

The Duelist's Code of Honor



In the duel, the duelist is fierce, aggressive and competitive. However, the duelist must balance out these brutal attributes with personal honor. The following code was officially agreed upon by the founding members of the Rogue Order on the 4th of March, 2017. For more information, visit www.roguesaber.com.

Article I – Respect for the Symbol

The honorable ones understand that the modern sword is not a device of destruction, but an indispensable tool for self-refinement. When properly used, the sword is an extension of the body, no less valuable than a limb. It must be recognized as the undying symbol of the true spirit of swordsmanship, and a tribute to the memory of every honorable wielder of the noble weapon. A sword must not be drawn unless this is done with a clear worthy purpose, such as for dignified display, training, dueling, or for a good cause. The point of the sword must not be touched to the ground. After use, its blade and hilt must be properly cleaned. Any damage must be promptly repaired. Upon a duelist's retirement, the sword ought to be given as a gift or as inheritance to a worthy successor. If honorably wielded, a suitable weapon may be symbolically used in proxy of a traditional sword, and all that it represents.

Article II – Respect for the Art

The honorable ones recognize a valuable partner in the eyes of an opponent, an aid in their quest to self-mastery. They signal fellow swordsmen with comradery and acknowledgement. To them there is no malice, only friendship. A challenge is never refused lightly. A bow and salute marks the commencement of a duel. The shaking of hands will mark its end. The honorable ones act only with consideration to prudence and high standards of safety. They avoid striking an opponent on the head, face, or eyes, will never attack from behind, and only deliver attacks when an opponent is on equal footing and at the ready. The honorable ones will show kindness to an injured opponent, remaining by their side until aid has arrived. If triumphant, they will carry on with humility and gratitude. If defeated, they will graciously accept the results and compliment the victor. The training area should be a refuge from daily concerns. Once there, students must clear their minds and allow themselves to focus on instruction. The grueling work of training is well endured. Experience is measured in growth, not pain. Strict adherence to award ceremony practices is done out of consideration for others, the art, and the self. Mastery of the art is done, in part, for the glory of family and friends.

Article III – Respect for Others

The honorable ones offer an unbreakable vow of honesty. Their actions, words, and thoughts are laced with integrity. Others can rely upon their consistent adherence to their virtuous code. They recognize their own weaknesses and failings, and often look past the faults of others. The honorable ones see first the good in others and focus on their potential, building them up rather than pursuing the easier path of tearing them down. They admit their mistakes, apologize when necessary, and accept honest criticism as a gift to assist in their growth. The honorable ones will do no harm. They stand firmly against injustice, cheating, theft, mistreatment, the selfish manipulations of others, and the misuse of power. Violence is never considered a solution, only a failure. Diplomacy, tact and dispassionate reasoning are the greatest tools in conflict. Friends should always outnumber enemies in daily life. To a friend, the honorable ones are loyal. The honorable ones carry unselfish love in their hearts and show compassion for the weak. Newcomers to the art, those less skilled, less able, or less experienced can rely upon their assistance, protection, and friendship. They will prepare the young for success and aid the ill to recovery. A special reverence is paid to the elderly, whose words are valued. If opportunities for these kindnesses do not naturally arise, the honorable ones create such opportunities. These services are offered liberally to all others, regardless of social class, and without thought to pecuniary reward.

Article IV – Respect for the Self

The honorable ones are life-long students. They are ever improving, seeking greater knowledge and understanding. They cling to fact, wisdom and truth. They reject self-delusion. They take time to learn more of history, science, literature and the arts. The honorable ones are disciplined, live an orderly life, and are courageous. They keep their work area, living space and projects orderly. They carefully avoid the foolish loss of wealth. The honorable ones prioritize what must be done, and they complete each dutiful task (both domestic and in society) to their utmost. Courage fuels their actions. Their visions and goals are clear. Perseverance leads them to the end of their noble endeavors. Their assurances are kept as promises. The fear of defeat does not hinder them. The honorable ones are as healthy as they can be. Meditation is regularly employed to bring calmness. Their dedication to physical fitness, good health, and self-control is visible to others. The honorable ones live according to their inner truth. They never betray the self by acting contrary to their own internal moralities. In this they find serenity. They take full responsibility for their actions. Should their personal honor come into question, they will accomplish great feats in order to prove, through their actions, the true nature of their character. Any wrongs committed by the honorable ones are promptly rectified with an abundance of recompense. "Honor" is a term in their language and in their daily thoughts. A life of honor is lived so that death may come (at any time) with decency, and without regret. The most important judge of one's own personal honor is one's own self.