Raised by the Lady

By Vaidenon of Hustan, Warden of the Inkhorn Fellowship

How the Order of the Lady of Paladins makes gentlemen of the knights it raises, and how their houses stand where Larani holds sway

> "A man who kneels a commoner and rises a knight of the Lady has changed his name, his table and his children's prospects in the space of one prayer. I have wished for some years to know how this is done, and by whom, and what it costs. What follows is what my friends have been kind enough to tell me."
>
> — Vaidenon of Hustan, Warden of the Inkhorn Fellowship, Tashal, Morgat 720 TR

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Every noble house began with a man who was not noble. The heralds of Melderyn will tell you, if you buy them enough wine, that most of the kingdom's clans were raised by a king's hand on a field of battle, and that the fact is best not mentioned at dinner. There is one other hand in the realm that raises men, and it is not a king's. It belongs to the Lady of Paladins.

The *Order of the Lady of Paladins* is the fighting order of the Church of Larani. Its knights are, in the great run of things, the younger sons and daughters of noble houses, who come to it as squires and leave it, if they leave it at all, as old men at rest on one of its manors. But not every knight of the Order was born to a hall. Some came to it as common soldiers and earned the spurs; a few came as the sons of bailiffs and stewards; and some of these have risen very high. When such a man is knighted, what is he? And when he has children, what are they?

I am a scholar and an outsider, and I write about the affairs of powerful men with the greatest respect for them. Nothing here is offered as a judgement on any knight of the Order, every one of whom I hold in honour. I have only set down, as carefully as I can, what I have been told by those who know.

My friends in this matter are three. Gerla Largen, venilana of the Checkered Shield at Xerle, who helped me with *The Lady's Grammar*, has written again, though his order is not the Lady's and he warns me that "the Paladins do things their own way, and loudly". A chaplain of the Lady at Caer Cundras, who asks that I not name him, has been generous with his time and patient with my questions. And a herald of the king's household at Cardiff, who has read the Order's patents as they come before the king, has told me what the crown makes of them. Where I quote them, their words are their own. *(Inkhorn)*

Credits

Writer: Vaidenon of Hustan

Set down by Lesli of Bifel and his homunculus, Claudin

With the help of Gerla Largen, venilana of the Checkered Shield at Xerle; a chaplain of the Lady at Caer Cundras; and a herald of the king's household at Cardiff, all by letter *(Inkhorn)*; see Sources and Additions.

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How Sure I Am

Certain: the Order's own account says so.

Near certain: all three of my correspondents agree, and I have seen it done.

Confident: two of them agree and the third does not dispute it.

A fair guess: one of them says so and nothing I know contradicts it.

I cannot say: my friends disagree, or would not answer.

The Order's ranks, its manors and its people are its own, as Columbia Games' books record them. The

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custom of raising, as I describe it, and every degree of confidence, is the Fellowship's. *(Inkhorn)*

What the Order Says of Itself

The Order is plain about where its knights come from. Its squires, the *atalana*, are noble, and must pass tests of skill and knowledge before they are knighted. A commoner may serve the Order as a soldier, and a soldier with a gift for horses may be made a common squire, an *ataken*, where noble squires are short. The Order says that common squires and soldiers have been knighted on the battlefield, but that such cases are exceedingly rare. Most of its soldiers serve twenty or twenty-five years and retire to its manors. Certain.

So the door is narrow. But it is a door, and the Order holds the key to it, and once a man has gone through, the Order does not pretend he has not.

> *A man who is knighted in the Lady's chapel is the Lady's knight. Nobody asks him at the Soratir who his grandfather was. They ask him at dinner, and only once.*
> — Gerla Largen, venilana, in a letter to the Warden

The Custom of Raising

What follows is not written in any book of the Order that I have seen. It is the custom as my three friends describe it, and it has, they tell me, been the custom for longer than any of them has been alive. *(Inkhorn)*

The knight himself

A man of common birth who is knighted by the Order is noble for the rest of his life, wherever Larani is honoured. He is styled Sir, and he is *-lana* and not *-ken* in every title he holds; the end of the word, as I wrote in *The Lady's Grammar*, follows his birth, and the Order holds that his knighting was a new birth. He may hold land of the Order and sit at a lord's table. Near certain.

This much costs the Order nothing, and the realms where it serves seem content to allow it. A knight for life is no threat to anyone's inheritance.

His house

A knight for life is not yet a house. His children are born to his rank only if the Order raises his house as well, and it does this for two reasons. The first is command: a knight raised to lead a chapter, as a Reblena, or higher still, has his house entered in the Order's book at the temple chapterhouse in Thay, and his children born of his lawful wife are gentle from that day. The second is the Order's gratitude: a feat of arms set down in the chapter's record, or a long life of service, may earn the same. Confident.

