Order of Paladins

Dedication Ritual: Making of a Paladin

*Aude aliquid dignum* (Dare something worthy)

Ao Akua

To qualify for the Dedication ritual that makes a Master, a Paladin, candidate Masters need to come up proof of accomplishment related to the quest that they committed themselves to at the Mastering ritual that made them a Master of the Order.

Candidates for the Dedication initiation should bring the Magickal Weapons that they were dedicated to in the Arming and Mastering rituals that preceded this one.

**Commandery:** Grand Master, Seneschal, Marshall, Under Marshall, Standard Bearer, Quartermaster, Constable and Sergeant at Arms.

**Things Needed:**

Order of Paladin members will dress in their gis.

Altar table with God statues.

Five long stemmed flowers for each candidate

Vase(s)

Censer or other aromatic source, candle, stone, small cauldron of water.

Laurel wreaths.

The initiates will be carrying the Magical Weapons that they were dedicated to in the Arming ritual. All other participants carry their chosen Magickal Weapons unless they are Commandery members, in which case they carry the Magickal Weapon associated with their part:

* Marshall: sword
* Standard Bearer: wand/sticks
* Quartermaster: chalice or grail
* Under Marshall: shield or stone

The Grand Master, Marshall, Under Marshall, Quartermaster and Standard Bearer each carry one of the long stemmed flowers for the Challenge portion of the ritual.

**Processional**

Once this guided meditation has been completed, the Seneschal and the other four members of the Commandery (Marshall, Under Marshall, Quartermaster and Standard Bearer) will retire to form up in their positions in the challenge formation.

Once the Commandery is in position, the Constable invites the Knights seeking initiation: *“Come forward, you who would become Paladins.”*

The Constable will then lead the candidates in a procession to the ritual area, to where the Warriors of the Commandery have taken up their stations.

**Proof of Quest**:

The initiates form up in front of the Commandery. The Constable and Sergeant at Arms bar the way. The Seneschal stands to one side of the Constable to challenge the candidates. The Marshall, Under Marshall, Quartermaster, Standard Bearer, and Grand Master are in a formation behind the Seneschal awaiting the candidates for initiation.

**Seneschal**: *“You cannot enter the Dedication unless you prove the success of your quest. What proof have you brought in order to be recognized as a Paladin of this Order?”*

The candidate presents proof of the success of their quest.

**Seneschal**: *“How will you serve the Order of Paladins as a Paladin?”*

The candidate answers as best they can.

**Grand Master:** The Grand Master announces to the assembled Paladins: “*Paladins of the Order, these candidates seek admission to the Dedication. What say you?”*

Upon hearing this, any Masters present may show approval of the candidate by extending an open left palm, or disapproval by extending a closed right fist.

If all the candidates have been accepted, If the responses to these questions are acceptable, the Seneschal anoints the candidate’s forehead with the sign of the Order and then the Seneschal directs the Sergeants to admit the Paladin candidate to the Circle. The Seneschal deals with each candidate for Dedication one by one.

As the candidates enter, each is offered a flower by the Marshall, who says: *“Welcome to the shining blade that both harms and heals.”*

The Under Marshall offers each candidate a flower and says: *“All hail to a foundation stone of the Order.”*

The Standard Bearer offers each candidate a flower and says: *“All hail to a flame that enlightens and inspires.”*

The Quartermaster offers each candidate a flower and says: *“All hail to a grail that reveals the hidden path.”*

The Grand Master then offers each candidate a flower and says: *“All hail to a spirit of the Order.”*

The Constable then directs the Dedication candidates as they enter to take up a place in the Circle. Paladin candidates can place their flowers in the vase on the altar and reclaim them after the ritual.

Once everyone is in position, the Commandery members will then take up stations around the altar (same stations as in the Arming ritual). The mirrors are returned to the altar area.

**Standard Bearer:**

Standard Bearer raises the Order of Paladins banner and says: *“In hoc signo vinces!”*

**Constable:**

The Constable makes a warding gesture and says: *“Avante! Avante! Maleficum defence! Honi soit qui mal I pense!”*

**Seneschal:**

*“The field of battle is the Warrior’s sacred space. Let us now link land and sky of our field of battle in the mundane world to the Otherworlds. The field of action of the Warrior is the mundane world.”*

**Quarters**

**Marshall:** Raises sword and invokes:

*“Hail! Guardians of the East*

*Of the Land of Falias*

*Elementals of Air.*

*Sylphs of the dawn sky.*

*Spirits of windy mornings in spring.*

*Yours is the Sword of Justice*

*The razor edged blade that cuts through illusions*

*I do summon stir and call ye up.*

*That you may witness, protect and bless these rites.*

*Let us be happy and hospitable in the name of Brigid.*

*By the sword of Nuada Argetlamh!*

*My Law is to will*

*Breathe of me deeply*

*Biodh Se!”*

**Standard Bearer:** Raises wand and invokes**:**

*“Hail! Guardians of the South!*

*Of the Land of Gorias*

*Elementals of Fire.*

*Salamanders of the midday sun.*

*Spirits of golden summer afternoons.*

*Yours is the Spear of Truth*

*The spear that pierces to the heart of the matter
I do summon, stir and call ye up,*

