

ELEMENTAL EVIL™



State of Mulmaster Article

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State of Mulmaster



"THEY SAY OUR MOTTO IS 'TAKE WHAT YOU CAN, WHEN YOU CAN, BECAUSE WHO KNOWS IF YOU'LL SEE TOMORROW.' I'd prefer something a bit less grim, but I'm too busy getting what's mine to think of one.

—Zor Andrik Gos

With mountains on three sides and the Moonsea on the fourth, the city of Mulmaster is cold and windswept. With snows frequent, there is little natural greenery except where the rich can afford it. In this bleak landscape rose one of the most powerful cities of the Moonsea. The rich luxuriate in the benefits of their station, while the poor suffer in fear of their betters and the tyranny visited upon the citizenry.

The story of Mulmaster began in 934 DR when a fortress was built on the River Lis at the end of the North Road in order to watch over trade flowing to and from the Moonsea and the Vast. Under the guidance of the sorcerer-king Nesker, Mulmaster grew to an aggressive state until 1317 DR, when Nesker was killed and the first High Blade, Amdrauth Telsnaer, took control of the City. Amdrauth issued the Edict of Arcane Banishment, making arcane magic illegal in the City. After Amdrauth, Mulmaster would see a quick flurry of High Blades, each taking power after assassinations and other mysterious circumstances. It was a time of turmoil, where much of the politics and culture of Mulmaster developed to what it is today.

The Recent Past

In 1348 DR, Sefaril Uomdolphin assumed the position of High Blade. Sefaril was a strong ruler with a firm grip on power and a deadly jealous twin brother. It is not known how, but in 1368 DR, it is rumored that Sefaril was replaced by his brother Rassendyll. Whether it was Rassendyll in the guise of Sefaril, or Sefaril himself, a pact was forged with Fzoul Chembryl to forming an alliance with the Zhentarim in order to strengthen Mulmaster and oppose the Red Wizards of Thay. This would lead to the rise of the church of Bane in

Mulmaster and further crack downs upon those who practice arcane magic.

The alliance crumbled in 1383 DR when Zhentil Keep and the Keep of the Raven were destroyed by the Shadovar. Fleeing the powers of Netheril, a large number of refugees arrived on Mulmaster's docks. Unwilling to aid their allies when the alliance no longer had anything to offer them, the Blades of Mulmaster relegated the refugees to a piece of swampy land outside the southern wall, where the refugees were heavily taxed for the right to the relative safety afforded by proximity to the nearby City. When Zhentil Keep was eventually rebuilt post-Spellpague, many of the refugees tried to return to their ancestral home where they quickly discovered that those who had stayed viewed the migrants as Mulmasterites and ordered them to return to their adopted city of Mulmaster.

During this time, the government of Mulmaster took its current shape. Forty-nine noble families vote on who is nobility and who is not, keeping the number of families to exactly forty-nine. Each family is lead by a Lord (whether male or female), and all other members of the family are referred to as Zor (male) or Zora (female). The Lords elect sixteen of their number to become Blades, and in turn the Blades elect the High Blade who rules the City. The latest High Blade is Jasseen Drakehorn, who struggles to maintain her authority against threats from abroad and within. Jasseen has reaffirmed Bane as the patron of Mulmaster and has built a wall around the Zhent Ghettoes, effectively making them a part of the city, if not officially claimed.

The High Blade's latest problem is the influx of refugees from Phlan. At the advice of the Council of Blades, she has allowed the Phlan refugees access to the Ghettoes rather than turn them away. The nobility sees the refugees as a desperate source of cheap labor that are not yet the rabble-rousers the Zhentil Keep refugees has become. For the moment, the Phlan refugees have found a home, but for how long remains to be seen.

Mulmaster Today

The people of Mulmaster are pessimistic about their lot and attempt to overcome their trials with fierce determination. They work hard, always looking for any edge to advance themselves in the corrupt city. When the time comes to break from their hard work, they take pride in their family and enjoy celebrations with wild revels that include sumptuous banquets, strong tavern drinks, hot-blooded duels, flirting or gossiping in dance-houses, gambling at the Gate of Good Fortune and even darker entertainments found in shadowy corners of the City.

