

House Morgenroth of Oakford

Braving the darkest night to chase the dawn.

House Type Great House

Coat of Arms A pair of monarch butterflies on a field of green, framed by golden milkweeds.

Vert, a milkweed wreath Or, two monarch butterflies to chief proper.

Words “For heart and honor.”

Seat Oakford

Head Philomena Morgenroth

Region The Forestlands

Titles

- ❖ Lord of Oakford
- ❖ Lord Paramount of the Forests
- ❖ Grand Witcher (formerly)
- ❖ Monarch’s Keeper

Heir Ophelia Morgenroth

Overlord Vameria

Founder Euphemia Morgenroth



Reputation

The steadfast sword and shield of the Forestlands. Once a minor house under Malleus’ banner that rose to the seat of Great House through their valiant efforts and contributions to the unification of Mazura. Physical might and mental fortitude are prominent traits of their house, boasting generations of outstanding knights and soldiers as proof. Morgenroths do not hold any aptitude for magic and due to the less than stellar reputation of their ruling predecessors, the use of magic and witchcraft are strictly regulated within their territory. Some past members were such avid exterminators of heretics that they earned themselves the title of ‘Grand Witcher’. As such, unique local laws were brought into existence under their reign, like the right to protection against harmful magicks.

House Morgenroth holds firm to their traditions, as an extension of their undying loyalty. Since the times of Valerys the First, they’ve sent members to directly serve the royal family. If not employed in the Kings- or Queensguard, a Morgenroth may serve as a personal attendant to the ruler at the time. Against being called old-fashioned or blindly

loyal, their first and foremost goal is to rid the realm of wickedness and create everlasting prosperity, which was promised to them by the Conqueror's flames. To that end, House Morgenroth has also put effort into securing trade routes throughout the Forestlands, as well as investing in timber and woodworking. The results are as expected, if their castle's meticulously planted gardens and standing armed forces are anything to go by.

Symbolism

Peace, Dignity, Passion and Resilience, Transformation, Harmony

The Morgenroth coat of arms evokes a peaceful and serene image, a pair of monarch butterflies dancing across a field of green, surrounded by golden milkweeds. But just like the striking tawny color of their symbolic animal, one should take care not to confuse their peacefulness for cowardice. They are protectors, not aggressors, as stalwart as the mighty oaks of their homeland. Like the great forest canopy that offers restful shade, allies will enjoy their friendship and generosity, as well as their fierce protection in times of unrest.

The butterfly and the milkweed also symbolize liberation, from outward and inward constraints alike. Nurtured by the golden abundance of their benefactors, they may transform to meet life's challenges and become the best version of themselves. As a reminder that one can only thrive through a symbiotic relationship with society and the natural world, Morgenroths often raise butterflies and other pollinators on their estate.

The house's words "for heart and honor" date back to the founder, Euphemia, who's sworn her heart to her liege despite being unable to be with them. Yet it was her greatest honor to serve and protect them, and nobody would be able to take this dignity from her. That trait of enduring integrity has been passed down to all her descendants, the house's motto serving as a guiding beacon to those who ever come to doubt their purpose.

Worship

House Morgenroth claims Luxses and Vhaehra as their patron gods. As such, the Knight's Oath and the Messenger's Amnesty hold the utmost importance within their domain - knights of the Morgenroth lineage are said to be some of the most steadfast and loyal warriors of the realm, and the roads around Altenfelden are regularly patrolled. During times of unrest, the head of the house would offer their best knights to safeguard any important neutral parties that have to traverse through the Forestlands and beyond. Interestingly, in spite of their general aversion towards (and at times denial of) magic, Sanga and Touga magic is celebrated as a miracle bestowed by their patrons.

Key Features

Cats that carry the blood of House Morgenroth are usually of the small house cat type, specifically Siamese and point coloration bearing breeds. Many are born with reddish brown face markings, which may show up on the rest of the body as well. Cats of the main branch tend to be relatively tall and slender in build, giving off an air of aloofness and elegance. While many members show a talent for martial arts and dedicate their lives to knighthood, others are known to be shrewd social butterflies, occupying high ranks in noble society to secure the continued survival and autonomy of their house.

Heirlooms

House Morgenroth's heirlooms, the rapier **Dawnbreaker** and a set of jewelry dubbed **Duskbringer** were originally one greatsword. The ancestral weapon forged from Damascus steel broke into two pieces during The Conquest, when House Morgenroth was still fighting as a vassal under House Malleus. Once Mazura was unified, the broken greatsword was reforged and given a new purpose. Henceforth, the **Dawnbreaker** would be wielded by a knighted scion of Morgenroth to signify their honor and pledge to serve the crown until their dying breath. **Duskbringer** meanwhile, stayed in the head of House's possession and would be passed down to the heir proper.

Origins

Records show that the ancestors of House Morgenroth came from the Narrow Plains, earning their living as soldiers, sellswords, and knights. One Euphemia Morgenroth eventually caught the eye of the former forest queen Bellona Malleus, who ennobled her after years of service as one of her most valiant knights. Allegedly, House Morgenroth's original heirloom was the very same weapon that Bellona used to wield, showing how valued they were as the forest overlord's sword. Throughout the last era of the Malleus' turbulent reign, they stayed loyal to their lieges and kept whatever fragile peace there was between the forestlands' noble houses.

Somewhere down the line, a descendant of Malleus was betrothed to lord Euphemius Morgenroth, perhaps in a last ditch effort to strengthen their alliance as the claws of Valerys' Conquest were reaching for the forested heart of Mazura. Yet lord Euphemius recognized that the greatest threat was far closer, as he could no longer turn a blind eye to the madness that was destroying House Malleus from within and at large, the Forestlands itself. At the same time, he could not break his Knight's Oath to save their homeland from disaster. Turning to Vhaehra for a sign, the goddess obliged when their ancestral weapon broke in two during a confrontation with conqueror Valerys. For the sake of the Forestlands' future, House Morgenroth bent their knee to swear fealty to the dragon lord on that very same battlefield.

Having made outstanding contributions in the subjugation of the rest of the Forestlands, House Morgenroth was appointed as the new Great House following the end of the Conquest. Since then, they've held fast as the protectors of their domain, ensuring lasting peace and prosperity - save for the occasional squabbles between their vassals.