

The following list of theoretical questions was penned in response to the very real question, “Should I become So-and-So’s cadet?” Believe me when I say, this is not the easiest question to field, especially out of the blue.

There are no “right” or “wrong” answers, and this is not a test: the questions are meant to make you think about what you are looking for, about what it means to be a cadet, about where you want the relationship to take you and what you hope to get out of it in the long run. They are designed, in short, to offer you a way to advise yourself.

I hope they prove helpful in some small way.

Regards,

Warder Simon Morcar, CBR

Questions for the Prospective Cadet/Ward:

- 1) Why is this person offering you a scarf? Do they have a close personal relationship with you? Have you wowed them on the field in the past? Are they simply looking for likely students? Consider their motivations – or even better, flat out ask about them.
- 2) Do you respect the person offering the scarf? As a fighter? As a person? As a teacher? If you don't respect them honestly and deeply, then why are you linking yourself to them?
- 3) What can this person teach you? What do you think you can teach them?
- 4) Why do you want to take the scarf from this person? Is it because you want to be THEIR cadet, or simply A cadet? If it's the latter, then that, IMO, is not a good enough reason.
- 5) What are looking for in the relationship? Do you just want to learn how to fight, or are you expecting more? Are you looking for an instructor, a mentor, an advocate, or what?
- 6) Will this person be able to meet your needs as a cadet? Will you be able to work with them enough to make this worthwhile? What is "enough", for that matter?
- 7) Is there any other person you'd rather have take you as a student or cadet? (Note: this can easily apply to non-Rings or non-Dons/Donas.) If so, maybe you should approach them before you "settle" for someone else.

8) Are you ready to become a cadet? What do you think it means? What does the other person think it means? This is something you need to establish BEFORE you enter into the agreement.

9) Remember that being a cadet does not guarantee eventual advancement to the rank of Warder/Don/whatever. Just as some squires never become knights, so do some cadets end up keeping the red scarf for their entire rapier career. If you're looking at it as a means of advancement, then you may very well be disappointed in the end.

10) Can you work with this person? I don't mean just on the field, but behind the scenes, at events, camping, hanging out, etc. Becoming a cadet involves more than fighting. In a sense, you are joining the Warder's household -- does that idea appeal to you?