The strength of Mulmaster is in its control of trade. It sits at the end of the major land and sea routes north to the Moonsea. It controls no farms and very little land beyond its valuable sea frontage. Recently, the High Blade has expanded her

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influence and reclaimed the iron mines at Point Iron by constructing a fort there. However, this city of 50,000 rests in its careful balance of the different power groups, a balance the refugees of Phlan and the Factions seek to tip in their favor.

The noble Lords and the Blades have control of the law and by extension are immune to most of it. Their word is iron and no one, not even the clergy of Bane, can cross them. Bribery, intimidation, tyranny, and outright murder are the tools of their trade and they wield them without pause. Given that position among the nobility is fluid, many of the wealthiest middle class families are constantly on the lookout to supplant a noble family past its prime. Otherwise, the Blades maintain their control of the populace through the threat of the Cloaks, Hawks and Soldiery.

From the **Tower of Arcane Might**, the Brotherhood of the Cloak watches for arcane threats to the rule of the High Blade. Formed as part of the Edict of Arcane Banishment, all practitioners of magic in the City who are not emissaries of a foreign power (such as those in the embassy of Thay) are watched closely, and those that use their magic are punished severely, unless they have joined the Cloaks and sworn to protect the rule of the High Blade from all threats. Cloaks are frequently detailed to lend magical assistance to the Watch and the Soldiery. The Harpers have been seeding their operatives into the Cloaks, but how they have avoided the magical tests of loyalty remains unknown.

The Hawks are the secret police; the terrifying bogeyman that watches all that happens and carries out nighttime raids against those who harbor seditious thoughts, commit acts of sabotage, or otherwise threaten the stability of the regime. The Hawks are the best of the Mulman forces and execute the Blades' secret plots without ever being seen. The Lords' Alliance seeks a pact with the Hawks.

The Soldiery is Mulmaster's army and navy, a proud force that is richly rewarded. Military service is highly valued among the middle and upper classes and seen as a way out of poverty for the lower classes. Members of the Soldiery take an oath of loyalty and service that is the foundation of their honorable brotherhood, and this group may be the only one where corruption is extremely rare. The fairness of the Soldiery is why its members are frequently called on to judge duels between those of noble birth. The Order of the Gauntlet seeks to work closely with the Soldiery.

The City Watch is made-up of those who were unsuited for a career in the Soldiery due to their stupidity, laziness, or a volatile nature. Members of the Watch are corrupt bullies who prefer brutal beatings and bribes to seeing any justice done. They are more dangerous to the average citizen than most criminals, and they are often overlooked as unimportant when considering city politics.

The masses living in the **Zhent Ghettos** are natural allies of the Zhentarim. Heavily taxed by the nobility and abused by the Watch, they have nowhere else to turn but the Zhentarim, who control much of the crime in the area. The Zhents have started organizing the workers and rhetoric favoring the Zhentarim over the Blades is becoming more commonplace. While not individually powerful or wealthy, there is a

significant strength in the poor's numbers that could threaten the power of the Blades if the Zhentarim decide to turn their wrath against the rest of the City.

Religion in Mulmaster

Religion is not a major factor in the life of the average Mulmasterite. Most are too self-centered too worry about the plight of others and too corrupt or greedy to consider donating to a temple. Nevertheless, there are several temples and shrines in the City of Danger. The shrines of Mulmaster are generally not tended and do not offer spellcasting services unless a cleric is specifically mentioned in a particular adventure.

With the return of Bane, **The Black Lord's Altar** has been rededicated and Bane has been made the official religion of the City. The High Blade herself is a paladin of Bane and was raised from a young age by the High Imperceptor, Jorrul Missen. There is no clergy more powerful in the City, and those seeking to get ahead in the complicated social circles of Mulmaster frequently worship here.

