



# KINGDOM OF HAYLEM

## NOBILITY

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**dero**<sup>TM</sup>  
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## Introduction

Being a Noble in the Kingdom of Haylem conveys both a great deal of benefit as well as a great deal of responsibility. It is not an easy route for an individual to follow but it can be very rewarding. For most people within the Kingdom of Haylem it is a path that is beyond their ability to follow but every citizen of the King is well served to understand how the Nobility works and what role they fill.

Understanding the Nobility starts with three key concepts.

**Noble Respect:** The right to the respect due to a Noble based on that Noble's rank or station. Every Noble can expect to receive this trait.

**Noble Privilege:** The rights granted to a Noble upon acceptance of their rank. This particular traits exists only within the Domain of a Noble and is not carried outside of those borders.

**Domain:** The area for which a Landed Noble has been granted land or holds an office granting rights over land. Not every Noble is given land, so this is important to take into consideration when interacting with one in any official capacity.

## Types of Nobles

There are three different types of Nobles in Haylem:

### Landed

A Landed Noble is granted responsibility over a section of land, called a Domain. The title given is generally reflective of the amount of land you are given, or in some cases, which land you are given as some of them are considered more difficult, hostile or valuable than others. A Landed Noble is entitled to Noble Respect anywhere in the Kingdom of Haylem and has Noble Privilege within his or her Domain. A Landed Noble almost always holds their title and Domain for life.

### Court

A Court Noble is someone who is a Noble in title only. They are entitled to Noble Respect however they hold no Noble Privilege. Typically Court Nobles receive their title as a result of long service to the Crown and Nobility. On occasion, someone is granted a Court Noble Title as a result of a singular great act. Court Noble Titles can also be given to people of substantial influence as a means to create a chain of fealty; the most common instance of this is when very influential members of a race are granted a Court Noble position.

### Positioned

A Positioned Noble is one that is granted Noble title as a result of a position or job that he or she does. (Ex. Ambassador, Kingdom Court Positions) The title is directly tied to that position; should a person no longer hold the position in question they no longer hold the title. It is not uncommon however for someone to transition from being a Positioned Noble to another type of Noble. A Positioned Noble is entitled to Noble Respect in accordance with their title. While they do not have Noble Privilege, they almost always have other privileges and responsibilities as a result of their position.

## **Noble Respect**

Much like the word implies, Nobles are granted a great deal of social prowess by title alone, as they are sworn to bend every effort towards the will of the King or Queen and any Noble to which they have sworn fealty. Landed nobles are also responsible for improving, maintaining and/or securing the lands they are sworn to.

The title they are afforded comes with a few social benefits. Depending on their rank, there is appropriate custom for showing respect to a Noble. Those of lesser rank are expected to speak to a Noble with respect and interact with him or her in an honest forthright manner. Unless there is a good reason not to, it is customary but not mandatory to consider the opinion of a Noble above the opinions of those of Lower rank. The word of a Noble against one of lower rank is considered to be true unless proven otherwise or ruled otherwise by one of a higher rank than both parties.

Nobles are entitled to Courtesy. Depending on rank, there is a certain amount of ceremony expected upon approaching a Noble. Typically this is not expected on a battle field or if not directly engaging the Noble.

## **Noble Privilege**

The first duty of a Landed Noble is to the King and those they have sworn fealty to. A close second, is their duty to the lands and the people they have in their care. This duty goes beyond the idea of protection through force of arms. Those with this duty must protect the economic well-being of their trades, the communities that lie therein and all stations of their court or household that deal directly with the people. To allow them to fulfill this duty, a Landed Noble is granted six Noble Privileges.

### **Authority**

A Noble is the leader of the people within his or her Domain and they are obligated to follow the Noble's instructions and commands. Different Nobles have different styles of leading and executing the Privilege of Authority however the most successful Nobles are those that rarely if ever need to directly remind people that they hold this Privilege.

### **Law**

Within the borders of one's Domain, a Noble enforces the King's laws as well as institutes or removes laws as the need of their Domain changes, so long as these changes do not conflict with Kingdom law. They will be the judge and sometimes executioner of the King's justice within the borders of the land bestowed upon them. A Noble does not have the privilege of Law over one of a higher rank than him or her and must refer these matters to the appropriate higher ranking Noble. While not required, it is generally considered good form to do the same when it comes to Nobles of the same rank.

