

# Paladin

A paladin is a champion of a noble cause, a trusted military leader, or a holy warrior, often associated with the historical figures in medieval literature and the fantasy role-playing game Dungeons & Dragons. Historically, they were the legendary knights of Charlemagne's court and a real-life term for a trusted military leader or advisor. In fantasy, a paladin is a **divine spellcaster** and **righteous warrior** who fights for good and justice, often bound by a **sacred oath** and wielding **holy magic**.

A Paladin typically looks like a **holy warrior**, often a knight in shining, heavy armor, wielding a shield and a weapon, though their appearance is largely determined by their personal choices and devotion to their cause. Key features often include a majestic appearance, gleaming armor, a strong build, and sometimes symbols of their faith or angelic imagery. The exact look can vary greatly, from a solemn, scarred warrior to a more refined, "beautiful" knight, but the core image is one of a devout, chivalrous, and powerful figure.

## Common Appearance Elements:

- **Heavy Armor:**

Paladins are often depicted in heavy, gleaming plate armor, symbolizing their martial prowess and unwavering faith.

- **Shining Appearance:**

The "knight in shining armor" is a classic image, with some paladins maintaining pristine armor as a testament to their ideals.

- **Divine Radiance:**

A divine aura or radiance may emanate from a paladin, especially when using their healing powers.

- **Weapons and Shields:**

A sword and shield are iconic, though some may favor a two-handed weapon or even a mace or hammer from the Crusades era.

- **Symbols of Faith:**

You might see holy symbols, emblems of their divine oath, or even angelic wing motifs incorporated into their armor or crests.

- **Majestic Mount:**

A noble steed, sometimes with gilded barding, can complete the image of a divine wind.

## Variations in Appearance:

- **Grim Knight:**

Some paladins are portrayed as stern, scarred warriors with beards and a heavy, bulky armor, exemplified by figures like "King Arthur".

- **Beautiful Knight:**

Others, like the "Lancelot" archetype, are depicted as young, handsome, cleanshaven, and adorned in more decorative, beautiful armor.

- **Devout Beggar:**

Paladins are not limited to a pristine image; one might live as a beggar, with torn clothes, to show devotion to the common people and their charities.

- **Race:**

Paladins can belong to various races, with humans, half-elves, and dwarves being common, but any race can be a paladin.

### Key Takeaway:

While the "knight in shining armor" is the archetypal image, a paladin's appearance reflects their personal commitment and chosen path within their sacred oath.

