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Tabard Of The Ebon Blade

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Unveiling the Legacy of the Tabard of the Ebon Blade

In the vast, sprawling universe of World of Warcraft, few items carry the weight of narrative and identity as the **Tabard of the Ebon Blade**. This emblem is not merely a piece of cloth draped over a character's chest; it is a symbol of defiance, rebirth, and a relentless war against the forces of the Scourge. For players who have undertaken the journey of the Death Knight, this tabard serves as a badge of honor, marking their allegiance to one of Azeroth's most formidable and morally ambiguous factions: the Knights of the Ebon Blade.

Whether you are a seasoned veteran who earned this tabard during the Wrath of the Lich King era or a new player just stepping into the world of shadow and undeath, the Tabard of the Ebon Blade holds a unique place in both the lore and the gameplay mechanics of the game. This article aims to provide a comprehensive, easy-to-read guide that covers everything from the lore behind the Ebon Blade, how to obtain the tabard, its visual appeal, and why it remains a coveted cosmetic item for transmog enthusiasts and roleplayers alike.

The Lore Behind the Ebon Blade Tabard

To understand the significance of the Tabard of the Ebon Blade, one must first delve into the story of the Death Knights and their rebellion. Originally, the first generation of Death Knights were fallen humans raised by Gul'dan during the Second War. However, the modern Death Knights of the Knights of the Ebon Blade were created by the Lich King, Arthas Menethil, during the events of the Wrath of the Lich King expansion.

These Death Knights were once heroes of the Alliance and Horde, slain and resurrected to serve as the Lich King's vanguards. Under the command of the Highlord Darion Mograine, they were sent to invade the Eastern Plaguelands and spread terror. However, during the Battle of Light's Hope Chapel, the Death Knights experienced a turning point. Through the sacrifice of Tirion Fordring and the intervention of the Ashbringer, many Death Knights broke free of the Lich King's control. They formed a new order, also called the Knights of the Ebon Blade, dedicated to using their dark powers to fight against the Scourge rather than serve their former master.

The **Tabard of the Ebon Blade**is the heraldry of this new order. It features a stark, black and silver design with the sigil of a runed blade, often representing the runeblades wielded by Death Knights. Wearing this tabard signifies that the wearer is a member of the Ebon Blade, a free Death Knight fighting for their own cause, not a slave to the Lich King's will. Over the years, this faction has played crucial roles in expansions such as Wrath of the Lich King (where they were central to the story), Battle for Azeroth, and Shadowlands, where they allied with the Four Horsemen and even assisted in the assault on the Jailer.

How to Obtain the Tabard of the Ebon Blade

For many players, the method of obtaining the Tabard of the Ebon Blade is as straightforward as it is iconic.

Every new Death Knight, starting at level 55 (or level 8 in the current retail leveling squish), begins their journey in the Death Knight starting zone: Acherus: The Ebon Hold. This floating necropolis hovers over the Plaguelands and serves as the headquarters for the Ebon Blade.

Step-by-Step Acquisition

1. Create a Death Knight character of any race (Alliance or Horde) and enter the game.
2. Complete the initial quests within the Death Knight starting zone. These quests involve awakening other Death Knights, launching an attack on Light's Hope Chapel, and eventually breaking free from the Lich King's influence.
3. During the final quest chain, you will encounter Highlord Darion Mograine, who will offer you a quest called "The Ebon Blade."
4. Accept the quest and speak with Darion. This quest rewards the Tabard of the Ebon Blade directly, along with other gear and items.
5. Once you complete the starting zone and are ready to leave Acherus, you will have the tabard in your inventory, allowing you to equip it immediately.

It is important to note that this quest is exclusive to the Death Knight class. No other class can earn the **Ebon Blade tabard**through this method. However, players who have completed the Death Knight introductory zone can also obtain additional copies of the tabard through a vendor in Acherus if they accidentally delete or sell it. Simply return to the Ebon Hold (by using the Death Gate ability or a Garrison hearthstone if you have one) and visit the quartermaster or apparel vendor at the entrance of the main chamber.

Visual Design and Aesthetic Appeal

The **Tabard of the Ebon Blade**is renowned for its striking and minimalist design. The primary colors are a deep, almost jet black background contrasted with silver or grey runic patterns. The front of the tabard features a central emblem that resembles a runeblade or a runed symbol associated with the Ebon Blade. The overall look is grim, menacing, and perfectly suited for a Death Knight's dark aesthetic.

In the world of transmogrification, this tabard is highly sought after. Many players use it to complete icy, necrotic, or gothic-themed outfits. It pairs exceptionally well with armor sets from the Wrath of the Lich King expansion, such as the Sanctified Scourgelord Battlegear or the Dreadnaught plate set. Because the tabard is class-specific but can be transmogged across all armor types once collected, even cloth-wearing classes have found ways to incorporate its look using the "tabard preview" feature. However, only Death Knights can actually equip the original item; other classes can still use it as a transmog appearance if they have a Death Knight character that unlocked it.