### **Arms**

The lands a Noble are granted may sometimes come under assault from a variety of threats. As such, the right of arms is bestowed upon them to see to the defense of their lands through application of force when necessary. This privilege is often passed onto other stations in a household or court so that others may act in the best interest of the Domain as well, making things a bit easier on the ranking Noble.

## **Taxation**

Taxes are implemented on a Domain/regional basis, monitored and enforced either by the Noble of the Domain or their Steward. How much, how often and what the taxes apply to tend to change from Domain to Domain and are at the complete whim of the highest ranking Noble within that Domain.

## **Conscription**

Any citizen of a Noble's Domain may find themselves conscripted to a cause at any moment's notice during periods of great need. Though it is within the Noble's rights, this particular privilege is generally only executed during the direst of circumstances. Laborers wielding pitch forks, torches and field scythes often find themselves nowhere near as effective as their numbers may make themselves out to be but in a pinch numbers can be the difference between victory or survival. Citizens owe their continued well-being to their Nobility, and when called upon to defend or protect them, few (if any) show any resistance.

## **Presentation**

This particular privilege highly encourages everyone taking residence or doing any form of business at all on a Noble's lands to identify themselves to them and make their business and presence known. Unless a matter is of major importance or something of direct interest to the Noble it is usually deemed acceptable to make one's presence known to an appropriate member of the Noble's Household or Court.

## **Fealty**

This is the duty that every Noble swears to a superior ranking Noble. When you are sworn into someone's household or court, you swear fealty to them and the lands you serve. When you are the ranking Noble, those you bring into your court or household swear fealty to you and all the lands you are responsible for. Part of any Oath of Fealty in the Kingdom of Haylem includes an Oath to the King/Queen.

## **Titles and Structure**

### **Lord/Lady**

A Landed Lord/Lady typically holds land that encompasses one medium to large city or a couple of smaller settlements. Lord/Lady is the most common title for both Court Nobles and Positioned Nobles.

### **Knight**

Knights exist on the chain of Nobility only in the sense that all knights are given Noble Respect. Some Knights do hold positions in the Nobility. Those in the Order of the Banner (Knight Bannerette) also hold land, typically equivalent in area and responsibility to a Lord. There are also Knights holding rank up to Duke/Duchess in the Nobility but in taking that rank they have limited their progression in the Chivalry.

### **Baron/Baroness**

The title of Baron or Baroness is granted to a Noble whose lands encompass one major city, or three to four smaller cities and settlements within their lands. Baron/Baronesses are always Landed Nobles.

## Viscount/Viscountess

The lands of a Viscount are not necessarily any larger than a Baron's, potentially including one major city or a small collection of four or so settlements by themselves. The difference between a Baron/Baroness and a Viscount/Viscountess has little to do with Land. This elevation is typically due to exemplary service to the crown. Viscount/Viscountess is the highest rank available to Court and Positioned Nobles.

## Count/Countess

Often considered to be companions of the Duke and the Royalty, Counts and Countesses own some of the largest and most contested land the Kingdom has to offer. As a sign of office, those of this Noble title and higher are granted Courts in the stead of Households. The lands that these Nobles control are vast in comparison, often comprising of multiple major cities and a small smattering of villages and settlements.

## Duke/Duchess

Dukes/Duchesses control the largest Domains in the Kingdom, typically comprised of 2 counties. Several major cities lie within the borders of such Domains including a Capital, and these lands are the most integral to the entire Kingdom for many reasons (fertility, location, resources, etc.). None of the Nobility carry more respect than those with this title, and it is no wonder that people from all over the Kingdom bend every effort at the request of Dukes and Duchesses.

A Duke/Duchess is appointed directly by the King/Queen and are the only people other than Royalty who are able to convey title on others. In times of challenge where a Monarch is not available the Dukes/Duchesses have the authority to run the Kingdom collectively or appoint an interim regent.

