

of a corrupted soul and body after death a true nightmare. That early Thamarite necromancers succeeded on several occasions in debasing Morrowan relics for their own purposes made the order one of the most radically anti-Thamarite groups within the early Church.

The next major change to the order came in 1250 BR following the assassination of Primarch Loricharias. By this time, the Church of Morrow had grown into a true religious and political power in western Immoren. The Church counted followers among all the kingdoms of man, and its members began to worship openly. When Primarch Loricharias announced that the Morrowan Church would no longer tolerate religious persecution, the Menite Synod responded by dispatching Scrutator Khorva Sicarius on a supposedly diplomatic mission. Sicarius was the first Menite ever invited to visit the Divinium. In fact, Sicarius was no Menite at all, nor was Sicarius her true last name. Khorva was, in truth, an assassin and enforcer originally from the criminal underworld of Korsk. The details of the plot that led to her arrival at the Divinium are lost to history, as is her true last name.

The false scrutator and the primarch met in the center of a large meeting chamber. The knights and guardians, Menite and Morrowan alike, were unarmed in accordance with ceremony. It was this ritual disarmament that prevented the numerous Morrowan paladins in attendance from saving the primarch when Khorva struck him with a ceremonial mitre. As the primarch fell dead to the floor, Ascendant Katrena materialized and smote Khorva, who was immediately claimed by Thamar during her own ascension, even as the slain primarch was taken into Morrow's reward as an archon. This event has been marked as one of the most notable manifestations of the divine on Caen prior to the Claiming. It also clearly demonstrated to the Church the vulnerability of its highest clergy and the need for additional protection.

In the days that followed, the Order of Keeping was charged with protecting Morrowan clergy in addition to their other duties. Experts at unarmed combat and subdual, the order was superbly equipped for this task, one traditionally given to the faith's paladins. These groups began to work in closer accord as different but equal guardians of those chosen to preach the words of Morrow. It was also later considered that the tragic death of Primarch Loricharias had served the greater good, for the holy manifestations surrounding this event had forced the Menite Synod to recognize the Morrowan faith as legitimate.

It was not until the Orgoth occupation that the order experienced another important change in its philosophies. The ruthless Orgoth tyrants cared little for the culture of the region, and the monks of the order preserved a great deal of knowledge that would have been otherwise lost to antiquity during this dark age. The order's emphasis on subtlety and discretion served the Morrowan church well; in many places, the Orgoth forbade the Immorese from carrying weapons, a restriction that barely affected the monks of the Order of Keeping from doing their duty.

It was during the occupation that the order gained its secondary patron. An Orgoth governor martyred Ascendant Rowan for protecting a group of beggars from execution.

As the occupation went on, Rowan gained popularity as the protector of those seeking shelter from oppression. The Order of Keeping often worked to hide Morrowans during these times, and Ascendant Rowan's asceticism appealed to the monks. Many monasteries adopted her spare and simple lifestyle as their own. Some Morrowan monks have since gained a reputation for generosity and mendicant lives, giving what they earn from begging to the truly needy. Even those branches that do not so exactly adhere to Rowan's asceticism often donate time to their local communities to aid in projects that help the less fortunate.

Though the order has not undergone any radical changes since then, individual monasteries often develop their own unique cultures and philosophies influenced by later ascendants. Monasteries that are closely associated with a particular ascendant tend to develop monastic lives in keeping with their patron's nature. As such, two monasteries can be geographically close to one another but still vary significantly in outlook. The Ordic Monastery and Tomb of Ascendant Markus located within the city of Midfast and the monastery on the site of Ascendant Gordenn's tomb 100 miles away outside Merin, for example, nicely illustrate these divergences.

