

The Knights Code of Chivalry and the vows of Knighthood

The Knights Code of Chivalry described in the Song of Roland and an excellent representation of the Knights Codes of Chivalry are as follows:

- **To fear God and maintain His Church**
- **To serve the liege lord in valour and faith**
- **To protect the weak and defenceless**
- **To give succour to widows and orphans**
- **To refrain from the wanton giving of offence**
- **To live by honour and for glory**
- **To despise pecuniary reward**
- **To fight for the welfare of all**
- **To obey those placed in authority**
- **To guard the honour of fellow knights**
- **To eschew unfairness, meanness and deceit**
- **To keep faith**
- **At all times to speak the truth**
- **To persevere to the end in any enterprise begun**
- **To respect the honour of women**
- **Never to refuse a challenge from an equal**
- **Never to turn the back upon a foe**

Of the seventeen entries in the Knights Codes of Chivalry, according to the Song of Roland, at least 12 relate to acts of chivalry as opposed to combat.