

The Broken Lord

“Steel does not forget. Neither do they.”

Broken Lords are [Blightborn](#) found in the remains of soldiers, guards, officers, and other trained fighters. They are distinguished not by unusual anatomy so much as by the disturbing persistence of habits learned in life.



Appearance

Most Broken Lords still wear pieces of the equipment they died in. Rusted mail, split gambesons, cracked helmets, belts, shields, crossbows, and serviceable weapons are common. Armor may be fused to swollen flesh or held together with cord and corrosion.

Their bodies are visibly dead, but their posture is often different from that of a [Shambler](#). They stand with weapons ready. They turn toward movement without the usual stagger. Some appear to resume old watches or hold ruined positions long after the people they guarded are gone.

Retained Training

Broken Lords fight with fragments of practiced skill. They parry, use reach, change targets, and employ ranged weapons when available. A veteran soldier facing one may recognize drills, guard positions, or habits associated with a particular military tradition.

The horror is recognizably human. A doorway, shield, crossbow, or practiced guard position can become dangerous for exactly the same reason it was useful in life: the body still knows the motion even when the person is gone.

This does not mean the person survives inside the corpse. No reliable account describes a Broken Lord speaking coherently, recognizing comrades, or acting from an intelligible personal motive. What remains appears closer to trained motion than memory.

Groups of Broken Lords are particularly dangerous because the same habits that once kept soldiers alive can continue after death. They may occupy choke points, fight beside one another, or make use of fortifications almost by reflex.

Behavior

Broken Lords are most often reported around battlefields, forts, barracks, checkpoints, ruined estates with armed retainers, and settlements where organized defenders died in place.

Some remain near the position where they fell. Others join nearby Blighted movement while retaining their martial behavior. Their presence can transform a loose group of [Shamblers](#) into a far more difficult threat simply because a skilled combatant now stands among them.

Field Knowledge

Travelers who recognize armor or military equipment on a Blighted corpse are warned not to assume slow reactions or clumsy attacks. Broken Lords are treated as experienced fighters, even when the body carrying that experience is badly decayed.

[Silver](#) remains the most reliable permanent answer, but surviving the approach often matters first.

See Also

- [Rotmire Blight](#)

- [The Shambler](#)
 - [Silver and its Importance](#)
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