

The Knight's Codex

Loyalty: As a Knight/Dame you must be known for unwavering commitment to the ideals you have chosen to espouse, and to all the people in your life to whom you owe your allegiance. You shall permit no harm to come to these same people, nor will you allow some action or inaction on your part to compromise the noble ideals by which you have chosen to live. There are many circumstances where compromise is honorable, but never at the cost of one's loyalty.

Respect: As a Knight/Dame you will respect other Knights/Dames and the codes of other churches, orders and realms, unless they should prove unworthy. As a Knight/Dame you will also be courteous and respectful regardless of race, religion, sex, or social standing.

Courage: Being a member of the nobility often means choosing the more difficult or the personally expensive path. As a Knight/Dame you must be prepared to make personal sacrifices in service to the precepts you have sworn to uphold and the people you love. A member of the nobility should seek wisdom. Courage also means taking the side of truth in all matters, rather than seeking the expedient lie. Seek truth always, and remember to temper justice with mercy and kindness; for pure truth can sometimes bring grief. Remember that as a Knight/Dame you shall not recoil before the enemy, except in a tactical retreat when the enemy is armed in a superior fashion, or possesses a superior numerical advantage. As a Knight/Dame you must understand that fear is a common emotion; but do not permit fear to hinder your doing what is right. Instead, bridle your fears and never permit yourself to show cowardice.

Justice: As a Knight/Dame you shall obey all laws, and shall be the champion of the "Right and Good" and the foe of "Injustice and Evil." Seek always the path of the "right," unencumbered by bias or personal interest. Recognize that the sword of justice can be a terrible thing, so it must be tempered by humanity and mercy. Seek out the "right" without bending to temptations of ease or expediency.

Largesse: As a Knight/Dame you must be generous in so far as your resources allow. Use largesse in this way to counter gluttony. Largesse makes the path of mercy easier to discern when a difficult decision of justice is required. Give of yourself to all those who may need it.

Profess: As a Knight/Dame you shall seek excellence in all endeavors, seeking strength to use in the service of justice rather than for personal aggrandizement. You shall be trained in several forms of combat, not all of which must be physical. As a Knight/Dame you must also defend your nation, your family, and those who cannot defend themselves.

Integrity: As a Knight/Dame your word is your bond and you must preserve it as such.

Nobility: As a Knight/Dame you must *ALWAYS* seek to be noble. To be noble, one must have all of the characteristics listed in the Codex, and also be Honest, Merciful, Modest, Compassionate, Industrious, and Faithful. Thus there is no room for Selfishness or Spite. As a Knight/Dame you must realize that, though you may never perfectly attain the ideals you seek, the quality of striving toward them ennoble the spirit and grows the character from dust up toward the heavens. Nobility also has the tendency to influence others, offering a compelling example of what can be achieved in the service of rightness.

Faith: As a Knight/Dame you must have abiding faith in your beliefs, for faith roots you and gives hope against the despair that human feelings can create.

Humility: As a Knight/Dame you must value first the contributions of others. Do not therefore boast of your own accomplishments, but rather let others do this for you. Tell the feats of others before your own, according them the renown rightfully earned through virtuous deeds. In this way the office of Knighthood itself is well done and glorified, helping not only the gentle spoken, but also all who call themselves Knights/Dames.

Franchise: As a Knight/Dame you must seek to emulate every good characteristic herein as sincerely as possible, not for reason of personal gain but because it is right. Do not restrict your exploration to a small world, but seek to infuse every aspect of your life with these qualities. Should you succeed in even a tiny measure, then you will be well remembered for your quality and virtues.