

Lords and Ladies Text 3: “Daily Life of a Noble Lord in the Middle Ages”

Middle Ages feudalism was based on the exchange of land for military service. King William the Conqueror used the concept of feudalism to reward his Norman supporters with English lands for their help in the conquest of England. Daily life of nobles and lords during the Middle Ages centered around their castles or manors or fighting for the king during times of war. The daily life of nobles can be described as follows:

- The daily life of nobles started at dawn.
- Mass would be heard, and prayers would be made.
- The first meal of the day was breakfast.
- Lords and nobles would attend to business matters in relation to their land. Reports would be heard regarding estate crops, harvests and supplies. Finances—rents, taxes, customs and dues. The lord would also be expected to exercise his judicial powers over his vassals and peasants.
- Complaints and disputes regarding tenants would be settled, permission to marry, etc.
- The daily life of the nobles would include political discussions and decisions.
- As the medieval period progressed, the culture changed, becoming more refined and elegant. Time was spent on the arts—poetry, music, etc.
- Weapons practice
- Midmorning prayers and a meal
- In the afternoon, the daily life of nobles turned to hunting, hawking or inspecting the estate.
- Evening prayer and then supper in the hall of the castle or manor house
- After supper there might be some entertainment—music, dancing, jugglers, acrobats, jesters, etc.
- The time for bed was dictated by the time the lord or noble retired.
- Bedtime prayers

So ended the daily life of a noble during the Middle Ages.

Alchin, Linda. “Daily Life of a Noble Lord in the Middle Ages.” Middle Ages. N.p., n.d. Web. 30 Sept. 2013. <http://www.middle-ages.org.uk/daily-life-noble-lord-middle-ages.htm>

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Lords and Ladies Text 4: “Daily Life of a Noble Lord in the Middle Ages” Glossary

Word	Meaning
judicial powers	powers of law and justice