

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?