



## **The Mythology of THE FLAGBEARERS**

*“Proudly lift your Standards High,  
Let them know we are coming and why!”*

In many traditions around the world every family, clan, tribe and nation would create its own standard, or flag which bore the motto and symbol of the group. These were displayed on long poles, or staffs and carried by a company of Flagbearers.

The identifying colors and motto of the people meant a great deal to all. The flags or standards were a statement of what the arriving company would promise, no matter what, and that those following the flagbearers would live up to that motto—for life. This is how we gain the understanding of the phrases “lift your standards” and “maintaining high standards”, meaning Keep Your Motto, which in Latin means “word”, be measured by that word and the deeds which follow. And, do not fail to carry through with that promise.

Following this honorable tradition, during Vinotok at various ceremonies we encourage all who wish to step forward and “plight their troth” or make their promise during the Harvest Festivities to live in compassionate reciprocity with the Earth and to join in the ceremony of Marrying the Land and Committing to Each Other.

The Flagbearers also personally decorate their staffs with special totems, greens and wood rounds branded with the Runes we draw and follow for guidance. Throughout the village you will see staffs leaning outside of pubs, homes and restaurants. You will also see them above the heads of the Vinotok throngs, and will soon be able to recognize the unique staffs of individual Vinotok Players and Archetypes—such as the Green Man, Harvest Mother, Godmother and Sorceress. And in our street theatre and Great Grump Procession through the town the Flagbearers have an important role in defining sacred space for the Vinotok Passion Players, Mummers and folk dancing in the street.

Vinotok Godmother and Founder, Marcie Telander