

SILENTIUS & EUPHEM: THE FIRST TRUE KNIGHT

The following is a synopsis from the popular stage-play Silentius and Euphem. Its historical accuracy is questionable, but if true, the story is the earliest tale of knighthood to have been recorded in Myth.

ACT I

“HERALD: It must be said, my Lord, that she is no great beauty.

TRANQUI: But you believe that she will do her duty?

HERALD: My Lord, she is most dutiful-”

(Silentius and Euphem, Act I, Scene I)

KING TRANQUI, the despot, seeking an heir, arranges to marry a young widow named **SILENA**. He sends out his most loyal man-at-arms, **EUPHEM**, to escort her to his home.

ACT II

As EUPHEM and SILENA travel together, they begin to grow closer and eventually fall in love. When they arrive at Tranqui’s keep, **SILENA** begs **EUPHEM** to run away with her, but he refuses to break his faith. **SILENA** escapes the castle disguised as a page boy. Whilst leaving the keep, she sends word to **EUPHEM**, asking him to meet her at the dunes in the centre of the Green if he ever changes his mind.

Act III

“ORACLE: Faithful you have been, and true -- not only

To love, but to honour, grace and mercy

In every place they sing of your strength, crying

“There never was a braver man than he!”

(Silentius and Euphem, Act III, Scene IV)

To protect her identity, **SILENA** adopts the name and persona of **SILENTIUS**. **SILENTIUS** faces four tasks of honour and martial prowess on his journey to the desert; fording the Great River, defeating the **GIANT OF QUI**, resisting the temptation of **CALINE THE WITCH**, and finally earning his shield in a great battle. Finally, an **ORACLE** appears. She foretells that the name of **SILENTIUS** will mark the beginning of a new age of honour and glory. She declares him the first knight and the founder of chivalry, bestowing on him a pair of burnished copper pistols bearing the name *Winds of Change*.

Act IV

SIR SILENTIUS lives out his days as the **KNIGHT OF THE DUNES**. It is revealed that **EUPHEM** never received **SILENA**’s message. When tales of **SILENTIUS**’ deeds begin to spread, **EUPHEM** identifies him and rides to meet him, but arrives too late. **SILENTIUS** is struck down by a chimaera and dies in **EUPHEM**’S arms.

MYTH TODAY

Silentius's story echoes throughout the ages. Though that age of chivalry is over, you can still find traces of his tale in Myth in the present epoch.

THE EUPHRIAN OASIS

Upon seeing Silentius dead, Euphem's tears flowed into the sand and became a freshwater spring called the Euphrian Oasis. This body of water can never be corrupted or run dry. A bustling community has grown up on its shores, and lovers, especially those whose love is considered taboo or forbidden, often make pilgrimages there.

THE ROUND TABLE

One of the most iconic destinations on the Oasis's shore is the Round Table, a drag saloon and theatre named for its circular stage. During the day it puts on stage plays featuring all of Myth's popular legends and characters (currently showing: *King Salivar's Cup*, complete with the usually-censored adultery scenes). In the evening, the venue transforms into a club for male and female impersonators, dancers, and anybody else looking for a good, judgement-free time. The Round Table is *the best place in Myth for gossip*. If following up a lead or looking for juicy rumours, the mysterious proprietor, an eccentric drag queen known as Euphemia, is the first port of call. Does she have any relation to the Euphem of the legend? Probably not, but customers love to speculate.

THE ORDER OF SILENCE

The Order of Silence is a chivalric order which has largely now fallen. Its remaining members tend to operate alone, and hold fast to the code of chivalry embodied by Sir Silentius. Many take a vow of silence in honour of their patron (even though this is not something Silentius ever did) and ritually cross-dress before battles. Old Lodges of the Order of Silence are dotted around Myth, and are often still consecrated as sanctuaries, making them safe places for weary travellers to hide out in.

THE WINDS OF CHANGE

Rumour has it that the powerful twin-pistols bestowed on Silentius by the oracle are hidden somewhere near the Euphrian Oasis. They are said to bestow incredible speed and accuracy upon the wielder, with the sole stipulation that wherever bears them can never tell a lie. Any quest to find them would be dangerous, yet surely very rewarding.