## Forms of Address & Formal Courtesy

Title	Address	Formal Courtesy
Lord/Lady	My Lord My Lady	A bow at the waist is expected in a formal setting. A bow at the shoulders is sufficient in a more casual setting.
Baron/Baroness	Your Excellency My Lord Baron My Lady Baroness	Upon first Greeting in a formal setting (ex. Court, Feast), it is expected that individuals drop to a knee and wait to be permitted to rise. Individuals do not have to kneel unless they are addressing the Count/Countess directly. A bow at the shoulders is acceptable upon subsequent approaches or in a casual setting.
Viscount/Viscountess	Your Excellency My Lord Viscount My Lady Viscountess	
Count/Countess	Your Excellency My Lord Count My Lady Countess	

Duke/Duchess	Your Grace My Lord Duke My Lady Duchess	Upon first Greeting in a formal setting or entering a room where the Duke/Duchess is present, it is expected that individuals drop to a knee and wait to be permitted to rise. After that it is expected that individuals bow slightly at the shoulders when passing by unless they are addressing the Duke at which point they must bow at the waist.
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## Royalty

### King/Queen

The crowned ruler of all the people of a designated Kingdom, a King or Queen is the single highest ranking individual a person can ever come across in Haylem. Knights and Nobles alike waste no time or effort to execute the will of the single person who holds together the divided lands and maintains order. Every citizen of a Kingdom owes allegiance to their King or Queen, and it is expected that the word of the Royalty carries the utmost weight in every aspect of the way of life within the borders of their Territory.

### Crown Prince/Princess

Formally declared the sole heir of the Kingdom, the Crowned Prince or Princess will inherit anything and everything owned by their Royal Parent come the unfortunate time of their passing. This title is appointed directly by the Ruler of the Kingdom and must share the Royal Blood. Should the Royalty pass away without a clear heir left in their wake, it falls to the ranking Nobility of the Kingdoms to declare the next of the Royal Line.

### Prince/Princess

Any child of the King and Queen that has not been selected to be next in succession is either a Prince or Princess of the Kingdom. Shy of the King, Queen or Crowned descendant there are no other members of the Kingdoms that are more revered than they.

## Noble Households

Landed Nobles typically have a Household that supports them in the leadership and management of the Domain. These positions do not in themselves grant Noble Title though it is possible that Court Nobles could hold such a position. The actions of a Noble's Household reflect directly on him or her and have the potential to both raise the Noble's esteem and harm their reputation.

### The Seneschal

Typically, the single most important and trusted member of a Noble's household or court, the Seneschal is sworn to act in the best interest of the ranking Noble and the Domain, in the absence of said ranking Noble. The absence of the ranking Noble is defined as being unable to act or render decision in their official capacity within a reasonable amount of time for that decision. For example, if the ranking Noble is not in the Domain or is indisposed with a serious matter and a matter needs to be dealt with



immediately the Seneschal may take action. If the ranking Noble is simply eating dinner in a Tavern and a serious matter can wait, it might be best to wait. Ultimately it is up to the Noble to define the boundaries of his or her Seneschal's duty. It is not up to anyone other than the Noble in question to challenge a decision made by the Seneschal. All others in the Domain should assume that the Seneschal is acting within the authority he or she has been granted.

### **Steward**

With all the complexities that come with managing and leading an entire Domain, there are also a great many tasks that are far simpler to deal with. It is common for a Noble to have a Steward within their household or court, as it falls onto them to take care of the more commonplace within the Domain of their Noble superior. Such tasks include, but are not limited to, upgrading the walls around cities, helping the guilds build better houses and ensuring resources are allocated correctly. Holding the role of Steward allows an individual to demonstrate their ability to manage a Domain.

### **Chamberlin**

Directly responsible for the state and well-being of the Noble's house(s), the Chamberlin is the individual accredited for the cleanliness, décor and resources available to entertain their Noble's guests. Chamberlin's will organize kitchen staff, make rooms ready for important meetings or visits and will also make sure that the general cleanliness of the house(s) in which they reside is up to the standards set by the household's or court's ranking Noble. Because the Chamberlin often acts as a Host or Hostess, it is an ideal way for an individual to build up contacts.

### **Magistrate**

A Magistrate's job is to ensure that both Kingdom and Domain laws are followed and that in such events that they are not, proper criminal charges be laid and sentences carried out. All high crimes are to be brought to the attention of the household or court Noble, but the Magistrate handles most (if not all) happenings with the low crimes. A Magistrate also mediates disputes between residents of a Domain. A person in the position of Magistrate is able to demonstrate their ability to uphold the law and their skills in dispute resolution.

