



Rover's Vigil

As one grows older, time passes more and more quickly. Comparatively speaking, life only lasts for a short time, and is soon away. Indeed, it may end tomorrow -- even this night.

1. Am I making the best use of the life that God has given me?
2. Am I frittering it away, in doing nothing that counts?
3. Am I working at things that are not doing good to anyone?
4. Am I seeking too much my own 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?

We get no pay or reward for doing Service, but that makes us free in doing it. We are not working for an employer, but for our own conscience.

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

Service is not for spare time only. We must constantly be on the look-out for opportunities of serving at all times.

1. Am I joining the Rover Crew 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?
 - a) At home?
 - b) At school/work?
 - c) In my spare time?

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 to others.

1. Am I determined to give up bad habits acquired in the past?
2. What are the weak points in my character?
3. Am I absolutely honourable, truthful and trustworthy?
4. Am I loyal to God, and the Queen, my Country, my employers, my teachers, those under me, the Scouting Movement, my friends and myself?
5. Am I good tempered, cheery and kindly to others?
6. Am I sober and clean-living, and clean-speaking?
7. Have I pluck 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 ward off temptation to abuse drugs and alcohol?
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 and give them up?

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



The Vigil

“The investiture is a ceremony of admission. It is carried out according to the custom of the Crew and the wishes of the candidate.

It is meant to show that you mean to take Rovering seriously, and to do your best to understand its objectives and methods and to carry them out.

For this reason, you should think the matter over very carefully to yourself beforehand.”
B.P., *Rovering to Success*

“Self examination, or vigil, is not a matter of show and is best done alone and in the Squire’s own time” “there can be no doubt as to the benefits of self-examination. It is good for us all to give ourselves an overhaul and to decarbonize our minds. But self-examination should not be regarded as a test to be performed once and for all; it is a process that should be renewed from time to time”. “Gilcraft”, *Rover Scouts*

“He knows that in the Vigil he is expected to sit alone in a silent place and think of his way of life in the past, his present way, and the way he intends to follow as a Rover after Investiture. He asks himself questions and tries to answer them himself. He sees his good points and his bad points, and he knows where his weaknesses lie and what his strong points are.” Jack Cox, *Ideas for Rover Scouts*

A vigil is a period of intense self-examination. It is a practice that has been passed down to us from ancient times when those about to become knights spent the night before their investiture alone and fasting in a church, preparing themselves. Whereas fasting was supposed to cleanse the body, the vigil was meant to cleanse the mind. Although usually used in preparation for investiture, it is a practice that can do a lot of good, if used on a regular basis, to find out just where we stand.

The vigil is an intensely private and personal thing, and should be conducted in a quiet, secluded place where privacy is assured. Most vigils are conducted outdoors or in a church.

To help a Rover or Rover Advisor through the vigil, questions have been passed down over the years. These questions should be taken in turn, and answered in one’s own heart.

In the Wind

In the wind and the rain and the sea is release;
In the field and the forest I find my peace;
In solitude, musing, I discover my soul;
By the love in friendships, I am again made whole.

-Anon