SOFTWARE & TECH

Dragon Age Origins Oghren Approval

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Introduction: The Dwarf with a Heart of Gold (and a Liver of Iron)

Few characters in the sprawling world of Thedas are as instantly memorable as Oghren, the brash, crude, and surprisingly deep dwarven warrior from **Dragon Age: Origins**. Joining the party during the Orzammar storyline, Oghren is a walking contradiction—a fallen noble, a legendary warrior, a hopeless drunk, and a man burdened by a tragic past. For many players, navigating the **Dragon Age Origins Oghren approval**system is a unique challenge. Unlike the more diplomatic companions like Alistair or Leliana, Oghren's moral compass is skewed by his own trauma and dwarven sensibilities. Mastering the nuances of his approval is not just about unlocking his personal quest; it is about understanding one of the most authentically written characters in the game. This guide will provide a deep dive into how to win Oghren's loyalty, what actions please him, what gifts to give him, and why his approval is well worth the effort.

Who is Oghren? Understanding the Man Behind the Tankard

Before diving into the mechanics of the **Dragon Age Origins Oghren approval**system, it is essential to understand who Oghren is. Born as a member of the noble House Branka, Oghren was once a promising warrior married to Branka, one of the most brilliant Paragons in Dwarven history. However, Branka's obsessive quest to find the Anvil of the Void led her to abandon him, leaving Oghren a broken man. He turned to the bottle, became a social outcast, and earned the nickname "the Uncontrollable."

When you meet him in Orzammar, he is a disgraced warrior living in the Dust Town slums. Despite his gruff exterior and crude jokes, Oghren possesses a fierce loyalty to those who show him kindness. He respects strength, honesty, and a straightforward approach to problem-solving. He despises political games, cowardice, and excessive piety. Understanding these core traits is the first step in successfully managing his approval.

Oghren's Personality Traits that Affect Approval

- Directness: Oghren appreciates when you say what you mean. Subtlety and manipulation annoy him.
- Aggression: He respects violent solutions to problems. A peaceful resolution is often seen as weakness in his eyes.
- Irreverence: He enjoys mocking authority figures and religious dogma. Taking the Chantry too seriously will lower his approval.
- Loyalty: He values personal loyalty over abstract morality. Standing by your companions is more important than being "good."
- Drinking: Unsurprisingly, Oghren loves alcohol. Sharing a drink or supporting his drinking habits is a quick path to his heart.

How to Gain Oghren Approval: A Complete Guide

Raising the **Dragon Age Origins Oghren approval**meter requires a specific approach. You cannot treat him

like you would treat Alistair or Morrigan. Here are the key strategies to win him over.

1. Dialogue Choices That Win Oghren Over

Dialogue is the primary way you interact with Oghren outside of combat. When speaking with him in camp or during conversations, focus on the following:

- Encourage his drinking: Never scold him for being drunk. Instead, offer to buy him a drink or laugh off his drunken antics. This shows you accept him for who he is.
- Support bluntness: When he makes a crude joke or an offensive comment, agreeing with him or laughing provides a small approval boost.
- Acknowledge his pain: While Oghren acts tough, he is deeply hurt by Branka's abandonment. If you show genuine sympathy for his past (without being condescending), he will appreciate it.
- Defend him: If other party members criticize Oghren, stepping in to defend him yields significant approval gains. This is especially relevant in banter with Wynne or Sten.

2. Actions That Earn Oghren's Respect

Beyond dialogue, your actions in the world directly impact the **Dragon Age Origins Oghren approval**system. Here are the critical action-based decisions:

- Support the Dwarven Commoners: During the Orzammar storyline, Oghren has little love for the noble caste. Supporting Bhelen (the pragmatic reformer) or taking actions that help the commoners will please him.
- Be aggressive in combat: Oghren respects a leader who fights alongside their party. Running away from fights or avoiding conflict lowers his approval.
- Finish the Anvil of the Void quest decisively: The way you handle Branka and Caridin is critical. Destroying the Anvil while respecting Oghren's feelings about his ex-wife is a delicate balance.
- Complete his personal quest: You will eventually unlock a quest to find Oghren's old gear, including his sword and shield. Completing this quest is mandatory for high approval and unlocking his full potential in combat.

3. The Oghren Gift Guide: Key Items to Boost Approval

Gifts are a reliable way to increase the **Dragon Age Origins Oghren approval**quickly. Oghren has specific preferences that align with his personality. Here is a list of the best gifts for him:

- Wine or Ale: Any alcohol-related gift is a guaranteed approval boost. "Fine Wine" or "Ale" are easy to find in various shops.
- Stormheart: This rare gem is found in the Orzammar area. Oghren loves it because it reminds him of the deep roads.
- Dwarven Battlesuit: This armor piece is specifically tailored for Oghren and provides a large approval increase.
- Lucky Stone: A simple gift found in the party camp, this small item provides a modest approval boost.
- Chips of a Statue: Found in the Temple of Sacred Ashes, this odd gift amuses Oghren and provides a minor boost.