### **Herald/Scribe**

When Noble law gets passed and is considered in effect, when a Noble title is handed out to someone else within that Domain or their Noble is given a higher title or when those that reside within that Domain need to be made aware of a threat to their continued lives as they know it, Heralds and Scribes are the people that make it happen. Households and Courts tend to decorate these individuals, making it obvious at first glance that they work for who they say they work and that the words they carry or speak hold the weight of decision from their superior. These individuals are required to travel throughout the settlements and cities of a Noble, and as such are generally afforded fast horses and some protection in their duties. Being a Herald allows an individual to learn detail about the Domain and surrounding are from his or her travels that others might not know and provides an opportunity to make contacts.

### **Master at Arms**

Master at Arms is a title held by the individual responsible for the training of soldiers or guards in a keep or castle in peace time. Frequently he or she selects the people who will support him or her in the

defense of the In war time the Master at Arms is actively involved in leading the defense of the keep or castle along with the Watch and any members of the Chivalry. This position provides an opportunity for an individual to demonstrate their skill in training others and leading a battle.

## **Noble Courts**

A Noble of the rank Count/Countess or above not only has a Household but may also form a formal Court. A Court can include any of the positions available for a Household but also can include the following positions:

### **Champion**

A court champion is the martial will of a Noble made manifest. They are the person that Noble trusts in dealing with all physical aspects of their work, including representing them in duels and sometimes even on the front lines of fight should the Domain come under attack. Usually, champions serve as bodyguards, regularly sighted within close proximity of their Noble should the need of a heavier hand be required. Sometimes called brutes (but never to their face without risking bodily harm), these people should be the reason any Noble's ire should be feared.

### **Wizard**

It is not important which school of magic a Court Wizard comes from and it is entirely at the discretion of the Noble. Those with this job often act as a liaison between the Noble and the Earth & Celestial Guilds in the Domain. While the Guildmasters have accountability for the Guilds and the activities of wizards in the Domain, the Court Wizard is responsible for ensuring that magical matters are addressed and that the Guilds are providing the required support to the Noble. It is a careful balancing act for the Wizard to ensure that he or she is able to represent the Noble to whom he or she has sworn fealty without compromising the autonomy of the Guilds. In some Courts, the Noble opts to forgo a Court Wizard and instead bring the local Master or Grandmaster into their confidence.

### **Scout**

Court scouts are often required to act on their own and with little assistance from others. Information is a powerful thing for their Noble leader, and it falls upon them to discretely supply them with information that they may otherwise be unable to acquire. It is for this reason that the position of scout is not always made public, as people tend to stay tight-lipped around them. Scouts are also often required to patrol the very outer reaches of a Domain, to ensure loyalty at the outer fringes and to report any sign of trouble back to the Noble before situations escalate.

## **Progression into the Nobility**

The typical path to Landed Nobility is through service to another Noble. An individual takes a role like Steward or Scout within the household or court of a Noble and fulfills their duties in an exemplary fashion. The second step is typically to take the role of the Seneschal of a Domain acting as a Noble in the absence of the ranking Noble. Alternatively taking a household role in a higher ranking Noble's court (A Lord's Magistrate may opt to move up to be a Countess' Steward instead of being the Lord's Seneschal.)

Individuals looking to advance through the ranks of the Landed Nobility should consider the following:

- Management of Domain
- Morale of the Citizenry
- Service to higher ranking Nobles and the Crown
- Perceptions of peers and higher ranking nobles
- Interactions with other influencers (ex. Tower Representatives, HAC)
- Personal character

The route to becoming a Court Noble is less clear as it is often a Thank You for a single great act or for a lifetime of service. Court Noble titles are also a political tool used in negotiations.

The criteria for becoming a positioned Noble varies depending on the position and the avenue to better understand this criteria is to interact with the Nobles granting these positions.

There have been cases where a Noble title has been gained through less scrupulous means like blackmail or outright purchase but this is rarely spoken of in public. One can imagine the reaction of one's peers when they discover that a title was gained in this fashion.

## **Marriage and Children**

For those of the Viscount rank or higher, the title granted to a spouse is Lady/Lord or in very rare occasions the same title. For those of a lesser title than Viscount, upon marriage the spouse is only granted the title of Lord/Lady if the ranking Noble believes they have also earned recognition. The Title granted to a spouse is almost always a Court Title.

