

CHARM WARS

by Dan Lutts

Patrons and Clients

Death Estati's relationship with his commoner clients mirrors the Roman patricians' relationships with their plebeian clients (except for taking over their businesses). Formal rules govern the interactions between patrons like Death and his commoner clients. Death's obligations include providing his clients with basic necessities such as food, financial support, and legal advice. Death also defends them in court because his political enemies attack him by suing his clients. Defeat in court can lower Death's *magetas*, which is his political power, personal influence, and ability to rally his supporters around him. The larger his number of clients, the greater his *magetas*.

In return, like the clients in ancient Rome, Death's clients support him in his personal and political matters. One of the most important is voting for him in elections. They also visit him in the mornings before he goes to the *Magisterium*, ask for favors, receive their handouts, and then accompany him down from The Citadel to the public square.

Like the Romans, Death also has *noblesse* clients who are less powerful than he is. And like the Romans, they call their relationship a "friendship" and refer to each other as "friends." Death and his family, though, are so powerful that he is client to no one.