The High House of Hurting and the faith of Loviatar are extremely popular among the decadent nobility and the youth. Two decades ago, the High Blade ordered the debauched and depraved Palace of Revels to be bricked up beneath the Tower of the Wyrm. The priests of the Maiden of Pain have been only too happy to take the Palace's place by offering some of its more morally questionable services.

The High Hall of Swords serves those who pray in Tempus' name. It is popular with the Watch and those members of the army in the Soldiery. Those guilty of cowardice while fighting in the City's name will find their rotting heads impaled on the spikes that decorate the battlements of the temple.

As a temple devoted to the gods of magic, it is no surprise that the **Tower of Mysteries** forms a sprawling complex with the **Tower of Arcane Might**. The Tower of Mysteries includes small temples to Leira, Velsharoon, and Savras, as well as a shrine to Mystra (whose worship is illegal within the City). Since only Cloaks and visiting dignitaries are allowed to practice magic in the City, anyone entering the Tower of Mysteries can expect to be confronted by one or more Cloaks demanding to see the worshipper's papers. Only those who have officially sworn to not cast arcane magic in the City, are acknowledged dignitaries, or are members of the Cloaks may pass. Everyone else will suffer further, intense scrutiny.

The Gate of Good Fortune is both a temple and a casino. Lord Priest Wylan Burrel (the jovial brother of taciturn Aleyd Burrel, a Knight of the Black Fist from Phlan) maintains a small congregation. However, the casino is one of the most popular destinations for the wealthy and the desperate. Risk taking appeals to Mulman sensibilities, and thus Tymora is the only Good-aligned deity with a temple in the City.

The House Built on Gold has only recently been rebuilt and rededicated at the direction to the iron merchants of Mulmaster, chief among them Lord Ninyon Gos. The work to fully restore this temple of Waukeen is ongoing. Backed by

the rich nobility and the craftsmen's guilds, it is likely to see completion within the year. In addition to religious services, the temple has also opened a bank that offers less usurious loans than the nobility, and with less likelihood of bodily harm than those available in the Ghettos.

A **shrine to Lathander** rests atop a hill near the south side of **Southroad Keep** where the rays of the sun first rise over the shadowed walls of the City. This untended shrine is frequented by the poor asking for the blessings of Lathander to shine upon them, as well as those leaving the City and traveling south.

Opposite Lathander's shrine, on the northern side of Southroad Keep, is a dismal fly-ridden shack with the claws of predators and the wings of birds of prey nailed to its walls. Those who hunt in the mountains stop here to honor Malar, the Beastlord. Other than the occasional hunter, this shrine is often empty.

The **shrine to Mask** stands openly in the street, not hidden away as one might expect. Mulmasterites venerate Mask as the King of Guile, who gets ahead by his wits and skill rather than just accepting his lot. The shrine takes the form of a changing chamber built to look like a cloaked and masked two-faced figure of 12 feet tall. One face is a man, the other a woman. Worshippers enter on one side by pulling the corresponding "arm" of the figure of one side, passing through, and exiting the other side. Custom dictates that worshippers must be masked and costumed when entering and must exchange mask and costume for another when exiting. Thus, in theory, no one knows who is worshiping at the shrine. There are always over a dozen costumes inside the shrine and traditional favorites rotate in and out as individuals take it upon themselves to repair or replace them.

The **shrine to Talos** is on the rocky, storm-battered shore outside the walls. Those who would offer the Stormlord praise gift him with a piece of driftwood, adding to a precarious towering pile that is set aflame at the end of every month. Climbing the precarious tower before the flames or dancing closely around the teetering mass as flaming logs fall are common ways to show one's faith.

The **shrine to Umberlee** is on a bridge whose balustrade bears the sculpted furious face of a woman through whose gaping mouth the River Lis drains into the waters below. The shrine is called the Last Drop as it is customary for Mulmasterites attempting suicide to sacrifice themselves to the Bitch Queen by plunging over the side. This shrine is tended by Rydah the Storm Smoother and is popular with common sailors and the naval members of the Soldiery. Its congregation is the largest of any of the shrines, and may soon achieve the status of a temple.

