

The Norlandic Scrolls

Preamble

_____The people of Norland have long suffered under the yoke of foreign peoples and powers. The Kingdom of Norland was founded with the guidance of the All Father. And the history of our proud folk extends back more than two hundred years. However for the duration of our existence we have been governed by the whims of those who bear the Thorned crown. Honourable, courageous men that led our people through adversity and hardship. Despite this vibrant history, a civilization, a Kingdom is not to be built on a foundation of shifting sands. A veritable morass of constantly changing morals and ethics. To that end we of the Ashen court will lay forth a foundational edifice upon which future administration and governing of our proud nation may be based.

In the interest of ensuring that the Norlandic code does not degrade into a irrelevant document used by the aristocracy to bludgeon their lessers. The Norlandic Code is hereby declared to be equally applicable to every citizen of the Norlandic Kingdom excluding those of the Seventh rank. Amendments to the Code cannot be implemented without the consent of the majority of the Ashen Council, the majority of the LandHolders and the bearer of the Thorned Crown.

We, the sons of Thoromir, children of the All Father do hereby declare that the Kingdom of Norland is founded and shaped in the image of our Lord and Light, the All Father. It is in his grace that we find the inherent rights granted to all those that labour under his fiery gaze. Let no man or woman regardless of rank escape the righteous judgement of the Father enshrined herein. We of the Ashen court will lay down the code in a series of scrolls, each scroll will deal

with a unique legal aspect of Norlandic life. ***The First Scroll, On Norlandic Folk and their rights under the Father*** *serves to guarantee the naturally granted rights of all children of the All Father.* **The Second Scroll, On Obligations to the Fatherland** delves into the obligations of each citizen of the Kingdom. *This scroll touches upon feudal and tax related obligations to the Kingdom of Norland.* **The Third Scroll, On the Realms, Holdings and Estates of Norland** *addresses the state of Norlandic Holdfasts and private property. Additionally it addresses the legislation concerning the transfer of property.* **The Fourth Scroll, On Father and Faith** concerns the legal powers and statutes involving the institution of the Brotherhood of the Holy Hearth and the worship of the All Father. **The Fifth Scroll, On the Kingdom and Court of Norland** outlines the traditions, structure and conduct of the Norlandic court and its associates, defining how laws are to be passed and amended as well as the duties of the various councillors of the Ashen court. **The Sixth Scroll, On Foreigners, Xenos, and Unnatural Sentients** concerns the treatment of foreigners and their rights within the confines of the realm. Finally **The Seventh Scroll, On Royalty and Succession** deals with the powers and rights of the Royal House of Rurik as well as the succession procedures. These Seven scrolls cover the width and breadth of Norlandic life, borrowing from a long tradition of administration and governance by the House of Rurik. With these scrolls the stability and prosperity of the Norlandic peoples are secured by the rule of the Rurikid and the wisdom of the Father on High.

The Scrolls of Law

1. The First Scroll, On Norlandic Folk and their rights under the Father

Preamble

The Kingdom of Norland is a storied nation having endured a history rife with eras of conflict and bloody genocide. Throughout these periods those who can be considered legally and ethnically ‘Norlandic’ has come under question. We of the Ashen Court will thusly lay forth the criteria by which the citizenry of our great nation will henceforth be defined. Beyond this scroll serves to enshrine the holy rights granted by the Father to each follower of the Red Faith and citizen of the Kingdom of Norland.

a. Defining the Norlandic Citizen

i. An individual will be considered a citizen of Norland if they are

1. *Born within the confines of the Kingdom while being of Human or Elven Blood*

a. *Any traces of undesirable blood, namely heritage of an Orcish, Monstrous or otherwise alien nature will immediately disqualify one from citizenship as a result of birth.*
b. *Furthermore mixing the blood of separate races will also result in the forfeiture of automatic Norlandic citizenship.*
c. *The product of foreign unions on Norlandic soil will only be considered Norlandic citizens if they see six of their first ten winters within the confines of the Kingdom.*
    i. *Furthermore siring or mothering a Norlandic citizen does not confer citizenship unto the Parents.*

2. *Born unto the union of two Norlandic citizens of desirable lineage*
    a. *The product of Citizens of an undesirable nature will not be automatically considered citizens*

3. *Granted Citizenship by the bearer of the Thorned Crown or a member of the Ashen Council*
    a. *Citizenship can be granted in this nature, as a reward for action or service far beyond reasonable expectation*
    b. *Those aspiring to Citizenship may petition the Ashen Court for Citizenship.*

4. *Marrying into the family of an existing Norlandic clan or citizen of the fifth rank or above.*
    a. *Doing so will render fifth rank citizenship unto the spouse after a period of one year. In order to achieve the rank however, the married couple must receive the Blessing of Ash, directly from the mouth of the King, at any point in time. The family may petition to receive this blessing.*
    b. *This clause is only applicable to immigrants of desirable lineage who are biologically female.*

b. Concerning the natural hierarchy of Norlandic peoples

    i. The following list will, from top to bottom address the highest to lowest ranks of Norlandic citizen