Even though the Eldest child of a Noble is often chosen as a successor for a Noble true hereditary titles are rare in Haylem. Where hereditary titles do exist, the title passes to the eldest child male or female unless the Noble designates another successor. Because different races have differing traditions on marriage it is at the discretion of the Noble as to whether children born out of wedlock are acknowledged. By default a title is not hereditary.

## **Racial Influence**

This particular topic has been a debate for as long as Nobility was in existence, and likely present during whatever planning processes were involved in their creation. It should be made clear as early as possible that nothing is outside the reach of any race. However, that being said, the path towards Nobility and through its many ranks and titles are easier for certain races than they are for the others. Just as some titles of Nobility and Royalty are decided at birth, so does one's birth race often determine the ease or difficulty of progressing into Noble life.

Barbarian: There are no Barbarians currently within the ranks of the Nobility. While it is feasible that a Barbarian could become a Noble, the wounds of the Barbarian Wars are still fresh; it would not be an easy path.

Biata: There are many Biata amongst the ranks of the Nobility, the overwhelming majority of them in Aieland. Because of the continued influence of Sharin, Biata Nobles are sometimes held with suspicion.

Drae: The only thing working against Drae becoming nobles is the sometimes isolationist tendencies of their people. Beyond that they are considered fine candidates.

Dwarf: Dwarves fall right in the middle; they have little barrier to the Nobility and little advantage.

Half-Orc: Half-Orcs are seen by most other races as brutes. It is very rare for a Half-Orc to be considered for a position in the Nobility.

High Elf: There are almost no barriers to High Elves becoming members of the Nobility.

Hobling: Much like Dwarves, there are few advantages or barriers to the Nobility. That being said, there are few Hobblings in the Nobility

Human: There is little to no difficulties to becoming a Noble as a Human. Not to say that the path is easy, just that a Human's race will not be a barrier.

Listani: Although there has been a recent enlightenment where the acts of a few Listani Knights has come back into the collective memory of the people, old stigmas still remain strong and there are no Listani nobles.

Mystic Wood Elf: There are rarely any Mystic Wood Elf Nobles but there doesn't appear to be any sort of racial bias against them. It may be because although Mystic Wood Elves support the Nobility, the concept of Noble Authority is somewhat contrary to their belief structure.

Ogrim: Being loaners, Ogrim are rarely called on to be Nobles. Their challenges are similar to those of a Half-Orc but the greater challenge is usually their lack of political connections.

Saar: There are a few Saar in the Nobility and those who have entered are highly respected. Like the Hobblings and the Dwarves there are few advantages or barriers to a Saar trying to join the Nobility.

Scavenger: Nobles of the Scavenger Race are extremely rare and often there are none. The overall perception of the race is a barrier to their being part of the Nobility.

Stone Elf: Though not as open as it is to High Elves and Humans, Stone Elves usually find no racially based resistance within the Nobility.

Wild Elf: Many of the barriers to Wild Elves joining the Nobility are of their own making. Those that get past them usually have as easy a time as High Elves and Humans.

Xantusa: As they are not citizens of the King/Queen, Xantusa cannot be Nobles.

## **Citizens of the Kingdom**

### **Peasants**

Peasants are the lifeblood of the Kingdom. It is through their hard work that the Kingdom is fed, armed and clothed. One of the foremost duties of any Noble is to ensure the safety and prosperity of the Peasantry.

### **Adventurers**

Adventurers are a class of their own. They are not Peasants nor are they Nobles, for the most part they receive a level of respect in the Kingdom somewhere in between. The accomplishments of the Adventurer are the basis for how he or she is perceived. There is a downside, in hard times, the Adventurers are often blamed for disasters and trouble. A wise Noble never underestimates the value of the Adventurers that live on his or her land and goes out of his or her way to ensure they are content.

### **The Towers of Magic**

While a Landed Noble technically has authority over Tower representatives residing in his or her Domain, that authority is almost never utilized. The Towers ability to act autonomously is foundational to the way the Kingdom works. That being said, in times of great need the authority is there though sometimes Tower Representatives do not comply thus causing a difficult political challenge.