Series A 2025



# STARTER GUIDE: YOUR ADVENTURE AWAITS

TABLETOP ROLEPLAYING GAME



#### WELCOME TO NEOODYSSEY!

#### **Preface**

NeoOdyssey is a game of untold fantasy, extraordinary adventures, and incredible challenges. A game of creativity, quick thinking, and, above all, roleplaying. You will play a character of your choosing, acting as if you were that character in a world crafted by you and your peers.

Through your character you will go on countless adventures exploring various worlds, meeting other characters, facing terrifying creatures, and, of course, finding priceless treasures.

Who will your character be? How will they act? Will they rise to the challenge? Or will they face the same horrific fate of so many Adventurers before them?

#### By Design

Our goal with NeoOdyssey is to create a game that fosters rich gameplay centered around roleplaying and building a Story together.

Therefore, we strive to keep players *in* the game by having dynamic, intuitive rules that *enable* gameplay and allow players to *drive* the events of the *Story*.

#### Tension in Design

NeoOdyssey seeks to strike a balance between simplicity, variety, and depth while also balancing fantasy and reality, choice and guidance, luck and skill, and much more.

A completely balanced game – we believe – is unmanageable and, more importantly, unfun. It is with a reasonable degree of imbalance that players discover, choose, learn, grow, and, of course, roleplay.

#### Heroic Fantasy

NeoOdyssey is a game of Heroic Fantasy with a specific interpretation. To us, heroic does not mean all powerful superheroes or superheroines; instead, heroic means triumph – to succeed against all odds. This gives players real accomplishment and truly memorable stories.

#### What to Expect

You will have unparalleled flexibility and control of your character. You will make many, many decisions; sometimes those decisions with have a right answer, so to speak, and other times they will be a matter of

preference. As a whole, your creativity for using tools and abilities will be essential to play NeoOdyssey.

#### Managing Risk

One more thing. Your character will *always* be in danger. You will make mistakes. Your character will stumble. And they may die.

The important thing is you can succeed! You can overcome the obstacles! And you can always get better!

Now then...will you take on the challenges, face the odds, and start adventuring? Are you ready to build your *Story*?

#### The Books

A playgroup should have one of each of:

- Player Guide (this book!)
- Behind the Screen
- Character Resources
- Items and Journal Entries

#### Note:

We will refer to the other books from time to time.

#### Player Guide

This book walks you through character creation and the rules that make adventuring possible.

#### NOTE:

To make it easier to learn, this book is structured to align with character's progression.

#### Behind the Screen

Behind the Screen focuses on how to be a The Director, providing resources, guidance, and additional rules for creating and running the game.

#### **Character Resources**

The Character Resources book is a collection of Kins, Origins, Backgrounds, and Classes for creating characters. Additionally, it contains details for advancing your character (i.e., Perks, Scars, Feats, etc.).

Items and Journal Entries

The *Items and Journal Entries* book is a reference for elixirs, poisons, diseases, spells, rituals, tactics, armor, weapons, and so on.

#### Acknowledgments

A game with this many components took a great deal of time and collaboration from many hardworking individuals who took time out of their busy schedules to see this project brought to life.

These people developed, tested, and refined the rules through many sessions over the years. Each brought invaluable expertise — editing, artwork, knowledge, and crazy ideas.

Lastly, we are unbelievably grateful to anyone who plays this game and supports the work we have done. Thank you all, adventure on, and enjoy the game!

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# **Getting Started**

LET'S INTRODUCE YOU TO THE FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTS OF THE NEOODYSSEY. MORE IMPORTANTLY,
LET'S BUILD YOUR CHARACTER SO YOU CAN GET TO THE GAME.

#### **GAME CONCEPTS**

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### GAME CONCEPTS

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#### **ADVENTURING**

Since this is a Roleplaying game, how about a sample adventure?

#### Your First Adventure

You find yourself running through thick undergrowth, desperately trying to distance yourself from the sounds of footsteps closely behind. The sounds grow louder and louder.

Suddenly, you come to a small clearing in the forest. With the trees gone, you finally notice the rain coming down. As you look up at the rain, you are interrupted by a deep, disturbing growl. It must be one of the hounds sent after you.

Quickly you dart behind some rocks on the side of the clearing. In your haste, you fail to notice the sloping landscape on the other side and slide downward, crashing into more rocks below. You stay still, as if holding your breath, hoping the fall did not give you away. To your surprise, the sound of growling and footsteps have disappeared.

Looking over yourself, you notice only some minor cuts and a large bruise where your shoulder hit the rocks. You look up to see the

muddy slope where you fell. There is no way you could climb back out!

Search around you stumble upon a hidden crevice obscured by foliage. With the sword from your hilt, you clear away some of the foliage.

"An entrance?!" you say, shocked and confused. With curiosity and no better way out, you step into the darkness below, slowly descending some rough, crumbling stone steps. All you can hear is the pounding of your heart with fear and anticipation. Who knows what lies ahead?

At the base of the steps, you reach a dimly lit chamber. The air is heavy with dust and decay. As your eyes adjust, you realize you've found an entrance to an underground dungeon.

After taking a swig of water and grabbing an old torch from the wall, you press onward. With cautious steps, you navigate through various corridors. Eventually encountering a small group of Orcs – maybe three or four – lurking in the shadows of a small room.

After dousing your torch, you toss a small bag of coins

to the side of the room – alerting the Orcs. As they move towards the sounds, you quietly hurry the other way.

You manage to get past the Orcs without being noticed, but you shouldn't linger. It won't be long until they come after you –you did trick them after all.

You hurry down the corridor and notice a wooden door on your left. Without thinking, you swiftly open the door, jump inside, and shut it once more.

For a second, a feeling of relief washes over you – until you realize you are *not alone*. An old wizard sits calmly in the corner of the room, nose-deep in a book. As far as you can tell, the book appears to have some magical properties.

The wizard looks up and asks, "are you here for the dragon or its treasure?"

"A dragon? Treasure? I haven't come for either of those things. I am here by accident and I'm looking for a way out" you say plainly.

"Interesting...well, the only exit I know of is past the dragon, over there." He points beyond the door to the left. "Lucky for you, it

isn't too far."

"Thank you," you say trying to cover up your concern. You are definitely not prepared to fight a dragon. "Might you come with me and show me this exit you speak of and perhaps guide me away from the dragon too?"

"Sorry to disappoint, but I need to rest. I am in *no* condition to fight." The wizard gives you some more directions and wishes you luck. Alone, you follow the directions and head towards the exit.

As you dive deeper sulfur fill the air. Through an opening of a vast cavern, you see the fearsome dragon sitting atop a hoard of fantastical treasures.

Your heart races as you realize the danger you are in. Against your better judgment, you decide to swipe some gold coins from the dragon's hoard. Besides you need to replace the coins you gave to the Orcs!

Moving only with the heavy sounds of the dragon's breathing, you near the

hoard. As you grab a handful of gold coins, a peculiar-looking artifact catches your eye. You walk atop some of the gold coins and grab the artifact.

As you hold up the artifact in the dim light, you see something in the distance. The exit! Just as the wizard said!

The mountain of coins begins to shift from under you. The dragon has woken up! With hopes of staying unnoticed, you jump down and run towards the exit. As you get near, the dragon lets out a terrible roar, causing your heart to sink. "Will this be it?" you wonder.

You have no choice; you prepare to fight the dragon. For what feels like an eternity, you struggle against it – avoiding, bracing, and occasionally hitting the dragon with your sword.

Seemingly unscathed, the dragon charges through the air, once again. Though exhausted, you stand firm, ready to make one last attack.

With a deafening roar, the

dragon falls, defeated.
Stunned, you look around and see the old wizard walking away. "Was it the wizard who stopped the dragon?" you wonder.

Exhausted, but relieved, you head through the exit, emerging from the depths of the dungeon. With the rain subdued and artifact in hand, you head out, continuing your adventure.

#### **Looking Back**

How was your short adventure? The key difference between the provided example and your future adventures is the decisions you make. Would you have thrown the bag of coins? Would you have tried to take more or less treasure? Do you call out or follow the wizard? How you get into that situation, navigate through it, and resolve it comes down to your decisions, The Director's interpretations, various game mechanics, and, of course, a fair number of dice rolls.

#### THE DICE















4-Sided Die

6-Sided Die

8-Sided Die

10-Sided Die

10-Sided Die\*

12-Sided Die

20-Sided Die

Rolling dice represents your chances of success and adds enough randomness to create great stories.

#### **Notation**

With multiple dice of varying Size, or different number of sides, it is convenient to use shorthand to refer to them. You will see the following:

3d6 + 2

Now what does this mean? Simply put, it means "Roll three 6-Sided dice, and add up the results, then add 2 more to get the final result of the roll."

#### Max Out

Each time you roll a die, if the result of that die is equal to the highest number on the physical die, then you roll an extra die with the same number of sides, adding its result to your total roll. This is called a *Max Out*.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

Let's say you rolled 2d6 and got 4 and 6. Since the highest

value on a 6-Sided Die is a 6, one of these Max Out. You roll another 6-Sided Die and get a 5. This means the result of the roll is 15, instead of 10 from the initial roll.

#### NOTE:

If the extra die was a 6, you would NOT roll another die. You only roll additional dice according to your initial roll, NOT subsequent rolls.

#### Situational Modifiers

To manage all the possible situations, *The Director* may impose a *Situation Modifier* to your roll. This may help or hinder your chances at success.

#### Advantage (ADV)

Advantage represents some benefit to the situation. Rolling with Advantage means to roll one more die of the same size and disregard the die with the lowest result.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

Rolling 2d6 with Advantage means, first roll 3d6. Let's say you roll: 5, 1, and 6. You would ignore the 1 (lowest value), and your result would be 11 (5 + 6).

Roll one more die of the same Size and drop the Lowest Result

#### Favor (FAV)

Favor represents a significant benefit to a situation. Rolling for Favor means roll for Advantage, then add 2 to the result.

FAV = ADV + 2

#### Disadvantage (D-ADV)

Disadvantage represents some detriment to the situation. Rolling with Disadvantage means to roll one more die of the same size and disregard the die with the highest result.

#### **EXAMPLE**

Rolling 2d6 with
Disadvantage means, first
roll 3d6. With 5, 1, and 6
(from before). You would
ignore the 6 instead
(highest value), and your
result would be 6 (5 + 1).

Roll one more die of the same Size and drop the **Highest** Result

#### Disfavor (D-FAV)

Disfavor represents a significant detriment to a situation. Rolling for Disfavor means roll for Disadvantage, then subtract 2 from the result.

D-FAV = D-ADV - 2

#### NOTE:

Character effects can impose various modifiers to the rolls.

#### Rounding

Sometimes, you will need to divide a result, resulting a fraction. When this happens, round down to the nearest whole number to get the actual result.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

Halving 13 would give a result of 6, which is 6.5 rounded down.

#### Level Bonus (LB)

In different circumstances, your character will apply a generic bonus, known as their *Level Bonus (LB)*, based on their experience as an Adventurer. The table below illustrates the value to add depending on their level.

Level Bonus (LB)	
Level Range	Bonus
$1^{st} - 5^{th}$	+2
$6^{th} - 15^{th}$	+3
$15^{th} - 30^{th}$	+4

#### DISCLAIMER:

You can remember this as your character's: First 5, Next 10, and Last 15 levels. We will discuss levels in detail later.

#### Level Penalty (LP)

Another common adjustment is their *Level Penalty (LP)*. Unlike your character's *LB*, their *LP* is used to represent inexperience or weakness in a situation. It is the difference between six and your character's *LB*. For convenience, the table below lists the negative values.

Level Penalty (LP)	
Level Range	Bonus
$1^{st} - 5^{th}$	<del>-</del> 4
$6^{th} - 15^{th}$	<b>-</b> 3
15 <sup>th</sup> - 30 <sup>th</sup>	-2

LP = 6 - LB

#### ROLEPLAYING

By roleplaying, you take on the persona of another person with their own personality, values, goals, and so on to engage with the world and its story. Let's use a book as an example.

#### Characters are In-Game

In-Game refers to describing the places, events, characters, and anything else through the eyes of the character within the book.

We call the character in the book the *Character*. Each *Character* is an *In-Game* persona controlled by a *Player* that navigates, interacts, and affects the game world.

#### The Party

A typical game consists of three to five *Characters*, known the *Party*. These Characters are played by Players and The Director. The Party is the focus of each adventure.

#### Players are Out-of-Game

By contrast, *Out-of-Game* refers to the perspective of the person *reading* the book. The reader is known as the *Player*.

As a *Player* you will manage the mechanical

impacts of the decisions of your *Character*, acting on their behalf much like a performer playing a role in a play.

#### NOTE:

A *Player* may have more information than their *Character*.

#### DISCLAIMER:

Separating *Player* from *Character* can be challenging. When deciding your character's actions, consider *their* knowledge and personality without your own insights. Does yelling at a movie character affect what they do?

#### The Director

The Director is responsible for the inner workings of the game world. They present the world to the *Players* and their *Characters*, handle interactions, make rulings, and keep story moving forward.

#### Non-Player Character

Non-Player Characters, often called NPCs, are just like Characters except no Player is acting on their behalf. Instead, NPCs are part of the game world with their actions managed by The Director.

#### Playing Together

The goal is for the *Party* and *The Director* to work together to build a world. Through your *Character*, you will affect the world by exploring, overcoming challenges, forging relationships, and other roleplaying decisions.

The Director will be the opposition, playing as the monsters and devising traps, puzzles, and other obstacles for the Party. Additionally, they will be the scholar, banker, shopkeeper, healer, and your assistance.

In short, working with, and helping, *The Director* will lead to a better game.

#### TIME OF PLAY

#### **Game Time**

Game Time is quite flexible, speeding up and slowing down to fit the Story as told by The Director.
Events will vary from seconds to years.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

Two hours pass for the Player, but three days pass for the Character.

#### Adventure

An *Adventure* is any arc in a *Story* that has a definitive start and end.

#### **Non-Game Time**

Non-Game Time refers to the time spent in the real world.

#### Session

A Session is any amount of time of continuous play. Each Session may cover multiple Adventures.

#### EXAMPLE:

If you start at nine o' clock and end at twelve o' clock, then you played a 3-Hour Session.

#### Campaign

The *Campaign* is the whole *Story*, consisting of multiple *Sessions*, or games, where the *Story* progresses.

#### Note:

A *Campaign* can be completed in one *Session*.

### **ABILITY SCORES**

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#### ATTRIBUTES AND CAPACITIES

The six Ability Scores — Toughness, Agility, Focus, Reason, Belief, and Cooperation — define your character's innate capabilities. Each has a value, modifier, focus, and is in one of two categories: Attributes and Capacities.

#### **Attributes**

Attributes provide an initial benefit and a consistent bonus, addressing questions like "What does my character start with?" and "How much gets added?"

#### **Toughness**

Toughness measures the vitality and physical prowess of your character. It is how well your character can keep fighting, survive physical ailments and injuries.

#### Agility

Agility is your character's ability to be quick and nimble – both mentally and physically. It affects your character's ability to use *Tactics* and *Spells*.

#### **Focus**

Focus represents your character's attention to detail and ability to perform delicate tasks. This will affect your character's starting expertise.

#### **Capacities**

Unlike Attributes,
Capacities have no initial
benefit; instead, they
represent a limit, or
maximum, for your
character. Capacities address
"How many can my character
have?"

#### Reason

Reason is your character's ability to learn, predict, and adapt to situations. It determines the number of Talents your character can have.

#### Belief

Belief represents your character's understanding of mythology and supernatural forces. Specifically, it determines the number of Rituals your character can know, and their ability to recognize magical effects.

#### Cooperation

A character with high Cooperation can develop a large network of different contacts. These contacts may provide information, aid, or, possibly, trouble.

#### DISCLAIMER:

Many of these topics will be discussed later.

#### **Apples and Ability Scores**

Another way to remember each *Ability Scores* is... apples:

- Toughness is resisting illness from a rotten apple, lifting apples, or cutting one.
- Agility is catching falling apples.
- Focus is throwing apples accurately or mastering tricks.
- Reason is knowing different apple varieties and how to grow them.
- Belief is recognizing magical apples and using them properly.
- Cooperation is sharing apple with others.

#### **ROLLING YOUR STATS**

Now that you understand the basis for the *Ability Scores*, let's generate them for your new character! Here's an overview:

- 1) Roll 3d6
- 2) Reroll one or more dice (3 times max)
- 3) Write down result
- 4) Repeat Steps 1 3 until you have six numbers
- 5) Assign one number to each Ability Score
- 6) Increase Ability Scores by 1 for each remaining Reroll (up to 18)

#### The Numbers

How about we do an example? Assume you roll 3d6 (three 6-Sided Dice) and get:

1, 4, 4

for your first roll. Now you could write this down as a 9 (1 + 4 + 4) or use one of your three *Rerolls*. Let's reroll the 1. You roll a 3; now you would have:

3, 4, 4

and only two Rerolls left. You could use another *Reroll* to reroll the 3 again, but it might not be worth it (what if you roll lower!). At this point, let's just write down 11 as one of your possible

Ability Scores.

On your second roll you get:

5, 6, 5

A great roll! We will keep this one as well and write down

You roll four more times – not using two of your *Rerolls* – and have the following numbers:

11, 16, 12, 12, 9, 14

#### **Assigning Ability Scores**

Depending on the character you intend to play, you may assign these numbers to different *Ability Scores*.

Let's say your character is strong; in fact, it is their most notable quality. Now is your character social, yet slightly dimwitted? Quick, yet blasphemous?

The first might have Ability Scores like:

EXAMPLE:

Toughness:	16
Agility:	12
Focus:	11
Reason:	9
Belief:	12
Cooperation:	14

while the second might look like:

EXAMPLE:

Toughness: 16
Agility: 14
Focus: 12
Reason: 12
Belief: 9
Cooperation: 11

#### **Unused Rerolls**

We haven't addressed the unused *Rerolls*! For each *Reroll* you didn't use, you may increase one *Ability Score* by one.

#### NOTE:

You CANNOT increase an *Ability Score* beyond 18.

If we had chosen the first list of *Ability Scores*, we could add 1 to both *Toughness* and *Focus*. Your character's new set of *Ability Scores* would be:

**EXAMPLE:** 

Toughness: 17
Agility: 12
Focus: 12
Reason: 9
Belief: 12
Cooperation: 14

Terrific! You now have the starting *Ability Scores* for your character.

### THE FOUNDATION

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#### KIN

Kin represents the commonality your character shares with those of the same Kin. Mechanically, Kin defines Movement, Age Ranges, some Physical Characteristics, and their Ancestry.