1. Royalty
    a. Those of the Royalty caste are those select members of one of the three branches of the Ruric Household. Namely the sons of Eirik, colloquially referred to as Eirkssons. The sons of Edvard, referred to as Edvardssons. And finally the sons of Frey, commonly known as the Freyssons.
    b. Within the Royal caste there exist those of High Royalty status and Low Royalty status.
        i. High Royalty status is defined as the King, the King's spouse or associated consort and all immediate issue.
            1. This status only applies to the first generation descendants of the reigning king.
            2. High Royalty status is lost upon the death of the reigning king

        ii. Low Royalty status is defined as any patriarchal descendant of Thoromir, the Ruric Patriarch, or those of the Volaren lineage. Low Royalty status is only held if the following conditions are met
            1. The Low Royalty status claimant legitimately bears the surname RuricTo legitimately bear this name one must be able to directly trace their lineage back to Thoromir.

            2. Dwells within the bounds of the Kingdom of Norland
            3. Is acknowledged by the Norlandic Throne. The throne and court reserve the right to strip Rurics and Volarens of their status.

    c. Privileges of Norlandic Royalty

        i. Privileges of High Royalty
            1. High Royalty may dwell within the Grand Hall
            2. High Royalty may address the King without the uses of honorifics or titles

3. High Royalty may approach and interact with the King while armed and armoured
4. High Royalty may serve on the Ashen Council
5. High Royalty are entitled to attend all court proceedings provided that they have seen twelve winters
6. High Royalty may establish their own personal heraldry
7. High Royalty are exempt from Tax
8. High Royalty may own land within the confines of the Kingdom of Norland

ii. Privileges of Low Royalty
1. Low Royalty may serve on the Ashen Council
2. Low Royalty may establish their own personal heraldry
3. Low Royalty are exempt from Tax
4. Low Royalty may own land within the confines of the Kingdom of Norland
5. Low Royalty may establish and raise their own personal levy

2. LandHolders
a. The landholding caste consists of the lords of Norland's various Holdfasts
i. Landholder status is exclusive to the Leader of a Holdfast.
ii. The legitimate issue of the Holdfast leader do not assume the rank unless they inherit the Holdfast.
iii. The rank is passed upon the death of the previous LandHolder.
iv. A holdfast can only confer the rank of Landholder onto one citizen at a time.
v. LandHolders may not 'sell' their land, the land may only be transferred via inheritance or with the permission of the Ashen Court and Thorned Crown.

b. Privileges of the LandHolders
    i. LandHolders may establish their own Heraldry and Levy
    ii. LandHolders may tax the residents of their Holdfast
    iii. LandHolders may serve on the Ashen Council
    iv. LandHolders may adjudicate over the legal disputes of residents of their Holdfast
    v. LandHolders may own land within the confines of the Kingdom
    vi. Landholders may formally acknowledge clans comprised of individuals residing within their specific territories and Holdfasts
    vii. Landholders may create feudal vassals and provide them with a portion of their land.

3. Chieftains
    a. The leader of a house, clan, tribe or family formally acknowledged by the Throne or the Ashen Council
        i. Each house, clan, tribe or family may only possess a single Chieftain at a time
        ii. The house, clan, tribe or family will choose the chieftain from amongst their ranks
            1. The choice must be confirmed by the Ashen Court.
                a. Failure to obtain confirmation will result in loss of official recognition.

    b. Privileges of the Chieftain
        i. Chieftains may establish the heraldry of their house, clan, tribe or family
        ii. Chieftains may levy the members of their house, clan, tribe or family into a cohesive military force
        iii. Chieftains may serve on the Ashen Council
        iv. Chieftains may own land within the confines of the Kingdom

4. Thanes
    a. Thanes are individuals raised by the king for exemplary service to the Kingdom and the Throne.

i. The Rank of Thane does not pass to the descendants of the Thane

b. Privileges of the Thane
    i. Thanes may own land within the confines of the Kingdom
    ii. Thanes may establish their own personal heraldry
    iii. Thanes may operate on behalf of the Ashen Court in upholding the laws.
    iv. Thanes may hold low level trial on behalf of the Ashen Court assuming there is reasonable evidence.
    v. Thanes may dispense justice upon lower level citizens when the proof of a crime is undeniable.

5. Natural Born Citizens
    a. Basic level of Norlandic citizen
    b. Privileges of Natural born citizens
        i. Natural born citizens may own property

6. Naturalized Citizens
    a. Refugees granted naturalized citizen rank by the Ashen Council
        i. Privileges of Naturalized Citizens
            1. None

7. Refugees, Immigrants and Citizens of Undesirable Stock
    a. Undesirables illegally or legally entering Norland to seek shelter (if only we had a wall)
        i. Privileges of Refugees
            1. Citizens of the seventh rank are not entitled to the rights and liberties outlined in Scroll 1, Section C

c. Concerning the rights and liberties of a Norlandic citizen

<u>Preamble to Section C</u>
The following rights and liberties are held sacred by the Ashen Court and the Bearers of the Father's flame. Illegal violation or deprivation of the rights

enshrined herein is not acceptable under any circumstances. We of the Court and of the Flame do hold the following truths in sacred trust on behalf of the All Father.

