

The Order of Vembryl Founded

Historical Event · The Time of Nightmares

Date: ~-200 TN

Summary

Arcanthos commissions the founding of a martial-arcane order charged with policing the Orders of Wizardry themselves. The Blue Knights -- formally the Order of Vembryl -- take the Blue Vale pass as their seat and are granted ecclesiastical independence from both the Orders and the emerging mortal governments.

The problem Magnus had identified in his final years was not that the Orders of Wizardry would abuse their power -- it was that no one had arranged in advance for what happened when they did. Arcanthos, whose investment in the Orders was foundational, reached the same conclusion through divine rather than scholarly means. The god of magic did not want a weapon against the Orders. He wanted a standard against which the Orders would be measured -- and something with the authority to enforce the measurement.

The Order of Vembryl was the result. Named for a minor valley in the Drakespire foothills that has since been absorbed into the Blue Vale territory, the Blue Knights were from the first something that did not fit neatly into any existing category: trained in both martial and arcane disciplines, accountable to Arcanthos directly rather than to any mortal authority, and positioned -- literally and politically -- between the Settled Lands and the eastern territories.

The Blue Vale pass was granted to them not as a gift but as a strategic necessity. To police the Orders, the Blue Knights needed a position of genuine independence. The pass provided income, defensibility, and the specific advantage of being the bottleneck through which everyone else had to negotiate.

The founding Commander of the Order is not recorded by name in any surviving document. Blue Knight tradition holds that the founder requested anonymity because the Order was not meant to be about individuals. Scholars have noted that this tradition has been maintained scrupulously for over two millennia, which is either profound institutional integrity or the most successful cover-up in recorded history.