#### Movement

Movement has two definitions – Distance and Speed – and represents the amount of space traversed in a relatively short timeframe.

#### Distance

Distance is listed in feet, and is useful when precise location important, such as using grids or similar methods.

#### Speed

Speed is a one-word description, written in parenthesis, for when relative positioning is preferred.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

An Elf would have a Movement of "15 FT (Fast)".

#### Age Ranges

How long a character will live – barring the dangers of an Adventurer – is determined by their *Kin*.

For now, take note of the three *Age Range* categories

(Young, Adult, Old). We will use these to determine your characters Age when we talk about their Background.

#### DISCLAIMER:

A character's lifespan can influence their perceptions, morals, and behavior. For example, a short-lived Human may feel compelled to act quickly, while a long-lived Elf may be more deliberate, taking their time to prepare for consequences.

#### **Physical Characteristics**

Let's talk about some general measures for the space and appearance of your character. We will get into the specifics in the Extra Details section.

#### Scale

Scale measures how big your character is compared to other creatures, like pixies or giants. The nine Scales – from largest to smallest – are:

Colossal, Gargantuan, Huge, Large, Medium, Small, Tiny, Diminutive, and Fine

#### NOTE:

Scale determines the number of spaces occupied in a grid.

#### Build

Build is used to distinguish the relative weight of characters, or creatures, of the same Scale. The three Builds – from thin to thick – are:

Petite, Fair, or Bulky

#### NOTE:

"Heavier" characters can be muscular or have some extra padding. No judgements.

#### Stature

Stature focuses on their relative height. the three Statures – in increasing height – are:

Little, Average, or Tall

#### **Ancestry**

Your character's Ancestry is the key Trait or Ability that has persisted through generations of their Kin.

#### Bloodline

Each Kin has two Bloodline Traits and/or Abilities.
Characters with an Origin descending directly from their Kin gain both Bloodline Traits and/or Abilities, while crossbreeds with unrelated Origins may choose one Bloodline Trait or Ability instead.

#### Languages

Your character will speak and understand one or more languages depending on their *Kin, Origin,* and *Class*.

#### Language Families

Languages are grouped into five *Language Families* containing four languages each. Here's the breakdown:

#### Humanoid

 Brutak, Common, Dwarven, Elven

#### Magical

• Eldritch, Gnaelyth, Mechanus, Runic

#### Natural

 Chantary, Draconic, Primordial, Sylvan

#### Outsider

Astryn, Celestial,
 Duskmere, Elysian

#### Undead

• Abyssal, Infernal, Gloomshaed, Necril

#### NOTE:

Language descriptions are in *Character Resources*.

#### Comprehension

Comprehension depends on the similarity between languages. Characters speaking the same language can converse fluently, including complex topics.

Characters speaking languages from the same Language Family understand basic conversation but struggle with more advanced topics.

Communication across different *Language Families* is impossible, outside of vague gestures.

#### Note:

A character may comprehend what was said or gestured while misunderstanding what it meant.

Same Lang.  $\rightarrow$  Complex Lang. Family  $\rightarrow$  Normal No Lang. Family  $\rightarrow$  None

### Additional Languages Trained

Some languages require dedicated study, either due to their complexity or secrecy. *Trained* languages can be used to communicate with others who have learned the same *Trained* language. Some common *Trained* are:

- Druidic
- Guildspeak
- Sign
- Thieves' Cant
- Tongues

#### NOTE:

All Adventurers, including your character, can speak *Guildspeak*. *Party* members can communicate with one another via *Guildspeak*.

#### **Telepathy**

A Telepath is one who communicates through the minds of others (known as *Telepathy*). *Telepathy* follows the same *Comprehension* rules as non-*Trained* languages.

#### **ORIGIN**

Each Kin has multiple Origins with their own distinct region, culture, and history. For simplicity, each Origin embodies a Domain.

#### Heritage

Your character's Heritage represents what they have inherited from their family line. You will choose either a

Trait or Ability for their Heritage.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

You would choose Light-

Footed or Mask of the Wilds for the Forest Elf Heritage.

#### Lineage

Your character's *Lineage* reflects the knowledge gained from parents, caretakers, or other role models. You will choose from three options for their *Lineage*: a *Trait*, an *Ability*, or some bonus points to increase one or more *Ability Scores*.

#### NOTE:

Ability Scores CANNOT exceed 20.

There is one exception. Each *Origin* has a restricted *Ability Score*. Bonus points CANNOT be used to increase this *Ability Score* beyond its maximum value.

Up to 20 or Max Value

#### NOTE:

Sometimes your character is exceptional by having a value

already higher than their *Origin's* restriction.

#### EXAMPLE:

A Forest Elf has a maximum Cooperation score of 12. If your character's Cooperation is 14, then it CANNOT be increased. However, if it is 10 instead, and you have 3 bonus points, you can raise it to 11 or 12, using the remaining points for other Ability Scores.

#### BACKGROUND

Unanswered questions remain. What led your character to become an Adventurer? What were they doing beforehand? Each *Background* provides a description, offering context for your character's starting point.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

With their knowledge of, and deep connection with, nature, Trappers excel in tracking, hunting, foraging, and surviving in its harsh wilderness. Trappers tend to live in the wildness — often on the outskirts of towns or villages — seeking civilization occasionally to sell pelts, decorations, or food. As a

result, Trappers avoid most laws and public attention, seeming brutish, or downright savage, to some.

There are two parts to a *Background*:

- Creed your character's mannerisms.
- *Upbringing* some of their growth.

#### Creed

Your character's *Creed* focuses on:

- Adherence to authority
- Inspirations
- Personal item

#### Lawful and Unlawful

An important aspect of your character is their attitude toward laws and societal rules. Do they strictly follow the law, follow it when it makes sense, or operate by their own moral code? There are two scores:

- Lawful where higher means a greater adherence to authority and the legal system.
- Unlawful where higher means a preference for their own moral code over the law.

We will explore this with *Reputation*.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

A Trapper would have:

Lawful: 3 Unlawful: -3

#### **Inspiring Tasks**

Inspiring Tasks are what inspires and motivates your character as an Adventurer. To keep things simple, your character will have five Inspiring Tasks.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

A Trapper would have the following five Inspiring Tasks:

- 1) Protect an animal.
- Set a Trap and catch a creature in it.
- Overcome a challenging wilderness environment.
- 4) Track down a creature.
- 5) Hunt down a magical creature for sport.

Completing three of the five *Inspiring Tasks*, grants one *Inspiration Point*. *Inspiration Points* can be used to add a d6 to any roll.

#### NOTE:

After gaining an Inspiration Point, your character's Inspiration Tasks reset, meaning they will need complete three Inspiring Tasks just as before. These can be different or the same as before.

### 3 of 5 Tasks $\rightarrow$ 1d6 (Inspiration Point) & Reset

#### DISCLAIMER:

Work with *The Director* as *Inspiring Tasks* are broad to fit multiple settings.

#### Heirloom

Are you curious what your character brought with them? Characters bring an inherited item – an *Heirloom* – that comes with a unique benefit.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

Trappers get a Lucky Rabbit's Foot, granting a reroll.

#### DISCLAIMER:

Heirlooms are sentimental items that should NOT be sold!

#### **Upbringing**

Your character's *Upbringing* focuses on what they do day-to-day and what others know about them.

#### Starting Skill

What skillset did your character developed from their *Background?* This skillset gives an increase to that area's *Mastery*.

#### Lifestyle

How does your character live day-to-day? Do they enjoy luxury or prefer simple, handcrafted items? Their *Lifestyle* reflects these

choices, with four categories. From lowest to highest, they are:

- Meager Basic housing, minimal possessions, simple food, and occasional reliance on community support.
- Frugal Modest housing, careful management of limited resources, focusing on necessities over luxuries.
- Decent Comfortable housing with some luxuries, a diverse diet, and quality clothing.
- Lavish Luxurious housing, fine food, entertainment, and highend furnishings.

With their *Lifestyle* comes two *Utility* items. These can be any non-combat centric item that fits their *Lifestyle* or lower.

#### Two Utility Items

#### **EXAMPLE:**

A Decent Lifestyle could have a Meager and Decent item, two Decent items, but NOT any Lavish items.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

Your character could have a supply of various teas, but NOT a collection of throwing knives.

#### NOTE:

Lifestyle also affects the cost of goods during Downtime and while Haggling.

#### Fame and Infamy

Fame and Infamy are a combination of your character's notoriety and acceptance of their actions. Fame is generally accepted by society, while Infamy is frowned upon – to say the least.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

A Trapper would have the following:

Fame: 1
Infamy: -1

#### Age Category

Do you remember the *Age* Ranges from your character's Kin? The specific *Age* 

Category is the time spent before becoming an Adventurer.

Later, we will use your character's Age Category (Upbringing) and Age Range (Kin) to determine their current Age. For now, note the Age Category.

#### Recovery Time (RT)

Each *Background* will have one of four *Recovery Time* (*RTs*):

Recovery Times		
Dawn	4a – 10a	
Day	10a – 4p	
Dusk	4p - 10p	
Dark	10p – 4a	

In general, your character's *Recovery Time (RT)* indicates the time of day when they feel most energized and ready to take action.

#### NOTE:

For different timescales, *RTs* can be defined as quarters of a day. A 32-hour day would have four 8-hour *RTs* instead.

#### DISCLAIMER:

Many abilities and rules refer to your character's RT.

#### **Combining Backgrounds**

You may choose a *Creed* from one *Background* and an *Upbringing* from either the same *Background* or a different one when determining your character's *Background*.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

Your character's Creed and Upbringing are both from the Trapper Background. Or they have the Creed of a Trapper and the Upbringing of a Scholar.

#### Additional Properties

#### **Ability Score Modifiers**

After establishing your character's *Ability Scores*, you need to calculate each *Ability Score Modifier* by halving each *Ability Score* (rounded down).

Mod equals ½ Score

#### **EXAMPLE:**

With a 17 for Toughness, its Modifier is 8 (17  $\div$  2 = 8.5, rounded down is 8).

Once done, let's see how they are used:

- Toughness determines starting Body and is used to increase it.
- Agility is used to increase Vigor.

- Focus is the number of points to increase Mastery Levels.
- Reason is the number of Talents.
- Belief is the number of Rituals.
- Cooperation is the number of Connections.

#### Health

Health represents your character's limit for injury. During Encounters, your character might take damage, reducing their:

- Body or physical tolerance for sustaining multiple injuries.
- Will or fortitude to keep going despite the injuries.

#### Starting Values

Both *Body* and *Will* depend on your character's *Toughness*. They start with:

 Body – equal to their Toughness Modifier.

#### Body equals TOU MOD

 Will – equal to their Toughness Ability Score.

Will equals TOU

#### Healing Body and Will

Healing let's your character recover from their injuries, often through Spells, items, and Rest. In general,

- Body heals quickly, especially from Rest.
- Will heals slowly, gaining points equal to their Level Bonus during each Recovery Time.

 $RT \rightarrow Add LB to Will$ 

#### Increasing Body and Will

As your character faces increasing dangers, they need to increase their:

 Body – by two when gaining a Level.

#### +2 each Level

Will – by increasing
 Toughness during
 Character Development.

When increasing TOU

#### Vigor

Another form of vitality is *Vigor*, representing your character's endurance. It is reduced when using *Spells* or *Tactics*.

Your character starts with Vigor equal to their Agility Ability Score.

Vigor equals Agility

#### Restoring Vigor

Your character can fully restore their *Vigor* by spending 10 minutes on a focused activity during their Recovery Time. This activity should be a consistent behavior that fits them.

Reset after 10 min activity during RT

#### **EXAMPLE:**

Using 8 of your character's 14 Vigor leaves 6 Vigor (14 – 8). For Dawn, they can spend 10 minutes between 4a and 10p to reset their Vigor to 14.

#### Increasing Vigor Max

Your character can increase their *Vigor*, each level, by an amount of *Vigor* equal to their *Agility Modifier*.

Add Agility Mod to Vigor

#### Temporary Vigor

Through Spells, Abilities, Items, or Rituals, your character may gain Temporary Vigor. Temporary Vigor is separate from Vigor, acting as bonus points that do NOT count against the maximum. Temporary Vigor is always used first.

#### **Mastery Basics**

New Adventurers lack some of the awareness, finesse, and expertise – or *Mastery* – of a seasoned Adventurer. Your character's:

- Mastery Level (ML) is the gradual progression in an area.
- Mastery Rank (Rank) a is the overall status and expertise. Their Rank depends on their ML.

NAME	ML RANGE
Unskilled	0
Elder	1-3
Grand Elder	4 – 6
Arch Elder	7 – 9
Master Elder	10

#### Areas of Mastery

Your character will specialize in five areas, called *Masteries*. Increasing Mastery in:

- Melee and Range improves damage output.
- Defense improves
   Bracing and Avoiding.
- Tactical and Magical grants ever more powerful Tactics and Spells.

#### **Starting Mastery**

No Adventurer would set out without *some* expertise.

#### Creed

Your character's *Creed* sets one *Skill Mastery* to *Elder One*.

#### Focus

You character gets a number of points to increase their *Mastery* equal to their *Focus Modifier*. The number of points needed to increase their *Mastery* is equal to the next *Mastery Level* (see below).

<b>Mastery Level</b>	<b>Points Needed</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	1
2 <sup>nd</sup>	3
3 <sup>rd</sup>	6
4 <sup>th</sup>	10

#### Perception

Perception is a way for your character to notice things, within 30 FT, without direct Investigation. Their Perception is tied to their highest Ability Score, affecting the kinds of things they will notice.

Highest Ability Score Passive within 30 FT

### **EXPANDING THE IDEA**

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#### EXTRA DETAILS

We have detailed some character aspects with various rules implications, but there is more to them. These extra details will help you visualize and roleplay your character.

#### **Physical Appearance**

What do they look like? Do they stand up tall and straight, or are they hunched over with a cane? What color are their eyes? Are their eyes different colors? How can they be easily recognized?

#### DISCLAIMER:

Each *Origin* has suggestions for physical appearance.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

Your character could be an Elf with one pointed ear and one scarred and flattened — an old wound. Maybe they are balding with white tuffs on either side, greyish skin, and strong, gold penetrating

eyes. Tattoos of Elven sayings weave along their right arm. And so on.

#### **Identifying Qualities**

When your character is asked about themselves, how will they answer?

- What is your name traveler?
- What be your interest?
- How old will you be?

Some generic questions but you get the idea.

#### Name

Choose a name that you can remember, and consider aligning it with your character's *Kin, Origin,* and/or *Languages*.

#### Age

Your character's Age is the only quality with some setup. Refer to the Kin Age Range that matches the Age Category of your character's

*Upbringing*. Choose any value within that range for their *Age*.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

An Elf is Young from 25 to 75 years old, so your character could be 32, 66, or any other number from 25 to 75.

#### Depiction

Your character's *Depiction* is any other details to explain their outward expression, mating capabilities, traditions, preferences, and so on.

#### Other Considerations

We have highlighted some of the more important details for your character; however, you could certainly add more details such as their homeland, deity, birthday, nickname, and so on.

#### **BUILDING THEIR STORY**

Now that we have covered the mechanics of your character — who they are, what they do, and where they come from – it's time to focus on their story! What drives them to a life of

adventure filled with treasure and danger. We will define some of the "who" of your character.

Consider why you – or anyone else – should care about them. What makes

them important? Different? Interesting? And so on. The richer your character, the more you and *The Director* can add to the *Story*.

Your character should have ambitions, internal

conflicts, and quirks that evolve throughout the *Story*. Think of memorable characters in books or movies; they struggle with choices, make mistakes, and grow. Each has a role, or theme to play. Are they the comic relief, the glue, obsessive, or the one with impossibly high standards.

#### NOTE:

Don't detail everything. Leave room for growth.

#### DISCLAIMER:

Creating a character similar to you can be easier to roleplay for newer players; however, separating *Player* from *Character* is more challenging.

#### **Backstory**

Your character's *Backstory* is a brief history that explains where they came from and what drove them to become an adventurer. Consider how they would answer: "Where are you from, and why are you here?" The *Backstory* should be short enough to share easily but detailed enough to establish depth and purpose.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

A Forest Elf Warrior with the *Trapper Background* might have a *Backstory* of: "Lira, a Forest Elf Warrior, grew up in a peaceful village beneath an ancient forest.
Her life changed when horrors emerged from an otherworldly portal, devastating her home. A knight, Arelia, offered her a choice: stay and hide or leave and fight. Lira chose to leave her Trapper life behind to train with Arelia, determined to one day return and free her village."

#### DISCLAIMER:

The Director can give insights into the world to help you develop a *Backstory*.

#### Friends and Family

What are your character's relationships? Who raised them? Were they adopted? Or raised by an older sibling, parent, grandparent, aunt or uncle, or someone else entirely? Adding this detail expands the world with gives your character resources to draw on.

#### Personality

So far you have detailed your character's *Backstory, Friends*, and *Family*, but how do they act and behave.

#### Drive

Inspiring Tasks represent positive moments as an Adventurer, while their Drive is their goal. Their mission! What do they aspire to

achieve? What keeps them from quitting?

Answering these questions, will help you roleplay your character through difficult situations and establish an arc – changing them little by little.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

A wronged character may seek vengeance. Another embraces darkness, hoping to resurrect a loved one. Or they are on the run, just trying to stay alive.

#### Ideals

Ideals focus on "how" your character pursue their goals. Will they use any means necessary, or do they have boundaries? Ideals are guidelines for their behavior, serving as a baseline in uncertain situations.

#### EXAMPLE:

A character opposes putting any innocent in danger.

#### Likes

What does your character like? What do they constantly seek out or talk about? These can be objects or activities they enjoy.

#### EXAMPLE:

A character fond of tea, might seek out new brews, purchase tea from the local tavern, or hold conversations about tea.

#### Dislikes

Similarly, what does your character dislike? Hypocrisy? Magic? Perhaps they prefer swords to axes or hammers.

Dislikes add reluctance to your character, encouraging alternative approaches. They might do it, but they won't be happy about it.

#### **Fears**

What fears does your character have? These fears serve as significant obstacles, creating roleplay opportunities for other players.

Imagine your character has a fear of dragons. Instead of facing it head on your character might hesitate, opting for ranged attacks or focusing on weaker enemies. Or preferring to avoid it all together, discovering a hidden route.

And if the situation becomes dire, your character may muster enough strength to confront their fear, long enough to best the dragon. A victory worthy or retelling!

#### Flaws

Similarly, your character should have some flaws. Is your character impulsive? Are they stubborn? Do they fixate on one thing for too long? Are they vengeful? And so on. Their *Flaws* should put them into somewhat awkward situations from time to time, requiring improvisation or assistance.