i. Norlandic citizens from the sixth to first rank are entitled to the following

1. **The First Right, Thus the Lord granted them shelter.** To ensure the maintenance and growth of a healthy and strong Norlandic population the Norlandic Code guarantees the following. The Norlandic peoples are granted the right to legally dwell within the Kingdom. Furthermore the legal dwellings of the Norlandic folk may not be forcefully entered without reasonable evidence of crime committed by the owner or resident of the dwelling. The Norlandic administration shall protect the legal dwellings and property of all Norlandic citizens so long as they lie within the confines of the Kingdom. Furthermore the Kingdom may not evict a Norlandic citizen from their legal residence unless the dwelling has been abandoned for a period of one year.
    a. Legal dwelling is herein defined as a dwelling legally purchased or rented from a recognized Norlandic Holdfast or a freehold property on the frontier.
        i. Those who cannot legally purchase land, citizens of the sixth and seventh rank must reside with a citizen that owns or rents a dwelling.

    b. The Norlandic code defines the state of renting being a state of paying a consistent fee to the Holdfast in exchange for the exclusive use of the dwelling.
        i. The code acknowledges that some may refer to this state as ‘taxation’.

    c. Norlandic property that has been legally purchased from a recognized holdfast. Purchased property is henceforth to be defined as property conferred permanently unto the buyer in exchange for a single sum payment.
        i. Purchased properties may never be ‘taxed’ to do so would be to confer upon the purchased property a state of ‘rent’.

    d. The Norlandic code henceforth defines reasonable evidence as the possessions of physical (documentary, material) evidence incriminating the accused. Witness testimony also constitutes reasonable evidence.
        i. Witness testimony from those who have perjured themselves in the Ashen court or who have broken oaths will be considered insufficient evidence.

2. **The Second Right, Thus the Lord said, my children are to be free.** The ability to freely and safely travel about the Kingdom of Norland is integral to ensuring the long lasting prosperity and growth of the Kingdom and its folk. To this end the Norlandic code guarantees the rights of legal Norlandic citizens to travel without interference between the settlements of the realm. Furthermore the Kingdom of Norland is charged with patrolling the roads and territories of the Kingdom that it remains free of foreign interference.
    a. The Norlandic code defines travel without interference as travel without being detained for a period of more than one day (one hour). Citizens may not be prevented from travelling after this period unless there is evidence of a crime committed by the citizen.
    b. This guarantee does not enable citizens to legally trespass upon Royal, military or private property.

3. **The Third Right, Thus the Lord decreed, let them know justice.** A nation with no faith in its laws or its courts is a nation built on thatch, one that will fall when confronted with a strong breeze. To this end the Norlandic code guarantees all of its citizenry the right to be judged by their betters.
    a. An accuser cannot serve as the judge of a case directly or indirectly concerning them.
    b. Additionally should the citizen be insufficiently educated as to defend themselves in court they may request a representative from the Ashen Court or the Nobility.
        i. Individuals of the Ashen Court or of the Nobility (those of the third rank or higher) may decline any request to represent.

4. **The Fourth Right, Thus the Lord decreed, they shall live by the sword.** The Kingdom of Norland has not been cursed with extensive and unnecessary peace. Therefore it is imperative that Norlandic citizens be able to defend themselves at all times. To this end the Norlandic code guarantees the right of a citizen to bear arms and be armoured in public spheres and while travelling.
    a. This right does not extend to the presence of the King or within certain Royal or Military structures.
5. **The Fifth Right, Thus the Lord said, they shall reap what they sow.** In the interest of further preserving the prosperity and growth of all Norlandic Folk. The Norlandic code guarantees the possessions and wealth of all of its citizens. In this spirit the wealth or possessions of Norlandic citizens may never be unlawfully seized or deprived.
    a. Objects may be temporarily seized by the state to serve as evidence during a trial. The object may only be legally held by the state for a period of one saint day.
    b. The Norlandic code defines the possessions of a citizen as those inherited or acquired through labour or economic exchange.

6. **The Sixth Right, Thus the Lord decreed, they shall dwell in my light.** The Kingdom of Norland is a nation founded in the glory and light of the All Father. Therefore the Norlandic Code will enshrine the right of its citizens to worship the All Father without any interference or fear of persecution.
    a. The Administration of the Kingdom is charged with defending all temples of the Red Faith, preventing persecution of Worshippers and refraining from interfering with worship.
    b. There are absolutely no circumstances that override the right to worship. Even convicted criminals of the Red Faith are not to be prevented from properly worshipping.

7. **The Seventh Right, In my light they shall not fear their brethren.** The cause of the All Father is one that will suffer not internal strife or disunity amongst its ranks. To strike a fellow child of the father unjustly is to strike against the All Father himself. In

this spirit the Norlandic code enshrines the right of its citizens to be free from undue bodily harm.

a. The Norlandic code defines the state of bodily harm as that which is inflicted via force or the application of insidious arts.
b. The Norlandic code views undue bodily harm as follows. Harm inflicted upon a Norlandic citizen that has violated no portion of the Norlandic code, does not pose a threat to the individual, immediate community, or Kingdom at large.