The monks in Midfast are among the more blatantly militant Morrowan branches of the order. Charged with guarding the remains of Ascendant Markus, who died defending the city, the order has taken him as their patron over any other ascendant. To best honor their patron, the monks consider the defense of Midfast to be a holy duty. Abess Verona Rendasi emphasizes grueling drills and other combat training, a fact for which the Ordic Army is thankful. Monks of this order are almost an official part of the Ordic Army and Midfast's own militia. The quality of their combat training is so esteemed that the Caspian Sancteum often uses monks from Midfast when assigning bodyguards to the most important clergy. Several of the primarch's own protectors are from the Monastery of Markus.

In stark contrast to its militant brothers and sisters of Midfast, the Monastery of Ascendant Gordenn is less concerned with fighting and more intent on Morrow's desire to help the common people of Caen, particularly in times of famine or drought. Located a few miles east of Merin, the simple building commands an impressive view of Ord's agricultural heartland from atop a steep hill. Though the monks there take their duties as the guardians of Gordenn's remains seriously, they are also deeply involved in the lives of the neighboring farmers. The monastery is most famous for the excellent wine they produce from the "Santo Gordenn" vineyards they maintain. Some of the proceeds from these wines is spent to maintain the monastery's modest needs, but most of it is donated to various charitable projects, many of which directly benefit the farmers of the Merin region. The monastery also crafts some excellent beers, which benefit from the high-quality hops and fruits available in the area. In fact, the monks of the order have a reputation for enjoying the good life a little too much. It is perhaps an exaggeration, but many visitors to the monastery leave with the memory of an aged monk sitting beneath a tree, enjoying a beer and smoking a hand-rolled cigar.

## SYMBOLS AND PATRONAGES OF THE ASCENDANTS OF MORROW

In addition to their use as ascendant talismans, the symbols of the ascendants are sometimes imprinted, embossed, or engraved on items associated with their areas of patronage. Religious books bear on their spines the symbol of Asc. Angellia. Asc. Corben's symbol can be found on alchemical formulae. Battlefield hospital tents or rooms set aside to attend the sick or dying bear Asc. Solovin's mark. Asc. Markus' symbol is found on keystones of city arches and gates, Asc. Doleth's symbol is branded into the prows of ships, and Asc. Gordenn's symbol is affixed to the hafts of farming implements. Asc. Katrena's symbol is engraved on the arms or inside the armor of nobility and protectors of the church. Bank documents and other contractual papers often include the symbol of Asc. Shevann.



**Asc. Angellia** (f) ascended 1027 BR  
Patron of history, lore, and the written word  
Prodigious Rynnish scholar, historian, and linguist. Wrote the definitive history of western Immoren up to her time. Recovered the lost Enkheiridion and wrote its definitive notated translation.



**Asc. Corben** (m) ascended 102 AR  
Patron of alchemy, astronomy, and the arcane  
Notable arcanist who advanced astronomy, mechanika, and alchemy. Cured Rip Lung plague. Ascension seen as sign of Morrow's endorsement of arcanists who apply their powers to good works.



**Asc. Doleth** (m) ascended 1411 BR  
Patron of sailors, boatmen, and fishermen  
Fisherman on the western coast. Followed quiet, solitary path toward enlightenment. Meditated on Morrow's teachings while at sea. Selflessly rescued victims of shipwrecks amid storms of the Meredius.



**Asc. Ellena** (f) ascended 1590 BR  
Patron of pilgrims, proselytizers, travelers, and messengers  
Conducted pilgrimages in a particularly dangerous era. Spread teachings of Morrow to farthest corners of continent. Proselytizing ensured rapid spread of the faith. Performed charitable works where Menite temples had turned a blind eye to suffering.



**Asc. Gordenn** (m) ascended 812 BR  
Patron of farmers and family  
Monk and farmer devoted to alleviating suffering during Time of the Long Sun, a horrible drought. Credited with countless miracles, such as turning barren farmlands fertile and calling down rainfalls. Saved thousands from starvation.



**Asc. Katrena** (f) ascended 1810 BR  
Patron of valor, knighthood, and nobility  
First Ascendant, born in frozen north, ascended after protecting Morrowan priests and thinkers from the Menite Purging. One of the first and greatest defenders of Morrowan faith. Died from wounds suffered in battle with Menites defending one of the first primarchs.