#### Strengths

Your character's *Skills, Traits, Abilities*, and more are one form strength. Consider other qualities or aspects where they are exceptional.

#### EXAMPLE:

A character is good at a particular game, or a renown comedian, or is trustworthy, or is uplifting.

Well, that's it! You have a created the start of your character. As they go on adventures, they will grow both mechanically and thematically. Next, we will get your character prepared for their first adventure!

## **Adventure Awaits**

As an aspiring Adventurer you must ready yourself for the perils ahead. Let's get ready to play.

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### PREPARING FOR ADVENTURE

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#### INVENTORY

Where will your character store their belongings? It's assumed they can carry a few essential items in a backpack or satchel.

It would be unrealistic for your character to carry an unlimited number of items — imagine hauling 32,000 candles or 1,500 battleaxes!

#### Slots

Your character gets
12 General Slots and
3 Encumbered Slots to store
stowed away items. The
General Slots can be used
freely without consequence,
while the Encumbered Slots
affect them during Complex
Encounters.

12 General Slots 3 Encumbered Slots

#### Bulk

With such limited *Slots*; how does your character carry anything? Well, in each *Slot* they can carry a certain number of items depending on the *Bulk* of those items. Here are the types of *Bulk*:

 Armaments – largest or heaviest, frequently reused items.

- Implements large or significantly heavy, often reusable items.
- Tools medium or fairly heavy, reusable, sometimes breakable, items.
- Provisions small or light, slowly consumed items.
- Supplies smallest or lightest items that usually deplete quickly.

The *Quantity Limit* that can be stored in a single *Slot* are:

Type	<b>Quantity Limit</b>
Armaments	1
Implements	2
Tools	5
Provisions	10
Supplies	20

#### Filling a Slot

How does this work in practice? Well, you can add an item to empty or an incomplete *Slot*.

After adding the new item, the empty *Slot* becomes suitable *only* for items of the same *Bulk* and holds a number of items up to its *Quantity Limit*. Once all items in that *Slot* are removed – creating an empty

Slot – any item of any Bulk can be put into that Slot.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

Adding a Longsword – an implement – to an empty Slot would fill it (1 item with a Quantity Limit of 1). Adding some String – a Tool – instead would leave space for more String or some other Tools (being 1 of 5 items for that Slot).

#### **Encumbrance**

Sometimes your character needs to carry extra items, restricting and tiring them. While carrying these extra items, your character is *Encumbered*. With each *Encumbered Slot* used, the impact to your character in *Encounters* will increase.

#### **Containers**

Containers give additional Slots to transport, or store, items. Your character, a mount, or a hired hand will need to carry the Container.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

Chests and the saddlebags on a horse are some common Containers. A hireling or carriage commonly carry, or transport, Containers.

#### **RESOURCES PACKS**

Every good Adventurer needs a few key items. Add the following to your character's *Inventory*:

Name	Qty	Bulk
Bedroll	1	Implement
10 FT Rope	1	Tool
Canteen	1	Tool
Tinderbox	2	Provision

#### **Packs**

Additionally, they have the items from *one* of the following *Packs*:

#### Academic

A *Pack* for characters dedicated to studying and researching, needing tools for documentation and organization.

Name	Qty	Bulk
Lantern	1	Implement
Lens Set	1	Tool
Writing Set	2	Provision

#### The Sets are:

- Lens Set contains magnifying glass, cloth, and water.
- Writing Set –
  contains quills,
  parchment, and ink.

#### Choose one:

 Crystal Ball – an Implement with divination and scrying potential.

- Archivist Pass a
   Supply with access to
   restricted
   knowledge.
- Memory Crystal (2) –
   a Provision with
   stored information
   or recollections.

#### Brawler

A *Pack* for characters focused on physical combat and training, requiring gear to support their strength and readiness.

Name	Qty	Bulk
Medallion	1	Tool
Sharpening Set	1	Tool
Medicine Set	1	Provision

#### The Sets are:

- Sharpening Set –
   contains whetstone,
   oil, and leather strap.
- Medicine Set –
   contains bandages,
   thread, needles.

#### Choose one:

- Flask a Provision for relaxing the body and mind.
- Training Dummy an Implement for honing combat techniques.
- Anti-Pain Vial (5) a Supply for swift pain relief.

#### Cook

A *Pack* for characters who specialize in preparing and cooking food, needing tools and ingredients for their culinary tasks.

Name	Qty	Bulk
Blanket	1	Tool
Cooking Set	1	Implement

#### The Sets are:

Cooking Set –
 contains cookware,
 spices, cooking knife,
 flint, and steel.

#### Choose one:

- Smoke Box a
   Provision for
   preserving or
   flavoring food.
- Fire-Resistant Gloves

   a Tool for handling
   hot surfaces.
- Mortar and Pestle –

   a Tool for grinding
   herbs and spices.

#### Disciple

A *Pack* for characters involved in spiritual practices or rituals, requiring items for ceremonies and meditation.

Name	Qty	Bulk
Bell	1	Provision
Talisman	1	Tool
Purity Set	2	Provision

The Sets are:

 Purity Set – contains holy water, incense, and prayer beads.

#### Choose one:

- Offering Bowl a Tool for spiritual ceremonies or sacrifices.
- Spirit Drum an Implement for invoking divine resonance.
- Pillow an
   Implement for
   meditative comfort.

#### Hunter

A *Pack* for characters skilled in tracking and survival, needing gear for hunting, trapping, and wilderness navigation.

Name	Qty	Bulk
Skull	1	Provision
Fishing Set	1	Implement
Whistle	1	Provision

#### The Sets are:

 Fishing Set – contains fishing rod, net, and line.

#### Choose one:

- Trowel a Tool for digging traps or burrows.
- Animal Pelt an
   Implement for warmth or disguise.
- Small Cage a Tool for capturing small game.

#### Maker

A *Pack* for characters engaged in crafting and building, needing tools and materials for creating and repairing items.

Name	Qty	Bulk
Artisan Set	1	Implement
String	5	Provision
Chalk	5	Supply

#### The Sets are:

Artisan Set –
 contains a mallet,
 saw, nails, and glue.

#### Choose one:

- Workbench an
   Implement for crafting or repairs.
- Measuring Tape a Provision for precise crafting.
- Whittling Tools a Tool for detailed wood carving.

#### **Outcast**

A *Pack* for characters living on the fringes of society or wandering, needing basic survival gear and personal essentials.

Name	Qty	Bulk
Pocket Mirror	1	Tool
Criminal Set	1	Tool
Smoke Pellets	10	Supply

#### The Sets are:

Criminal Set –
 contains crowbar,
 grappling hook, and
 gloves.

#### Choose one:

- Loaded Dice a Provision for manipulating games of chance.
- Multitool a Tool with versatile, practical uses.
- Invisible Ink (3) a Supply for secret messages.

#### Performer

A *Pack* for characters who entertain or perform, needing costumes, props, and equipment for their acts.

Name	Qty	Bulk
10 FT Pole	1	Implement
Theater Set	1	Tool

#### The Sets are:

Theater Set –
 contains an
 instrument, masks,
 and paints.

#### Choose one:

- Herald's Horn a Tool for projecting sound to large audiences.
- Dyes (5) a Supply for costumes or set decoration.
- Juggling Props an Implement for entertainment or distraction.

#### Traveler

A *Pack* for characters embarking on journeys, requiring essential supplies and comfort items for long travels.

Name	Qty	Bulk
Navigation Set	1	Tool
Torches	5	Supply

#### The Sets are:

Navigation Set –
contains compass,
spyglass, and trail
markers.

#### Choose one:

- Survival Guide a Tool with tips for harsh environments.
- Timepiece a Tool for tracking time.
- Shovel a Tool for clearing paths or digging shelters.

#### Rations

Where would your character be without food? Your character starts with 1d10 Rations. Rations *Provisions* (max of 10 per *Slot*).

1d10 Rations (Provisions)

#### **TREASURE**

Before we pick out items let's explain currency. Aside from bartering, currency makes trading and collecting bounties easier.

#### Coins

There are five types of coins used as currency. From lowest to highest, these are:

- Brass Pieces (BP)
- Copper Pieces (CP)
- Silver Pieces (SP)
- Gold Pieces (GP)
- Platinum Pieces (PP)

#### The conversation rates are:

1 PP	=	100	GP
	=	10,000	SP
	=	1,000,000	CP
	=	100,000,000	BP
1 GP	=	100	SP
	=	10,000	CP
	=	1,000,000	BP
1 SP	=	100	CP
	=	10,000	BP
1 PP	=	100	GP
1 GP	=	100	SP
1 SP	=	100	СР
1 CP	=	100	BP

 $BP \rightarrow CP \rightarrow SP \rightarrow GP \rightarrow PP$ 100 to 1 (Low to High)

#### **Brass**

The Brass Pieces (BP) is the lowest valued coin and is often used as spare change for beggars and to purchase low quality, everyday items.

#### Copper

For most commoners, and beginning adventurers, Copper Pieces (CP) are used. It is used to buy everyday items, like rations and torches, and give cheap rewards.

#### Silver

More established Adventurers and those of a modest lifestyle frequently use *Silver Pieces (SP)* in their day-to-day purchase. Reasonable equipment and services can be purchased.

#### Gold

The Gold Pieces (GP) is used by the wealthy, aristocratic, or highly successful Adventurers. Gold Pieces (GP) are used for purchasing magic items and other expensive items and services.

#### Platinum

The *Platinum Pieces (PP)* is the highest valued coin and is used by nobles and royals, purchase very expensive items, or easily transport large sums of currency.

#### DISCLAIMER:

One way to think about the currency is in terms of US dollars. One *Brass Piece* is the same as a penny or \$0.01. One *Copper Piece* is \$1, one *Silver Piece* is \$100, one *Gold Piece* is \$10,000, and lastly, one *Platinum Piece* is \$1,000,000. These may change based on the *Story's* setting.

#### **Gems and Stones**

In addition to normal currency, gems can be bought, sold, and found. Various gems exist, some have magical properties, some are used in *Rituals*, and some are just valuable.

#### EXAMPLE:

Gems include sapphires, rubies, opals, pearls, and so on. A couple stones are Dragonstone and Sunstone.

#### Starting Out

Let's see how many Copper Pieces (CP) your character has left after purchasing Packs. Roll 5d6 and multiple by 10.

5d6 × 10 CP

#### SHOPPING

So, coins, gems, and stones... but what is the cost of an item or service?

#### **Purchasing Goods**

Your character can buy or sell a good at face value (*Base Price*) or negotiate for a better price (*Haggling*).

### Expense Categories Lifestyle Coin

All goods are given an Expense Category that groups them by their value (Coin) and who might purchase them (Lifestyle). This Expense Category is used to determine the price.

#### Average Price

During *Downtime*, and when no roleplaying occurs, your character will purchase goods for the *Base Price*. The *Base Price* of a good depends on its *Expense Category* (see below).

Lifestyle	Base
Meager	5 Pieces
Frugal	20 Pieces
Decent	45 Pieces
Lavish	80 Pieces

#### **EXAMPLE:**

Meager Silver goods cost 5 SP while Decent Gold goods cost 45 GP instead.

#### Haggle Price

Where would a good Adventurer be without some negotiating? Two things to consider when *Haggling*:

- Haggling can be beneficial or detrimental.
- The more extravagant the good, the more volatile its prices.

Here are the adjustments to the *Base Price* depending on the goods *Expense Category*.

Lifestyle	Haggle Price
Meager	5 ± d4 Pieces
Frugal	20 ± d6 Pieces
Decent	45 ± d12 Pieces
Lavish	80 ± d20 Pieces

#### Availability of Goods

Some goods can be difficult to find. In larger cities, your character is more likely to find what they need, but certain items may only be available in specific regions or through particular quests or ventures.

#### **Selling Goods**

If your character sells goods to a local shop, they are worth *half* the final *Price*.

1/2 of Price

#### Note:

The price can be after Haggling or not.

#### **Purchasing Services**

Services are bought and sold just like goods Here are some common services:

Service	<b>Expense Category</b>
Lodging	Decent Copper
Transcribing	Meager Silver
Tailoring	Frugal Silver
Healing	Lavish Silver
Smithing	Frugal Gold
Training	Decent Gold

#### NOTE:

Your character can *Haggle* or not.

#### **Selling Services**

What if you character offers a service? Unlike, selling a good, they can charge the full price.

#### NOTE:

For other services, use the Expense Category of a good with similar value.

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#### Making Checks

#### Difficulty Checks (DCs)

Not all challenges are equal, having different degrees of difficulty (shown below). *The Director* determines what the *DC* is depending on the likelihood of succeeding the task by an average Adventurer.

TASK DIFFICULTY	VALUE	%
Easy	8	65%
Average	12	45%
Challenging	16	25%
Hard	20	5%
Very Hard	24	<5%

#### **EXAMPLE:**

Climbing a ladder in the rain may require a DC8 (Easy) to succeed, while climbing the side of a cliff in heavy rain may require a DC16 (Challenging).

The Director will narrate significant success, success, hindered success, or outright failure according to the situation and result of Check. But what is a Check?

#### **Ability Check**

Ability Checks are used for nonspecific situations, requiring a generic, or raw, capability of your character.

 Toughness – for highly physical task or suffering from a physical trauma.

- Agility for bouts of speed, athleticism, or quick wittedness.
- Focus for when concentration or timing are important.
- Reason for solving logical puzzles, and other challenges, or when devising crafty solutions.
- Belief for performing or being affected by a Ritual or other supernatural source.
- Cooperation for being perceived by or relying on others.

Roll a d20 and add your character's *Level Bonus*. If your result is at least the *DC* value, then your character succeeds.

#### $1d20 + LB \ge DC$

Additionally, if their *Ability Score Modifier* is seven or more, then roll with Advantage instead.

#### $Mod \ge 7 \rightarrow ADV$

#### Skills

Before we get to Skill Checks, what are Skills? Skills are specific skillsets used to accomplish different tasks. They are "grouped" by Ability Scores, illustrating related approaches to common situations.

#### **Toughness**

- Balance for physical and mental stability.
- Dungeoneering for familiarity with caves and other structures.

#### **Agility**

- Artistry for carpentry, masonry, blacksmithing, forgery, art, and so on.
- Evasion for obscurity, avoidance, and concealment.

#### **Focus**

- Investigation for searching a person or area.
- Linguistics for reading and eavesdropping.

#### Reason

- Alchemy for creating potions, elixirs, and other natural concoctions.
- Spellcraft for using or enchanting magical items.

#### Belief

- Nature for wilderness and other natural phenomenon.
- Religion for deities, practices, traditions, and moral teachings.

### Cooperation

- Influence for affecting, persuading, or negotiating with others.
- Society for cultural and political understanding (i.e. laws, processes, events, activities, etc.).

### Skill Checks

Skill Checks are for situations requiring a specific skillset. When making a Skill Check, your character can choose to lean on their Mastery Rank or Level.

### NOTE:

Unlike *Ability Checks*, there is NO *LB* restriction.

### Mastery Rank

Using your character's *Mastery Rank* is a riskier approach to performing a task. They might stumble (rolling low) or surpass expectations (rolling high). This gives your character a chance to succeed tasks more beneficially or where success seems impossible.

Roll a d20 and the *Bonus Dice* (see below) for that *Skill*.

NAME	BONUS DICE	
Unskilled	_	
Elder	1d4	
Grand Elder	2d4	
Arch Elder	3d4	
Master Elder	4d4	

If the roll is at least the *DC*, the roll succeeds.

### Mastery Level

Using your character's Mastery Level leans on their expertise, and average degree of skill.

Roll a d20 and add their *ML* for that *Skill*. If the result is at least the *DC*, it succeeds.

1d20 + ML ≥ DC

### Other Methods

So far, we have explored Ability and Skill Checks attempted by your character. What if there is opposition? Or help? Or more to do? These are Contests, Group Checks, or Basic Encounters, respectively.

### Contest

In a Contest you will make an Ability or Skill Check, but you will compare your roll against someone else instead of a DC. All participants roll a d20 and add their character's Modifier or ML. The task or action with the highest roll succeeds (is performed).

1d20 + Mod vs. 1d20 + Mod OR 1d20 + ML vs. 1d20 + ML

### NOTE:

Party members win ties.

### Group

When performing the same task in a group, the group may make an *Ability* or *Skill Check* together. Each participant rolls a d20 and adds their *Modifier* or *ML*. Add each result to get the final result.

This result is compared against a *Group DC (GDC)* instead. While performing a task together, and success depends on all participants, – add 10 to the DC for each participant beyond the first.

### DISCLAIMER:

The Director determines the GDC.

Just as before, the task is successful if the final result is at least the *GDC*.

Total ≥ GDC

### DISCLAIMER:

Although the *GDC* increases with each participant, succeeding the task gets easier.

### Basic Encounter

Sometimes working as a group requires everyone to take different actions. This becomes a *Basic Encounter*.

Each *Player* will choose an action and make the *Ability* 

or *Skill Check* for it. Each success is determined separately with each one counting towards the success of the *Basic Encounter*.

### **EXAMPLE:**

The Party is running from a mindless horde of skeletons

The Party stops just before falling into a pit. Quickly, the Cleric shines a bright light dazing the horde and the Rogue passes the end of a rope to the Warrior. If the Rogue throws the rope well, the Warrior catches it, pulls it taut, and the Cleric dazes the

whole horde, the horde will fall into the pit. If someone drops the ball – or rope – then some skeletons fall in, but the others remain. If everyone stumbles, then well...

### REPUTATION QUALITIES

As your character interacts in the world, they will stake and alter their *Reputation* – a measure of the opinion of others.

How will your character be introduced to others? What will people say of them? Will it invoke fear or respect? Worry or hope?

A strong *Reputation* will grant your character access and assistance from some and contempt and reluctance from others. Having a neutral *Reputation*, gives your character some general sway with a larger group of people; however, each person will be less helpful.

### **Fundamental Qualities**

We have already discussed Fame, Infamy, Lawful, and Unlawful when choosing the Background for your character. The values listed in their Background

serve as the starting point for your character's *Reputation*.

### **Derived Qualities**

There are four broader qualities, called *Derived Qualities*, that are the highest of two *Fundamental Qualities*. Here's an overview:

	Lawful	Unlawful
Fame	Orderly	Moral
Infamy	Disorderly	Immoral

Let's look at what they cover and how to calculate them.

### Orderly

An *Orderly* character is hailed as the one who always takes the straight path – following laws, not matter the situation.

Your character's *Orderly* value is the greatest of their *Fame* and *Lawful* values.

