

# A Squire's



## Guide to All Things Knightly

Hail and well met, lad. If you are reading these words it means that you have been chosen to be honoured with the title of squire. This means that you are well on your way to becoming a knight. To make this journey a bit easier, I have penned this guide. But if I get ahead of myself, my apologies, gentle reader. Allow me to introduce myself. I am Alfred Sargent, loyal man-at-arms to sir Owain and follower of his lord, King Arthur. I have spent most of my life in service to a knight and so have learned about their ways. In the pages of this tome, you will find all you need to be inducted into this world of chivalry and honour. It should serve as a guide to understanding the ways of the king's court, knightly honour and the arms and armour of the knight.

Your Humble Servant

*Alfred Sargent*

Alfred Sargent, Loyal Man-at-Arms

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# The Kings Court

I understand how the court of King Arthur can be a confusing place, gentle reader, with all of those noble titles to remember, to say nothing of the rest of the king's household. To alleviate this confusion, I have listed here the various members of the court you may encounter and where they rank in importance.

## Royalty

The royalty are the highest ranking family in the land. Their titles are passed down from the father to the eldest son. The below titles are unique to the royal family, however, members of the royal family may hold noble titles other than the ones below.



**King:** Kings are the highest level of royalty. They are the leaders of entire countries and the ones that make the decisions regarding treaties, trade, and the relations with other countries. The title

of king is traditionally passed down the family line

# The Code of Chivalry

## Knightly Virtues

The knightly virtues are the core tenets a knight is expected to exemplify in all his actions. A good knight is expected to be the living embodiment of these virtues.

**Courage:** A Knight is expected to be brave at all times, and to stay strong in the face of adversity. He is never to turn away or run from danger.

**Justice:** A Knight is to be just in all his affairs. He should be fair in his decisions and honest in his dealings. He should never cheat, steal, or take advantage of the situation.

**Mercy:** A knight should be merciful. He should offer forgiveness to any who wrong him. He should defend the weak and protect those who can not protect themselves.

**Generosity:** A Knight is generous to all. He is to support good charities and fund righteous undertakings. He must offer aid to all who are in need of help.

# Courtly Love

Love can be messy, complicated, disorienting and in some cases dangerous. Add to this the pressures of court and this is guaranteed. Thankfully for us, gentle reader, Andreas Capellanus wrote a definitive guide on the subject in 1184. Below I present his rules of love for your perusal.

## The Twelve Chief Rules in Love

From *The Art of Courtly Love* by Andreas Capellanus  
According to Andreas Capellanus these are the twelve rules that a great lover must follow. He claims these rules to be the rules set down by Cupid, king of lovers, himself.

- I. Thou shalt avoid avarice like the deadly pestilence and shalt embrace its opposite.
- II. Thou shalt keep thyself chaste for the sake of her whom thou lovest.
- III. Thou shalt not knowingly strive to break up a correct love affair that someone else is engaged in.
- IV. Thou shalt not choose for thy love anyone whom a natural sense of shame forbids thee to marry.
- V. Be mindful completely to avoid falsehood.
- VI. Thou shalt not have many who know of thy love affair.

## Knightly Defence

As a Knight, kind reader, you will have need of a way to defend yourself in combat. The Knight's primary method of defence is his armour and shield. To aid you in your use of armour, I have listed here all of the essential details about the most common forms of knightly armour.



**Gambeson:** The gambeson is a heavy quilted doublet made of heavy cloth and stuffed with tow or wool. Often worn by foot soldiers or archers as their only form of defence. For knights, squires and better-armed ground forces,

however, the gambeson is worn under the chain mail or plate mail to protect the inside of joints and provide padding for the metal armour.



## Types of Knights

The last thing I can tell you, young reader, is that there are different types of knighthood. Below I will explain the different types that exist and what the differences are among them.

**Traditional Knight:** The most common knight you will see is one that is pledged to a liege lord. The lord is this knight's patron and as such provides for the knight's needs, such as housing, food and armour. In return for this patronage the knight defends the lord's lands and serves in his army.