It is important to note that giving gifts to Oghren is most effective early in your relationship. Once his approval is higher, gifts provide diminishing returns. Use them strategically to push him past key thresholds.

Key Decisions That Heavily Impact Oghren Approval

Certain critical choices in **Dragon Age: Origins** have an outsized effect on the **Dragon Age Origins Oghren approval** meter. These are the moments where you need to be careful not to lose what you have gained.

The Landsmeet and the Crown of Orzammar

The entire Orzammar arc is a minefield for Oghren's approval. If you side with Harrowmont (the traditionalist

noble), Oghren will be disappointed because Harrowmont represents the very caste system that ruined Oghren's life. Conversely, supporting Bhelen, despite his ruthless methods, often yields higher approval from Oghren because Bhelen promises to break the old traditions. Additionally, any dialogue that insults dwarven culture as a whole will anger Oghren.

The Anvil of the Void: Branka vs Caridin

This is the most emotionally charged decision for Oghren. If you side with Branka and allow her to keep the Anvil, Oghren will be deeply conflicted. While part of him still loves her, he knows she is mad. Destroying the Anvil and killing Branka (or convincing her to stand down) is generally the path to higher approval, as it shows you are putting Oghren's emotional healing above a dangerous relic. However, if you destroy the Anvil but show no remorse or sympathy for his loss, you may still lose approval. The key is to acknowledge the tragedy of the situation.

The Urn of Sacred Ashes

Oghren is not a religious dwarf. If you make a big show of reverence for the Urn or the Chantry, he will mock you, and you may lose a small amount of approval. Treating the sacred site with cynical practicality is the better approach for keeping Oghren happy.

What Happens at High Approval? Unlocking Oghren's Potential

Investing time in the **Dragon Age Origins Oghren approval** system pays off in several concrete ways.

Personal Quest: Oghren's Past

Once your approval is high enough (around 75+), you will trigger Oghren's personal quest. He asks you to travel to the Deep Roads to retrieve his old weapon, "The Bulwark of the True King," and his helm, "The Heavy Dwarven Helm." Completing this quest not only rewards Oghren with powerful gear but also provides significant lore about his past as a warrior. More importantly, it helps him begin to heal from his trauma, which is reflected in his dialogue for the rest of the game.

Combat Efficiency

At high approval, Oghren fights better. While the game does not have a direct stat boost tied to approval, Oghren will more readily follow your tactics and will use his special abilities like "Stunning Blows" and "War Cry" more effectively. A loyal Oghren is a devastating front-line tank.

Romance and Friendship

It is worth noting that Oghren is not a romance option in **Dragon Age: Origins**(he becomes one in the Awakening expansion). However, achieving high approval with him unlocks unique camp conversations where he opens up about his regrets, his lost love, and his hopes for the future. These are some of the most touching moments in the game, revealing a depth that many players miss if they dismiss him as a simple drunk.

Common Mistakes That Ruin Oghren Approval

Many players inadvertently damage the **Dragon Age Origins Oghren approval**without realizing it. Here are the most common pitfalls to avoid:

- Being overly pious: As mentioned, Oghren hates religious zealotry. Praying at every altar or praising the Maker will annoy him.
- Judging his drinking: Telling Oghren he drinks too much or trying to force him to sober up is a surefire way to lose approval.
- Being diplomatic with enemies: Oghren believes in hitting problems until they go away. Talking your way out of a fight often disappoints him.
- Neglecting him in camp: Failing to talk to Oghren regularly will cause his approval to stagnate. You need to

actively engage him.

- Killing dwarves unnecessarily: While Oghren is not a pacifist, killing innocent dwarves or commoners for no reason will raise his disapproval. He has a soft spot for his people.

Oghren's Role in the Party: Combat and Banter

Understanding the **Dragon Age Origins Oghren approval**mechanics is only half the battle. Once you have earned his trust, you need to use him effectively.

Combat Build: The Berserker Tank

Oghren starts as a berserker, and this is his ideal role. Equip him with heavy armor and a two-handed weapon or sword-and-shield. His high strength and constitution make him an excellent damage sponge. With high approval, he will faithfully execute your tactics, drawing aggro and dealing massive damage. Key skills to invest in are **Berserker**, **Warrior**, and **Champion** specializations.

Party Banter: The Heart of the Team

One of the best reasons to maintain high

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