

The Ways of the Leader: The Noble Class

“Being a Noble isn't about your station in life, nor who your parents are, or what honors you've received. It is about being a light in the darkest of ours, to be there for others despite the personal cost.”

- Damien von Liegen. Prince of the Enlightened

Be it rulers by birth or natural leaders that arise from nowhere, some adventurers don't shine because of powerful magic, religious devotion, outstanding skill or combat prowess. Instead they find their way in the world by guiding others to their full potential. They may lead by example or inspire others, but overall they empower and strength their comrades.

Class Features

Hit Dice. d8

Proficiencies

- Weapons: None
- Armor: None
- Tools: None
- Saving Throws: Charisma, Wisdom
- Skills: Two skills from Deception, History, Insight, Intimidation, Investigation, Medicine, Performance, and Persuasion

The Noble

Level	Proficiency Bonus	Features
1st	+2	Rallying Word, Noble Path
2nd	+2	Path Feature, Direct Ally
3rd	+2	Spur Ally, Rallying Word (2 allies)
4th	+2	Ability Score Increase
5th	+3	Coordinated Attack
6th	+3	Path Feature
7th	+3	Rallying Word (short rest)
8th	+3	Ability Score Increase
9th	+4	Direct Ally (extra action)
10th	+4	Noble Renown
11th	+4	Path Feature
12th	+4	Ability Score Increase
13th	+5	Spur Ally (short rest)
14th	+5	Path Feature
15th	+5	Expertise
16th	+5	Ability Score Increase
17th	+6	Direct Ally (bonus action)
18th	+6	Path Feature
19th	+6	Ability Score Increase
20th	+6	Devoted Commander

Starting Equipment

Nobles start with the following equipment in addition to the equipment granted by their background.

- A set of Fine clothes.
- A diplomat's pack, priest's pack, or scholar's pack.
- A melee martial weapon and scale armor, or two sets of artisan's tools.

Alternatively, Nobles start with 5d4x10 gp to buy equipment

Noble Path

Your Noble Path defines what kind of noble you are. Your Noble Path gives you access to unique abilities and characteristics at first level, and more at 2nd, 6th, 11th, 14th and 18th level.

Rallying Word

At 1st level, you can use a bonus action to make an ally within 30 feet of you to regain hit points. The amount healed is equal to 1d8 + your noble level. After you use this ability, you must take a long rest before you can use it again. Starting at 3rd level, you can target two allies with this ability. Starting at 7th level, this ability recharges after a short rest.

Direct Ally

You are better at guiding allies than engaging the enemy personally. Starting at 2nd level, you can use your action to allow an ally that can hear or see you to make a single weapon attack, cast a cantrip, or move up to half their movement on your turn as a reaction. You can only use this ability once per short or long rest. At 9th level, your ally may instead choose to take the Attack action or cast a spell with a casting time of 1 action as a reaction.

Starting at 17th level, you may use this ability as a bonus action.

Spur Ally

Beginning at 3rd level, you can use your reaction to allow an ally to re-roll a failed saving throw or ability check. You can only use this feature once between long rests. Starting at 13th level, this feature may be used again after a short or long rest.

Ability Score Improvement

When you reach 4th level, you can increase an ability score by 2, or two ability scores by 1. You gain this feature again at 8th, 12th, 16th, and 19th level.

Coordinated Attack

Starting at 5th level, your leadership allows you and your allies to strike in unison. Once per turn when you take the attack action, one ally within 30 feet can use his or her reaction to make a single weapon attack against a valid target of your choosing.

Noble Renown

By 10th level, tales of your fame (or infamy) have taken root in the hearts of the people. Your reputation precedes you in any civilized settlement. By revealing your identity, you and your allies gain advantage on all Charisma (Persuasion or Intimidation) checks in that settlement for the next hour. You may not use this feature again until you complete a long rest.

Expertise

At 15th level, you may double your proficiency bonus to three of your skills or tool proficiencies.

Devoted Commander

When you reach 20th level, your connection to your party runs so deep that you can just find and exploit the precise moment for a final attack. Once per long rest, your Direct Ally grants an action to up to 5 allies at the same time.

Noble Paths

Path of the Brave

“Follow me! Together we can conquer hell itself!” - Kylea, tribal warchief on the way to... hell itself.

Few nobles possess the courage and selflessness to walk the Path of the Brave. Those who do often won their rank through deeds of valor, or are descended from someone who did.

When you first choose the Path of the Brave you gain the following features:

Bonus Proficiencies

You gain proficiency with simple weapons, melee martial weapons, and with light and medium armors and shields

Resilient Leader

Your hit point maximum increases by 2 for every noble level you possess.

Dauntless

Starting at 2nd level, you have advantage on saving throws against spells and abilities that would cause you to become frightened.

Combat Style

At 6th level, you gain one Combat Style from among those available to the fighter.

Extra Attack

Starting 11th level, you may make two attacks instead of one whenever you take the Attack action.