The Brotherhood of the Cloaks

Rules for the D&D Adventurers League

After decades of being outlawed, arcane magic is universally hated in the City of Danger. The people hate it, the nobility fear it, and the Cloaks constantly hunt for it. As such, it is difficult for characters that practice arcane magic to



function in the City. The following rules apply for D&D Adventurers League adventures that take place in Mulmaster. This includes all season two Expeditions adventures. If you have already played some season two Expeditions adventures with a character and would have liked your character to join the Cloaks during one of them, you may retroactively pay the required costs and join and advance immediately by noting it on your logsheet. This could allow you to gain ranks retroactively by spending costs for those season two Expeditions adventures you have already completed.

Definition of Arcane Magic

At the time of the writing of this article, arcane magic includes those spells cast by arcane tricksters, bards, eldritch knights, sorcerers, warlocks and wizards (page 205, *Player's Handbook*), but not spells cast from scrolls or racial abilities. This list should not be considered exhaustive; it is possible that future supplements may add to it.

The Edict of Arcane Banishment

Seeing the power of the sorcerer-king Nesker, Amdrauth Telsnaer officially banished all arcane magic upon becoming the first High Blade. All arcane magic and its practitioners are effectively illegal in Mulmaster and the Zhent Ghettos, though there are some exceptions:

Upon entering the City. Those who openly declare themselves as arcane practitioners may take an oath to cast no spell while in Mulmaster. Doing so gives the oath-taker access to the City, but those who break the oath are usually summarily executed.

Foreign dignitaries. Those deemed foreign dignitaries can be granted exemption from the Edict if the High Blade deems it appropriate. The Red Wizards of Thay are one such exception. So far, the people of Phlan have been denied such status.

Apprentices. While still technically illegal, apprentices are not considered overly dangerous and their spellcasting is often over-looked unless it is directly witnessed by a city official or is used against a citizen from the middle class or higher.

Therefore, characters with less than four levels of classes

that can cast arcane spells receive warnings from the Cloaks and are recruited to join them, rather than being punished on the Getting Caught and Sentencing charts below. Arcane tricksters and eldritch knight begin counting from the first level where they can cast spells, not the first level in rogue or fighter. Nevertheless, members of the Watch are not trained to tell the difference between apprentices and other casters and are therefore likely to beat an apprentice to death if they witness one using arcane magic (DM's discretion).

Accomplished Casters. Arcane casters with four or more levels of classes that can cast arcane spells who have not taken the oath to avoid using magic have six months to swear allegiance to the High Blade and join the Cloaks, or they will be banished. Note that they still may not use illegal magic during this time. The exact amount of time actually allowed varies significantly in practice. In any adventure in Mulmaster in which an arcane caster participates after his or her first adventure, if the character has four or more levels in classes that can cast arcane spells, the character might be arrested.

Zhent Ghettos. Although the Zhent Ghettos are officially part of the City, they are generally treated as such and the Edict of Arcane Banishment applies and is enforced there as well.

Hiding Your Casting

It is possible that your character might decide to cast an arcane spell anyway. In order to distract witnesses from the casting or to make them think a magic item was used, as a Bonus Action a character may attempt a Charisma (Deception) or Dexterity (Sleight of Hand) skill check (player's choice) with DC equal to 8 + the level of the spell being cast. If the character fails his or her check and the DM rules that there is a witness, the character will be receiving a visit from the Cloaks.

For example, Wilse is a 5th-level wizard who attempts to cast a *magic missile* at a thug that has jumped him in the Zhent Ghettos. He wants the spell to have a little extra punch, so he casts it using a 3rd-level spell slot. Not wanting anyone to rat him out to the Cloaks, he tries to do it without anyone realizing he used magic. The DC for his check is 11 (8 + 3).