**Knights Errant:** Also known as a quest knight, these are the most romanticized type of knight. They are sung about by troubadours and bards and are written about by poets. These knights dedicate themselves to a quest and travel the land trying to complete this quest and uphold the virtues of knighthood. This life of adventure can be dangerous and demanding but there is great glory to be had in success.

**Quests:** The quests undertaken by knights errant can be for almost anything.



# A Squire's Guide to All Things Knightly



## Appendix: Roleplaying Tips and Aids

### Introduction

Originally begun as a project for the New Jersey Renaissance Fair and Kingdom to produce a children's book about Knighthood, I wrote this book and its sister book *The Cabin Boy's Pocket Pirate Hand Book*. Their possible uses as a role playing aid became apparent to me, so that started me thinking about the production of the extended *Squires Guide to All Things Knightly*, the first document included in this set. To further make this product useful to role players, I have added this second document as an appendix of roleplaying tips and aids.

This appendix has been compiled separate of the original squire's guide for ease of reference, rather than having you comb the original work for gray side bars. Also, the original work was designed as if written by a man-at-arms serving a knight in Arthur's court and can be used on its own as a handout to players; I felt it best to separate the out-of-character advice and references from the in-character writings and treatises.

Humble Author and Gamer,  
Christopher Baldi

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# Types of Knight

The word "knight" conjures images of warriors in gleaming silver armor mounted on white steeds carrying brightly-colored banners and charging into battle to save the fair maiden from the jaws of evil. Few words in our modern language encapsulate so much and call forth such a striking image. Ask any male and he will tell you that at some point he has dreamed of being a knight. The image is so strong that many modern military units compare themselves to these armor-clad warriors of yesterday. With so much encompassed by a single word, it is helpful to get some perspective on what a knight really was when preparing to play one in a role playing game.

To begin with, it is important to realize that the term "knight" was used throughout the dark and middle ages to describe a specific class of warriors. However, while the term persists unchanged to this day, the type of warrior that it was used to describe has changed many times and varied from culture to culture. So to help us discuss how a knight should be role played I will first present several different styles of knighthood. These styles

## Knightly Tactics

The knight fills a unique role on the medieval battlefield - that of the heavy cavalry unit. While there have been cavalry units for almost as long as the horse has been domesticated, these units were often lightly armored and relied on the horses' speed to allow them to perform "hit and run" attacks. Some cavalry, such as the famous Hun cavalry, took this one step further, using the bow from horse back to relieve them of the risk of close combat. Ancient battlefields also contained heavy units as well, such as elephant units or chariot units, but these heavy units were large, less maneuverable, and often required multiple men to function effectively. The knights' heavy cavalry unit, however, combined a heavily-defended knight and horse with the agility, speed and size of the cavalry unit. They were the tanks of their day - heavily armored, fast, maneuverable, and with devastating weapons. To make the knight even more fearsome, they employed unique tactics and equipment that made the above advantages truly devastating on the field of battle.

### Huzzah! Is Thine Interest Piqued?

Then get the full version today at [www.RPGNow.com](http://www.RPGNow.com) for the measly pittance of only \$5.00.

The full squires' guide is a giant 43 pages of in-character knightly information and includes:

- ❖ An Exhaustive Description Of Noble/Church Titles
- ❖ Several Historic/Literary Codes of Chivalry and Courtly Love
- ❖ Large Sections on the Armor and Weapon Knights Used.
- ❖ And More Types of Knights.

Plus each copy comes with the monstrous 67-page role playing appendix chock full of:

- ❖ Advice for Playing Several Different Styles of Knights.
- ❖ Tips on Designing a Chivalric Code And Using Honor
- ❖ Knightly Combat Tactics
- ❖ Advice For Game Masters
- ❖ And Handy Quick Forms To Keep It All Organized

**Get yours today and prepare for Battle!**

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