

MES Vampire the Requiem: Appendix 2

Standardized Invictus Oaths
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Oath of Blood Service Template:

I, (Vassal), come before my fellow Unconquered honestly and without deception to swear the Oath of Blood Service to (Lord, Domain, Duty). It is my responsibility to represent <Lord> and represent their interests to the best of my ability. (point 1) The Unconquered will recognize my affiliation with the (Named affiliations) and not needlessly jeopardize my honor by using this oath to force me to engage them without my consent. Each night, I shall engage in the following (point 2)(insert service that can be performed nightly) on behalf of my Liege Lord. (point 3). In return, <Lord> will provide to me some portion of his skills that I might better serve the Unconquered. This oath concludes on <date>.

Explanation of Points

1. I will see to the affairs of the Invictus and my Lord in the domain. If specific instructions are not given, I will act to the best of my judgement and ability.
2. A service must be named that is something that takes up a downtime action or that can be performed each night - something like hunting for blood, cultivating the Liege's influence, etc.
3. No one can make up BS excuses on why I must engage the (Named affiliation). I require evidence or convincing to do be compelled under this oath. It's is at the STs discretion whether I am compelled or not.

Oath of Blood Service Template:

"I, (Vassal and Title), hereby solemnly and sincerely swear and affirm to fulfill the task, or tasks(point 1), laid before me to the utmost of my capabilities in service to the wishes of my Liege until such time as my Lord releases me from this Oath or I inform him that I will be departing his service.

I take it as my Oath-bound duty that I maintain internal Order (point 2) within the Covenant and aid in the (Liege's) role.

In execution of said duties it may fall unto me to partake in various and sundry tasks (point 3) as they become necessary in order for our goals to be accomplished; that among them are social maneuvering, espionage, manipulation of the Kine, diplomatic missions, and even potentially blood-shed. I understand that all manner of unpleasantness (point four) may be visited upon me in seeking the positive fulfillment of my duties, and acknowledge that anything which might draw my Danse to a conclusion is to be considered an enemy unto me and to the fulfillment of this my most solemn Oath. I do so with the (Liege's) blessing, and through such receive their largess.

Explanation of Points:

1. task or tasks refers to the ability for the Liege to specify specific tasks that apply to this oath template.
2. Maintaining internal order means: upholding the Traditions of the Invictus
3. Various and sundry tasks is defined as: tasks that are requested by the Liege that automatically include upholding the Traditions of the Invictus
4. Unpleasantness may include, but is not limited to any of the following : Exile, removal of standing, Catechism visits, torpor or final death.

Oath of Blood Knives Template:

I, (Insert Name of Party #1), stand in the presence of Notary (X) and swear upon my reputation and my honor that I will not (insert restriction here). Should I break this Oath, I understand that I will be considered Oathbroken regardless of my affiliations. Only (Insert name of person #2) may release me from this oath, or may indicate an exception with the understanding that I will report to (Person #2) the details of the need for an exception. This oath is considered ended should (insert name of person #2) be rendered dead.

Oath of Bloody Hand Template:

I come before my fellow Unconquered honestly and without deception to swear the Oath of the Bloody Hand. I swear to bring those who have been found guilty of harming the Traditions, the tenets of the First Estate or attacking my fellow Unconquered to face judgment. (point 1) I understand that society will deal with those Unconquered who behave as such and that it is not my place to deal with them unless asked or compelled by my own honor. (point 2) I will also stand vigilant against those who would do so in the future. (point 3). The Unconquered will recognize my undead nature and not hold me responsible for anything that occurs as a result of it. (point 4) Finally, the Unconquered will recognize my affiliation with the (insert any stated affiliations here) and not needlessly jeopardize my honor by using this oath to needlessly force me to engage them, without my consent or obvious breach of the above conditions. (Point 5) I swear to carry out this duty from and will consider it concluded when all involved parties are safely returned to their havens or __date__ at which time my service will be concluded (point 6)

Explanation of points:

1. I will defeat and or destroy Kindred who have broken the Traditions. In addition to those who Status 4 members point out.
2. I am not required to act when Unconquered behave as described.
3. I will continue to monitor the event or the city for those who would do the previous.
4. If a power (bloodline or otherwise) does automatic damage to those who attack me and should an Invictus be harmed due to this, I will not violate this oath.

5. No one can make up BS excuses on why I must kill (the affiliation above). I must see the breaches in order to be compelled to attack.
6. duration covers from the start of the event (this includes the check-in line) up until everyone is safely home from that particular event (covering any post-event proxies that are covered under the VSS of the event). The oath then ends and can be re-sworn in preparation for another event.

Oath of Bloody Hand Template:

"I, [Vassal], come before [Oath Liege] honestly and without deception to swear the Oath of the Bloody Hand. I swear upon the honor of my liege, covenant and own undead form to strive to preserve the public reputation of the First Estate (point 1) as well as the physical safety of [Oath Liege] and those designated by [him/her] (point 2). I will obey the commands of [Oath Liege] to the best of my ability. If my duty is unclear, [Oath liege] or my liege, [Fealty Liege] shall clarify it for me (point 3). I swear to carry out this duty and will consider it concluded when all involved parties are safely returned to their havens on [Date]."

Explanation of points:

1. "strive to preserve the reputation" means trying to prevent the Invictus from losing face for any reason. Try to preserve each other's city status where applicable (public reputation does not cover clan/covenant status) and simply work to keep the Invictus respected.
2. "Strive to preserve physical safety" means trying to prevent those in direct oath relationships with (Oath Liege) from getting their asses kicked. In both cases "strive" does not mean "attack 60 Carthians by yourself". It's meant to show a commitment to socially and physically protecting those Invictus as best as you're able. Self-Defense is always covered as an acceptable act, per the Invictus book.
3. "Clarify orders" reserves the right for someone to ask either (Oath Liege) or their lord if doing something is a good idea or impacts their oath. So if something happens that you'd really rather not get involved in, either (Oath Liege) or your lord can give you a pass and it is removed from your duties.