Gameplay Benefits and Uses

Beyond its cosmetic and lore value, the **Tabard of the Ebon Blade**serves practical purposes in the game. When worn, the tabard grants reputation gains with the Knights of the Ebon Blade faction. This can be particularly useful for players aiming to earn achievements such as "The Diplomat" or "Titanium Seal" reputation rewards. Moreover, earning reputation with the Knights of the Ebon Blade unlocks various rewards, including the "Ashen Verdict" signet ring from the Icecrown Citadel raid, as well as vendor items like heirloom gear, mounts, and cosmetic armor.

Reputation can be increased by completing daily quests in the Icecrown zone (such as the Argent Tournament), running dungeons with the tabard equipped (dungeons in Wrath of the Lich King give reputation to the tabard-worn faction), and also by completing the Death Knight's class-specific quests. It should be noted that in Shadowlands, the Knights of the Ebon Blade also play a significant role, offering another source of reputation and rewards for characters who choose to align with them through the Covenant system (specifically

Maldraxxus or other related content).

Key Reputation Rewards

- Heirloom Items: The Knights of the Ebon Blade faction allows players to purchase the "Tarnished" versions of heirloom gear, specifically the Tarnished Rune of the Death Knight.
- Mounts: At Exalted reputation, Death Knights can buy the Frosty Flying Mount (an armored frost wyrm) from the quartermaster in Acherus.
- Transmogs: The quartermaster sells the "Ebon Blade" tabard for those who may have missed it, along with other cosmetic items like the Shroud of Mourning.
- Achievement Progress: Wearing the tabard while running Wrath of the Lich King dungeons (such as Halls of Lightning or The Violet Hold) will contribute to the "Knights of the Ebon Blade" reputation, which is required for the "The Loremaster" and "Reputation" achievements.

Comparison with Other Faction Tabards

While many tabards in World of Warcraft serve similar functions (reputation gains and identity), the **Tabard of the Ebon Blade**holds a unique position due to its class-specific origin. For example, the Tabard of the Argent Crusade can be earned by any character and provides reputation for that faction. Similarly, the Tabard of the Frosty Exiles (from Wrath of the Lich King) offers reputation for the Frosty Exiles. However, no other tabard is intrinsically tied to a class's starting zone.

For Death Knights, wearing the Ebon Blade tabard is often considered a mark of pride—a way to show they have completed their original storyline. In roleplaying communities, this tabard is mandatory for characters who identify as members of the Knights of the Ebon Blade. The tabard also appears in the lore whenever the Ebon Blade convenes, such as during the "Battle for Light's Hope Chapel" scenario in the Death Knight starting area.

Tips for New Death Knights

If you are creating your first Death Knight, here are a few tips regarding the **Tabard of the Ebon Blade**:

- Equip it immediately: The tabard offers reputation gains, so equip it as soon as you receive it. Even in the starting zone, completing quests and killing Scourge enemies will contribute to your reputation.
- Save a copy: Since it is a quest reward that cannot be reobtained unless you visit the vendor in Acherus, keep it in your bank. If you decide to transmog it later, you can always retrieve it.
- Use it for farming: If you have a level 80 Death Knight or above, you can go back to earlier Wrath of the Lich King dungeons and run them with the tabard equipped to easily reach Exalted reputation.
- Achievement hunting: To earn "The Diplomat" achievement, you need to reach Exalted with three factions. The Knights of the Ebon Blade is one of the easier ones to grind, especially if you run Hellfire Citadel or Magtheridon's Lair with the tabard (though note that only dungeons from Wrath of the Lich King give full reputation).

Evolving Role in Modern WoW

With the release of Shadowlands, the Ebon Blade took on a new purpose. The faction became aligned with the Maldraxxus Covenant, aiding in the fight against the Jailer's forces. While the Tabard of the Ebon Blade is not directly involved in the Shadowlands storyline, it remains a popular choice for transmog among players who want to pay homage to the old ways. The tabard also appears in various NPCs, such as the Four Horsemen: Thassarian, Koltira Deathweaver, and others.

In Dragonflight, the Ebon Blade tabard continues to be a symbol of Death Knight identity. With the new talent revamp and class customizations, many Death Knights still choose to wear the tabard as a full outfit, sometimes pairing it with the "Blood-Soaked" or "Frostwyrm" appearances. For collectors, it represents a

tangible link to the original Death Knight experience—one that has not been significantly altered since Wrath of the Lich King.

Conclusion

The **Tabard of the Ebon Blade**is far more than a simple reputation item. It is a narrative device that visually declares a character's place in a pivotal story of redemption and rebellion. For Death Knights, it is both a badge of origin and a key to unlocking valuable faction rewards. For transmog enthusiasts, it offers a sleek, dark aesthetic that complements many

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