Orderly equals higher of Fame and Lawful

### Disorderly

A Disorderly character ignores the spirit of the rules, instead seeking to maximum their utility – not illegal, just questionable. Some see this as taking advantage of the system, while others see it as just playing the game.

Your character's Disorderly value is the greatest of their Infamy and Lawful values.

Disorderly equals higher of Infamy and Lawful

### Moral

A *Moral* character seeks to do right – by any means necessary. They are revered for addressing problems, but it would be better if they did so legally. For them, the legal system is either too slow or inadequate.

Your character's *Moral* value is the greatest of their *Fame* and *Unlawful* values.

### Moral equals higher of Fame and Unlawful

### **Immoral**

An *Immoral* character see laws as arbitrary or not applicable and are often characterized as society's worst. They will keep promises or break them. Fundamentally, they are survivors, considering each situation and acting as they see fit.

Your character's *Immoral* value is the greatest of their *Infamy* and *Unlawful* values.

Immoral equals higher of Infamy and Unlawful

### **DISCLAIMER:**

Reputation is NOT a measure of good or evil.

### Opposing Qualities Fame vs. Infamy

Fame and Infamy rarely go hand-and-hand. Whenever your character gains one or more points in Fame or Infamy, they reduce the opposing category by the same number.

### NOTE:

Here's a trick: *Fame* and *Infamy* should add up *to* zero.

### **EXAMPLE:**

If Fame is 5, Infamy must be -5 since 5 + (-5) = 0. If your

character gains 2 points of Infamy, then Fame would be 3 and Infamy would be -3 (5 -2 = 3 and -5 + 2 = -3). Notice Fame plus Infamy is still zero (3 + -3 = 0).

Fame + Infamy = 0

### Lawful vs. Unlawful

This one is too easy. It works exactly like *Fame* and *Infamy*.

Lawful + Unlawful = 0

### NOTE:

Adding points to Fame and Infamy will not affect Lawful and Unlawful, and vice versa.

### How its Used

How does your character use their *Reputation*? Well... they can lean on it, or it will precede them.

### Restricted Access

The simplest use is to gain access to something, someone, or somewhere. The Director may ask for the value of one or more Reputation qualities (choose the one you think is best). If your character's Reputation is not enough, you will need to find a different solution.

### **EXAMPLE:**

You want to speak to the King, but they won't let near him. After all, what if you kidnapped or worse? High
Fame may allow you an
audience. Don't be surprised
if an Immoral character, has
trouble getting to the King.

### Staking Reputation

Adventurers may lean on their *Reputation* from time to time, giving them an opportunity to improve or harm their *Reputation*.

Before attempting an Ability or Skill Check, you character may Stake their Reputation, adding the value of a Reputation quality to the roll instead of their Modifier or Mastery Level.

### Add Reputation Instead

If the roll fails, then reduce that quality by one point (to a minimum of zero).

*F. Quality* – 1 (*Min* 0)

If you succeed, you will be given an objective. Once your character completes the objective, add or subtract two from that quality. In this case, the affected quality may become negative.

± 2 to F. Quality

### NOTE:

Whether you add or subtract the roll depends on the outcome of the objective.

### NOTE:

When using a *Derived Quality* adjust the higher of the two *Fundamental Qualities* (i.e., the higher of *Infamy* and *Unlawful* for *Immoral*).

### **EXAMPLE:**

Let's say your character's Orderly value is 1 with Lawful as the higher value. Roll a d20 and add 1. You succeed and need to bring back an artifact before the next full moon. Unable to find the artifact in time, your character subtracts 2 from Lawful. Afterwards, your character's Lawful and Unlawful values become -1 and 1, respectively.

### **Reputation Limit**

As your character goes on more and more adventures, they will gain visibility and strengthen their *Reputation*.

How strong your character's *Reputation* can be depends on where they are in their journey. Your character's *Reputation Limit* is equal to twice their *Level Bonus*.

Up to Twice LB

### ASPECTS OF ADVENTURING

The circumstances of your character's adventures will vary, but here are some common aspects you may see.

### **Darkness**

Whether in a dark dungeon, thick canopies, or the cover of night, your character may find it difficult to see.

### Dim

There is some light, but it is hard to gather any real detail. Your character has *Disadvantage* on all rolls.

### Poor

There is practically no light, relying on other senses. Your character has *Disfavor* on all rolls.

### NOTE:

Darkness will change with location and time.

 $Dim \rightarrow D-ADV$  $Poor \rightarrow D-FAV$ 

### Weather

Much like *Darkness*, *Weather* can have a significant impact. Although there is a wide range of storms and natural phenomenon, there are only two categories.

### Mild

A storm is just beginning. In most cases, *Mild Weather* means your character has *Disadvantage* on rolls.

### **Dangerous**

Truly in the thick of the storm, your character

struggles. They have *Disfavor* on all rolls.

 $Mild \rightarrow D-ADV$  $Dangerous \rightarrow D-FAV$ 

### Supernatural

This is a large category. From magical creatures, items, and places to actual *Deities*, there are many *Supernatural* aspects to a fantasy style game – who knew?

Interacting with the *Supernatural* is not different mechanically; however, it may have much longer or more adverse effects. Some characters may interact with the *Supernatural* somewhat regularly (i.e., a *Cleric* and their *Deity*).

# The Journey Begins

AS YOUR DIVE DEEP INTO YOUR ADVENTURES, YOUR CHARACTER WILL GROW AND RISE TO PROMINENCE,
SHAPING THE LANDS AND LIVES AROUND YOU.

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## THE CLASS

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### WHAT IS A CLASS?

What is your character's responsibility? What are they best at? What role do they play in the *Party*? The *Class* is their main direction of development.

### Skillset

As part of your character's Class, they develop a specific Skillset. This Skillset marks extensive expertise in one specific Skill depending on the everyday habits of their Class. When rolling a Skill Check that uses their Skillset, you gain Advantage on that roll.

### ADV on Skillset

### NOTE:

Each *Class* has multiple *Skillset* options for choosing their *Skillset*.

### **Proficiencies**

Proficiencies are Class benefits for your character's expertise in types of:

- Armor such as Brace and Mesh.
- Weapons such as Longsword and 1-Handed.
- Other such as Skills, Spells, Tactics, and so on.

### **Aptitude**

Your character will grow and improve in different areas, known as *Aptitudes*. Each *Aptitude* is a unique way of addressing *Encounters*.

### Weapon

- Tactics (Specific) are strategic Actions.
- Stances (General) help to prepare, or ready, before Actions.

### Magic

- Spells (Specific) are fantastical Actions of magical energy.
- Cantrips (General) are weaker forms of magical energy.

### Specific vs. General

Specific Aptitudes are detailed capabilities that must be chosen as your character progresses.

By contrast, General
Aptitudes allow your
character to improvise in
each situation. As a result, it
is up to you as the Player to
determine the effect.

### **DISCLAIMER:**

General Aptitude effects should be no more than your character's Level Bonus without a significant drawback. The Director may deny a suggestion and request an alternative.

### **Types**

The *Class Type* is the main direction of your character, determining which *Aptitudes* are important to them.

- Martial use solely their physical prowess, focusing on Tactics and Stances.
- Spellblades use their physical prowess and minor magic, focusing on Tactics and Cantrips.
- Battlemages use magic and some physical tricks, focusing on Spells and Stances.
- Casters use solely magical means, focusing on Spells and Cantrips.

### DISCLAIMER:

Spellblades and Battlemages are labelled by their Generic then Specific Aptitude.

### Subtypes

Each *Class* cultivates their magical capabilities in different ways. This is known as their *Subtype*.

 Prepared – leverage vast knowledge and resources. Twice per Recovery Time, they can Upcast a Quick Spell as a Planned Spell. The Upcasted Spell CANNOT be defended.

2 Upcasts (No Defend) per RT

 Spontaneous – leverage raw, internalized power.
 Twice per Recovery Time, they can Downcast a Planned Spell as a Quick Spell, spending twice the Vigor to prepare it.

2 Downcasts (2 × Vigor to Prepare) per RT

 Hybrid – limit their studies, preferring a deeper understanding. Between *Recovery Times*, they can *Upcast* one *Quick Spell* and *Downcast* one *Planned Spell*.

1 Upcast (No Defend) and 1 Downcast (2 × Vigor) per RT

### **PROGRESSION**

All characters start with a 1<sup>st</sup> Level *Class*, gaining levels with each *Encounter* and adventure.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Level

At 1<sup>st</sup> Level, your character receives their *Class Feat* – the cornerstone of their *Class*, illustrating its primary role and playstyle.

 $1^{st}$  Level  $\rightarrow$  Class Feat

As your character gains levels, they become more capable as an Adventurer, gaining new *Traits*, *Abilities*, *Specialties*, and other benefits along the way.

To gain a level (Level Up), your character must accumulate enough Experience Points (XP) and complete a Worthy Challenge.

### Experience Points (XP)

XP is a measure of incremental progress withing your character's Class. Each Encounter is an opportunity to gain XP; how much XP will depend on its difficulty, your creativity, how successful it was, and some other factors addressed by The Director.

### Gaining XP

After one or more Encounters, The Director will award characters XP, providing a value to that group. Each character in the group will roll a d6, add five, and subtract any penalties. Then multiply this result by the value given by The Director; this final number is the XP, your character has gained from those Encounters.

 $XP_{Player}$  (No Max Out) = (d6 + 5 - Penalty) ×  $XP_{Director}$ 

### NOTE:

You CANNOT *Max Out* when gaining *XP*.

### DISCLAIMER:

We will cover some XP penalties later.

### XP Thresholds

As your character gains XP, they will pass different thresholds, unlocking that level. Gaining XP is cumulative, meaning your character retains their XP and needs only enough XP to reach the next threshold (the difference between thresholds).

Here is the *Total XP* required for each level.

Level	Experience Needed
1 <sup>st</sup>	-
2 <sup>nd</sup>	1,000
3 <sup>rd</sup>	3,000
4 <sup>th</sup>	6,000
5 <sup>th</sup>	12,000
6 <sup>th</sup>	21,000
7 <sup>th</sup>	33,000
8 <sup>th</sup>	48,000
9 <sup>th</sup>	66,000
10 <sup>th</sup>	87,000
11 <sup>th</sup>	111,000
12 <sup>th</sup>	138,000
13 <sup>th</sup>	168,000
14 <sup>th</sup>	201,000
15 <sup>th</sup>	237,000

### EXAMPLE:

A 1<sup>st</sup> Level character needs 2,000 XP to have enough for 2<sup>nd</sup> Level. At 2<sup>nd</sup> Level, they will need 4,000 more XP for 3<sup>rd</sup> Level (6,000 - 2,000).

### Leveling Up

Once your character has enough XP, ask The Director if your character is worthy of Leveling Up. The Director will determine if a Worthy Challenge was completed when gaining the needed XP, or not.

If your character completed a *Worthy* Challenge, according to *The Director*, then your character

Levels Up (Improving and Advancing); otherwise, they must complete a Worthy Challenge first.

### DISCLAIMER:

Advancing is NOT *Class* specific; therefore, it is discussed later.

### A Worthy Challenge

A Worthy Challenge is any substantial event or moment that advances the Story. The Director will give your character a task to complete. Once The Director agrees the Worthy Challenge is completed successfully, your character Levels Up.

### NOTE:

A Worthy Challenge may need to change if your character is unable or fails to complete it.

### Leveling Up

As your character *Levels Up*, they acquire new capabilities:

- Feats are unique characteristics or special Actions.
- Traits are inherent, passive capabilities (or what they have).

- Abilities are active capabilities featuring new Actions (or what they do).
- Specialties are path specific features to tailor their approach.

### *Improving*

When your character progresses to the next level, they receive the benefit corresponding to that level. Below illustrates the types of benefits for each level.

Level	Level Benefit
1 <sup>st</sup>	CLASS FEAT
2 <sup>nd</sup>	TRAIT
3 <sup>rd</sup>	ABILITY
4 <sup>th</sup>	SPECIALTY
5 <sup>th</sup>	Trait
6 <sup>th</sup>	ABILITY
7 <sup>th</sup>	SPECIALTY
8 <sup>th</sup>	CLASS FEAT
9 <sup>th</sup>	Trait
10 <sup>th</sup>	ABILITY
<b>11</b> <sup>th</sup>	SPECIALTY
12 <sup>th</sup>	TRAIT
13 <sup>th</sup>	ABILITY
14 <sup>th</sup>	SPECIALTY
15 <sup>th</sup>	CLASS FEAT

### NOTE:

Each *Class* has different *Feats, Traits, Abilities,* and *Specialties*.

### THE ADVENTURER'S JOURNAL

All the *Tactics* and *Spells* known by your character are kept in a *Journal*:

- Tactics are dynamic, physical maneuvers.
- Spells are timeconsuming, flexible, magical effects.

### Adding to the Journal

As your character *Levels Up*, they will learn *Tactics* or *Spells* according to their *Class Type* for the new level. While below 5<sup>th</sup> Level:

 Martials or Spellblades – gain one Tactic.

1 Tactic per Level

 Battlemages or Casters – gain one Spell.

1 Spell per Level

At 5<sup>th</sup> Level and beyond:

 Martials or Spellblades – gain one Tactic or one Ritual.

1 Tactic or 1 Ritual per Level

 Battlemages or Casters – gain two Spells or one Ritual.

2 Spells OR 1 Ritual per Level

### NOTE:

A *Journal* has enough space for all *Tactics* and *Spells* learned by your character.

### **Mastery Limitation**

When adding a new *Tactic* or *Spell* to your character's *Journal*, the *Tactic* or *Spell* must have a *Mastery Rank* at or below your character's *Mastery Rank* for that area.

### Changing the Journal

When Leveling Up, your character may need to adapt their Journal. a number of Tactics or Spells up to twice your character's Level Bonus for:

 Martials or Spellblades – Tactics only.

Tactic/Spell  $\rightarrow$  Tactic

Up to 2 × LB

Battlemages or Casters –
 Spells only.

Tactic/Spell  $\rightarrow$  Spell Up to 2 × LB

### Losing the Journal

When a character loses their Journal – whether by theft, damage, or some other catastrophe – they are unable to perform those Spells or Tactics.

No Journal →
No Spells/Tactics

### Replacing the Journal

A character can recreate their *Journal* by gathering something to write on and with. They can recreate the *Journal* in 30 minutes during their *Recovery Time*.

30 minutes in RT

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### **DEFINING SIMPLE ITEMS**

### Grade

One of the most important aspects of an item is its *Grade*, defining:

- Is awkward is it to use?
- How well is the item made?

The *Grade* is written:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Digit (Letter) what Build it fits best.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Digit (Letter) what Stature it fits best.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Digit (Number) number of dice rolled.
- 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Digits
   (Grouped Numbers) the
   size of the dice rolled.

### **EXAMPLE:**

FA206 Short Sword – Fair, Average, 2d6 Damage. BT410 Scalemail – Big, Tall, 4d10 Armor Points.

### Comfort

To use an item, your character must have the same *Build* or *Stature* as the item (from the first two digits – the letters).

Match Build OR Stature to use item

If your character matches both the Build and Stature of

the item, then you reroll any "1s" for it.

Match Build AND Stature  $\rightarrow$  Reroll 1s

### **EXAMPLE:**

Comfortable weapons grant rerolls on hit and damage rolls. Comfortable armor grant rerolls on Avoid and Brace rolls. Comfortable staves and wands grant rerolls when preparing Spells.

### **Effectiveness**

The last three digits – the numbers – are the Effectiveness of an item, representing the number and size of dice to be rolled. These dice, when used for:

- Weapons attack damage.
- Armor gaining Armor Points each Recovery Time.

### Name

The *Name* of the weapon references specific several properties:

- Mastery the expertise used for making attacks.
- Strike Distance the effective distance.

Damage Source – how damage is inflicted.

while Armors have:

- Style the flexibility and damage prevention.
- Craftsmanship the maximum durability.

### Note:

The named item will have a description and list any other benefits or restrictions.

### Longevity

Items are consumed at different rates:

- Durable (D) NOT consumed by use.
- Breakable (K) –
  consumed with poor use.

### EXAMPLE:

Failing an Ability or Skill Check using the item or missing with an arrow, will "break," or consume, the item.

Expendable (X) –
 consumed with every
 use.

### NOTE:

The *Inventory* quantity of consumed items reduces by one.

### Using Mastery

Your character will improve in:

- Melee fighting face-toface.
- Range striking a faraway foe.

### Melee

Melee Mastery restricts the number of dice rolled for damage.

		# of
Rank	Levels	Dice
Unskilled	0	1
Elder	1-3	2
Grand Elder	4 – 6	3
Arch Elder	7 – 9	4
Master Elder	10	5

### **EXAMPLE:**

A 1-Handed weapon with an Effectiveness of 408 does 4d8 damage. With Elder Mastery in 1-Handed weapons, you roll 2d8 (2 dice max) for damage instead.

### The Melee Masteries are:

• 1-Handed – a shorter, lighter weapon, requiring one hand. With the free hand your character can wield a shield, an Offhand weapon, interact with objects, or use Spells.

Free hand

 2-Handed – are longer, heavier weapons, requiring both hands.
 Roll an additional 1d4 when rolling for damage.

### Add 1d4 to Damage

 Versatile – are usable as 1-Handed or 2-Handed weapons, gaining a free hand or 1d4 additional damage, respectively. Versatile weapons also deal one less damage on attacks.

1 to DamageANDFree Hand OR Add 1d4Damage

### Range

Range Mastery restricts the size of dice rolled for damage.

		Max
Rank	Levels	Size
Unskilled	0	d4
Elder	1-3	d6
Grand Elder	4 – 6	d8
Arch Elder	7 – 9	d10
Master Elder	10	d12

### **EXAMPLE:**

A Missile weapon, with an Effectiveness of 408 and a Missile Mastery of Elder, does 4d6 damage (instead of 4d8). This is different than Melee, which deals 2d8 damage.

The Range Masteries are:

 Missile – a two-handed weapon that attacks silently, at a distance of at least 5 FT, with Breakable projectiles.

> Beyond 5 FT, Silent Breakable Projectiles

 Firearm – a two-handed weapon that attacks loudly, at a distance of at least 5 FT, with Expendable projectiles. When Maxing Out increase the die size by one.

> Beyond 5 FT, Loud, Expendable Projectiles

### EXAMPLE:

When Maxing Out a d4, roll a d6 for the bonus die instead of a d4.

### NOTE:

To increase the size of a d12, use d12 + 2.

 Thrown – smaller, onehanded meant to be hurled at a target as Ranged attack. The weapon can also be used for a Melee attack; however, this attack CANNOT *Max Out*.