Oath of Burning Blood Template:

I, (Name), do so swear that

- I shall not knowingly act in support of any effort to breach the Masquerade, either singly(1) or in concert with another(2);

- I shall not allow a breach of the Masquerade to go unreported to (Person of Authority) or a duly appointed agent of (Person of Authority)(3);

- If questioned by (Person of Authority) or a duly appointed agent of (Person of Authority), I shall not withhold information (4) that I am aware of(5) or deceive the questioner in any way regarding threats to the maintenance of the Masquerade, threats to the safety and security of

(Organization)(6), or threats to the safety and security of (Group)(7) that is under the protection of (Organization);

I shall know that someone is a duly appointed agent only if they present (object of office)(8), a simple verbal statement of such is insufficient proof of authorization.

I commit to avoid the aforementioned insidious acts until such a time as (Person of Authority) shall release me from this Oath.

Explanation of Points:

1. Personally breaching the Masquerade will break the Oath
2. Helping someone else breach the Masquerade will break the Oath
3. If you know about a breach of the Masquerade, you have to report it
4. If you are questioned about threats to the Masquerade, threats to the Organization, or threats to the Group protected by the Organization you cannot hide or tell half truths; you must discuss what you know fully and without reservation
5. You can not be held responsible for threats you are not aware of - however, purposeful ignorance counts as a violation of the oath.
6. Organization is a Praxis, an Imperium, a City, a Faction, etc.
7. Group is a Covenant, Clan, or other group as defined in the oath
8. Object of Office should be some kind of badge, writ, or other easily identifiable mark that verifies the person is duly appointed. Refusing someone who only says they are authorized without providing the object does not violate the oath.

Oath of Burning Blood Template:

I (Name and Title) come before (Liege) of my own free will and place myself to the mercy of (Oath Liege). I hereby swear that I shall not (Insert Action that will not be taken (1)), and will resist all attempts supernatural or mundane to compel me to undertake (insert same action). Should I undertake said action and do not attempt to resist, by all means at my disposal, compulsion to take said action, it shall be know that I have become Oathbroken, and the Invictus shall punish me as they see fit(2). I understand that should I feel the voluntary desire to remove myself from this oath, I will notify the Liege to whom I swore this Oath that they may decide if I am to be released from this oath that I have undertaken willingly(3). On this night (insert date), I (Name and Title), do voluntary swear this Oath of Burning Blood, knowing full well the purpose I am swearing, and the punishments for violating this Oath.

Explanation of Points:

1. The action listed must be an action that is controllable, not a generalization. "I will not tell anyone I am a vassal to Senex" is an acceptable action. "I will never let anyone mess with my mind" is not acceptable, as it is too broad and uncontrollable. "I will not willingly reveal knowledge of the Invictus" is acceptable, "I will never frenzy" is not.

2. In addition to the damage taken by breaking this Oath, I understand that I will likely be seen as Oathbroken and punished by the Catechism.
3. This provides a potential out at the discretion of the Liege

Oath of Blood Loyalty Template:

This is the Oath Template with the understanding that those who swear it may add fluff and decor to the Oath (though not detract from the template)

I, (Vassal) come before my Liege willingly and without coercion, to pledge my eternal loyalty to (Liege). I take this oath willingly, and without reservation, knowing that this Oath shall bind me stronger than simple word, greater than a sworn oath, and more powerful than blood. I will serve (Liege) in faith and honor, knowing that they shall watch over me. I shall be a shield and be shielded(1), I shall speak with their voice when requested, and obey when requests are placed before me. I swear this Oath unto eternity and without reservation (2). I give of myself in entirety, for such is the price of which I ask.

Explanation of Points:

1. Shield and Shielded indicates that the oath is sworn mutually, and the Vassal is agreeing to protect the Liege socially/physically, etc.
2. Reasonably does not mean "I will stand alone in a room full of Carthians."

I, (Liege) upon my honor and blood, accept the sworn oath of (Vassal). As you have offered loyal service, I shall place within you my trust. As my Vassal, you will use it to enact my will at my discretion. As our Requiem is now joined as Vassal and Liege, I offer you a shield when it is needed. You are as close as my own blood, tied more strongly than those with whom a promise is bestowed. My pain shall become yours, my joy shall become yours - I offer you faith and guidance in exchange for your service and loyalty. Join me as Vassal, that I might welcome you into my own home and heart as one of my own.

Oath of Blood Focus:

I, <Oath taker>swear of my own volition and without deception. I have set my mind upon a course that I will not retreat from and now bind myself to. I hereby swear that I will <action to be performed>. For as long as I am able, I will not rest, I will not sleep, until this task has been completed.

Appropriate actions to be performed:

1. Kill/Torpor/etc. <a named individual or group>.
2. Serve as a capable bodyguard to <protected individual> for a set duration.
3. Discover who is responsible for <crime> and bring them to the Prince's justice.
4. Not die in the killbox

Oath Unsworn

I, <Lord>, hereby bind you, <target>, to the following. You shall (or shall not) <insert restriction here> until such time as <Lord> or <Notary> release you from this Oath by blotting out these words. Should you violate this Oath, you will be found Oathbroken and suffer accordingly.

Appropriate limitations:

1. Inflict physical harm upon <individual>, either personally or with the aid of others.
2. Plot or act to obtain <position>, either personally or with the aid of others.
3. Subvert <individual or position>. If you become aware of subversion of <individual or person> by another, you will inform <individual #2> as soon as you can reasonably do so without being discovered.