> *The commander of a chapter gives orders to men whose fathers hold manors. The Order will not have him sit below them. So it makes his house, and it makes it for good.*
> — a chaplain of the Lady at Caer Cundras

The king's seal

In Melderyn, every one of the Order's lands is held directly of the king, and the grandmaster ranks at court as a baron. A raising therefore comes before the king, and the king confirms it. My herald friend tells me that he has never known one refused, and that the confirmation is "a matter of course, and of a small fee". He was careful to add that the king's grace in this is the king's, and that the Order does not command it. Confident.

Where it ends

A raised house that has no lawful heir ends with its founder. His widow keeps her style for life. A child born outside marriage is not made gentle by the raising; if the knight acknowledges him, he is of his father's house in name and keeps what his father can give him, but the Order's book does not carry him. A fair guess.

What the house is given

The Order holds, besides its keeps and chapterhouses, a dozen lesser manors in Melderyn whose produce feeds its chapters. These are kept in trust, by bailiffs of the Order's choosing, and the heirs of its raised houses have the first claim on those places. A raised house may also give more than one son to the Order, as an old clan gives one; I am told that it is common for all of a commander's sons to take the white tabard, and that the Order is glad of them. Confident.

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	Knighted	Raised
Who	a commoner knighted by the Order	a knight given command, or honoured for a feat or long service
Style	Sir; -lana	Sir; -lana; his wife Lady
Lasts	his life	his house, while it has lawful heirs
Children	common	gentle, born of his wife
Confirmed	not needed	by the king, in Melderyn
Claim	none	first claim on the Order's trusts

The Houses of the Lady in Melderyn

I have tried to set down every house the Order has raised in Melderyn that is standing now. My friends gave me the names; the errors are mine, and I beg the pardon of any knight whose household I have counted wrongly.

Sir Dredal Crestonal

The seneschal of the Order at Caer Cundras, and second only to the grandmaster, Sir Dredal is the most eminent of the raised knights and his is the largest raised household I know of. He married the Lady Mervine in 700, and their children have filled the caer since; my chaplain friend counts seven of them living, the eldest, Keles, now a man of eighteen, and the youngest, Nasentir, still in the nursery. The house was entered in the Order's book when he was given command.

Sir Marik Rodel

Sir Marik commands the Order's chapterhouse at the temple in Thay, where the book of houses itself is kept. My herald friend smiled, I think, when he wrote that "Sir Marik is the only man in Melderyn whose house is written down by his own clerks". He and the Lady Jynella have four children living.

Sir Taric Horta

Sir Taric, who is thirty-five, commands the Order's fort at Ciritha. He is the youngest of the raised commanders, and his house is the newest: he married Betha, a daughter of the Furdyne, in 717, and their daughter Rina was born this year. She is, so far as anyone has told me, the youngest gentlewoman in the Order's book.

Sir Selic Orgone

The knight commander of Fosumo has no wife and no children, and is said to want none. His house was entered in the book with his command, as the custom is, and stands in his name alone. My chaplain friend says that Sir Selic "is married to the Order, and the Order is a demanding wife". I record the remark because it was made with great affection.

Sir Lakuen Dehurkyl

In *The Lady's Grammar* I wrote that Sir Lakuen, Venilana and steward of Caer Cundras, was born noble. I was wrong, and I am grateful to the chaplain at Cundras who set me right. Sir Lakuen was born common, and the Order raised his house not for a command but for thirty years' service at that caer. He married the Lady Bellma in 714, and their son Maxar is five. He is the only knight I know of whose house was raised for service alone.

> *Thirty years of keys, accounts, fodder and roofs. Nobody writes songs about it. The Order wrote him a patent instead, which lasts longer.*
>
> — a chaplain of the Lady at Caer Cundras

The commanders of the manor chapters

Each of the Order's lesser chapters in the Nuem has its Reblena, and every one of them who was born common has had his house raised with his command. They are Sir Chunel of Orie at Edran, the eldest of them at sixty-five; Sir Koran of Zubellyen at Vabeth; Sir Tarel of Dalis at Prosuzan; Sir Lodros at Rute; Sir Delar of Gors at Fedest; Sir Shain at Ponide; and Sir Roldurhen of the Knowe at Puras. Sir Galpras of Gweryff, the Turlana of Fosumo, was raised for a feat recorded in that chapter's book, of which I have not been able to learn the particulars. All but Sir Roldurhen are married and have children.

I must mention one of these with particular care. Sir Lodros has been called "the Stammerer" since he was a soldier, and his house, when it was written in the book, was written as House Stammerer, at his own request.

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My chaplain friend tells me that Sir Lodros says he has never stammered in a charge, and that no one in the Nuem has yet asked him to prove it.

House Derolin

The custom is not new. Sir Kier Derolin, a retired knight of the Order, is himself the son of a raised house, and two of his sons, Sir Arabar and Sir Yaril, are knights of the Order in their turn. The Derolins hold no land of their own and have never wanted any. They are, my herald friend says, "what a raised house looks like after fifty years: no richer, and very proud".

