

The Circle

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Overview

The Circle is a town built inside a massive circular wall of light green glass, seven meters tall and four meters deep. The wall has two long, gated, dirt ramps allowing travellers and townsfolk to come and go from the east and west ends of town where the main local road connects to town. The people of The Circle, called Circulars, enjoy much more protection than most of the towns and villages in the area due to their impenetrable wall.

However the glass wall itself is a Numenera, and has a few strange effects. First, it conducts and conveys sound, light, heat, and other forces seemingly randomly, allowing people in town near the wall to see and hear each other from time to time as though they were in a neighboring room. This and the very nature of having a wall of glass in one's home has caused many in town to give up on the pretense of modesty and privacy. It's not uncommon to see vastly more nudity in The Circle than in other rural towns.

Additionally, the ring-like wall seems to store some of the energies around it over the course of time, before discharging it once every twenty five days or so. As the wall stores the energies it begins to glow brighter and brighter, until on the twenty fifth day when it is as bright as a light bulb along the entire surface. When the discharge occurs, it takes the form of a flash of light and a blast of electricity, reaching out for several meters around. Those caught in the blast are burned, scarred, and often killed (10 points of damage). After this burst, the ring becomes dark and cold.

During the days leading up to a discharge, the citizens who live along the wall move themselves and their flammable belongings to the town center, a circular pavilion called The Hub. It is during this time that the town holds its political processes, discussing and solving community problems and determining who will serve in public offices by voting. Traders and local craftspeople sell their wares to the collected community and the town comes alive with commerce and entertainment.

Many believe the wall itself fell to earth at some point in the distant past. The ring is partially buried into the ground, such that the wall is slightly tilted to the south. The south part of town, having somewhat less protection due to a shorter wall, has a reputation as the "bad" part, so this is generally where taverns and the brothel can be found. The north end is the location of most of the more ambitious and expensively constructed homes.

Circulars of Note

Rasha. The town mayor. A female abhuman with the lower body of a cheetah, Rasha is primarily concerned with expanding trade for the town, which means finding protection for traders along the roads from the various bandit groups who operate in the area. She has an appetite for adventure and enjoys patrolling the roads herself when she has the time. Level 5, 7 for attack rolls with her bow.

Jaken. The town Aeon Priest. A representative of the Order of Truth, Jaken is a community leader who coordinates all things technological in town. Jaken has much skill with the Numenera, with a focus on adapting technologies for use as farm implements. He has even rigged three Numenera into makeshift tractors. Working closely with the town metal workers and other crafters, Jaken is always on the lookout for new materials and objects.

The Harens Brothers. Three men in their thirties run The Glass Cutter, the largest tavern in town, serving warmed barley beer and facilitating dice and card gambling. Located at the south end of town, The Glass Cutter has a reputation for having a boisterous, friendly crowd. The eldest Harens brother, Iliam, works as the affable barkeep at the tavern. He is always a good source of information and odd jobs from throughout the community, and he has a weakness for a pretty face.

The Old Naked Man. A citizen of The Circle for many decades, no one remembers his name anymore. He lives outside the walls in a shack made of synth mats and twine. Bearing many scars from what appear to be acid burns, the Old Naked Man claims to have been a treasure hunter in his youth. Though most find his insane rantings annoying, some claim his knowledge of locations for collecting Numenera to be impeccable.

Rumors in The Circle

The Rest of the Machine. Far to the northeast there is another ring of glass with the same dimensions as The Circle and connected to a massive broken machine. Some of the objects thought to have been destroyed by the discharge of The Circle every 25 days can be found at this other site.

Dead Priests. Some say a group of Aeon Priests passed through town two weeks ago, heading to a cave to the north. Their clothes were found several days ago at the cave mouth by a goat herder operating in the area. He says the cave is making strange noises.

Bandit King. Some have seen a massive encampment of bandits several miles from town, beyond the barley fields. Rumor has it that a leader has emerged from among the many groups of criminals in the region, unifying and organizing them. The attacks against traders are now vastly more organized and sophisticated, lending credence to this theory. One wild claim purports that the leader is a massive blue mutant of incredible intelligence who wields a long Numenera spear, crackling with energy.