

VALKYRIE

The Soldier's Angel



Some say that Valkyrie is a goddess of war. Others, that she is a goddess of combat, or of blood, or victory, or a myriad other things that she really, really isn't. While the concept is simple, it seems that only those that worship her really get it.

Valkyrie is a goddess of dedication.

Wielding her favourite sword, or her axe, or her warhammer, or her daggers, or her fists, her war maul, her mace, her quarterstaff, her bow, her Shan'Tok, her spear, in one or two-handed grips, with or without her shield, you might be forgiven for thinking that the fight is all she is about. In fact, her warrior's bearing is simply an expression of what she stands for: standing up, being strong, and never, ever, giving up. She rewards those who give all they have to the cause to which they have dedicated themselves, and is all too happy to carry them if their body gives out in the process. On the other hand, she has no time for those who give up easily, or who are not true to their principles or promises. Needing or asking for help is not a weakness, and nor is failure, so long as you gave your best in the attempt.

Success and failure are merely mortal values – all she is concerned with is how hard you tried.

Not being counted as of one absolute alignment or another, Valkyrie can boast both self-aware followers of Might (dedicate yourself to the responsibility of defending those under your command), Justice (give all you have in the pursuit of what is right), Life (fight to the death to preserve life) and Freedom (lay everything on the line to protect your ideals), as well as those who do not claim to follow a alignment, but rather the her tenets alone, among her devoted. Warriors of all types, as well a some of the more martial priests and even a few mages, make up her followers, all of whom dedicate themselves to being everything they can be, in everything they do. When they succeed, they thank her for giving them the strength of arm, mind and heart to see it through, and she rejoices in their efforts. When they fall through being unable to continue, she picks up them up by the scruff of the neck, and carries them until they can put their feet down again. If they fail, but tried with all they had to succeed, she comforts them, and schools them against depression, in favour of getting back out there and beating the unholy hell out of whatever task bested them last time.

Anyone can follow Valkyrie, but few have the body, mind and soul to be able to make her proud. Those who do, however, find a goddess that will fight every bit as hard for them as they will for her, as long as they remember, and embody, the rules she lays down: Stand, until your legs give way; Fight, until you cannot lift your arm; and, most importantly, *Live*, until the gift is dragged from your kicking, screaming grasp.