Melee (No Max Out) or Range, Free Hand

### NOTE:

Once the weapon is *Thrown*, your character must pick it to use it again.

• Exotic – require finesse with one hand.

### Free Hand

### Note:

Some *Exotic* weapons are used in *Melee*, limiting die size instead of die count.

### DISCLAIMER:

The Max Out system slightly favors Range attacks. On average, Range attacks deal more damage than Melee attacks with the same Grade of weapon; however, a character can make twice as many Melee attacks per Wave.

### STRIKE DISTANCE

Each melee and range weapon, *Spell*, and *Tactic* has a *Strike Distance*, which is how close a creature must be to possibly hit, or strike, them.

### Melee and Tactics

Weapons usable in faceto-face situations have:

 Close – can strike a target within 5 FT.

< 5 FT

 Standard – can strike an adjacent target, one that is at 5 FT.

5 FT

 Reach – can strike a target beyond 5 FT, up to 10 FT.

### > 5 FT (Max 10 FT)

### **DISCLAIMER:**

Reach weapons have Disadvantage for 5 FT or less.

### Range for Spells, and Tactics

Range weapons and *Spells* have:

 Limited – can strike a target within 30 FT.

30 FT

 Nearby – can strike a target within 60 FT.

60 FT

 Away – can strike a target within 120 FT.

120 FT

• Far – can strike a target within 240 FT.

240 FT

 Very Far – can strike a target within 480 FT.

### 480 FT

### NOTE:

*Very Far* is only used for long distance *Spells* and *Artillery*.

### DISCLAIMER:

Range weapons have Disadvantage for 5 FT or less.

### **OUTFIT SLOTS**

Some items are worn or frequently used, making it unlikely that they would be tucked away in your character's *Inventory*. These items are part of your character's *Outfit*.

As with *Inventory*, your character has 10 *Slots* to "hold" items of any *Bulk*.
These *Slots* are separated according to locations on the body:

Category	Slots
Head	1
Armor	1
Equipment	2
Waist	1
Feet	1
Accessory	4

### where:

- Head –for helmets, crowns, and similar items.
- Armor for Armor and items that fit the back, chest, and shoulders.
- Equipment for a primary and secondary weapon, a two-handed weapon, or a weapon and a shield.

### Note:

Spellcasters need an empty *Equipment Slot*, or a suitable item, to use *Spells*.

- Waist for items that can be easily tied to belt loops of fit in pockets.
- Feet for footwear.
- Accessory for carrying items like an extra sword, quiver, small pouch, pendent, ring, and so on.

### Note:

Accessory Slots cover a wide range of physical locations: neck, fingers, wrists, arms, toes, ankles, legs, nose, ears, eyes, etc.

### **OUTFIT WEAPON**

All right, it is time to choose your character's weapon! Consider their *Class* and fighting style. Here's a recap of the categories:

Strike Dist.	Mastery	Source
Close	1-Handed	Blunt
Standard	2-Handed	Cut
Reach	Versatile	Pierce
Nearby	Missile	_
Away	Firearm	_
Far	Thrown	_
_	Exotic	_

Choose one weapon for one

of your character's *Equipment Outfit Slots.* Then, you can purchase *one* additional weapon for 50 *CP*.

### Melee Weapons

The starting *Melee* weapons are:

 Dagger – a small, sharp weapon for close combat and stealth attacks.

Strike Dist.	Mastery	Source
Close	1-Handed	Pierce

 Battle Axe – a balanced, double-edged axe designed for slashing.

Strike Dist.	Mastery	Source
Standard	2-Handed	Cut

 Short Sword – a compact, easy-to-handle blade suited for quick strikes.

Strike Dist.	Mastery	Source
Standard	1-Handed	Cut

 Spear – a polearm with a pointed head, effective for thrusting and keeping enemies at a distance.

Strike Dist.	Mastery	Source
Reach	Versatile	Pierce

### Range Weapons

The starting *Range* weapons are:

 Bow – a ranged weapon that launches arrows with precision and power.

Strike Dist.	Mastery	Source
Away	Missile	Pierce

 Rifle – a ranged weapon that uses gunpowder to shoot projectiles with high impact.

Strike Dist.	Mastery	Source
Nearby	Missile	Blunt

 Hand-Axe – a small, onehanded axe ideal for throwing or melee combat.

Strike Dist.	Mastery	Source
Close/	Thrown	Cut
Limited		

### NOTE:

Use *Close* for *Melee* combat and *Limited* for *Ranged* combat.

### Choose Weapon Effectiveness

Next, we need to choose its *Effectiveness* from the following:

 Melee – cost more per die.

Eff.	Mastery	Cost
104	Unskilled	_
106	Unskilled	30 <i>CP</i>
108	Unskilled	40 <i>CP</i>
204	Elder	40 <i>CP</i>
206	Elder	50 <i>CP</i>
304	Grand Elder	50 <i>CP</i>

Range – cost more as the size increases.

Eff.	Mastery	Cost
104	Unskilled	_
204	Unskilled	40 <i>CP</i>
304	Unskilled	50 <i>CP</i>
106	Elder	30 <i>CP</i>
206	Elder	50 <i>CP</i>
108	Grand Elder	40 <i>CP</i>

### Determine Weapon Comfort

Let's see if the weapon is Comfortable for your character. Roll a d6:

Roll	Comfort
1-3	Different Build
	Same Stature
4 – 5	Same <i>Build</i>
	Different Stature
6	Same Stature and
	Build

### Note:

If the *Build* or *Stature* is different, then you choose one of the remaining *Builds* or *Statures*.

### EXAMPLE:

Rolling a 2 for a Fair (Build) and Average (Stature) character, means the weapon can be either Petite and Average OR Bulky and Average, matching Stature and NOT Build.

Recall the weapon's *Grade* is its *Comfort* and *Effectiveness*.

### **EXAMPLE:**

A Comfort of Fair and Tall with an Effectiveness of 108 gives a Grade of FT108.

### **Relay Weapons**

Relays are specialized weapons attuned to magic, making the use of Spells easier for the wielder. You can purchase a starting Relay weapon for 100 CP; they are:

 Wand – a small, often wooden stick used for magic and quick strikes.

Strike Dist.	Mastery	Source
Close	_	Pierce

 Rod – a short, wooden or metal pole used for magic and direct strikes.

Strike Dist.	Mastery	Source
Standard	_	Blunt

 Staff – a long, often wooden pole, used for magic and sweeping strikes.

Strike Dist.	Mastery	Source
Reach	_	Blunt

### NOTE:

These weapons do NOT have a Grade like other weapons and are treated as *Improvised Weapons* instead.

### Note:

Talismans and other relics can aid in casting *Spells*.

### **OUTFIT ARMOR**

Your character will need armor as well.

### **Armor Properties**

How will your character protect themself? Will they prefer weak, yet flexible armor? Or something more rigid?

### Style

 Cloth – soft, flexible materials like fabric or padded armor, offering minimal protection. Roll with Favor when Defending and Disfavor when Bracing.

> $Defending \rightarrow FAV$  $Bracing \rightarrow D-FAV$

 Hide – sturdy leather or tanned animal skin, providing moderate protection with flexibility. Roll with Advantage when Defending and Disadvantage when Bracing.

### Defending $\rightarrow$ ADV Bracing $\rightarrow$ D-ADV

 Mesh – interlinked chains or woven materials, balancing mobility and enhanced protection. Defending and Brace rolls are normal.

### None

 Shell – rigid plates or sections covering key areas, offering partial but strong protection. Roll with Disadvantage when Defending and Advantage when Bracing.

 $Defending \rightarrow D-ADV \\ Bracing \rightarrow ADV$ 

 Plate – fully encasing metal or rigid armor, delivering maximum protection at the cost of mobility. Roll with Disfavor when *Defending* and Favor when *Bracing*.

 $\begin{array}{c} \textit{Defending} \rightarrow \textit{D-FAV} \\ \textit{Bracing} \rightarrow \textit{FAV} \end{array}$ 

### Craftsmanship

Craftsmanship limits an armor's Effectiveness:

 Basic – is limited to three dice of any size.

### Up to 3 Dice

 Advanced – is limited to five dice of any size. The wearer has Damage Reduction 2 from Physical Damage Sources.

Up to 5 Dice and DR 2 (P)

### Note:

These topics will be explained in detail later.

### **Choose Armor**

The starting armors are:

- Cloak a light, flexible garment, suitable as Cloth armor.
- Leather a flexible, durable material, suitable as Hide armor.
- Chainmail interwoven metal rings, suitable as Mesh armor.
- Breastplate a solid metal torso piece, suitable as Shell armor.
- Splint a rigid armor of metal strips, suitable as Plate armor.

### NOTE:

All armors have *Basic Craftsmanship*.

### Choose Armor Effectiveness

Next, we need to choose its *Effectiveness* from the following:

Effectiveness	Cost
104	_
106	50 <i>CP</i>
108	100 <i>CP</i>
204	120 <i>CP</i>
206	150 <i>CP</i>

### **Armor Points**

Roll the *Effectiveness* of your character twice. The result is your character's starting *Armor Points*.

### NOTE:

Armor Points CANNOT be more than twice the *Effectiveness*.

### EXAMPLE:

Rolling 308 gives a maximum Armor Points of 48 ( $2 \times 3 \times 8$ ).

### Determine Armor Comfort

Comfort for Armor is the same as weapons. Roll a d6:

Roll	Comfort
1-3	Different Build
	Same Stature
4 – 5	Same <i>Build</i>
	Different Stature
6	Same Stature and
	Build

### Making Improvised Attacks

Sometimes your character is without their standard weaponry and must improvise. When using a:

 Broken Graded weapon – half its damage.

Half Total Damage

 Unarmed Strike – deals damage equal to 1d4 plus your character's Level Bonus.

1d4 + LB

Improvised Weapon –
 deals damage equal to
 1d4 plus your character's
 Level Bonus.

1d4 + LB

### **TACTICS AND SPELLS**

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### TACTICAL AND SPELL MASTERY

Tactical and Magical
Mastery provide strategic
options for many situations.
Each Mastery has different
areas of emphasis.

### **Tactical**

Tactical Mastery
encompasses the art of
battlefield control through:

- Cunning deceptive and resourceful maneuvers.
- Leadership inspiring and directing allies.
- Melee wielding Melee weapons to dominate the frontlines.
- Range using Range weapons with extraordinary precision and skill.

### Spell

Spell Mastery has different Domains consisting of specific Quick and Planned Spells. Similar Domains are grouped into Studies.

### Arcane

Practitioners seek to transcend reality by altering perceptions and space. The Study of Arcane consists of:

- Amnesara focusing on memories and perception.
- Novus focusing on harnessing imagination to shape reality.
- Portallo focusing on energy gateways and traversing great distances.

### Corruption

Practitioners embrace darkness, pain, and suffering to obtain their desires – for better or worse. The *Study of Corruption* consists of:

- Evernight focusing on shadows and darkness.
- Neverborn focusing on the necessity of death and its utility.
- Plagueworn focusing on pestilence and scarcity, balancing survival and sacrifice.
- Soulforge focusing on wayward souls, imprisonment, and deals.

### Devotion

Practitioners seek to heal, cure, and embolden themselves and others. The *Study of Devotion* consists of:

- Luminia focusing on hope and illumination.
- Solara focusing on fire purity, and healing.
- Starlume focusing on dreams and visions.
- Utopa focusing on the bonds that unite individuals and communities.

### Nature

Practitioners harness the raw power of natural phenomena. The *Study of Nature* consists of:

- Seafall focusing on manipulating water and staying adaptable.
- Stoneward focusing on drawing strength from solid foundations and traditions.
- Thunderron focusing on wind and lightning, especially their quickness and spontaneity.
- Wyldwood focusing on using primal forces to revitalize, restore, communicate, and protect life.

### **TACTICS**

Tactics are critical to building momentum by improving, or capitalizing, on a situation.

### **Choosing a Tactic**

Select a *Tactic* from your character's *Journal* where the:

- Strike Distance covers the space between your character and the target(s).
- Action Type can be completed by your character.
- Vigor is less than or equal to your character's Vigor.

We will go into these in detail later.

### **Using a Tactic**

When your character takes an *Action*, they can use a *Tactic instead* of that *Action*.

### **SPELLS**

Getting the most out of your character's *Spells* is essential to keep pace. Although *Spells* are powerful, they are slower.

### Using a Spell

Using a *Spell* requires time and consideration. To ease the process, it is separated into two steps, while:

- Preparing choose a Spell from their Journal and spend the base Vigor for it.
- Casting choose a location, choose an output, spend the additional Vigor, the roll Acting.

### Without a Relay

When *Preparing a Spell* without a *Relay* weapon, your character faces your choice of:

- Unstable Cast roll with Disadvantage to Act.
- Restricted Cast Spell Range is Standard (5 FT) and 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Outputs only.

No Relay:

D-ADV on Acting
OR
Standard and 1<sup>st</sup> Degree

### Spell Range

For now, your character is able to target a space that is *Limited* (within 30 FT) in distance and within *Line of Sight (LoS)*. The chosen *Spell Output* starts from this location.

Limited (30 FT) with LoS

### Line of Sight

To have Line of Sight (LoS) there must be a clear, unobstructed path between your character and a location or target. Obstacles, elevation, lighting, and so on can hinder or disrupt LoS.

### **Single Target Spells**

Your character can always cast their *Spell*, without *Vigor*, by targeting a single creature within the *Spell Range*.



### **Degrees and Outputs**

All other *Outputs* can be scaled, increasing the *Degree* and its *Effective Distance*. With each *Degree*, the *Spell* will be more powerful, affecting more and more creatures.

### Vigor Cost

When Casting a Spell, your character may spend Vigor equal to the Degree to Cast that Spell with an Output up to the Effective Distance.

Cast →
Spend Vigor = Degree

### **Effective Distance**

All *Outputs* have maximum *Degree* of *four*. With each *Degree* increasing the:

- Fork number of targets, from two to five.
- Burst, Cone, and Line –
  furthest point for the
  effective area.
- Chain total distance between targets.

Here are the *Effective Distances*:

Degree	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
Burst	5′	10'	15′	20'
Cone	10'	20'	30 <b>ʻ</b>	40'
Line	15'	30'	45'	60'
Chain	20'	40'	60'	80'

### **EXAMPLE:**

Burst increases by 5 FT per Degree. A 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Burst would cost 3 Vigor and have an Effective Distance of 15 FT.

### Quick vs. Planned

There are two main types of *Spells*:

- Quick faster, preventable, and flexible.
- Planned slower, reducible, and scalable.

We will dive into speed and prevention later. For now, know that *Casting* a:

- Quick Spell can have any 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Output.
- Planned Spell can have any Degree Output.

Quick  $\rightarrow$  1<sup>st</sup> Degree Only Planned  $\rightarrow$  Any Degree

### **Output Forms**

Each form allows spellcasters to focus their *Spell* on key areas and targets.

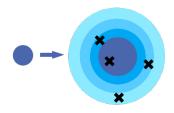
Fork is similar to Single Target Spells, specifically:

 Fork – targets multiple creatures within the Spell Range.

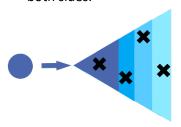


The Burst, Cone, Line, and Chain Outputs start from a location, or point, within the Spell Range and extends in one or more directions depending on the specific Output:

 Burst – affects all creatures within a radius equal to the Effective Distance.



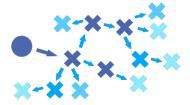
 Cone – affects all creatures within a uniform triangle, extending outward to the Effective Distance on both sides.



 Line – affects all creatures within a straight path that is 5 FT wide and an Effective Distance long.



Chain – affects a target
within the Spell Range,
then any number of
targets whose total
distance between one
another – the sum of
distances between
targets – is no more than
the Effective Distance.



### NOTE:

The distances between targets do NOT need to be the same.

### EXAMPLE:

A Chain Layer 2 Spell has 40 FT for targets. The first target is at 20 FT from your character. The second is 10 FT from the first. The third and fourth targets are each 5 FT from the second. The total distance is 40 FT (20 + 10 + 5 + 5), the max for Layer 2.

### Concentration

Some Spells can be maintained or manipulated after Casting with Concentration. If your character stops Concentrating, intentionally or otherwise, the effect of the Spell ends.

### Note:

Your character may
Concentrate on multiple
Spells. Losing Concentration,
ends all Spell effects.

### **BOONS AND CONDITIONS**

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### STRUCTURE AND DEFINITION

Many *Tactics* and *Spells* will impose:

 Boons – bolstering a creature's survivability.

### **EXAMPLE:**

Mending, Aura, and so on.

Conditions – inhibiting a creature's capabilities.

### **EXAMPLE:**

Bleeding, fearing, sickening, burning, and so on.

### Structure

Each Boon and Condition is listed as:

Impact Intensity (Keyword)

Think of it this way:

- Impact is "How is your character affected."
- Intensity is the "How good or bad is your character affected."
- Keyword is "What affected your character."

### **EXAMPLE:**

Helpless 1 (Burning) Protected 2 (Aura)

### **Impact**

*Impacts* are commonly applied effects for a myriad

of different *Spells, Tactics,* and so on.

### Severity

Conditions have a Severity, marking just how dangerous it is for your character. They are:

- Minor short-term effects that wain quickly over time.
- Major sustained or significantly harmful effects, requiring significant healing, time, or other means to recover.

### **Increasing Severity**

After each minute, if your character has a *Minor*Condition with an *Intensity* of 5 or more, then they gain a 
Major Condition according to the Minor Condition.

 $Minor(5+) \rightarrow Gain Major$ 

### NOTE:

This does NOT remove the *Minor Condition*.

### Intensity

*Intensity* represents the potency and duration.

### *Increasing*

Repeated exposure to an existing *Boon* or *Condition* on your character will increase its *Intensity*. If the new instance has a:

- Higher Intensity replace existing Intensity.
- Lower Intensity –
   increase existing
   Intensity by half of the
   new Intensity.

Add  $\frac{1}{2}$  new I to current I

### Reducing

Each minute the *Intensity* of all *Boons* and *Minor Conditions* reduces by one.

### DISCLAIMER:

Addressing a *Condition* can reduce its *Intensity*.

*Intensity – 1 per minute* 

### Keyword

The *Keyword* that illustrates what happens to your character and how they might address it.

### **EXAMPLE:**

A Condition with the Burning Keyword could be put out with water.

### **IMPACTS FOR BOONS**

The *Impacts* for *Boons* are separated into pairs, differing in commonly and threat. These pairing are:

### Stabilize

Stabilize Boons focus on incremental recovery and protection. These consist of:

Ward [DR, Resist] –
 increasing Damage
 Reduction or Resistance
 by the Intensity.