Overwhelming Stroke

At 14th level, you learn a deadly technique. You may choose to make a single weapon attack as an action. If this attack hits, the target must make a Strength saving throw (DC is equal to 8 + your Charisma or Strength modifier + your proficiency bonus) or be knocked prone and stunned until the end of your next turn. This feature may be used three times, and uses are regained after a short or long rest.

Lionheart

Beginning at 18th level, you cannot be frightened and allies who can see or hear you have advantage on saving throws made to resist becoming frightened.

Path of the Heart

“I’m not defenseless. I wield the strongest weapon in the world, my friends.”—Yian, a goat herder who should have never left home.

Nobles who follow the Path of the Heart lead on subtle ways. They inspire loyalty out of their empathy, kindness, and even their own ingenuity. A noble who follows the Path of the Heart may lack ambition, but they make up for it in honesty and charm.

Noncombatant

You are the heart of your group, and you never draw a weapon except in dire circumstances. You have disadvantage on all attack rolls and lose proficiency with all weapons and armor, including those granted by your race. You cannot gain weapon or armor proficiencies from any source or cast spells that deal damage or require an attack roll or saving throw.

Aura of Innocence

When unarmored and not wearing any shield, you reflect an air of vulnerability and innocence that makes even the most heartless monster hesitate to attack you. Your AC becomes 10 + your Charisma bonus + your Dexterity bonus.

Vicarious Attack

When you take the Attack action, you can choose not to make any attack. If you do this, one of your allies can make a weapon attack against an enemy of their choice or cast a cantrip targeting an enemy of their choice.

Bonus Proficiencies

You gain proficiency with a set of artisan’s tools of your choice and any two skills.

Cries

Starting at 2nd level, you gain the ability to use cries to influence enemies and allies. You can use two cries between short or long rests, but only once per round.

- **Cry for Attention.** As a bonus action, you may select a hostile creature. Until your next turn, that enemy has advantage on attacks against you and disadvantage to attack anybody else.
- **Cry for Help.** When an enemy attacks you, you may cry for help as a reaction. An ally can use their reaction to move up to 30 feet towards you and make a single weapon or cantrip attack against that enemy.
- **Cry for Life.** When an ally is reduced to 0 hit points, you may use your reaction to allow your ally to spend a number of hit dice equal to half your level. They regain hit points equal to the result + their Constitution modifier + your Charisma modifier.
- **Distracting Cry.** As a reaction when an ally is about to be attacked, you may impose disadvantage on the attacker on all attacks made against that ally this turn.

Starting at 14th level, you can use your cries three times between short or long rests.

Force of Personality

At 6th level, you gain proficiency in the Persuasion skill. Additionally, you add your Charisma bonus (minimum 1) to the hit points recovered by your Rallying Word.

Tears of the Pure-Hearted

The gentleness of your heart and the strength of your love infuses your tears with magical power. Starting at 6th level, you can use your action to shed tears so they touch a friendly creature next to you. The creature can spend any number of hit dice to recover hit points, and if he or she is blinded, charmed, deafened, paralyzed, or poisoned; the condition ends. You must finish a long rest before you can use this ability again.

Stirring Words

Starting at 11th level, your allies add your Charisma bonus to their attack rolls when they are granted attacks through your Vicarious Attack, Cry for Help, Coordinated Attack, or Direct Ally features.

Loved by the People

Starting at 14th level wherever you go people are charmed by your love and compassion; they put grudges aside and go out of the way to help you and your allies to achieve peaceful goals. As long as you are within civilization, you and your allies only need a tenth of the time needed for downtime activities.

Heart's Redemption

Starting at 17th level, your words gain the ability to turn even the darkest of monsters to your cause. As an action, you may select a single hostile creature that can hear you and shares a language with you. That creature makes a Charisma saving throw with a DC equal to 8 + your proficiency bonus + your Charisma modifier. On a failed save, the target can't attack or cast spells targeting your allies that turn. On a success, the target acts normally.

At the beginning of your turn, you may use your action to sustain the effect, requiring the target creature to make a Charisma saving throw at the beginning of each of its turns. After three failed saves, the target stops being hostile to you and your allies, and may flee or fight by your side at the GM's discretion. You need a long rest before you can use this ability again.

Abandoning Path of the Heart

A Noble can abandon Path of the Heart at any time. That character loses all Path of the Heart abilities, regains any lost proficiencies, and can choose a different Noble Path. With the GM's consent, he or she can instead pick a different class. These changes can be made at different speeds depending of the needs of the campaign. About 250 days of training during downtime is enough for more open-world campaigns, but in more cinematic campaigns, a particularly dramatic moment could inspire a noble of the heart to instantly retrain his noble levels into fighter levels.

Multiclass Nobles

Multiclassing requirements for Nobles are 13 in Strength, Intelligence, or Charisma. The Noble class grants no multiclassing proficiencies.

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