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September 28, 2009

Honors Language Arts 6th PD

Knighthood and the Code of Chivalry

Knighthood was based on the code of chivalry, which was what the knights lived by and it was a behavioral code. Knighthood and chivalry originated back to the ninth and tenth century and then moved its way up to the middle ages. Knighthood peaked during the twelfth and thirteenth century and deteriorated at the end of the middle ages. During the Renaissance in the sixteenth century, chivalry influenced the behavior for gentlemen and the nobility.

Chivalry was divided up into two main sections, which was horse- mounted cavalry and feudalism. Horse- mounted cavalry was combat to protect their territory from invaders and Feudalism was the political aspect to chivalry. The expectations of Knights were to fight bravely for his lord and remain loyal to him. Bravery and loyalty were the prerequisites of what would become the code of chivalry.

The chivalry code changed from how it was originally written, the new code said that no knight must harm anyone who is unarmed, and that knights should not fight just for glory and pride, but for Christian purposes. Other rules the knights had to live by were rules created by the church and they were The Peace of God and The Truce of God . The Peace of God was a rule that forbid knights from attacking women, priests, peasants, and merchants. The Truce of God said that knights must not battle on Sunday, Holy days, and Sacred days.

Knights were mainly in the continent of Europe and so the church played a big role in what they did and how they lived their lives. Over the years, the chivalric code changed to enforce more rules the knights must follow.

Knighthood depended mostly on the code of chivalry, which is a system of ethical ideals that grew out of feudalism and into the churches. To become a knight you would start out as a squire and would work in another knight’s household. They would do daily chores and work their way up to become a knight. They would learn the skills they need to become a successful knight and they would start to obey the chivalric code. When the knight finished he would then be dubbed with a sword and brought into the brotherly bond of the knights and would also fully respect and obey the chivalric code. To become a knight in the middle ages was an honor and they were highly respected and are still until this day.

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