**Asc. Markus** (m) ascended 305 AR  
Patron of soldiers and city watchmen  
Ordic soldier who single-handedly stalled an invading barbarian horde at the Siege of Midfast by challenging its fourteen chiefs to a series of duels. Died and ascended as the siege was lifted.



**Asc. Rowan** (f) ascended 289 BR  
Patron of the poor and downtrodden  
Lived during height of the Occupation. Renounced all material wealth and spent her life alleviating the suffering of the enslaved Immorese. Achieved enlightenment through self-sacrifice.



**Asc. Shevann** (f) ascended 500 AR  
Patron of merchants, oratory, and conciliation  
Most recent ascendant. Negotiated peace with the Sul-Menites after the Cygnaran Civil War. Considered patron ascendant of Caspia.



**Asc. Sambert** (m) ascended 605 BR  
Patron of craftsmen, artists, and builders  
Masterful sculptor, architect, painter, mason, and engineer with skill to manifest the divine on Caen through craft. Revolutionized sacred architecture with Archcourt Cathedral and other buildings in the Sancteum.



**Asc. Solovin** (m) ascended 1253 BR  
Patron of healers, battle-chaplains, and midwives  
Soldier and priest from Thuria who visited countless battlefields to treat wounded regardless of their affiliations. Sacrificed himself to destroy Scion Remel.



## MONASTIC TRADITIONS

At 3rd level, a monk gains the Monastic Tradition feature. The following option is available to a monk in addition to those offered in *Iron Kingdoms: Requiem*.

### THE WAY OF KEEPING

The Order of Keeping's members are devoted to the acquisition and protection of the relics of Morrow, the ascendants, and other notable members of the Morrowan Church. There is a martial order that trains the body and spirit to better defend the relics they preserve. The Order of Keeping also acts as the defender of the Morrowan priesthood, working alongside the Knights of the Prophet and Precursor knights to assure the sanctity of Morrowan holy places and the clergy within them.

### SPIRITUAL STRIKER

At 3rd level, when you choose this tradition, your unarmed strikes can be infused with spiritual energy. Once on each of your turns when you hit a creature with a melee attack, you can cause the attack to deal extra radiant damage equal to your Wisdom modifier.

### BLESS ITEM

At 6th level, you gain the ability to imbue mundane items with Morrowan blessings.

#### BLESSINGS KNOWN

When you gain this feature, pick three blessings to learn, choosing from the "Blessings" section at the end of the subclass' description. You learn additional blessings at 11th, 14th, and 18th level.

Unless a blessing's description says otherwise, you can't learn a blessing more than once.

### BLESSING AN ITEM

Whenever you finish a long rest, you can touch a nonmagical object and spend 1 ki point to imbue it with one of your blessings, turning it into a magic item. A blessing works on only certain kinds of objects, as specified in the blessing's description. You can choose to attune yourself to it the instant you bless the item. If you decide to attune to the item later, you must do so using the normal process for attunement.

Your blessing remains on an item until the next day at dawn.

You must touch each of the objects, and each of your blessings can be on only one object at a time. Moreover, no object can bear more than one of your blessings at a time. If you try to exceed your maximum number of infusions, the blessing immediately ends, and then the new blessing applies instead.

### KEEPER OF SACRED RELICS

At 11th level, your connection to the holy relics of the Morrowan faith empowers you. As a bonus action, you can regain 1 ki point for every magic item attuned to you. You can use this ability a number of times equal to your Wisdom modifier (minimum once) and regain all expended uses when you finish a long rest.

### ASCENDANT'S GUIDANCE

At 17th level, you gain the ability to channel the power of Ascendant Katrena. Once per short or long rest, you can enter a state of heightened focus for 1 minute. During this time, you can add your Wisdom modifier to all attack and damage rolls, in addition to the bonus radiant damage from Spiritual Striker.