### **EXAMPLE:**

Boons like shield, barrier, and protect.

DR + Intensity
OR
Resistance + Intensity

 Regenerate [Vigor, Protection] – each minute gain Armor Points, Health, or Vigor equal to Intensity.

### **EXAMPLE:**

Boons like mending, bolster, and invigorate.

### Gain Intensity each minute

### Fortune

Fortune Boons focus on improving the odds of success. These consist of:

 Lucky [Mastery] – add Intensity to any roll using the specified Mastery.

### **EXAMPLE:**

Boons like grace, assist, and quidance.

### Mastery Roll + Intensity

Blessed [Mastery] – roll
with Advantage when
using the specified
Mastery.

### **EXAMPLE:**

Boons like bliss, divinity, and support.

Advantage for Mastery

### Surge

Surge Boons focus on enabling quick, decisive Actions. These consist of:

 Swift – gain a 5 FT move that does NOT take an Action. This can be used once every 20 seconds, or Wave.

### EXAMPLE:

Boons like quickened, flight, and fleetfooted.

### 1 Free Move per Wave

Haste [Action Type] –
 reduces one Action
 needed by one category.
 Double becomes Normal,
 Normal becomes Simple,
 and Simple becomes
 Free. This can be used
 once every 20 seconds,
 or Wave.

### **EXAMPLE:**

Boons like charged, jolt, adrenaline, and energize.

Double 
ightarrow Normal, Normal 
ightarrow Simple, OR Simple 
ightarrow Free

### IMPACTS FOR CONDITIONS

Conditions pose Minor or Major risks to your character.

### Minor Impacts

Just like *Boons*, *Minor Impacts* are paired:

### Charm

Charm Conditions focus on influencing a creature's actions. These consist of:

Hinder [Mastery] –
 subtract Intensity to any
 roll using the specified
 Mastery.

### Example:

Conditions like sickened, nauseated, and unlucky.

### Mastery Roll – Intensity

Compel – each Wave, the creature attempts an Ability or Skill Check.
 They act normally if the result, after subtracting Intensity, is at least the DC.

### Example:

Conditions like dominating, frightening, confusing, and dazing.

Act Normally if  $Check - Intensity \ge DC$ 

### *Impair*

Impair Conditions focus on imposing Disadvantage.
These consist of:

Expose – gives
 Disadvantage related to
 the Condition's Keyword.

### Example:

Conditions like incapacitated (i.e., Unconscious, asleep), impaired (i.e., blind, deaf), and poor position (i.e., prone, clumsy, flat-footed).

### Situational D-ADV

Anchor – prevents
 Movement and imposes
 Disadvantage related to
 the Condition's Keyword.

### Example:

Conditions like restrained, paralyzed, and held.

No Movement, D-ADV

### Peril

Peril Conditions focus on inhibiting a creature from continuing. These consist of:

 Injury – takes damage equal to the Intensity.

### Example:

Conditions like bleed, burn corrode, and frost.

Damage equal to Intensity

 Drain – reduces the number of Actions a creature can take in a Round by the Intensity.

### Example:

Conditions like fatigue, slow, and stagger.

Reduce Actions by Intensity

### **Major Impacts**

Major Impacts are the result of two possible Minor Impacts with high Intensity.

- Cripple severe Anchor or Injury.
- Helpless severe Compel or Expose.
- Weaken severe Drain and Hinder.

### Note:

Major Impacts have both Minor Impact effects using the Intensity for the Major Condition instead.

### **Resting and Major Conditions**

The Intensity of Major
Conditions depends on
Resting between Recovery
Time:

- No Rest Intensity increases by one.
- Rest (Risky) Intensity stays the same.
- Rest (Safe) Intensity reduces by one.

### **COMPLEX ENCOUNTERS**

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### INITIATING A COMPLEX ENCOUNTER

Complex Encounters vary wildly in their initial setup.
Some questions that arise are:

- Who notices and when?
- What are the others doing?
- Are the others hostile or friendly?

And so on. These questions are addressed by *The*Director during the *Initiation*Phase at the start of the

Complex Encounter.

### **First Impressions**

When encountering an unexpected group, *The Director* will narrate situation. Is the group:

- hostile, afraid, or friendly?
- on guard, imprisoned, or simply going about their day?

### **Starting Distance**

Sometimes the group will open a door and someone – or *something* – is on the other side. Other times, a scout notices a far-off group. *The Director* will narrate the distance between your group and others.

### Initiative

Initiative is a way to determine when each group acts. Generally, each Player of a group rolls 3d6. The group's Initiative is the amount of the highest value rolled by the group.

The *Initiative Order* is from the highest value to the lowest. If there is a tie:

- Same Value, Different
   Amount the group with
   more dice with that
   value go earlier.
- Same Value, Same
   Amount the group with
   more total dice rolled go
   earlier.
- 1) Roll 3d6
- 2) Count highest value dice
- 3) Compare dice
  - a) Higher Value
  - b) Same Value, Larger Amount
  - c) Same Amount, Higher Quantity

### **EXAMPLE:**

Two Players in a group each roll 3d6. Player A gets 2, 3, and 5. Player B gets 4, 4, and 5. The group's Initiative would be "Two 5s". Groups with one or more 6s, three or more 5s, or two 5s and more diced rolled act before these two Players. These Players

act before groups with one 5, two 5s and less diced rolled, or any number of 4s, 3s, 2s, or 1s.

### Encumbrance

Remember those

Encumbered Inventory Slots?

For each used Encumbered

Slot use a d4 instead of a d6

when rolling for Initiative.

Slot Used	Roll
0	3d6
1	2d6 + 1d4
2	1d6 + 2d4
3	3d4

While using one or more Encumbered Slots, you do NOT Max Out when rolling for Initiative.

 $d6 \rightarrow d4$  per Encumbered Slot No Max Out on Initiative

### Surprise

If you *Max Out when* rolling for *Initiative*, you have *Surprise* and may:

- Take a Simple Action
- Gain 1 Encounter Point
- Add Bonus Die from Max
   Out to first Action

### Note

The Director may permit or deny Surprise regardless of the roll.

### RESOLVING A COMPLEX ENCOUNTER

### **Understanding Actions**

Actions are used in Complex Encounters to illustrate the limitations of time, effort, and capability performed by your character before another creature.

These Actions are:

 Free – for performing reasonable tasks alongside other Actions.

### **EXAMPLE:**

Brief communication, reloading a weapon, ending Concentration, and so on.

 Simple – for preparation, recovery, or reactions.

### **EXAMPLE:**

Movement, shove, dive, disengage, Stances, Cantrips, Concentration, changing weapons preparing Quick Spells, Unarmed Strike, and so on.

 Normal – for performing straightforward tasks.

### **EXAMPLE:**

Melee attacks and casting
Spells of lower Mastery Rank.

 Double – for performing time-co tasks.

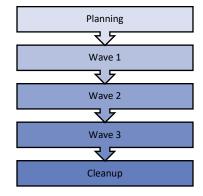
### **EXAMPLE:**

Ranged attacks, preparing Planned Spells, and casting

Spells of the same Mastery Rank.

### Rounds

Each *Round* contains *Planning*, three *Waves*, and *Cleanup*. Here's an overview:



 Planning – is where all groups, simultaneously, discuss strategy for the Round.

### NOTE:

There are NO Actions or "In-Game" behaviors during Planning. Planning decisions may be ignored.

 Waves – are where the Actions happen, following the Initiative Order.

### **EXAMPLE:**

If Group A has a higher
Initiative, then Group A acts
before Group B in each
Wave: Wave Starts, Group A,
Group B, Repeat.

### DISCLAIMER:

Multiple characters in a group should act together.

In a *Wave*, each acting character can take a *Simple Action* and either:

- two Normal Actions.
- two Simple Actions.
- one Simple and one Normal Action.
- one Double Action.
- gain one Encounter Point.

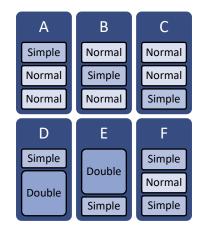
### NOTE:

A character could take one *Normal Action* and no more, either by choice or not.

### Note:

To gain an *Encounter Point*, the character must be able to take a *Double Action*.

### Some examples are:



 Cleanup – for addressing various activities before the next Round begins.

### **EXAMPLE:**

Reducing Condition Intensity and Encounter changes (i.e., environmental, character presence, impressions, special actions, etc.).

### NOTE:

Each *Round* has *Planning* followed by *Wave 1*.

### Moving

During each *Wave*, your character may move up to their *Movement* without

using an Action. Additionally, they can use a Simple Action to Move.

### NOTE:

Their *Movement* can split up between *Actions*.

### **Encounter Points**

Encounter Points (EPs) are used to influence the Complex Encounters based on your character's readiness. Afterall, they don't just stand by and do nothing, right?

### How their Used

Each *EP* can be by your character to have them:

- gain Level Bonus of THPs
- gain Level Bonus of Temporary Vigor
- gain Advantage on a Skill or Ability Check
- reroll one die
- move 5 FT
- reduce a Minor Condition by half

### Duration

Sadly, any Encounter

Points your character gains
during a Complex Encounter
"disappear" at the end of it.

### ACT, REACT, AND DEFEND

Sometimes your character needs to defend themselves in a *Complex Encounter*.

### **Defensive Mastery**

Depending on the nature of the situation, your character will use:

 Fitness – represents your character's hardiness and nimbleness, and is for defending against direct actions, such as a Melee Attack.

### Direct

 Insight – represents recognition and anticipation, and is for defending against actions from a distance, such as a *Range Attack*.

### At a Distance

 Resilience – represents mental and spiritual resistance, and is for defending against anything magical such as Spells.

### Magical

### Level and Rank

Your character's *Defensive*Mastery Level affects their

chance of avoiding an effect

altogether, while their *Rank* mitigates the consequences. The *Rank* also determines the *Brace Die* used to reduce damage from a *Glancing Hit*.

Rank	Levels	Brace
Unskilled	0	d4
Elder	1-3	d6
Grand Elder	4 – 6	d8
Arch Elder	7 – 9	d10
Master Elder	10	d12

### The Process

Most actions start with one or more creatures taking an action, followed by one or more creatures trying to respond, and, lastly, the outcome of the action.

- Act taking an action with Initiative.
- React taking an action in response to an opposing action.
- Defend preventing, mitigating, or taking the full consequences of an opposing action.

### Acting

To Act, choose an action, roll a d20, and add your character's Mastery Level for that action.

1d20 + ML

### Reacting

When another creature Acts, a number of creatures equal to that group's Level Bonus, according to the group's average level, may attempt to React with a Simple Action before the opposing action happens.

To try to *React*, a creature rolls a d20. Compares the results of just the dice, without *Mastery Levels*, of all characters *Acting* and *Reacting*. If the highest result includes:

- Any acting creatures there are no reactions.
- Only reacting creatures each reacting creature may react.

If your character can *React*, they can spend Vigor equal to their *Level Penalty* to take a *Simple Action*.

1d20Vigor = LP  $\rightarrow$  Simple Action

### Defending

After reactions, any affected creatures roll a d20 and add their *Defensive*Mastery Level to defend.

1d20 + ML

### NOTE:

If a creatures attempted to react, that roll is used to defend.

Compare the results of all characters *Acting* and *Defending*. There are three outcomes:

 Direct Hit – the attacker's result is at least 5 more than the defender's result, applying the full damage or effect.

Attacker ≥ 5 + Defender Full Damage/Effect

 Miss – the defender's result is at least 5 more than the attacker's result, applying no damage or effects. Defender ≥ 5 + Attacker No Damage/Effect

 Glancing Hit – the result is anything else, reducing damage by the Brace Die and reducing the effects.

Attacker – Defender < 5, Defender – Attacker < 5

Damage – Brace Die, Reduced Effect

### Note:

Spells and Tactics have different effects depending on the type of hit.

### DISCLAIMER:

It can be helpful to roll both a d20 and your character's *Brace Die* when defending.

### **PUTTING IT TOGETHER**

There is quite a lot in a *Complex Encounter*. Don't worry, it's easier than looks. Once you start using it, it will become second nature. Now that we have covered the details, let's summarize the process.

### NOTE:

All group members do NOT have to act in all *Waves*. *Initiative* passes through all groups before moving onto the next *Wave*.

### DISCLAIMER:

Combat *Encounters* are the most complex and are detailed here; however, the same system can be used for complex social *Encounters* (i.e., negotiation).

- 1. Preparation Phase
  - a. First Impressions
  - b. Starting Distance
  - c. Group Initiatives
- 2. Resolution Phase
  - a. Start Round
    - i. Planning (all Groups)
    - ii. Wave 1 (per Group)
      - 1. Act
        - a. React
        - b. Defend
        - c. Damage and Effects
      - 2. Repeat for each member
    - iii. Repeat Steps 1 and 2 for Wave 2 and 3
    - iv. Cleanup (all Groups)
      - 1. Increase Major Conditions
      - 2. Reduce Minor Conditions
      - 3. Adjust Scene
  - b. Repeat for Rounds until Encounter is resolved

# EXTENDED EXAMPLE Two brothers: a Wizard and Fighter vs Archer and Rogue.

1<sup>ST</sup> LEVEL CHARACTERS

# SURVIVING, OR NOT

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#### **PROTECTION**

# **Layers of Protection**

When taking damage, you will reduce your character's:

- Temporary Hit Points
   (THPs) from Spells,
   Abilities, Items, Rituals,
   and so on. This is the 1<sup>st</sup>
   layer of protection.
- Armor Points from Armor. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> layer of protection.
- Health from Body and Will. These are the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> layers of protection.

The order is as follows:



After each pool is emptied, damage reduces the next pool.

Be Careful! When your character runs out of all pools, they *Face Mortality*.

#### Note:

When restoring *Health*, recover *Will* then *Body*.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

Your character has 3 THPs, 5 Armor Points, 8 Body, and 10 Will. Taking 20 damage would reduce their THPs, Armor Points, and Body to zero. The damage is reduced from 20 to 17 (20 – 3), to 12 (17 – 5), to 4 (12 – 8). They would have 6 Will left (10 – 4). With six more damage, they would Face Mortality.

#### DISCLAIMER:

How much protection your

character needs will depend on their role and how encounters are navigated. Rushing in, weapons first, will require *a lot* more protection.

# **Regaining Protection**

Each layer, except *THPs*, recuperates:

 Armor Points – each Recovery Time up to twice its Effectiveness.

#### EXAMPLE:

A 308 gives a maximum Armor Points of 48 ( $2 \times 3 \times 8$ ).

- Body with Risky or Safe Rests.
- Will each Recovery
   Time and with Safe Rests.

#### FACING MORTALITY

Hopefully, you and your character navigate the world with wit, skill, determination, and unwavering courage.
And hopefully that is enough. But sadly, *Dying* is an all-toocommon fate for many Adventurers.

How did your character die? Did they heroically

sacrifice themselves? Were they poisoned? Or did some poor decisions – and worse luck – do them in?

More importantly, what happened *as* they died? What were your character's last words? Their last effort?

# **Mortality Check**

A Mortality Check is used whenever your character might die. First, roll a d20 and add your character's LB and any number of Encounter Points they had.

1d20 + LB + EP

#### If the result is:

 20 or more – your character is Unconscious, barely breathing, and at 1 Will. But not dead!

20 or more  $\rightarrow$  Alive, at 1 Will, and Unconscious

 Less than 10 – your character is lost without a final farewell. No words, just memories.

Less than  $10 \rightarrow Just Dead$ 

 Otherwise – your character gets a Dying Moment before passing on (see below).

Otherwise → Dead after
Dying Moment

#### NOTE:

All *Encounter Points* are lost after the Check.

#### DISCLAIMER:

The Director determines if, when, and under what circumstances to roll a Mortality Check. It could be right away or not.

# **Dying Moment**

Whether it's a last attack, passing on vital information, or offering words of encouragement, how will your character's final moment be remembered?

With luck – and a well-timed die roll – you will get to roleplay the death of your character. Use this moment to advance the *Story*, aid those around you, and prepare yourself to move on to your next character.

#### DISCLAIMER:

Dying is a challenging part of the game with each *Player* handling it differently. We can get quite attached to our characters; after all, we watch them grow, know how they think, and spend a lot of time creating and playing them. Although losing a character is heartbreaking, it adds significance to your choices, adds to the *Story*, and encourages players to try new things.

# **Dying Gift**

Don't worry; your character won't die in vain! Others will likely seek revenge for their death, and you can seamlessly create a new character to continue the adventure. Consider how your new character connects to your last character. Are they an apprentice, an old friend, or something else?

When creating your next character, you can pass on some resources from your

previous character. Choose one from below:

- All Coins
- All other Treasure (i.e., Gems, Stones, etc.)
- One item of any Volume

#### Note:

Utility items CANNOT be gifted.

What did your previous character teach your new one? Choose *one* from below:

- One Spell
- One Tactic
- One Class Trait
- One Class Ability
- One Talent
- One Ritual
- One Story Feat
- Their chosen
   Kin Ancestry
- Their chosen
   Origin Heritage
- Their chosen
   Origin Lineage
- One Language

#### NOTE:

A Class Feats, Class Specialties, and Bloodlines CANNOT be gifted.

#### DISCLAIMER:

Anything not gifted, CANNOT be given to, or taken by, other characters. These are assumed to be given away, in their "Will," to others.

#### RESTING

A great Adventurer knows when to *Rest* and when to push onward. In general, *Resting* helps your character to recuperate, reducing the *Severity* of their *Conditions* and regaining *Body* and *Will*. Once rested, your character can continue adventuring, ready for the perils ahead.

#### On Watch

Given the dangerous of adventuring, it can be difficult to find sufficient shelter without fear of interruption. What if your character is tired and there is no safe place? Well, you get support from the other characters in the *Party*.

In this situation, characters can split into two shifts – one *On Watch* and one *Resting*. The duration needed for each watch depends on the type, and length, of *Rest*.

The first time you make a roll while your character is *On Watch*, add their *Level Bonus* to that roll.

Add LB to Next Roll

#### Rests

Each *Rest* requires some accommodations, from minimal to more

extravagant. The most important of which is food. It takes one *Ration* per hour of *Rest* in a *Risky* environment. A *Safe* environment takes one *Ration* per two hours of *Rest* instead.

1 Ration per Hour (Risky) 1 Ration per 2 Hours (Safe)

In addition to food, your character may need bedding and other supplies. These are listed as *Needs*. Your character CANNOT take that *Rest* if their *Needs* are not met.

#### NOTE:

The *Needs* listed for each *Rest* are the minimum requirements.

