

# SACRED OATH

Becoming a paladin involves taking vows that commit the paladin to the cause of righteousness, an active path of fighting wickedness. The final oath, taken when he or she reaches 3rd level, is the culmination of all the paladin's training. Some characters with this class don't consider themselves true paladins until they have reached 3rd level and made this oath. For others, the actual swearing of the oath is a formality, an official stamp on what has always been true in the paladin's heart.

## OATH OF THE VAMPIRE LORD

Most paladins' oaths are the result of a conviction that rules their lives. For you, your oath is not just the result of a mere conviction, it is a reflection of your very existence; your blood is tainted by a vampiric curse. Many see vampirism as a terrible affliction with horrific consequences, but you have managed to harness the powers granted by vampirism into an inexorable weapon. You are not a true vampire, but its curse permeates your being, perverting you into an abomination trapped between life and undeath. If you ever interact with a fully blooded vampire, they will likely welcome you as the future of their kind.

### TENETS OF THE VAMPIRE LORD

Polite society has outcast the individuals who swear the Oath of the Vampire Lord, and their Oaths reflect this, placing importance on self-reliance and independence.

**Apostasy.** The gods of life and death have turned their back on me. My path will not be dictated by their whims.

**Consume the Living.** The living have outcast me as a monster. My only crime is indulging in what I must do to survive; and I will continue to survive.

**Convert the Worthy.** There are a few enlightened mortals who recognize my superiority. They are invaluable agents and must be added to our ranks.

**Sow the Bloodline.** By sowing my bloodline, I establish a dynasty that will rise from the ashes of a desiccated world to rule over all that remains.

### OATH SPELLS

You gain oath spells at the paladin levels listed.



| Paladin Level | Spells                              |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| 3rd           | <i>charm person, disguise self</i>  |
| 5th           | <i>darkvision, invisibility</i>     |
| 9th           | <i>animate dead, vampiric touch</i> |
| 13th          | <i>blight, shadow of moil*</i>      |
| 17th          | <i>danse macabre*, seeming</i>      |

\*This spell is found in *Xanathar's Guide to Everything*





## CHANNEL DIVINITY

When you take this oath at 3rd level, you gain the following two Channel Divinity options.

***Malignant Presence.*** As an action you can use your Channel Divinity to exude an aura of terror for 1 minute. This aura is centered on you and moves with you. Each creature you choose within a 15-foot radius of you must make a Wisdom saving throw against your Paladin spell save DC or become frightened of you for the duration. When a creature enters the area for the first time or ends its turn there, it must make this saving throw. A frightened creature can repeat this saving throw at the end of each of its turns. On a successful save, a creature is immune to this effect for the next 24 hours.

For the duration, bright light within the area becomes dim light and dim light becomes darkness. You can see in darkness created by this Channel Divinity. You can dismiss the effects of this Channel Divinity as a bonus action on your turn.

***Nightstalker.*** As an action, you can use your Channel Divinity to cause shadows to cling to you for 1 hour. For the duration, you cannot suffer disadvantage on your Dexterity (Stealth) checks, and you gain a bonus to your Dexterity (Stealth) checks equal to your Charisma modifier (minimum of 1).

## AURA OF THE BLOODED

Beginning at 7th level, you are permeated by vampiric magic. You and each friendly creature within 10 feet of you gains resistance to cold and necrotic damage. Additionally, when radiant damage is dealt by a melee attack within this aura, you can choose to change the radiant damage to necrotic damage.

At 18th level, the range of this aura increases to 30 feet.

## VAMPIRIC ESCAPE

Starting at 15th level, when you are hit by a weapon attack, you can use your reaction to transform into a cloud of mist, as per the spell gaseous form. You gain resistance to the damage of the triggering attack, and you can move up to 30 feet without provoking opportunity attacks. At the end of this movement, you revert to your natural form.

## VAMPIRE LORD

At 20th level, you can assume the fearsome guise of a vampire lord. As a bonus action on your turn, you undergo a transformation. For 1 minute, you gain the following benefits:

- You are considered to be Undead for the purposes of spells that do not restore hit points. Additionally, you do not need to breathe.
- You grow leathery bat-like wings that grant you a flying speed of 30 feet.
- Your hands twist into claws. Your unarmed strikes deal 1d8 necrotic damage on a hit.
- When you reduce a creature to 0 hit points with a melee attack, you regain hit points equal to your paladin level + your Charisma modifier.
- You are immune to necrotic damage.

Once you use this feature, you can't use it again until you finish a long rest.

