

# College of Heroes

## Summary

The College of Heroes is a specialised institutional body within the [Kingdom of Skyss](#) comprised of individuals possessing a significant degree of divine lineage, known as [Heroes](#). Founded approximately 800 years ago, the College was established to stabilize the region following an era of pervasive internecine warfare. It serves as the primary repository for heroic history and lineage, while simultaneously providing a critical constitutional function as one of the nine [Electors of Skyss](#).

## Description

### Foundation and Purpose

The College was instituted by the [Heroes](#) of antiquity with the explicit objective of transitioning the local culture from a “raider economy” into one focused on international trade and common prosperity. Before its formation, the lands of Skyss were regarded as a dangerous backwater. By creating a system of good government where the King serves as a senior arbiter rather than a hereditary warlord, the College enabled Skyss to rise as a global maritime power.

### Membership and the Book of Heroes

Membership in the College is determined strictly by bloodline. To be formally classified as a Skyssian Hero and gain entry to the College's records, an individual must possess at least one-eighth (1/8th) divine blood.

- **The Book of Heroes:** This hand-bound, string-fastened ledger contains the lineages and deeds (or misdeeds) of every recognized Hero. Some pages are ancient, while the stiffened leather covers date back four centuries to when the records were first consolidated from individual papers.
- **Copies and Security:** To prevent the manipulation of lineages or the concealment of divine abilities, several copies of the [Book of Heroes](#) are maintained in separate locations, making it nearly impossible to remove pages or alter records.
- **Current Population:** There are currently approximately 50 active Heroes still living, the youngest of whom include [Yngvild Helgasdotir](#) and [Noren](#).

### The Herald of Heroes

The College holds one of the nine seats on the Council of Electors, which chooses the King. Unlike other Electors who hold their positions *ex-officio* (such as the Lord Mayor of [Heimdal](#) or the President of the [Board of Trade](#)), the post of **Herald of Heroes** is usually left vacant.

- **Selection Process:** When a vacancy in the monarchy occurs, the living members of the College convene to select a Herald from among their number to nominate a preferred candidate for Kingship.

- **Tenure:** The tenure of the Herald is temporary and strictly limited; the office expires on the first night without a moonrise (the new moon).

## The Great Schism and the Covenant

The history of the College is marked by the Great Schism, a violent three-way conflict between hero factions that occurred decades before the current era.

- **The Factions:** The conflict split the Heroes into the **Silent Service** (who preferred to act from the shadows), the **Godbloods** (who believed Heroes should hold supreme public office), and the **Covenanters** (the eventual victors who favored compromise and term limits).
- **The Covenant of Heroes:** In 694, **Old Bjorn** introduced the **Covenant of Heroes** to end the assassinations and skirmishes between factions. While many signed, violence recurred in 695, leading to the eventual scattering of the Godbloods faction.

## Instruction in the Mysteries

The College facilitates the education of younger Heroes in the use of their divine blood. This instruction covers the three primary types of divine abilities:

- **Rituals:** Common magical practices that any individual with sufficient belief can perform.
- **Words of Power:** Effects requiring heroic levels of divine blood or intense devotion, such as the laying of a **Geas** or the compelling of truth by a **King's Justice**.
- **Divine Intervention:** The highest tier of ability, where a Hero achieves an effect by clearly imagining it within their divine domain, subject only to the strength of their bloodline.

## Relationships

### People

- **Founders and Mentors:** **Old Bjorn** (Founder of the Covenant), **oddmundr**
- **Notable Members:** **Helga Trollslayer** (Second Sea Lord), **Yngvild Helgasdotir** (Wielder of Jafnadr), **Noren** (Initiate of Jorunn), **radulf**
- **Allies:** **King Thirfinn**
- **External Heroes:** **Alfarinn** (Demi-god), **Alfinna**
- **Enemies:** **Rojden** (Renegade Hero)

### Places

- **Kronstadt** (Primary city and site of the Royal Palace)
- **house\_of\_justice**
- **Trollheim**
- **western\_isles**

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| <b>Skyss - Story Background</b> | <b>Characters</b> | <b>Skyss - Places</b> | <b>Pantheons of the World</b> | <b>Other Background</b> |
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