony and keeps the Circle alive to its sense of responsibility when an investiture is to take place, reminding them of the unique plans the investiture has in a Circle's life.

The R.L. (being a wise man) may give the new Rover some little memento as a souvenir of the occasion — something that he will grow to cherish in the years to come. It marks the investiture as something very personal in a Rover's life.

Assistant Rover Leader(s) [A.R.L.]

The A.R.L(s), as a personal task, may take care or see the advance preparation for an investiture.

When the Aspirant has become a full-fledged Rover, the Circle may wish to celebrate it with, say a Pot Luck in his honor. He might be the object of good-natured jokes which he should be able to take, and he may reply to toast. The Circle makes it plain that they are giving him a royal welcome into the fuller life of the Circle. He is a Rover equal in terms with others. So the brotherhood of Rover Scouts grows.

THE FIVE ROCKS

When Lord Baden-Powell, the Founder of the Scout Movement, introduced the Rover program, he likened the journey of a young man into life, as similar to traveling a rugged stream by a canoe. As he paddles his canoe, he encounters a number of rocks along the way. He either goes around these rocks to reach his destination or crashes into them or falls into the water. It is therefore, dependent upon his skills and determination to overcome these rocks to be successful in life.

The Founder identified these rocks as *horses, wine, women, cuckooism/humbuggerly, and irreligion.* In the Philippines, we identify these rocks as *gambling, self-indulgence, lust, hypocrisy, and irreligion.*



Gambling

It symbolizes all forms of desire for another person's property through a get-rich-quick way. How many individuals will gamble everything including their honor and their own souls? How many crimes and sins have been committed in the name of gambling? How many futures have been destroyed by gambling? Gambling is one of the roots of evil. Men squander money in gambling depriving their families and themselves the means that could improve their lives. Rich men have become paupers due to gambling. It is, therefore, a rock where men stumble.

To avoid this rock, try to develop some form of hobby. You can start by collecting stamps, coins of different countries, empty perfume bottles, miniatures, etc. or reading wholesome books. You can also go into handicraft, which could also be a profitable venture. Sports or physical fitness activities are good for your health. They need not be expensive, like jogging or ordinary walking. They improve your cardio-vascular strength to keep you physically and mentally fit.

Self-Indulgence

It symbolizes over indulgence in liquor, smoking, drugs, and food - including laziness.

It is in the abuse that makes wine a rock or stumbling block of man. When one is drunk, he is prone to create trouble. He loses control of his faculties and behaves ungentlemanly, causing a lot of hardships not only for himself but also for his family and the community as well. Most crimes committed against persons and properties are results of drunkenness. The money that should go to his family is squandered wantonly in his drinking sprees. Being drunk also lowers his self-esteem as a human being.

Smoking, according to research, causes lung cancer. The amount of nicotine that a person gets out of smoking tobacco shortens his life. It also causes the hardening of the arteries and blocks the normal flow of blood in the body resulting in illness of the lungs, heart and kidneys.

Drugs *per se* are not harmful; they serve mankind. But when misused and abused, they cause mood changes in men. Most of the crimes committed nowadays are drug-related. Drug abusers resort to stealing, robbing and even killing to be able to continue their habit.

Over-eating greatly affects one's health. If a person does not follow a regimen of eating a well-balanced diet, he may develop high blood pressure and other related illnesses of his kidneys, heart, and lungs.

The engine of the body must be fed with the right kind of food to function effectively.

Develop self-control and a strong character as antidotes to this rock. Statistics show that of those who return to drug abuse rehabilitation centers after treatment, many are of weak character.

“A man who can control himself, his anger, his fear, his temptations — everything in fact, except his conscience and his shame — that man is well on the way of being a gentleman,” said Baden-Powell.

If a man wastes his time by loafing or spending his time in useless endeavors, such as idle gossip, he is wasting valuable human potential and is a liability — what other people consider as another mouth to feed and not a pair of useful hands.

Indulging in worthwhile preoccupations will help you to overcome this rock. Get involved in livelihood pursuits. Watch for educational programs in your neighborhood, like exhibits, trade shows, variety shows, musical concerts, etc.

Lust

God has placed in us a strong desire for sex to equalize the big responsibility of raising a family. It is when someone succumbs to the desire for a person other than the rightful spouse that a violation of the justification of life - the peopling of God's kingdom - is committed. Carnal desire for the opposite sex is one of the stumbling blocks in a person's life. A married man who takes another woman causes a lot of grief and sadness to his own family, not only due to diminished resources but also due to divided attention. This usually results in broken homes and wayward offspring. Other related crimes are sometimes committed in order to sustain passion.

It is not only a violation of the law of society but clearly a violation of God's commandment; *“Do not covet thy neighbor's wife.”*

In order to avoid the temptation of falling into this rock, try to develop a sincere and deep respect for the opposite sex and the same sex. Consider them as the images of your own parents, your sister/brother, your spouse, or your own children.