*That you may witness, protect and bless these rites.*

*Let us play music and share knowledge in the name of Grian.*

*By the spear of Lugh Lamfhada!*

*My law is to dream.*

*Live of me Fully*

*Biodh Se!”*

**Quartermaster:** Raises chalice and invokes**:**

*“Hail! Guardians of the West!*

*The Land of Murias*

*Elementals of Water.*

*Undines of the sunset waters.*

*Spirits of misty Autumn evenings.*

*Yours is the Chalice of Passion*

*The Grail the strips away the veils.*

*I do summon, stir and call ye up,*

*That ye may witness, protect and bless these rites.*

*Let us teach and judge fairly in the name of Boann.*

*By the undry cauldron of the Dagdha Eochaid!*

*My Law is to dare*

*Drink of me Freely*

*Biodh Se!”*

**Under Marshall:** Raises shield and invokes**:**

*“Hail! Guardians of the North!*

*The Land of Finias*

*Elementals of Earth.*

*Gnomes of the midnight mountains.*

*Spirits of silent Winter nights.*

*Yours is the Stone of Kingship,*

*The sacred altar that holds power, wisdom and destiny.*

*I do summon, stir and call ye up,*

*That ye may witness, protect and bless these rites.*

*Grant us strength and confidence in the name of the Mor-Rhioghain.*

*By the stone of Lia Fail and the anvil of Goibhniu!*

*My Law is silence*

*Listen to me in stillness*

*Biodh Se!”*

**Constable:**

*“Hail! Guardians of Meath! The Center.*

*Spirits of the Wheel of the Seasons.*

*Aes Sidhe of the Timeless Astral.*

*Dreams of the eternal Summerland.*

*Yours is the power of Spirit.*

*The mind which wields the elemental powers as one.*

*I do summon, stir and call ye up,*

*That ye may bring us unity, stability and balance.*

*Grant us healing and peace in the name of Danu.*

*By the eloquence of Ogma.*

*My law is unity.*

*Know of me always.*

*Biodh Se.”*

These five Commandery members then set their weapons down behind them or tuck them away.

**Circle casting:**

This is the same “hand to hand” casting method used in the Armoring and the Arming. The Marshall places his left palm onto the upraised right palm of the person on his left, saying “Hand to hand I cast this circle.” When everyone is holding hands The Seneschal announces: *“It is joined.”*

**Gods/Sidhe**

The Grand Master and Seneschal call out the Warrior Gods in their own words.

**Ancestors/The Fallen**

The Constable announces a moment of silence for fallen ancestors, using her own words. At the conclusion the Constable will call upon the participants to direct their thoughts to Pagans now in the field serving and guarding their community. Once this moment has been observed she announces: *“They are remembered.”*

**Grand Master**: The Grand Master has the candidates for Dedication repeat these words:

*“I (name Lord/Lady)*

*I am (personal “I am” line)*

*Today I dedicate myself*

*To creating possibilities for others to do as I have done*

*With the help of the Gods,*

*Friend of the Sidhe;*

*Reverent to my Ancestors.*

*Today I dedicate myself, with Magickal Weapon in hand.*

*Blade of air, to clear the way for my companions;*

*Wand of fire, to light the way for my companions;*

*Chalice of water, to see the way for my companions;*

*Shield of earth, to ward the path of my companions;*

*Mind like water, mind like the moon.*

*Comrades in arms around me;*

*My mother’s kin behind me;*

*Ancestors above me;*

*Sidhe beneath me.*

*Today I dedicate myself to the service of my companions in arms.*

*Sincerity I show to them*

*Courtesy I show to them*

*Compassion I bestow on them*

*Perseverance I exercise for them*

*Industriousness I demonstrate to them*

*Justice I seek for them*

*Loyalty I offer to them*

*Courage I epitomize to them*

*Self-Discipline I reveal to them*

*Humility I exemplify to them*

*Largesse I donate to them*

*Truth I give to them*

*Honour I epitomize for them.*

*“Today I encompass the five and the five.*

*I am the singing sword of justice;*

*I am the flaming spear of truth;*

*I am the bottomless grail of passion;*

*I am the shining shield of valour*

*I am the numinous spirit of honour*

*Today I dedicate myself,*

*To serve my comrades in arms,*

*To serve my kith and kin,*

*To serve the community,*

*To serve Mother Earth,*

*And to create my reality.*

*Courage and sincerity I show to the world.*

*Honour and justice, I give to all,*

*Inspired by the deeds of heroes.*

*“Today I become the five fold power.*

*Radiance of the sun, brilliance of the moon, speed of lightning,*

*Power of the wind, intensity of the flames, strength of the tides, endurance of stone,*

