

Blades of Judgement

Praxian Church Militant order (Independent and not sanctioned by any church authority)

Headquarters: Walder, High Republic of Heldon

Members: 292 active, 138 reserve and 37 retired

Founding date: unknown

Symbol of the order



History

The Blades of Judgement, or simple the Blades, were originally monks in charge of protecting religious property in Walder and the surrounding villages. These ascetics, while scholarly by nature they were given the duties of protection over the churches valuables. During the time of the Church Wars, when religion battled religion openly in the streets and the blood of the faithful poured in the streets these same monks were forced to protect the church property with force.

When their meager skills were not up to the task a new duty was begun and the Blades were formed. After the war between the churches, the Blades were formed from retired soldiers and knights who had taken up the calling of religion as either a penance for past actions of brutality, or because of shame at what they had done as a fighting man. They were given forgiveness in the steeples and granted divine freedom when defending the church and its property.

Originally there were twelve blades, two signed for service from each steeple in the area. This was to ensure a more stable and trusting environment lest another church think that one was protecting property from the others. No vault could be opened without one blade from each steeple present and one priest. To better ensure the trusting nature as they called it.

Over the years however, they have spawned into a virtual fighting force for only themselves and their own doctrine, then to just protect church property. They now seek out "sinners" and those deemed "unfit" to be in the Praxian church. They assault and make life miserable for their foes to drive them out of the community. This is called "passing judgement" and the blades feel they have the right to do this because of their past commitments to the church and their vows.

The Praxian church authority has disowned this order for well over 100 years. It has been known that some other order members and clergy are secretly members of the blades.

Description

The Blades are a group of secret holy warriors of the Praxian church. Seldom are they seen in public and work their craft in secret. They are a group of warriors to the heart that take their edicts to soul as law.

Twice a year, eight new members are raised and given their duties as brothers of the Blades of Judgement. If one should die or retire, then a new replacement is raised within days to keep the balance pure. This new blade is pulled from prospects that will be raised twice a year; the topmost choice is trained to be a leader within the organization. The head eight Hands have a total final say, but will seldom choose to denied the anointed to be raised, and very few have been forced to resign their status as a blade due to actions.

The leaders of the Blades are a group of the eight oldest brothers still active, they call themselves the Blades of Truth. They are considered oldest by their join date, not their actual

age. When a new member is given his arms by the Blades his old birthday and name are erased from their past and they are given a new name and day of birth. They are reborn when they accept to keep arms with the Blades and all of their brothers birthdays fall on one of two days throughout the year, so half of them age a year at the same time, while the other half ages roughly six to seven months afterwards. When asked about their service they do not say they have been a Hand for six years, but instead say that they are merely six years old.

Their head of operations is based out of the Walder in Heldon, this is where most of their brothers live and reside. However, there are chapter houses in each of the other major cities in Heldon and Lucidor. Each charter house is lead by the oldest of that house and he alone selects new members and missions in his area of responsibility.

Their **duties** are loosely written that the and have changed many times over the years of their existence.

1. Route out evil in their communities. This is loosely defined and the charter house leader chooses the missions for the brothers to carry out.
2. Protect church property. This was their original charter under the auspices of the Praxian church. However, the church no longer accepts their order. The Blades patrol certain steeples secretly against thieves and other robbers.
3. Protect high ranking civil, religious and wealth persons. This mission has become the most profitable for the Blades. Becoming bodyguards and sentries has brought their organization back in to the light and the public's view. The Blades of Truth see this as an opportunity to gain favor again with the Praxian authority and become an authorized order once again. This remains to be seen.