

# Legend of Lugdana



According to legend, Lugdana was an orphan girl taken in by Lord Argynvost who raised her as his own daughter. As a master of battle, tactics, sword, and combat, he trained his daughter the only way he knew. She took to the studies, becoming one of the greatest fighters he had ever witnessed.

When Lord Argynvost formed the Order of the Silver Dragon, knights who were sworn to protect the lands of Barovia, she requested to take the Knight's Challenge, a three-day test of combat and skills in order to be accepted to the order. Lord Argynvost was reluctant, not because of her skill, for he knew she would pass any test she confronted, but for his love for her as his daughter. He feared, knowing her tenacious will, she may face her death in becoming a knight. She kindly reminded Lord Argynvost, as he has instructed her many times, "How you live is as important as how you die!" She of course passed the Knight's Challenge and was knighted into the Order of the Silver Dragon, as Dame Lugdana Argynvost, the only titled knight ever to have the surname of Argynvost.

The young knight had earned a reputation in battle, for she would never step down and would always rally. Her bravery was noted, and she gladly volunteered for every battle, the first to draw her sword and the first into combat. When the battles did not rage, Lugdana would visit the Abbey in Krezk and volunteer to care for her fellow knights, the elderly, and sick.



She was well received and became close to Sister Constance and Blessed Sister Markovia of the Abbey. Even the Countess von Hapsburg respected her and lent her ear whenever she saw Lugdana at the Abbey. Sister Constance once asked why Lugdana did not rest or return home to Argynvostholt, for she served and gave so much of herself, she deserved her time of peace. Lugdana said she would not be able to seek peace knowing the enemy had laid siege upon the peoples of Barovia, and the sick lay in need. She said her life was not her own, but to serve the Order, until she was unable to, or she fell. Her only pleasure was to serve.

The tides had changed, Count von Hapsburg and his knights were dishonorably assassinated in the dark before dawn at the Battle of Berez, leaving Lord Argynvost and the knights of the Silver Dragon to save the Barovian military from overwhelming odds in the ongoing war against the invading Terg forces. A seasoned tactician and general, Prince Strahd von Zarovich arrived with his army to defend Barovia from the Terg armies that had ravaged the valley for a quarter of a century. Strahd made no secret that he had declared Argynvost and his knights to be traitors to the Order for refusing to come to his father's aid, which was doubly damning since his father was assassinated in a trap directly following the refusal. Lord Argynvost doubled down and prepared to fight off a heavy siege against Strahd and the Terg. At least Argynvostholt was in the mountains, leaving plenty of room for spotting the enemy and to fallback if needed.

The knights of the Silver Dragon now fought two enemies, the Terg and Prince Strahd's army who both wanted to destroy Argynvost and the knights, erasing them from history.

Against all logic, Argynvost kept his forces split between manning Tsolenka Pass and Argynvostholt. Tsolenka had a host of troops, including the Shield Maidens, but needed to hold at all costs, the enemy must not reach the Amber Temple.

At the Battle of Raven River, Lugdana was struck down in a battle. Seeing that her wounds were grievous, Argynvost covered her escape so that her squires could bring her to the Abbey for care. Sister Constance said, "Now you have served and served well, it is time to return home and seek peace." Lugdana was struck, she spoke grimly "This I cannot do, Sister. A new enemy has revealed itself in Barovia, small groups of undead warriors who wander the countryside aimlessly, like some ghoulish scouting force for some undead army." She shared with Sister Constance their ferocity and she worried about what would happen to the Barovian peasants with Barovia's military elements busy fighting the Terg. She struggled each day to get better and improved beyond the expectations of the hospitallers. On the day she was ready to return to the battlefield, she went to the chapel in the Abbey to pray.

Lugdana's prayer was not for herself, not for victory, not for her brother Knights, she prayed that her life spent in service to the Order to rid the land of darkness would bring peace to all Barovia. Lugdana was not wise in the nursing of others, but she learned to become a great fighter and thus her service was to protect those who could not protect themselves. Her father's words, Lord Argynvost, echoed in her mind, "How we live is as an important as how we die." Dying in service to the people and to bring peace, is an honor she cherished.

Sister Constance heard Lugdana's prayer as she stood in the shadows. Sister Constance was an angel, sent to watch over the sick, Since Barovia's medical resources were stretched many times too thin due to the never-ending Great War. When Lugdana began to rise to leave, Sister Constance revealed herself and her true nature. Sister Constance gave Lugdana an amulet, The Holy Symbol of the Sun.

Lugdana wore the Holy Symbol of the Sun proudly and slew untold numbers of undead skeleton and zombie warriors. She became known far and wide throughout the valley as the people's hero, the Knight of Light.



Lord Strahd knew that he must slay Lugdana. Before the Battle of Argynvostholt, Lord Strahd kidnapped one hundred villagers from Vallaki and held them, hostage, Strahd would release them in exchange for Lugdana and a truce, or he would begin to execute them one at a time, each morning. Strahd knew the Knights would never agree and would send their forces to rescue the villagers. Lugdana was ordered to stay at Argynvostholt with Lord Argynvost, while the rest of the available Knights attempted the rescue. Lord Strahd arrived and snuck in to Argynvostholt personally in the dead of night and slew Lugdana in her sleep and then defeated Lord Argynvost. Lord Strahd searched in vain, but never found the Holy Symbol of the Sun, for it had disappeared. In anger, he desecrated Argynvost's body, and stole his skull and took it back to his Castle as a prize.

It is said that upon Lugdana's death the amulet returned to Sister Constance, her spirit remains constant to serve those who serve the order, protect the sick, and defeat the darkness.

A whispered voice is often heard, haunting the Abbey and Argynvostholt, "Strahd Must Die!" Many believe it is Lugdana's soul crying out in protest of her father's and her traitorous deaths at the foul hands of the Dark Lord. Some believe she has become a Revenant hunting down the undead as she did in life.