The last thing is safety. In general, shorter *Rests* can be taken in *Riskier* environments, with or without watch. By contrast, longer *Rests* require *Safe* environments without watch.

# Risky vs. Safe

What is the difference between *Risky* or *Safe* environments? A *Risky* environment is anywhere where your character has a high chance of being disrupted or put in a harmful, tense, or otherwise precarious situation. A *Safe* environment is where they will be left alone to *Rest*.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

A sealed off cave or tavern would be a Safe place to Rest. The open wilderness or near a goblin encampment would be considered Risky.

#### Relax

If your character just needs a brief moment to gather themselves, then they can simply *Relax* for a bit. While *Relaxing* your character does simple activities such as: eating, drinking, reading, and tending to wounds.

- RELAX -

Time (One): 1 Hour Time (Watch): 2 Hours

Rations: 1 Safety: Risky

Needs: - None Benefits:

 Gain Body equal to Toughness Modifier

# Nap

When your character is just a little tired, they can take a *Nap*. During this time your character is not alert, but they are easily startled.

- NAP -

Time (One): 2 Hours Time (Watch): 4 Hours

Rations: 2 Safety: Risky

Needs:

- Bedroll/Pillow
- Campfire Benefits:
- Gain Body equal to Toughness Modifier
- Gain Will equal to Level Bonus

#### Sleep

Your character will want to go to *Sleep* each night, if possible. During *Sleep* your character is *Unconscious*, recovering from a long day of adventuring.

- SLEEP -

Time (One): 6 Hours
Time (Watch): N/A
Rations: 3
Safety: Safe

Needs:

- Bedroll/Pillow
- Campfire
- Tent
- Cookware

#### Benefits:

- Gain Body equal to Toughness Modifier
- Gain Will equal to Level Bonus
- Reduce Intensity of one Major Condition by 1

#### **Bedrest**

When adventuring becomes too taxing, your character may need some *Bedrest*. During *Bedrest*, your character is both *Unconscious* and difficult to wake.

- BEDREST -

Time (One): 8 Hours
Time (Watch): N/A
Rations: 4
Safety: Safe

Needs:

- Campfire
- Cookware
- Room with Bed Benefits:
- Gain Body equal to Toughness Modifier
- Gain Will equal to Level Bonus
- Reduce Intensity of one Major Condition by 1
- Reduce Intensity of one Major Condition by 2

# **Resting Without Food**

When it is time to *Rest*, your character should be prepared. After all, it is hard to *Rest* on an empty stomach.

Not having enough food, does NOT prevent your character from taking a *Rest*; however, it is not without consequence! For each missed Ration your character has two options: gain one less Benefit of your choice or reduce your character's XP Percentage by five.

1 to XP roll per missed
Ration
OR
1 Benefit per missed

Ration

#### NOTE:

The percentage reduction is only for the *next* time your character gains *XP*.

# Resting and Recovery Times

If you are wondering:
"What happens if my
character *Rests* through their *Recovery Time*?" then well
done. Let's make this simple. *Resting* by its very nature is
restorative; therefore, your
character will receive all the
same benefits of their *Recovery Time* whether they
are asleep or not.

# **GROWTH AND TRAVEL**

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#### CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Now that your character has *Leveled Up*, gaining their new *Class* benefits, let's see how else they have improved.

# **Development Points**

When gaining a level, your character gains 4 *Development Points (DP)* to address weaknesses or enhance their strengths.

In general, you will be able to improve your character's Ability Scores, improving their Attributes and Capacities, gain additional Spells or Tactics, and other more specialized improvements.

#### Spending DP

You can spend

Development Points to have your character:

- Blessing (1 DP) gain one Reroll to be used at any time this Level.
- Contact (1 DP) increase
   a Connection Status by 1.
- Forget (1 DP) remove a Talent, Ritual, or Connection they know.
- Knowledge (1 DP) request some guidance or other information from The Director.

- Respect (2 DP) improve Reputation by 1.
- Changes (2 DP) change Lifestyle and Utility Items.
- Finances (2 DP) gain
   Silver Pieces equal to.

Level	Silver Pieces
1 <sup>st</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup>	1 × Level
$6^{th} - 15^{th}$	5 × Level
$16^{th} - 30^{th}$	10 × Level

- Diligence (3 DP) –
   Increase an Ability Score
   by 1.
- Learning (3 DP) –
   Progress Complex Task
   by 2 RTs.
- Retrain (3 DP) reduce a
   Mastery Level by one
   and increase another
   Mastery Level by one.
- Exchange (4 DP) swap a Tactic, Spell, or Ritual for one of the same type.

#### NOTE:

The *Ranks* can be different.

- Perform (5 DP) add a Ritual to their Journal.
- Study (5 DP) add a Tactic or Spell to their Journal.

### Note:

You do NOT have to use all of

your *AP* each level and save unused *AP* for future use.

# Increasing an Ability Score

When increasing an *Ability Score*, your character receives:

• Toughness – Will equal to their new Modifier.

#### Add Mod to Will

• Agility – Vigor equal to their new Modifier.

# Add Mod to Vigor

 Focus – increase any Mastery Level by one.

### *Increase Mastery Level by 1*

 Reason – can have Talents up to their new Modifier.

#### Talents ≤ Mod

 Belief – can have Rituals up to their new Modifier.

#### Rituals ≤ Mod

 Cooperation – can have Connections up to their new Modifier.

*Connections* ≤ *Mod* 

# **REVISITING CAPACITIES**

Let's revisit your character's capacities. Their *Modifiers* for:

- Reason limit the number of Talents.
- Belief limit the number of Rituals.
- Cooperation limit the number of Connections.

#### **Talents**

Talents are the specialized Skills developed by your character.

#### **Gaining Talents**

Whenever your character makes a *Skill Check*, there is a chance they will gain a *Talent*. If you *Max Out* on the *Skill Check*, and the bonus die roll is at least 10, then they gain a *Talent* related to that *Skill Check*.

Max Out and Bonus Die ≥ 10

#### **EXAMPLE:**

A Dungeoneering Skill Check used to disable a trap could give a Disable Trap Talent.

# Using a Talent

Your character can use a Talent to perform a task requiring a Skill Check over a period of time until successful. The time taken, in minutes, depends on the *DC* of the task:

DIFFICULTY	DC	TIME (MIN)
Easy	8	8 – d4
Average	12	12 – d6
Challenging	16	16 – d8
Hard	20	20 – d10
Very Hard	24	24 – d12

#### NOTE:

All *Talents* take at least one minute to complete.

#### **DISCLAIMER:**

To use a *Talent*, your character must have the right gear, such as a *Kit* or other item.

#### Rituals

Rituals are powerful forms of old magic, relying on traditional performances to pull energy from the surrounding environment.

#### **Gaining Rituals**

In general, *Rituals* are gained through *Complex Tasks* or by *Leveling Up as a*Battlemage or *Caster*.

#### Casting a Ritual

Select a *Ritual*, roll a d20, and add your character's *Belief Modifier* (up to twice their Level Bonus).

#### The DC is:

DIFFICULTY	DC	BASE TIME
Easy	8	5 Minute
Average	12	10 Minutes
Challenging	16	20 Minute
Hard	20	40 Minutes
Very Hard	24	60 Minutes

#### If the result is:

At least the Ritual's DC –
 the Ritual succeeds after
 the Full Time (Base Time
 plus Variable Time from
 Ritual). The Components
 are consumed.

1d20 + Belief Mod ≥ DC → Full Time & Components

Below the Ritual's DC –
the Ritual fails after the
Base Time. NO
components are
consumed.

1d20 + Belief Mod < DC →
Base Time (Fail)

### NOTE:

Whether your character succeeds or not, they will have spent one of their uses.

Unlike Spells, Rituals require time and specific components – one or more objects and a show of:

- Arcane Dedication.
- Corruption Death.
- Devotion Value.
- Nature Life.

#### DISCLAIMER:

Rituals do NOT use Vigor, can be performed by any character, and may have other restrictions.

# **Connections**

Have you ever run into someone you've met before? Or needed to call in a favor? *Connections* represent the different relationships and their quality established by your character.

#### **Gaining Connections**

To gain a new *Connection*, give a name for a *Non-Player Character (NPC)* and briefly describe them. Then roll a d6:

 On a 1 – the NPC is not who you think it is, and your character does NOT get the Connection.

#### No Connection

 On 2 or More – your character knows the NPC, record the result as the Connections Status.

# Connection with Status equal to result

### **Using Connections**

When making a Skill Check involving one or more Connections, add you Connection Status to the roll.

Add Status to Skill Check

# Number of Uses

Your character may use Talents, Rituals, and Connections each up to their Level Bonus between Recovery Times.

LB uses per RT

#### **K**ITS

Kits are the gear needed to use some *Talents*, and often provide some benefit when performing using a specific *Skill*.

Here's a list:

- Accessory (35 SP) is
   Breakable, requires glass
   or valuable materials,
   contains glassmaking and
   engraving tools, and
   allows crafting jewelry
   and accessories.
- Art (5 SP) is Breakable, requires canvas, contains paint, brush, charcoal, pencils, paper, and

- allows creating art, sketches, and paintings.
- Bait (15 SP) is
   Expendable, requires a
   way to fish, contains
   baits, lures, filet knife,
   and weights, and
   provides Advantage with
   fishing.
- Brewer (20 SP) is
   Expendable, requires
   herbs and water,
   contains flask, stirring
   rod, and beaker, and
   allows creating potions,
   ales, and medical
   supplies.
- Cartographer (15 SP) is Durable, requires writing

- materials, contains compass, pencil, ruler, protractor, and compass, and provides Advantage for maps, directions, and travel.
- Forgery (5 SP) is
   Expendable, contains ink,
   brushes, fabric, and
   makeup, and provides
   Advantage when
   deceiving.
- Hunting (30 SP) is
   Breakable, requires
   nothing, contains snares,
   skinning knife, and
   camouflage, and
   provides Advantage with
   hunting.

- Smithing (45 SP) is
   Durable, requires a
   workstation and raw
   materials, contains
   hammer, studs, pins, and
   fasteners, and allows
   making items like armor,
   saddles, and weapons.
- Tailor (15 SP) is
   Breakable, requires cloth
   and dyes, contains
   thread, needle, and

- scissors, and allows crafting disguises, clothes, and fabric repairs.
- Thieves (20 SP) is Breakable, contains lockpicks, a small file, pliers, and allows lockpicking.
- Woodworking (30 SP) is Breakable, contains saw, sandpaper, and whittling

knife, and allows making furniture and wooden goods.

#### Note:

When using a Breakable Kit for a Talent, roll for the Skill Check. If the Check fails, the Kit is consumed. Regardless of the result, the task succeeds.

# **DOWNTIME ACTIVITIES**

At the end of each Session, or when significant time elapses during an adventure, The Director will reward your character with Downtime, consisting of:

- Brief simple activities, requiring minimal time to complete.
- Extended challenging and time-consuming tasks.

# Opportunity

Opportunity relates the amount of support, resources, and civilization needed to complete an Activity. These includes:

 Personal – limited resources, reliant on personal skills; tasks are small and self-contained.

- Local limited resources with local contacts; tasks focus on small community needs and services.
- Communal broader resources and connections; tasks include community projects and local infrastructure.
- Societal extensive resources and networks; tasks include large-scale projects, trade, and governance.

#### **Activities**

The Brief Activities are:

Minimum	
Opportunity	Activity
Personal	Item Use
Personal	Relax
Personal	Repair
Local	Gamble
Local	Gossip

Local	Rumors
Local	Sales
Local	Work
Communal	Delivery

- Delivery send out gifts, letters, debts, and so on.
- Gamble wager something of value with hopes of a return.
- Gossip gather some minimal info from those around.
- *Item Use* use an item from your *Inventory*.
- Relax gain a minor bonus.
- Repair gain additional Armor Points.
- Rumors spread information or falsehoods, changing the opinions of others.
- Sales sell an item for a reasonable price.

 Work – collect a small fare.

The Extended Activities are:

Minimum	
Opportunity	Activity
Personal	Innovate
Personal	Ritual Casting
Personal	Train
Local	Buying
Local	Deed
Local	Trade
Communal	Network
Societal	Labor

- Buying purchase an item befitting the Opportunity.
- Deed affects reputation more significantly.

- Innovate progress a Complex Task.
- Labor collect a reasonable fare.
- Network gather important info for a specific purpose.
- Ritual Casting prepare and cast a Ritual.
- Trade exchange an item for another of similar value.
- Train gain some additional Experience Points.

### **Using Downtime**

Choose the *Downtime*Activities for your character,
figure out the details, and be
ready to communicate your

decisions to the *Director* at the beginning of the next *Session*. *The Director* will guide you and your character through the effects of those decisions.

#### Note:

More can be accomplished with the same *Activity* in an area with more *Opportunity*.

#### EXAMPLE:

Your character repairs their armor a bit and works their profession. The Director has you roll the Effectiveness of the armor, adding it to the Armor Points, and gives your character 50 Copper Pieces.

# **PRACTICE**

Each situation is an opportunity for your character to further develop their skillset. Specifically, each time your character uses their *Mastery* there Is a chance that it will improve.

When Maxing Out with one or more d20s, if the result of the additional die (from the Max Out) is 10 or more, then your character increases the Mastery Level –

of the *Mastery* used – by one.

Max Out on d20: If Bonus Die  $\geq$  10  $\rightarrow$ Increase ML by 1

# **TRAVEL**

At times your character, along with others in the *Party*, will need to *Travel* great distances as part of their adventure. Keep in mind, getting somewhere

can be just as difficult as the task that lies there.

Each time the *Party* begins to *Travel*, they choose the:

Destination

- Path
- Pace
- Responsibilities

# Destination

Where is the *Party* heading? Is it far away? And just how dangerous is it?

#### **Distance**

There are three distances used for *Travel*:

- Long a moderate journey, generally taking a week to complete.
- Distant an extensive journey, generally taking a couple weeks to complete.
- Remote a significant journey, generally taking several weeks to complete.

#### **Facing Encounters**

As the *Party Travels*, they will face one or more *Encounters* depending on the *Distance*:

Distance	Encounters
Long	1
Distant	2
Remote	3

#### NOTE:

Encounters can be anything: weather changes, finding ruins, getting lost, being ambushed, food spoiling, finding a wayward traveler, and so on.

# **EXAMPLE:**

The Guard fended off a Bear while two Scavengers gathered some food.

#### DISCLAIMER:

This is a baseline for the number of *Encounters*.

Terrain, Pace, and The Director will affect the number of *Encounters* the Party will face while Traveling.

#### After an Encounter

After each *Encounter*, the *Party* can choose to:

 Continue – taking the same Path towards the same Destination, while changing the Pace and/or Responsibilities.

Same Path & Destination Can change Pace and Responsibilities

Redirect – Traveling
 anew by taking a
 different Path or heading to a new Destination.

New Travel

# Path

Usually, *The Director* will give two options for making the journey:

- Direct the trip takes
   less days to complete but
   has a higher chance of
   dangerous Encounters.
- Cautious the trip takes more days to complete but has a lower chance of dangerous Encounters.

#### **Terrain**

Terrain affects the chance of getting lost and the Pace (excluding Mounted):

Description	DC	Max Pace
Maintained	_	Forced
Traveled	8	Forced
Overgrown	12	Regular
Untamed	16	Trepid

#### NOTE:

Mounted Travel depends on the nature of the Terrain (i.e., Snow vs. Underbrush) and the type of Mount (i.e., land, air, sea).

Specifically, if the *Party Travels* at a faster *Pace* than the *Max Pace* set for the *Terrain*, then there is a chance they will be lost – deviating from their current path.

#### Revisiting

Taking a path that your character has taken before, is not always safe. Who knows how things have changed?

Depending on the time between *Travel*, changes in the world, and any preparations, the *Encounters* on the trip can be ignored, deliberately chosen, or decided by *The Director* once again.

#### Pace

The *Pace* of the *Party*, how fast they are *Traveling*, is either:

- Trepid slow and cautious travel.
- Regular standard, balanced travel.
- Forced rapid, exhausting travel.
- Mounted travel by horseback or similar Mount.

These *Paces*, aside from *Regular*, have the following implications:

 Trepid – face one more Encounter.

#### +1 Encounter

Forced – face one less
 Encounter and increase
 Exhaustion Intensity by one.

−1 Encounter, +1 Intensity to Exhaustion

• Mounted – face one less Encounter.

−1 Encounter

#### Exhaustion

Exhaustion is a new Major Condition, caused by overexertion or prolonged activity.

While Exhausted, your

character CANNOT *Max Out*. Additionally, any rolls for your character are reduced by the *Intensity*.

No Max Outs and
Reduce Rolls by Intensity

# Resting and Recovery Times

Since time progresses normally, each character will need to *Rest* and will have their *Recovery Time*.

#### Days Passed

The number of days passed by *Traveling* is the number of *Encounters* faced plus a d6 for each one.

# of Encounters + 1d6 per Encounter

#### DISCLAIMER:

The Director typically makes this roll and may change the die size or count.

# Responsibilities

During *Travel*, your character has some *Responsibilities*, encompassing the activities they accomplish and challenges the must address along the way.

At the start of the journey, and after each *Encounter*, each character may reselect their *Responsibilities*:

 Dreamers – gain the benefits of Sleep once.

- Foragers have
   Advantage for finding
   Rations.
- Guards have
   Advantage on Initiative.
- Laborers progresses their Complex Task by two.
- Navigators have Advantage against getting lost.
- Scouts have Advantage on Starting Distance.
- Trackers have
   Advantage for finding hidden paths, areas, or tracks.
- Others complete one Personal Brief or Extended Downtime Activity.

# **STRATEGY**

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#### COMBAT

# **Damage Sources**

Damage Sources represent where the damage comes from and how it affects your character or another creature.

### Physical (P)

Physical Damage Sources typically come from weapons, unarmed strikes, and Spells that mimic them. Here is a list:

- Blunt (B) Impact damage from heavy strikes that can crush, break, or pulverize.
- Cut (C) Slicing or tearing damage from edged weapons meant to cut or rend.
- Pierce (R) –
   Concentrated
   damage aimed at a single point to puncture or penetrate.
- Force (F) –
   Concussive energy, creating powerful shockwaves that affect the physical and ethereal.

#### Elemental (E)

Elemental Damage
Sources are common
amongst Spells, Rituals, and

natural phenomenon. Here is a list:

- Chill (L) A cold, necrotic energy that draws out warmth and life force.
- Shock (H) Electrical or psychic energy that jolts and disrupts normal function.
- Solar (S) Radiant and fiery energy of light and heat.
- Toxic (T) Poisonous and corrosive energy causing degradation and harm.

