**Acceptance Ceremony for Order of Paladins Novices**:

The first ritual that an Order of Paladins novice encounters upon entering training at the Motherhouse or Preceptory is the Acceptance Ceremony. It is a very simple affair. The members gather in a circle and the Grand Master meets the novice in the middle. Grand Master announces to the assembled knights, masters, and paladins:

*“Knights of the Order of Paladins, this novice seeks admission to our Order. What say you?”*

Upon hearing this, any knights, masters, or paladins present may show approval of the candidate by extending an open left palm, or disapproval by extending a closed right fist. It is a majority vote.

If the novice has been accepted, the Grand Master draws his sword and holds it point downwards in his left hand between thumb and fingers with fingers loosely extended. The Initiate clasps the sword’s hilt, entwining his fingers with the Grand Master’s. The Grand Master says:

*“This company of warriors has deemed you worthy of membership. Do you accept?”*

The novice voices his or her acceptance. The Grand Master replies:

*“Then we welcome you to this Motherhouse (or Preceptory if that is the case) of the Order of Paladins. Remember that the work of the Gods is your own. I charge you to study diligently and believe in your ability.”*

The Initiate then releases the sword and the Grand Master returns it to the altar. The Seneschal brings forward the grail and lets the Initiate drink from it, saying:

*“Welcome Brother/Sister. Be glorious.”*

NOTE: It is possible to initiate several novices at once. In this case, the Grand Master holds out the sword, point downwards. The novices gather in front of the Grand Master and each places their hand on the sword pommel.

**Oath of Paladins:**

The Grand Master then leads the initiates in the oath of the Order of Paladins:

*“By the power of earth, water, air, fire, and spirit, before the Gods, the Sidhe and the Ancestors, I do declare before this assemblage my fealty and allegiance to Paladins, to its thirteen precepts, and to the rule of law.*

*“So shall I ever defend the values of Sincerity, Courtesy, Compassion, Perseverance, Industriousness, Justice, Loyalty, Courage, Self-Discipline, Humility, Largesse, Truth, and Honor, which in this modern world are so often neglected. I take these values into my heart and soul that they may manifest themselves in my words and deeds.*

*“Biodh Se!”*