Knights Who Needed No Raising

The grandmaster himself, Sir Enyel Trenoul, is the second son of a minor knight of Kaldor, and was born to his rank; so was Sir Perel Yeno, commander of Cundras. Neither had any need of the custom. I mention the grandmaster here only to say, with the deepest respect, that his only son, a knight of the Order, was killed in the Lady's service, and that I have not thought it fitting to ask about his house.

Two knights of the Order in Kaldor and Chybisa show the custom from its other side. Dame Baelina Tallarm, the deputy commander of the sword chapter at Vadan, has served the Order for nearly twenty years and hopes one day to command a chapter, which only a few women of the Order have ever done. My correspondents could not tell me her birth. If she was born common and is given her chapter, she will be the first woman I know of to found a raised house, and I should very much like to be told of it. Sir Burandon Termyrd, at Ulmstane, is the son of a manor bailiff in Chybisa and entered the Lady's service to make his way by his sword. He is noble for his life. Whether his children will be is a question for the Lady and for his own deeds.

> *Every common knight of the order is told the same thing on the day he is knighted. You are noble now. Your sons are not, yet. Go and make them so.*
>
> — a chaplain of the Lady at Caer Cundras

Where the Custom Holds

In Melderyn the custom is settled, and the king's seal makes it law. Near certain.

In Kaldor the Order is great and its knights for life are honoured everywhere. My herald friend believes that the Kaldoric chapters keep their own book of houses and that the Kaldoric crown confirms its raisings as Melderyn's does, but he would not swear to it. A fair guess.

In Chybisa and Kanday, where Larani is honoured, a knight raised by the Order is received as noble. Whether his children are received the same way depends, says Gerla Largen, "on the host, and on how much the host likes the Order that week". Confident.

Where Larani is not honoured, the custom means nothing. In Rethem and the Thardic Republic, a knight of the Order is a foreign soldier and his patent is a piece of parchment. I cannot say whether any raised knight has tested this, and I do not recommend it. A fair guess.

For the Game Master

Using the Custom at the Table

A commoner knighted by a Laranian fighting order is noble for life where Larani is honoured: styled Sir, -lana in every title. *(Inkhorn)*

Command (Reblena or higher), a recorded feat, or long service (about thirty years) raises his house: his lawful children are born noble, and in Melderyn the king confirms it. *(Inkhorn)*

A raised house with no lawful heir ends with its founder; his widow keeps her style. An acknowledged bastard belongs to his father's house in name, as with any noble, but the Order's book does not carry him. *(Inkhorn)*

Heirs of raised houses have first claim on the Order's trusts: the bailiwicks of its dozen subordinate manors and places in its chapters. *(Inkhorn)*

A player character knighted in an order's service, and later given command, founds a house. The game master decides what counts as a feat. *(Inkhorn)*

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A Character Who Asks

A character who asks a herald, a chaplain of the Lady, or a knight of the Order learns what Vaidenon learned. A successful Heraldry roll, or a Law roll in Melderyn, tells the character whether a given house is raised and when; the Order's book at Thay has the rest. *(Inkhorn)*

Sources and Additions

This section is set down plainly. It lists what in this account comes from Columbia Games' published works and from fan material, and what the Inkhorn Fellowship adds; the Fellowship's additions are marked (Inkhorn) in the text.

Published sources

- Columbia Games, *Lady of Paladins* (#4444): the Order's ranks and estates; noble atalana and common ataken; the rarity of knighting a commoner on the battlefield; the Order's lands held of the king and the grandmaster's rank as a baron; its keeps, chapters and subordinate manors; Sir Enyel Trenoul and his son; Dame Baelina Tallarm; Sir Burandon Termyrd.
- Columbia Games, *Kingdom of Melderyn* and its city and keep modules: Sir Dredal Crestonal, Lady Mervine and Sir Lakuen Dehurkyl at Caer Cundras; Sir Marik Rodel at Thay.
- Columbia Games, *HârnMaster Religion* (#4401): the Church of Larani.
- Fan material, the Nuem campaign: Sir Selic Orgone at Fosumo; Sir Taric Horta at Ciritha and his wife Betha of the Furdyne.

The Fellowship's additions

- The custom of raising: knighthood for life, the raising of a house for command, feat or service, the book of houses at Thay, the king's confirmation, the end of a house without heirs, and the heirs' claim on the Order's trusts.
- The commanders of the manor chapters and their houses, Sir Galpras of Gweryff, House Derolin, and every household, marriage and child not named in a published source.
- The correction to *The Lady's Grammar*: Sir Lakuen Dehurkyl was born common and raised for service.
- The letters of Gerla Largen, the chaplain at Cundras and the herald at Cardiff: their words are the Fellowship's.
- Where the custom holds outside Melderyn, and the rolls for a character who asks.

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