*And the Power behind reality.*

*“Today I dedicate myself*

*Paladin of the sword of will;*

*Paladin of the spear of creativity;*

*Paladin of the cauldron of renewal;*

*Paladin of the shield of awareness;*

*With the spirit of the Aes Sidhe to embolden me.*

*With the Goddess' Power to inspire me;*

*With the Gods' Wisdom to encourage me;*

*With the Love of my Comrades to uphold me;*

*With the loving blessing of the Dead to comfort me.*

*My eyes to look after them, my ears to hear for them,*

*My voice to warn them, my hand to guard them,*

*My paths open before me, my shield to ward them,*

*My experience to guide them to dance along the knife edge and maintain the inner balance.*

*I summon these Powers to be upon me and in me, to make me equal to any challenge:*

*To allow me to confront any power that threatens my body or spirit:*

*That I may have the wisdom of the wise, the love of the loving, the power of the powerful,*

*That I may be known in the Inner Realms and acknowledged with honour.*

*Know me. O Mighty Ones, for my name is Lord/Lady...*

*Power within me, power on my right hand, power behind me;*

*Power on my left hand, power before me, power above me, power beneath me.*

*In the eye of all beholders, in the ear of all who hear,*

*In the heart of all beings,*

*I am a Paladin.*

*“Today I am the weapon with five fold power.*

*Wind and water*

*Flow around*

*Fire and Stone*

*Hold your ground*

*Mind and spirit*

*Holds them bound.*

*“Honor to the Gods! Honor to the Fair Folk! Honor to the Dead!*

*And honor to the spirit,*

*That dwells in me forever*

*Biodh Se!”*

**Oath of Dedication:**

The Grand Master then leads the candidates in the oath of Dedication:

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

*“So shall I ever exemplify the values of Sincerity, Courtesy, Compassion, Perseverance, Industriousness, Justice, Loyalty, Courage, Self-Discipline, Humility, Largesse, Truth, and Honour, 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.*

*“Standing proud and free, radiating my inner truth, exultant in my power, I raise up my voice and proclaim myself to be a Paladin of the Order of Paladins and to dedicate myself to the mastery and defence of these values. I vow to do my will while harming none. In this I am resolved. This I declare before the Gods, the Sidhe and the Ancestors.*

*“Biodh Se!”*

The candidate can be crowned by the Grand Master with a suitable simple crown or laurel wreath made for the occasion. At the Motherhouse in Surrey, B.C., where the Order of Paladins was founded, we had a huge Portuguese laurel tree that we use to make the laurel wreaths for the Dedication candidates.

The Grand Master then stands before the candidate and says:

*“Wear the crown of spirit. Carry the weight of responsibility.”*

The Mastering candidate then says:

*“I am one in Word, Thought, and Deed.”*

The Grand Master then says:

*“By the power of the Gods, of the Sidhe, of the Ancestors and of the elements, I make you a Paladin of this Order. Carry your weapons forward in defence of the weak and be glorious.”*

The Grand Master ties a black belt with the Paladin’s bars on it around the new master.

**Credo**:

**Grand Master:**

Once all of the candidates have been honored, the Grand Master addresses the new Paladins with the Order of Paladins credo:

*“Soldiers march. Warriors dance. Both fight, but only a Warrior fights with honor. Soldiers act. Warriors choose. An it harm none, do what thou wilt. Be vigilant. Beware of the foe in your shadow. Who dares, wins. Master yourself and you can master anything.”*

The participants clash weapons or slap thighs and cry: *“Biodh Se!”*

The Grand Master and Seneschal then thank the Gods and Goddesses for their attendance in their own words and bid them farewell.

**Quarter Closing**

**Constable:**

*“Guardians of the Center.*

*Guardians of Spirit.*

*We thank you for your attendance.*

*We bid you hail and farewell.”*

**Under Marshall:**

*“Guardians of the North.*

*We thank you for your attendance.*

*We bid you hail and farewell.”*

**Quartermaster:**

*“Guardians of the West.*

*We thank you for your attendance.*

*We bid you hail and farewell.”*

**Standard Bearer:**

*“Guardians of the South.*

*We thank you for your attendance.*

*We bid you hail and farewell.”*

**Marshall:**

*“Guardians of the South.*

*We thank you for your attendance.*

*We bid you hail and farewell.”*

*The Commandery members reform the two lines at the entrance to the Circle.*

**Grand Master:**

***“****The Circle is open, yet unbroken. The Circle is ended, but never the trust within. Go forth now into the world and run straight for whatever you fear the most.”*

The participants are now free to leave the ritual area between the lines of Commandery members, who congratulate the new Paladins.