



Good day Worthy Knights,

In this part 97, the Orders of Chivalry 1 of 2

Wikipedia

Worthy Knights...

An order of chivalry, order of knighthood, chivalric order, or equestrian order is an order of knights typically founded during or inspired by the original Catholic military orders of the Crusades (circa 1099–1291), paired with medieval concepts of ideals of chivalry.

The word *knight*, from Old English *cniht* (boy or servant), is related to the German word *Knecht* (servant, bondsman, vassal).

An Equestrian (Latin, from *equus* "horseman", from *equus* "horse") was a member of the second highest social class in the Roman Republic and early Roman Empire (*Ordo Equestris*). This class is often translated as "knight"; the medieval knight, however, was called *miles* in Latin (which in classical Latin meant "soldier", normally infantry).

In the later Roman Empire, the classical Latin word for horse, *equus*, was replaced in common parlance by the vulgar Latin *caballus*, sometimes thought to derive from Gaulish *caballos*.

From *caballus* arose terms in the various Romance languages related with the (French-derived) English *cavalier*: Italian *cavaliere*, Spanish *caballero*, French *chevalier* (whence *chivalry*), Portuguese *cavaleiro*, and Romanian *cavaler*. The Germanic languages have terms related to the English *rider*: German *Ritter*, and Dutch and Scandinavian *ridder*. These words are derived from Germanic *rīdan*, "to ride".

Evolution of medieval knighthood

Some portions of the armies of Germanic peoples who occupied Europe from the 3rd century onward had been mounted, and some armies, such as those of the Ostrogoths, were mainly cavalry. However, it was the Franks who generally fielded armies composed of large masses of infantry, with an infantry elite, the *comitatus*, which often rode to battle on horseback rather than marching on foot.

When the armies of the Frankish ruler Charles Martel defeated the Umayyad Arab invasion at the Battle of Tours in 732, the Frankish forces were still largely infantry armies, with elites riding to battle but dismounting to fight.

Multiple Crusades

Clerics and the Church often opposed the practices of the Knights because of their abuses against women and civilians, and many such as St Bernard, were convinced that the Knights served the devil and not God and needed reforming.

As the term "knight" became increasingly confined to denoting a social rank, the military role of fully armoured cavalryman gained a separate term, "man-at-arms". Although any medieval knight going to war would automatically serve as a man-at-arms, not all men-at-arms were knights.

The first military orders of knighthood were the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre and the Knights Hospitaller, both founded shortly after the First Crusade of 1099, followed by the Order of Saint Lazarus (1100), Knights Templars (1118) and the Teutonic Knights (1190). At the time of their foundation, these were intended as monastic orders, whose members would act as simple soldiers protecting pilgrims. It was only over the following century, with the successful conquest

of the Holy Land and the rise of the crusader states, that these orders became powerful and prestigious.

The great European legends of warriors popularized the notion of chivalry among the warrior class. The ideal of chivalry as the ethos of the Christian warrior, and the transmutation of the term "knight" from the meaning "servant, soldier", and of *chevalier* "mounted soldier", to refer to a member of this ideal class, is significantly influenced by the Crusades, on one hand inspired by the military orders of monastic warriors, and on the other hand also cross-influenced by Islamic (Saracen) ideals of *furusiyya*.

Furūsiyya is the historical Arabic term for equestrian martial exercise. Furūsiyya as a science is concerned with the martial arts and equestrianism of the Golden Age of Islam.

The *miles Christianus* allegory (mid-13th century), showed a knight armed with virtues and facing the vices in mortal combat.

The parts of his armour are identified with Christian virtues, thus correlating essential military equipment with the religious values of chivalry:

| | | |
|-------------|--|---|
| Helmet | <i>spes futuri gaudii</i> | Hope of future bliss |
| Shield | <i>fides</i> | Faith |
| Armour | <i>caritas</i> | Charity |
| Lance | <i>perseverantia</i> | Perseverance |
| Sword | <i>verbum Dei</i> | Word of God |
| Banner | <i>regni celestis desiderium</i> | Desire for the kingdom of heaven |
| Horse | <i>bona voluntas</i> | Good will |
| Saddle | <i>christiana religio</i> | Christian religion |
| Saddlecloth | <i>humilitas</i> | Humility |
| Reins | <i>discretio</i> | Discretion |
| Spurs | <i>disciplina</i> | Discipline |
| Stirrups | <i>propositum boni operis</i> | Proposition of good work |
| Hooves | <i>delectatio,</i> <i>consensus,</i> <i>bonum opus,</i> <i>consuetudo</i> | Delight Consent Good work Exercise |

