

## Paladiary Day 20: Mantles

Today's essay is less about my paladin archetype specifically, and a trait that might be connected to archetypes (and possibly why I personally connect to them as I do) in general.

So, I have this fascination in fiction for characters accepting mantles. I'm going to use the term Mantle because the first media that I encountered it in, *The Dresden Files*, uses that term. In those books, the various empowered roles of the Fae Court- the six queens and their knights- are mantles. Meaning they pass from one individual to another when the current person dies. Harry Dresden (spoilers) eventually takes on the Mantle of the Winter Knight.

Another example is the podcast *Kane and Feels*. Lucifer Kane is the Shaman and Brutus Feels is the Rock. These are roles larger than the individuals which have existed for thousands of years. The use of tarot motifs especially drives home the archetypal nature. In fact, *protected by Guardians* is my favorite episode of the show specifically because it introduced these mantle-like roles, and therefore captivated the part of my brain that is obsessed with them.

Some similarities to the thing I am talking about include the role of Wielder in *Chicory* (the video game) although to a lesser extent. Although in *Chicory*, the passing along of the role is more of a generational legacy, like the "Taking up the Mantle" trope as named by *TvTropes*. And that's cool. But to really tickle that part of my brain that attunes to this, I find myself drawn to more deep-set, intrinsic, and often supernatural examples. One's where the mantle in question isn't just an item or responsibility (as in a prince becoming King) but actually retroactively changes the bearer and affects them. For example, Harry Dresden starts to be more cold, has trouble reigning in his baser instincts. Mortal characters taking on fae mantles become less human physically as well as psychologically.

I don't have a lot to say about this, except that I wonder whether this pattern of enjoying characters who take on (literally/magically) empowered roles is related to my general archetropy. Much in the same way I have found that therians (myself included) are often interested and invested in animals in general far outside of our own specific theriotypes. I wonder if the same is true for archetropes. It would make sense that someone who is more emotionally connected to archetypes or roles in general would be more likely to view their own life through the lens of archetropy.