

December 1, 1292, was a good day for John Balliol - his first full day as King of Scotland. But less than four years later, after constant humiliations at the hands of the English, he was defeated in battle and abdicated. The arms of Scotland were stripped from his surcoat, giving him the abiding nickname of "Toom Tabard" - "The Empty Suit". Welcome to:

Midrealm Bardic Madness XIV: Toom Tabard

West Shore Unitarian Universalist Church

20401 Hilliard Boulevard, Rocky River, OH 44116

December 1, 2012

The Challenges

Ab Dictation: King John's "empty suit" legacy begins with his abdication (literally, "proclaiming away"). Present a piece in which you throw away some piece of the past - your own, or our common heritage.

The Emperor's New Clothes: The antithesis of an empty suit is ... Well, sometimes it's "nakedness", exposing folly or vulnerability. Sometimes it's "nudity", suggesting fearlessness or heroism. And sometimes it's ... something else. Give us a tale of someone or something uncovered.

The Empty Suit: You will draw two cards from a deck and from them you must spin a story, song, etc., with the suits determining the subjects and the card values determining the main characters (details on the web site.) *Unless*, that is, you draw "the empty suit" - the Joker. Then you must tell a tale of a jester, fool or clown and must include all four of the suit-subjects.

Hector's Tartan: Based on an idea by Master Hector. Create a song or verse "tartan" of every color of the rainbow (red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet) plus black and white. Use those nine words or make nine references - so long as the references are clear; not necessarily unambiguous, just clear.

If the Suit Fits, Share It: Bring an extra article of clothing with you to the event (easy to put on and take off, please, and keep it hidden until the moment of truth). We will pair you with another attendee. Each will dress in the other's apparel; and together you will create a tale or dialog.

Suit the Action to the Word: Prepare a piece which incorporates both physical action (fencing? juggling? tumbling? you decide) and spoken or sung words.

Form Challenge - The Standart Habbie: A favorite of Burns (see his "To a Mouse"), this form dates back to mid-Period. Stanzas have 6 lines rhyming AAABAB, the "A" lines having four iambic feet each and the "B" lines two (details on the web site) A versatile form, it's been used for everything from tragedy to travesty, from ode to the odious. So tell us a tale in the Standart Habbie. For extra credit, set it to music!

... the old favorites: Pass The Tale, Period Piece, Stir Fry and Toasting; plus the Concert and many classes. And we'll end with:

And So To Bed: When is everyone's suit empty? When we hang it up and go to bed. Send us off with a lullaby.

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