



## Address of the Grand Master

Excellencies,

dear Postulants and Knights of Honour, dear Guests, dear Officers and Comrades!

I would like to give some thoughts regarding the oncoming acceptance of postulants.

The Union Corps Saint Lazarus International, in short called CSLI or Lazarus Union, sees itself a little bit in the tradition of the old knightly armies and feels especially obliged to the ideals and the mindset of St. Lazare of Bethania. The four cornerstones all CSLI members try to live up to and act accordingly, are

**tolerance, humbleness, charity, and mercy.**

The CSLI is not a “knightly union“ or a “knight order“ but an international association trying in accordance to its possibilities and local customs to help people or at least simply give them a little joy. Currently the CSLI has more than 18,000 members in over 80 organisations in more than 100 different countries on all continents and grows continuously.

The knightly virtues our association feels bound to do not lack any of their meaning in modern times. To hold a knightly attitude does not depend on birth, religion, colour, status, and money. This attitude dwells and prospers only within those humans holding it in their hearts, willing to fight and stand up for it.

To be a knight resp. to act in a knightly fashion never was easy and will also make high demands on us in the future, stressing us to our limits. Methinks that to accept this in humbleness and dignity is a privilege not granted to everybody. So we should meet this task with pleasure and dedication and prove ourselves worthy to it. Personal pettishness shall and must be put below the big common goals.

You, my dear Knights and Dames Expectant, will shortly now promise to live up to these knightly virtues and to act accordingly. I especially want to indicate to you once more the meaning of our Knighthood of Honour.

To belong to the Lazarus Union Knighthood of honour means ...

***... to defend the Lazarus Union whenever necessary.***

***... to speak in favour of the Lazarus Union.***

***... to keep the secret of the recognising handshake.***

***... to remain from anything which could be detrimental to the Lazarus Union.***

***... to reveal never any internal issues.***

***... to obey one's duties as a citizen.***

***... to respect and support all sisters and brothers of honour.***

- ... to act always as an example towards other humans.***
- ... to consider one's personal honour as one's highest personal value.***
- ... to respect all humans and also their honour.***
- ... to accept all humans in their own uniqueness.***
- ... to accept any religion as personal decision of the individual.***
- ... to aid other fellow humans as far as possible and reasonable.***
- ... to give joy to other fellow humans.***
- ... to desist any actions considered dishonourable.***
- ... to have willingness for peace and reconciliation.***
- ... to obey the knighthood's conduct of honour.***
- ... to always remember the two questions asked during the investiture ceremony.***
- ... to never one-sidedly leave the Lazarus Union Knighthood of Honour.***
- ... absolute allegiance towards the Lazarus Union, the Grand Master, and the chapter.***

This attitude toward our mission statement and our code of honour will be watched and judged by the chapter in the next few months. The goal of this test is your final acceptance into the Knighthood of Honour. Your knightly mentors will assist you in this and help you to finally reach this dignity.

I hope that your example will also inspire others to not only have their own self in mind but also unselfishly provide some joy to other fellow humans.

The LAZARUS UNION has always stated from its very beginning and states here once more that it is neither a secular nor a religious knight's order, adhering to no specific religious group and having no obligations toward some. The Lazarus Union never claimed clerical recognition in any form so nor will it do so in the future. The Lazarus Union wants to cooperate respectfully in peace with all religions, groups, and persons, segregating nobody. We have anchored tolerance, humbleness, charity, and mercy in our mission statement.

Values our postulants stand for. They will in a short time receive the honour of a Lazarus Union Knight of Honour, giving publicly proof to all of us by their own word.

I wish you all a good and fulfilling time in our community of values and hope that also your expectations will be reached.

Thank you for your attention!

Wolfgang Steinhardt  
Grandmaster