

# Some Early Claravian Moral Precepts

Know, o little ones, that the Light, and the Light alone, has kindled thy spirit within thee.

Our fore-bearers looked but did not see, heard but did not listen, cried out but did not speak, marked but did not write, felt but did not know.

Act, therefor, not according to thy passions as the tree dwellers do, but let the fire of understanding guide thee.

Woe to those who raise their claws against their neighbor. As animals they live and as animals they shall die.

Woe to those who hoard the land's fruits, leaving their neighbor wanting. As animals they live and as animals they shall die.

Woe to those who quench their fire of understanding\*, burdening their neighbor with their madness. As animals they live and as animals they shall die.

Woe to those who rob their neighbor of the work of their paws. As animals they live and as animals they shall die.

Woe to those who move not to lighten their neighbors burdens. As animals they live and as animals they shall die.

Greatest woe to those who steal a kit's first breath\*\* As animals they live and as animals they shall surely die.

Blessed are those who conduct their affairs peaceably with their neighbor. As sophonts they shall live.

Blessed are those who give freely to those who have nothing. As sophonts they shall live.

Blessed are those who keep their mind sharp. As sophonts they shall live.

Blessed are those who rejoice in neighbor's good fortune. As sophonts they shall live.

Blessed are those who lift a weight from their neighbor's back. As sophonts they shall live.

Most blessed are those who give succor to the least of the Light's little ones. As sophonts they shall

live.

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\* A euphemism for intoxication

\*\* A euphemism for the destruction of a womb nest. It was not unknown for members of one shire to commit infanticide against the childermoot of a rival shire to keep their rival's numbers down. This is one of the reasons that sires guard their womb nest.

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