**The Modern Code of Chivalry**

Prowess: Seek excellence in all endeavors, martial and otherwise, seeking strength to be used in the service of justice rather than for personal aggrandizement.

Justice: Seek always the path of the “right”, unencumbered by bias or personal interest. Recognize that the sword of justice can be a terrible thing, so it must be tempered by humanity and mercy in order to earn renown.

Loyalty: Be known for unwavering commitment to the ideals you choose to live by. There are many places where compromise is expected; loyalty is not amongst them.

Defense: Seek always to defend your nation, your family, and those whom you believe worthy of loyalty.

Courage: Be prepared to make personal sacrifices in the service of the precepts and people you value. Courage also means taking the side of truth in all matters. But remember to temper justice with mercy, or the truth can bring grief.

Faith: A knight must have faith in his beliefs, for faith roots him and gives hope against despair that human failings create.

Humility: Value first the contributions of others; do not boast of your own accomplishments. Tell the deeds of others before your own, according them the renown they have rightfully earned through virtuous deeds.

Largesse: Be generous insofar as your resources allow. Largesse used in this way counters gluttony and makes the path of mercy easier to discern when a difficult decision of justice is required.

Nobility: Seek greater stature of character by holding to the virtues and duties of a knight, realizing that though the ideals cannot be reached, the quality of striving towards them ennobles the spirit. Nobility also has the tendency to influence others, offering a compelling example of what can be done in the service of rightness.

Franchise: Seek to emulate the above virtues as sincerely as possible, not for personal gain but because it is right. Do not restrict your exploration to a small world, but seek to infuse every aspect of your life with these qualities. Should you succeed in even a tiny measure, then you will be well remembered for virtue and good works.

**The Tenets of Courtly Love**

1. The pretext of marriage is no proper excuse against love.
2. No one who is jealous can love.
3. No one can have two lovers at once.
4. Love is always growing or diminishing.
5. There is no savor in anything obtained by the lover against the beloved’s will.
6. It is not customary for a man to love before puberty.
7. The lover should remain unmarried for two years after the death of the beloved.
8. No one should be deprived of his love without good reason.
9. No one can love unless driven on by the prospect of love.
10. Love is always banished from the home of avarice.
11. It is not right to love a woman whom one would be ashamed to take as a wife.
12. The true lover desires no embraces from any other than the beloved.
13. A love divulged rarely lasts.
14. An easy conquest makes love worthless, a difficult one gives it value.
15. Every lover grows pale at the sight of the beloved.
16. The sudden sight of the beloved makes the lover’s heart quake.
17. A new love drives out the old.
18. Honesty alone makes a person worthy of love.
19. If love grows less, its decline is swift, and it seldom recovers.
20. A man in love is always fearful.
21. True jealousy always increases love’s ardor.
22. A suspicion concerning the beloved increases jealousy and love’s ardor.
23. A man perturbed by thoughts of love eats and sleeps less.
24. He who is fired by too much lust is not likely to love.
25. The true lover esteems nothing good except what he thinks will please the beloved.
26. Love can deny nothing to love.
27. The lover cannot be sated with the solace of the beloved.
28. A slight presumption forces the lover to suspect the worst of the beloved.
29. The true lover is at all times continually absorbed in imagining the beloved.
30. Nothing prevents a woman from being loved by two men or a man by two women.
31. The beloved’s every act ends in thoughts of the lover.

**Characters in Arthurian Legend**

King Arthur: Son of Uther Pendragon and Queen Igraine. Based off of a historical Welsh King who defended his people against the Anglo-Saxon invaders, the fictional King Arthur is celebrated for bringing peace and equality to his realm.

Queen Guinevere: Guinevere is Arthur's wife and queen. Many of the Arthurian Legends cast her as the unfaithful wife, having affairs with both Mordred and Lancelot. She is frequently accused of infidelity and sentenced to burn at the stake, but Lancelot always intervenes on her behalf and saves her.

Merlin: Merlin plays many roles in Arthurian literature, including bard, prophet, magician, advisor, and warrior. When Arthur was young, Merlin acted as his tutor, instructing Arthur to think for himself and to use his kingly power to do good in the world. Merlin keeps the secrets of his magic hidden to most, but inadvertently shares some of his powers with Morgana Le Fey after she seduces him.

Morgana Le Fay: The daughter of Queen Igraine and Igraine’s first husband Gorlois. Her powers of seduction are well known: she convinces Merlin to sleep with her so he will share his magic with her, and she convinces Arthur to sleep with her so that her heir can one day take the throne. She acts as antagonist to Arthur and Guinevere

Mordred: Arthur’s bastard son with his sister Morgana Le Fey. Mordred attempts several times to usurp Arthur’s throne. In the final battle, Mordred is killed but not before he fatally wounds King Arthur.

Bedivere: Bedivere is one of the knights first associated with Arthur. He embodies the virtue of loyalty and is considered Arthur’s most noble and devoted follower.

Gawain: Gawain is Arthur's nephew, and in much Arthurian literature he is presented as the best of Arthur's knights. His virtues are boundless: he is considered the strongest and most courteous knight in the world. However, Gawain meets competition when Lancelot for being the best knight in the world and it ends up costing him his life.

Lancelot: Lancelot is most famous for his love affair with Guinevere. He is described as the most handsome of all the knights and usurps Gawain’s title for most noble knight.

**Important Places and Objects in Arthurian Legend**

Camelot: Camelot is an imaginary place, but it is usually situated in the south of England. Camelot came to be described as the fantastic capital of Arthur's realm and a symbol of the Arthurian world. The romances depict the city of Camelot as standing along a river. It is surrounded by plains and forests, and its magnificent cathedral, [St. Stephen's](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Stephen), is the religious center for Arthur's [Knights of the Round Table](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Knights_of_the_Round_Table). There Arthur and Guinevere are married and there are the tombs of many kings and knights. In a mighty castle stands the [Round Table](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Round_Table_(Camelot)) where Arthur and his men meet to consult and feast.

Avalon: Avalon is a legendary island featured in the [Arthurian legend](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthurian_legend). Avalon was seen as a holy place where priests and priestesses practiced their mysticism. It is in Avalon that the sword Excalibur was forged which gives the sword many of its magical features. Avalon is also the place Arthur was taken after Mordred wounded him. According to legend, because Arthur went to Avalon while he was still alive, he will never truly die and will one day come back to save his people.

Round Table: The Round Table was something Arthur had made so that all of the noble barons whom he attracted to his court would be equally placed and served and none could boast that he had a higher position at the table than the others.

Excalibur: Arthur's sword Excalibur was forged on the Isle of Avalon. This is the sword Arthur receives from the Lady of the Lake. Some stories explain that Arthur obtained Excalibur under the advice of Merlin who told him to pull it from a stone. Excalibur must be returned to the water at the end of Arthur's life, a task assigned to Bedivere.

Holy Grail: The Holy Grail is generally considered to be the cup from which Christ drank at the Last Supper and the vessel used by Joseph of Arimathea to catch his blood as he hung on the cross. In the time of Arthur, the quest for the Grail was the highest spiritual pursuit because it offered youth and vitality to anyone who drank from it.