Develop the habits of chivalry, like offering your seat to women, the weak and elderly in public conveyances. Standing when a lady enters or leaves the room or the dining table and seating the ladies first in a dining hall before taking your own seat are acts of chivalry, now wanting in our society. We must attempt to recover this lost value through Scouting.

On the other hand, women can always give men the opportunity to practice acts of chivalry. Ladies may wait for the men to open the doors of cars for them or wait to be seated at dinner. Women may also allow the men to do manly jobs like changing of light bulbs, picking objects that dropped from them, or when changing typewriter ribbons, etc. Above all, and for that matter, everybody should be conscious of not embarrassing others, i.e. pointing the right away to do things in public when a guy makes a mistake.

Hypocrisy

There is a great danger in man pretending to be what he is not. Many men stumble on this rock. They think that by pretending, they are being smart. They may be able to fool people around them, momentarily, but sooner or later this pretentiousness will be discovered, to their embarrassment.

During gatherings the hypocrite will try to occupy the center stage or the “*cabezera*.” Unfortunately for them, when somebody of higher rank comes. They are asked to give way to more prominent personalities.

Another form of hypocrisy, which the Lord repudiated, is pretending to be guardians of the law but adjusting it to suit their own needs. There are “those who pray in church during Sundays but prey on their neighbors the rest of the week.”

Try to be what you are and work on your own strengths. Cultivate what you have instead of trying to be what you are not. “*In the world is darkness, we must all shine, you in your corner, I in mine.*”

A story is told of a juggler who wanted to be a monk. He, however, could not endure the long prayers monks were accustomed to doing. Every time the other monks prayed, he always fell asleep. One evening he took his juggling balls, knives and torches. He went inside the church, and before the altar of God, he started juggling with the equipment he brought. He did it with precision and so perseveringly until he dropped exhausted. He prayed asking God’s forgiveness, as juggling was what he could do best and what he could only offer.

Irreligion

This pertains to man’s relationship with his Creator. A belief in a Supreme Being required of those joining the Scouting Movement.

Why is non-belief in God a stumbling block in a man’s life? If man does not believe in God, what then will prevent him from committing transgressions of the law when nobody sees him? He will have no qualms in violating the law of God and man.

One’s belief in God will make him spiritually conscious, aware that even if he can break man’s law, he cannot escape the justice of God. It will be a deterrent factor to violate the law of man for man is a creation of God. Consequently, he will be God-fearing and a law-abiding person.

You can avoid this rock by having a sincere appreciation of God's creation. Marvel at the harmonious movement of the universe, the clock-like functioning of our internal systems, the reproduction of the genus. Try appreciating the beauty of the morning sunrise and the singing of the birds.

Respect the rights of your fellowmen and consider them as brothers from the same father.

Study your own religion and practice its precepts. You may also join religious organizations in your church. Organizations have a way of encouraging people to religiously practice their faith.

SELF-EXAMINATION VIGIL QUESTIONS

(The Aspirant ponders on the following questions and makes a serious examination of his past.)

As one grows older, time passes more and more quickly. Comparatively speaking, life only lasts for a short time and is soon gone.

1. Am I making the best use of the life that God has given me’?
2. Am I wasting it away, in doing nothing that counts - that is, living uselessly?
3. Am I working at things that are not doing well to anybody’?

4. Am I seeking too much my self-aggrandizement – own pleasure and enjoyment or money-making, or promotion without trying to help other people?
5. Whom have I injured or hurt in my life? Can I do anything to make amends?
6. Whom have I helped in my life? Is there anyone else I can help?

The Rover section of the Scout Movement is described as a “Brotherhood of Service,” so if we join it we shall get the opportunity of training for and of doing service in many ways that would not have been open to us otherwise.

1. Am joining the Rover section only for the fun I can get out of it?
2. Am I determined to put real self-sacrificing Service into it?
3. What do I mean by Service?
4. Do I really think for others, rather than for myself, in my plans or undertakings?
5. What kind of Service am I best fitted to do - at home, at work, and in my spare time?

Service is not for spare time only. Service should be an attitude of life which will find outlets for its practical expression at all times.

We get no pay or reward for doing service, but doing it makes us free men. When we render service, we are not working for an employer, but for God and our own conscience. This means that we are human beings.

As the success of our service will depend to a great extent on our personal character, we must discipline ourselves in order that we may be a good influence on others.

1. Am I determined to try and give up bad habits acquired in the past?
2. What are the weak points in my character?
3. Am I absolutely honorable, truthful and trustworthy?
4. Am I loyal to God, to my Country, my family, my employer, those who are under me, the Scout Movement, my friends and myself?
5. Am I good-tempered, cheerful and kind to others?
6. Am I sober and clean-living, and clean-speaking?
7. Have I the resilience and patience to stick it out when things go against me?
8. Have I a mind of my own, or do I allow myself to be carried away by the persuasion of others?
9. Am I strong-minded enough to keep off temptation – to gamble, to get drunk, to indulge in immoral acts?
10. If I am weak in some of these things, do I resolve here and now, with God's help, to do my best to correct them?

May God give me strength to go forward, henceforth a real person, a true citizen, and a credit to my country.

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