

House Kystoyakov of Khorezm Fortress

Know thyself, know thy enemy. A thousand battles, a thousand victories.

Coat of arms A mounted archer on a black horse upon a green and yellow field

(Or, upon a trimount vert, an archer mounted to sinister upon a horse courant sable)

Words *Conquered by None*

Seat Khorezm Fortress

Head Lord Aldar
Kystoyakov

Region The Palisade

Titles

- ❖ Lord of Khorezm Fortress
- ❖ Lord of the Northern Steppes
- ❖ King of the Northern and Southern Steppes (Formerly)

Heir Arkas Kystoyakov

Overlord House Storozhevaya

Founder Khiyga Kystoyakov



Reputation

The Kystoyakovs are of a long legacy of fealty and perseverance. They ruled the vast sweeping steppes to the northwest of Mazura for thousands of years as nomadic kings, traveling down through the mountains from the Veldt, before settling in the Northern Steppes and establishing themselves at a strategic point at the open mouth of the Palisade. The Kystoyakovs are among the few who still follow the Old Ways, descending from the First Men.

The family is known for its long history as having a strong and large light cavalry, making them an instrumental ally in many wars throughout time. Because of this, not many prefer to make an enemy out of the Kystoyakov lords. While peace times have allowed them to slough their militant reputation, there is no mistaking their heritage by their banners.

Symbolism

Strength, Tenacity, Bravery, Authority, and Perseverance

The House Kystoyakov sigil is a mounted archer over green hills and a yellow banner. The corresponding, vibrant colors and the figure in a fighting stance highlight the house's emphasis on their heritage and strength in battle.

The yellow and green on the sigil's field are analogous colors. Green is a color of growth and prosperity, the green hills representing the vast plains their nomadic hosts once roamed. There is a sense of togetherness in green that makes it the color of unconditional love of family, nature, and the world. The Kystoyakovs have a connection to nature, they're more *grounded* than the other, lofty houses of the Palisade. The color conveys stability, endurance, generosity, health, and vigor. The lush green is paired with a dull yellow, which is also a positive color, though much softer than gold. While it can convey energy and optimism, the saturated shade gives a more contented feeling. In heraldic tincture, yellow is a symbol of honor and loyalty.

House Kystoyakov's charge is a mounted archer, riding atop a black horse, representing forward movement and a noble form of fighting. While the horse charges forward, the archer is *to sinister* and the arrow is drawn, ready to shoot, just as the Kystoyakovs are always prepared for anything that comes whichever way, prepared for any fight. The black of the horse on their sigil indicates a masculine color, symbolizing authority and constancy. It's a color that conveys power. The bow and arrow also represent noble weapons, out in the open-- compared to a hidden knife or poison; so the Kystoyakovs do not see treachery and trickery as worthy tools in battle. They are upfront about what they do and believe, even to a fault.

The house motto, "*Conquered by None*", boasts of their proud connection to battle. Kystoyakovs are historically known for their strength in warfare, and they once fielded one of the largest light cavalries in Mazuran history. The motto also speaks to the way the Kystoyakovs fight-- as noble generals, they don't stand back and send out other bodies to fight for them, but among them and alongside their men.

Worship

Like many houses of the Realm, the Kystoyakovs customarily worship the Seven gods with an emphasis towards Mithra.

Key Features

Kystoyakovs have a shadowcat heritage of round tufted ears and long, thick, black furred and white striped tails. They tend to have dark hair and dark almond shaped eyes.

Origins

Since the dawn of days, the family has lived as nomads before settling in the western steppes of Mazura, having conquered and ruled as warlords from the Veldt to the Narrow Plains. There is a long storied feud between them and House Atratas, although this enmity has long diminished over the centuries. As time moved on, the Kystoyakovs' power diminished, although their militant might did not.

From the very north of the Northern Steppes, the family raised up a great fortress from a mere settlement along the mountain road.

Known Members at the end of the third century