Punishment

Casting on the streets of Mulmaster is dangerous. Given their indoctrinated fear of magic, the people of Mulmaster are likely to report your character if they see him or her casting arcane spells. Characters seen casting an arcane spell will likely suffer severely, particularly if the spell was used against a citizen, rather than a refugee or foreigner. Except as detailed above regarding apprentices, the DM should use the charts provided in the side bar to determine what happens if your character is seen casting an arcane spell. If the character resists capture or punishment, the DM should determine the appropriate outcome based on the players' plan and the situation. Remember that Rank 3 Harpers can use the Arcane Amnesty downtime activity to receive advantage on social checks to exonerate a character.

Getting Caught

If the spell was cast in the presence of a city official proceed directly to Sentencing below. Otherwise, roll 1d20 + the level of the spell cast and consult the chart below. When multiplying to determine the cost of a bribe, a cantrip counts as 1st-level spell.

Roll	Result
1-5	The witness or witnesses decide not to get involved. You are lucky.
6-10	The witness or witnesses see an opportunity. For a collective bribe equal to the value of the spell level × 10 gp, they are willing to leave well enough alone.
11-15	The Watch is called and arrives (when the DM determines; often at the end of the adventure) to arrest the offender. For a bribe equal to the value of the spell level × 100 gp, the Watch members are willing to ignore this offense. If the bribe is paid, add five to all Getting Caught checks made for the rest of the Adventure. If the bribe is not paid, the character is arrested. Move to Sentencing.
16+	A team consisting of members of the Soldiery and a Cloak arrive. The refuse any bribes. The character is arrested. Move to Sentencing.

Once the character is arrested, here are two ways a character might be saved from Sentencing. The character may immediately join the Cloaks and pay a fine equal to the value of the spell level × 200 gp. If the character does not have the gold to pay the fine, they must pay the balance of their monetary wealth (not gear). If the character is unwilling to join the Cloaks, he or she may still be saved from Sentencing if a Rank 3 Harper at the table uses the Arcane Amnesty downtime activity by spending 1 downtime day per level of the violating spell to plead the character's case. If the character is unwilling to join the Cloaks and a Rank 3 Harper is not available or will not or cannot spend the downtime, proceed to Sentencing.

Sentencing

Roll 1d20 + the level of the spell cast and consult the chart below to determine how the Magistrate rules in the character's case. If the offending spell(s) targeted a member of the nobility, add 10 to the roll. If the character has the Mulmaster Aristocrat background, or has the Noble background and is from Mulmaster, subtract 10 from the roll. If the character has been previously banished from the City, add 15 to the roll. When multiplying to determine the cost of a fine, a cantrip counts as 1st-level spell.

SENTENCING TABLE

Roll	Result
< 4	Amazingly, due to a technicality or a missing witness, the Magistrate finds you not guilty. After a warning, the character is free to go.
4-6	The character is ordered to pay a fine equal to the value of the spell level × 200 gp. If the character cannot pay the amount of the fine, treat the result as a 7.
7-9	All of the character's money (but not gear) is seized. The character is beaten into unconsciousness and banished from the city. The character starts his or her next adventure at half of his or her normal maximum hit points.
10-12	All of the character's money (but not gear) is seized. The character is imprisoned for a period equal to the spell level × 10 downtime days. The character is beaten into unconsciousness and banished from the city. The character starts his or her next adventure at half of his or her normal maximum hit points. If the character does not have the required downtime days treat the result as a 13.
13-15	The character is deemed a threat to Mulmaster. His or her hands are cut off and cauterized with a brand. The character is beaten into unconsciousness and banished from the city. The character starts his or her next adventure at half of his or her normal maximum hit points. A character whose hands have been cut off in this manner may spend 10 downtime days to find a local cleric willing to cast <i>regenerate</i> to restore them for 1,525 gp.
16-18	The character is publicly executed by hanging. His or her body and belongings may be reclaimed by friends or family and he or she can be raised from the dead.
19-21	The character is publicly executed by being drawn and quartered. All of the belongings and wealth on the character's person are claimed by the City. The pieces of the character's body may be reclaimed by friends or family and the character may be raised from the dead.
22+	The character is publicly burned alive. His or her remains are then quietly scattered in the Moonsea to prevent his or her return from the dead. A cleric of Bane curses the character's soul to torment in the Nine Hells. All of the belongings and wealth on the character's person are claimed by the City. The character can only be returned from the dead using a <i>true resurrection</i> spell cast by another character during the session in which the Sentencing roll was made.