# Resistances and Vulnerabilities

Some characters are affected by *Conditions* differently, depending on its *Damage Source*. Specifically:

- Resistances reduce the Intensity more quickly.
- Vulnerabilities make it harder to reduce the Intensity normally.

#### Revisiting Intensity

Each minute, reduce the *Intensity* of a *Condition* by the *Resistance* value plus one (from earlier).

#### **EXAMPLE:**

An Injury 3 (Burning) would reduce to 0 against a Resistance (Solar +2) (3 – (2 + 1)). Intensity – (Resistance + 1)
per minute

Each minute, reduce the Condition if the result is at least a 10 when rolling a d20 and subtracting the Vulnerability value.

d20 – Vulnerability ≥ 10 per minute

#### **EXAMPLE:**

An Injury 3 (Burning) and Vulnerability (Solar –2) with a roll of 13 would reduce to Injury 2 (Burning), since 11 (13D – 2) is at least 10.

# **Damage Reduction**

Damage Reduction represents a certain level of protection. There are many variations of this protection, some protect against all:

- DR # (A) Damage
   Sources
- DR # (P) Physical
   Damage Sources
- DR # (B) Blunt Damage Sources
- DR # (E) Elemental
   Damage Sources
- DR # (T) Toxic Damage
   Sources

When taking damage from a *Source* matching one or more of your character's

Damage Reductions, reduce the amount by the Damage Reduction number.

#### NOTE:

There are other *Damage*Reduction options, and your character may have more than one.

Damage – DR # Depends on Damage Source

#### **EXAMPLE:**

An attack of 4 Blunt damage against a DR 3 (B) would result in 1 damage (4-3).

#### Shields

Your character may wield a *Shield* in one hand and a *One-Handed* or *Versatile* weapon in the other.

Shields have a Dice Pool representing how much use it has before becoming ineffective. Each time your character Avoids or Braces you may use dice from the Dice Pool to add to the roll.

Dice Pool  $\rightarrow$  Avoid or Brace

# **EXAMPLE:**

A Shield has a Dice Pool of 3d6. Your character Braces and uses their Shield. You choose to add 2d6 to the roll, leaving 1d6.

#### **Running Out**

When the *Dice Pool* is depleted, the *Shield* CANNOT be used to improve your character's *Avoid* or *Brace rolls* until their next *Recovery Time*.

#### **Improvised Shield**

Sometimes your character will protect themselves using an object like a *Shield*.

The *Dice Pool* of an object used this way, depends on how well it covers – or shields – your character.

<b>Object Covers</b>	Dice Pool
Partially	1d6
Mostly	2d6
Completely	3d6
Excessively	4d6

Improvised Shields have two main differences from regular Shields: they must use their Dice Pool when hit, and it is "destroyed or broken" when the Dice Pool is depleted.

Must Use Dice Pool Destroy/Break if Depleted

# **Dual Wielding**

Your character may wield an *Offhand* weapon in one hand and a *One-Handed* or *Versatile* weapon in the other – just like a *Shield*.

As a *Simple Action*, your character may make an

attack with their Offhand weapon. For this attack, use the Grade of the weapon without adding your character's Mastery Level.

Simple  $\rightarrow$  Offhand Attack Use Grade, No ML

# **Critical Effects**

When Maxing Out on a Melee or Range attack using a Physical Damage Source, you may choose to roll the additional die or apply a Critical Effect instead:

 Knockback (Blunt) – the damaged creature is pushed back 10 FT.

#### Push 10 FT

 Sweep (Cut) – another creature that is adjacent to the damaged creature, takes damage equal to your character's Level Bonus.

#### LB dmg to adjacent creature

 Impale (Pierce) – the damaged creature gains Injury (Bleed) with an Intensity equal to your character's Level Bonus.

*Injury LB (Bleed)* 

#### **FORMATIONS**

# Squads

Squads are groups of the same creatures that act in unison.

#### Size

These similar creatures can form a *Squad* with a *Size* equal to a Die Size. This die is called the *Squad Die*.

Squad = any Die Size

#### **EXAMPLE:**

Seven creatures can contain a Squad of 4 (equal to a d4) or 6 (equal to a d6).

#### Movement

A Squad can Move independently – even separating the Squad – or move together, as much as possible, as one entity.

#### Coordination

Coordination is the degree of organization and combat readiness in a Squad. Squads that are a:

- Mob are disorganized and act awkwardly.
- Platoon are reasonable organized and act with some consistency.
- Hive are hyperorganized and act in perfect unison.

# Making an Attack

Start by selecting an Attack that all creatures in that *Squad* can make. Roll the *Squad Die* and determine damage according to *Coordination*:

 Mob – Roll a number of Attacks equal to the result of the Squad Die.

# Squad number of Attack Rolls

Platoon – Multiply Attack
 Die Size and Count by
 Squad Die result minus
 one. Then add the Attack
 for one creature.

# One Attack Roll + Size × Count × (Squad – 1)

 Hive – Roll one Attack and multiply by Squad Die result.

Squad × One Attack Roll

# **Swarms**

Swarms are groups of the same creature, all of which are Tiny, Diminutive, or Fine.
Attacking a Swarm is the same as attacking a single target. As the Swarm is damaged, its damage output and Scale may diminish.

#### Mounts

Your character can ride a Mount suited for:

- War a battle-ready animal, trained for combat and endurance.
- Carrier a sturdy animal, suited for transporting supplies and equipment.

While riding a *Mount*, your character:

- Moves at the speed of the Mount.
- CANNOT use Close Weapons.

#### and

- War deal double damage.
- Carrier gain two bonus Inventory Slots.

#### Mounting and Dismounting

Willingly mounting and dismounting requires a Simple Action.

# Simple Action

If a rider would be forcibly dismounted, they can attempt a Skill or Ability Check to hold on.

# Note:

If the rider would fall, become unstable, or lose control may *dismount* them.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL

# **Positioning**

In any Encounter, using terrain, cover, and other environmental features to your character's benefit may be the difference between success and failure.

### Coverage

If a creature is obstructed (see LoS) – has Coverage – that creature can only be targeted by a source within the Distance below.

Coverage	Targetable
Substantial	Limited
Moderate	Nearby
Partial	Away
Minimal	Far
None	Far Away

#### EXAMPLE:

A Range attack from a Far distance CANNOT target a creature with Partial, Moderate, or Substantial Coverage.

# Elevation

When fighting with Elevation, add 5 FT to the Strike Distance or Range of the Action. Your character can target a creature or object within this new distance.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

A target is 5 FT above and in front of your character —

effectively, 10 FT with Elevation. Your character could attack with a Standard Strike Distance weapon (10 = 5 + 5).

# Fall Damage

When your character falls from a height of more than 10 FT, they will take damage from the impact. How much damage depends on the surface and nature of the impact, and the distance of the fall.

# $\leq 10 \text{ FT} \rightarrow \text{No damage}$

The Director will determine the Size of the dice (up to a d12) rolled based on the danger posed to your character.

The number of damage dice rolled depends on the height of the fall. For every 30 FT, add one die (as seen below).

Distance	# of Dice
11 – 30 FT	1
31 – 60 FT	2
61 – 90 FT	3
91 – 120 FT	4
121 – 150 FT	5
151 – 180 FT	6
181 – 210 FT	7
211 – 240 FT	8
241+ FT	9

Additionally, your character takes 10 damage for every 10 FT fallen, ignoring the last 10 FT.

(#)d(Size) + (Height – 10)

#### EXAMPLE:

Falling 50 FT onto a thin bale of hay might be 2d4 + 40.
Whereas falling 90 FT onto some jagged rocks might be 3d10 + 80 ... ouch.

# Difficult Terrain

Difficult Terrain is challenging for any Adventurer. Your character CANNOT move through Difficult Terrain with a Simple Action, using a normal Action instead.

Min. Normal Action

# **Afflictions**

Afflictions are serious problems for your character, where a:

- Disease weakens the body or mind, possibly leading to death.
- Hex inflicts misfortune or pain, with consequences beyond death.
- Poison causes damage, usually leading to death if untreated.

# As a Major Impact

These Afflictions have a new Major Condition Impact that does NOT come from any Minor Conditions. It is:

 Afflicted – Bedrest no longer helps to reduce its Intensity, and any other Resting (or lack of) increases the Intensity by one.

 $Bedrest \rightarrow No\ change$   $Otherwise \rightarrow Increase$   $Intensity\ by\ 1$ 

Each source of the Affliction will have its own consequence for reaching an Intensity of five, effects while being Afflicted, and way to cure it.

### Hazards

During your character's adventures, they will face many challenges including *Hazards*. These are often dangerous, or precarious, situations caused by some action by your character. Each *Hazard* is defined by its:

- *Trigger* how and when it starts.
- Sensitivity how easy it is to trigger.
- Risk how visible and deadly it is.

 Effect – the consequence or series of event that unfold.

#### Trigger

Each *Hazard* is set off by:

- Mechanism interacting with an object.
- Pressure a change in weight.
- Zone entering or leaving an area.

Once *triggered*, the effect will be:

- Instant happening immediately, providing only a single chance to React.
- Delayed happening at some future time, acting as a countdown, giving time for your character to address the situation.

#### Sensitivity

Each *Hazard* has a different chance to *trigger* based on setup, age, neglect, and so on. These *Sensitivities* are:

- Faulty prone to frequent failure or malfunction under most conditions.
- Unstable inconsistent performance, with an equal chance of success or failure.

- Reliable dependable, succeeds under normal circumstances with occasional minor flaws.
- Certain nearly perfect, succeeds almost every time with no notable issues.

#### Risk

*Risk* has two components:

- Visibility how easy it is to find.
- *Danger* how bad it is to trigger.

Here are the degrees of Risk:

	Visibility/
Risk	Danger
Trivial	High Visibility,
IIIVIdI	Low Danger
Troubling	Low Visibility,
Houbiling	Low Danger
Throatoning	High Visibility,
Threatening	High Danger
Terrifying	Low Visibility,
remining	High Danger

# **Effect**

There are many effects caused by *Hazards*, including dealing damage, applying conditions, imposing obstacles, setting off alarms, and so on. Some effects can even worsen over time — whether by staying in the trap or after escaping it.

# **COMPLEX TASKS**

How does your character complete other necessary or interesting tasks while out adventuring? More importantly, what if the task spans multiple days or weeks? This is where *Complex Tasks* come in.

# Areas of Work

Each area of work has an average number of *Recovery Times* it will take to complete. From most to least, they are:

 Researching – gaining new knowledge through study and experimentation.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

New Spells, Rituals, or Tactics

 Crafting – creating or modifying items.

# EXAMPLE:

Weapons, Armor, Accessories

 General – learning simple concepts, making changes, or performing other broad tasks.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

Languages, Swap Spells, Rituals, or Tactics

 Enchanting – infusing objects with magical properties.

#### **EXAMPLE:**

Equipment, Potions, Scrolls

# Starting the Task

When starting a task, your character will estimate the time for completion according to its area of work and their level of support.

#### NOTE:

One *Complex Task* can be done at a time.

#### Work

Each area of work reduces the number of *RTs* required to complete the task by:

Work	Die Size
Researching	d4
Crafting	d6
General	d8
Enchanting	2d4

#### Support

Having a tutor, a partner, or extensive instructions reduces the time it takes to complete the *Complex Task*. Specifically:

 No Support – takes a maximum of 15 RTs, reduced by the task's complexity.

15 – Work (Min 1)

 Supported – takes a maximum of 10 RTs, reduced by the task's complexity.

10 - Work (Min 1)

#### Note:

All *Complex Tasks* take at least 1 *RT* to complete.

# **Checking Progress**

Now that we know how long it could take, we should see if your character struggles or not.

#### First Check-in

Halfway through the estimated time, rounded down, your character will need to check-in to see if they are on track or falling behind.

If your character succeeds on an Ability or Skill Check (provided by The Director), then the Complex Task is completed at the estimated time. If not, the Complex Task is delayed, and they will need to check-in again at the estimated time.

 $Halfway \rightarrow Make\ Check$ 

At Estimated Time: Succeed  $\rightarrow$  Complete Fail  $\rightarrow$  Check-in

#### **EXAMPLE:**

If the estimated time was 11 RTs, then the first check-in

is on the 5<sup>th</sup> RT (11  $\div$  2 = 5.5  $\rightarrow$  5). If successful, the task is completed on the 11<sup>th</sup> RT; otherwise, you will check-in again on the 11<sup>th</sup> RT.

#### Second Check-in

At the estimated time, your character makes another *Ability* or *Skill Check* (same as before). If the successful, then the *Complex Task* requires more time to

complete. This extra time is equal to half of the estimated time, rounded down. If not, the *Complex Task* they will need to start over.

Est. Time  $\rightarrow$  Make Check

Succeed  $\rightarrow$  Add ½ Est. Time before Completing Fail  $\rightarrow$  Start Over

**EXAMPLE:** 

On the 11<sup>th</sup> RT you check in. If successful, the task is completed on the 16<sup>th</sup> RT (11 + 5); otherwise, your character must start over.

#### Note:

Your character can always abandon a *Complex Task*, choosing to start over or begin a different task instead.

### MAGIC

# **Descriptors**

Each *Spell* has a Descriptor, describing its nature:

- Alteration changes the properties, appearance, or nature of a target.
- Creation brings something into existence by conjuring objects, creating illusions, or summoning.
- Destruction breaks down, damages, dispels, or terminates something.
- Motion manipulates movement and position.
- Psychic influences the mind and emotions of targets.
- Recovery focuses on healing, restoration, and protection.

# *Impossibilities*

A *Spell* CANNOT affect a target with a Descriptor's Impossibility:

Descriptor	Impossibility
Alteration	Stable
Creation	Confined
Destruction	Necrotic
Motion	Bound
Psychic	Mindless
Recovery	Unnatural

These are straightforward:

- Alteration CANNOT –
   change a constant state
   (Stable).
- Creation CANNOT –
   create if there is not
   enough space
   (Confined).
- Destruction CANNOT destroy something that

- cannot be killed or harmed (Necrotic).
- Motion CANNOT move or transport something trapped or imprisoned (Bound).
- Psychic CANNOT affect the mind of something that cannot think (Mindless).
- Recovery CANNOT heal or restore the undead or unliving (Unnatural).

# **Extending Spells**

Previously, spellcasters focused on manipulating the *Output* of their *Spells*. As they develop their magic, they learn to *extend* their *Spells*, bridging distances between enemies and allies.

When casting a *Spell*, you may spend *Vigor* (as seen

below) to set its starting point.

Vigor	Type	Distance
_	Limited	≤ 30 FT
+ 1	Nearby	≤ 60 FT
+ 3	Away	≤ 120 FT
+ 5	Far	≤ 240 FT
+ 7	Very Far	≤ 480 FT

#### **EXAMPLE:**

A Forked Spell might be extended to target 3 creatures (Layer 2) within 120 FT (Away). The additional Vigor cost would be 5 (2 + 3).

# **Disruptive Casting**

Your character may get disrupted while preparing, casting, or holding a *Spell* or *Ritual*.

#### NOTE:

Anything that inhibits, interrupts, or stops the process of channeling magic can disrupt it.

# EXAMPLE:

Attacks, Spells, tackling, distracting, and so on will disrupt a spellcaster.

# Mastery Over

If your character has Mastery Over the Spell, they may:

- Maintain the Spell by spending half the Vigor Cost.
- Check Make an Ability
   or Skill Check to maintain
   the Spell, have it faulter,
   or fizzle entirely.

+ ½ Vigor Cost OR Ability/Skill Check

#### Same Mastery

Unfortunately, if your character is disrupted while using a Ritual or a Spell with the same Mastery Rank, then they make an Ability or Skill Check to maintain the Spell, have it faulter, or fizzle entirely (same as above).

Ability/Skill Check

# **Summoning**

Summoning involves either:

 Calling – bringing forth a creature from another

- location, plane, or dimension.
- Manifesting creating a form from magical energy.

If a Summoning Spell or Ritual calls creature or object, then its details are defined by that Spell or Ritual.

Calling → Defined by Spell or Ritual

When adding a

Summoning Spell or Ritual
that manifests creature or
object, you will define its
details. Whenever, your
character uses this
Summoning Spell or Ritual, it
manifests the defined
creature or object.

 $Manifesting \rightarrow Set when$ added to Caster's Journal

Creating a Creature TBD?

Creating an Object TBD?

# Additional Items Properties

Your character may come across special items that have unique properties.

#### Kin

Elven blades and Dwarven hammers each have their own unique properties.

# DISCLAIMER:

These, and others, are described in the *Items and Journal Entries* book.

#### **Enhancements**

Enhancements are magical properties added to items that grant unique capabilities, features, or traits. The nature of the Enhancement depends on how the magical energy in integrated into the item:

 Infused – direct bonding of the material during its creation, often from stone dust.

- Enchanted imbued with energy after its creation, often from a magical source, such as a stone.
- Adorned decorated with magical pieces, often from a cut stone.

#### DISCLAIMER:

Stones will be covered in detail in the next section.

# STOP HERE

# The Rise

Now a powerful Adventurer, your character shall establish their legacy, permanently etching their story among other legends.

# PREPARING FOR ADVENTURE

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# THE RISE

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5<sup>™</sup> – 10<sup>™</sup> Level Characters The Rise | Page 95

# **TBD**

# Strongholds?

# Magic Items

**Magical Rating** 

For truly powerful magical items, there will be a *Magical Rating* listed at the end. Since it should be a while before your character uses such powerful items, we will revisit this part later on.

**Stones** 

**Rituals and Stones** 

Multiclassing

**Counter Spells** 

Resurrection

Curses

Corruption

Mighty Deed

Wounds & Scars?

**Modifying Spells & Tactics** 

# PREPARING YOUR LEGACY

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# **TBD**

Kingdoms?

Loyalty???

Archaic Magic???

Enchanted Items
Selling and Buying

Realms & Planes

Preparing for your legacy?????

Beyond 15th Level

At this point your character has survived and

developed significantly. Now it is time for them to define their *Legacy*. What has their journey led them to? How will the world remember your character? Will they be seen as one of the greatest, bring up the next generation, seek retribution, or live become the villain?

This book is meant to be a detailed introduction to the first half of your character.
The Comprehensive Rulebook and Character Development Guide covers Legacies in detail.

For some awareness, you will have a few *Legacies* to choose from according to your character's highest *Ability Score* and *Reputation* quality. Taking a *Legacy* is similar to a new *Class*.

# **Building a Legacy**

Now a powerful Adventurer, your character shall establish their legacy, permanently etching their story among other legends.

# PREPARING FOR ADVENTURE

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