Joining the Cloaks

Instead of worrying about the punishments for using magic, arcane casters may choose to join the Brotherhood of the Cloaks. Characters that do so must swear to defend the rule of the High Blade, protect Mulmaster from the incursion of arcane magic and uphold the Edict of Arcane Banishment. Those that are caught violating this oath are burned alive (as a result of a 22 on the Sentencing chart). Being a Cloak costs the character 3 Downtime Days per Mulmaster adventure played, and the character must maintain a wealthy lifestyle for that downtime. All season two Expeditions adventures (DDEX2-X) are considered Mulmaster adventures.

Joining the Cloaks is not without its benefits. All Cloaks receive a square medallion that denotes membership in the Brotherhood. This medallion gives the character advantage on social skill checks made with officials of Mulmaster (DM's discretion). For each Mulmaster adventure played, the character gains one rank in the Cloaks organization. For each *To Wear a Cloak* favor the character has, he or she also gains an additional rank.



Benefits of the Brotherhood of the Cloaks



Character Name _____

Player Name _____

DCI # _____

Benefits are cumulative. Characters start at Rank 0 upon joining the Cloaks.

Rank Benefit

0 The character is permitted to cast 1st through 3rd level arcane spells in Mulmaster, and any order of banishment previously issued regarding the character is rescinded.

1 The character receives spellcasting services for him- or herself (only) at the Tower of Mysteries as if he or she had the Shelter of the Faithful background feature. If the character already has this feature, the services are extended to the character's allies as well, even though they would not normally be permitted inside.

2 The character is permitted to cast 4th and 5th level arcane spells in Mulmaster.

3 The character may obtain one spell scroll of a 1st level spell on the character's spell list found in the *Player's Handbook*, to be used during the adventure. This choice may be made before the start of the adventure or if the player desires, during the adventure if it takes place in the city of Mulmaster. If the scroll is not used during the adventure, it must be returned. If the character does not use the spell during the adventure and is personally capable of copying it into a spellbook, the character may do so. The character may not give this scroll to another character.

4 The character is permitted to cast 6th level arcane spells in Mulmaster.

5 The character's lifestyle costs in Mulmaster are decreased by half of his or her Rank (rounded down).

6 The character is permitted to cast 7th level arcane spells in Mulmaster.

7 As Rank 3, but the character may obtain a spell scroll of up to a 2nd level spell.

8 The character permitted to cast 8th level arcane spells in Mulmaster.

9 As Rank 3, but the character may obtain a spell scroll of up to a 3rd level spell.

10 The character is permitted to cast 9th level arcane spells in Mulmaster.

Rank Adventure Played & Notes

0 Prerequisite: *Joined the Cloaks*
DDEX2-___ : _____
DATE: _____

1 DDEX2-___ : _____
DATE: _____

2 DDEX2-___ : _____
DATE: _____

3 DDEX2-___ : _____
DATE: _____

4 DDEX2-___ : _____
DATE: _____

5 DDEX2-___ : _____
DATE: _____

6 DDEX2-___ : _____
DATE: _____

7 DDEX2-___ : _____
DATE: _____

8 DDEX2-___ : _____
DATE: _____

9 DDEX2-___ : _____
DATE: _____

10 DDEX2-___ : _____
DATE: _____

D&D Epics and Encounters adventures do not qualify a character for membership or advancement within the Cloaks.