



The Magician's House

*A fantasy role-playing adventure for characters of levels 3-4.
Compatible with 5e.*



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a fantasy role-playing adventure for
5e

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INTRODUCTION

The city of Blackrock is in peril! An army of shrieking demons marches inexorably closer, less than a week away from putting its people to the knife. The Duke puts out a call: brave and resourceful heroes are needed to recover the sacred words that will unleash the power of the Sealing Stone. Words that have passed beyond the world - and so these adventurers must pass beyond the world, into...The Magician's House!

The Magician's House is designed to challenge the party and delight the players with its whimsy. Within its enchanted walls, they will find doors that open to strange vistas: faerie gardens, abandoned cities behind the mirror, libraries of boundless size and crystal domes on the moon. They will encounter beings that interrogate and imperil, beguile and betray, entreat and entertain; children and ogres and aliens and magical statues.

How to use this adventure

The Magician's House is an old-school "dungeon" crawl, in the sense that PCs are traveling together between numbered map locations, and because this enterprise is dangerous and potentially profitable. The text has been organized with the intent of making it easy to run at the table. Here are some suggestions for how to best do so:

- Read through the adventure ahead of time so that you fully understand the [Setup](#) and the basics of all the [Locations](#).
- The [Overview](#) map shows the connections between locations in the house. However, most of the time, it's much easier to refer to the maps of individual locations.
- [Locations](#) are designed to utilize facing pages. Whenever a location extends beyond two pages, content is divided in a manner to minimize the need for page flipping.
- The **First impression** section of each location detail was intended to be paraphrased, but the GM can read it aloud if he or she wants to.
- Feel free to improvise in place of anything that is unclear or undesirable to you. It would be impossible for this text to cover every eventuality, so it doesn't try.

Using this adventure as a one-off

You're in luck! The Magician's House is written as a one-off adventure, providing the GM and players with pre-generated PCs and a predetermined hook. These PCs have their own motives and goals, which players are

encouraged to pursue. It's very open-ended: even as a one-off, there are several different ways to fulfill the primary quest, and the motives of the pre-generated characters will interact in unpredictable ways.

The Magician's House presents genuine danger, but unlike most 5e adventures, it is entirely possible for the adventurers to succeed without a single fight. However, the peaceful solution is not necessarily obvious or without its own costs, so it's a rare group that emerges from Mordank's abode without having drawn their swords.

Using this adventure in a campaign

Even though it was designed as a one-off adventure, *The Magician's House* can easily be inserted into an existing 5e campaign. It's appropriate for 3-5 characters of level 3-4.

When using this adventure in an existing campaign, it shouldn't be hard to invent a hook. Something that the PCs want is in the house, and the wizard hasn't been seen. Even better, the GM may introduce Mordank earlier into the campaign, making it possible that the PCs have more than one reason to enter his home.

However, if you adapt this material to an ongoing campaign, keep in mind that a number of the challenges were designed to play on the fact that the party has a time limit of five days. A GM who uses this adventure with existing characters might want to design a hook that has a similar time limit. It's not strictly necessary, but it can add to the dramatic tension of certain decisions that the party may have to make.



SETUP

Overview

The players should be informed of the following:

They are all adventurers of highly-varied backgrounds who are, for different reasons, present in the City of Blackrock. Unfortunately, they are currently not able to take advantage of its usual virtues and vices; news has recently arrived that an army of demons advances on Blackrock!

Happily, the Duke has obtained the fabled Sealing Stone, which will cancel the black magic of the demons. To use it, someone must read its inscription aloud. The catch is that it's in Old Giant; general knowledge of how this tongue is spoken has passed beyond this world, and even features and spells such as *Eyes of the Rune Keeper* and *comprehend languages* only convey the meaning of the ancient logograms, not the pronunciation necessary for casting the spell.

Fortunately, Blackrock's premier magician, Mordank the Irregular, has claimed to possess this knowledge - while deep in his cups, it must be noted. Unfortunately, Mordank hasn't been seen since he returned to his house from a drinking binge with his friend Lutz. That was three months ago. Lutz hasn't been seen, either.



The adventurers have been hired to enter the Magician's House to find a pronunciation of the inscription. There's **1000 GP** in it for each of them if they succeed. Nobody's sure how to get past the enchanted door to the House, but the Duke gives them his old expired invitation in case it is useful to them. They are also furnished with a charcoal rubbing from the face of the Sealing Stone.

There are five days until the army arrives. The Duke tells the adventurers to take a day to make their preparations, and to then enter the Magician's House in search of Blackrock's salvation.

What actually happened?

Three months ago, Mordank came home to relax with his friend Lutz after a night of drinking. Shortly after arriving, his angry ex-patron Gentleman Hob dispatched several Fae Cats to vex the wizard. They entered through a magic mirror in the [Main Hall](#) (3), and quickly freed the Lonely King and Bloody Bones from the [Menagerie](#) (15) to cause havoc. Mordank finally caught up with the wicked felines in the [Faerie Shrine](#) (19), where a reflected spell has trapped both the wizard and the invaders ever since.

Starting the game

1. Tell the players what the premise is (see above).
2. Pass Handouts [A](#) and [B](#) to the players.
3. Players are presented with the [pre-generated characters](#) and allowed to know each character's class and Impressions.
4. Each player chooses which pregenerated character to run. Alternatively, characters can be assigned at random.
5. Each player then selects his or her PC's preparation activity (see below).
6. Players then take turns reading their character's Impressions, adding **one** descriptive element of their own choice.
7. Finally, the party meets at the first location - the [Front Door](#) (1) - when they are ready to begin.



Selecting characters

The pre-generated PCs are listed towards the end of this document. There are two aspects of them which are unique to *The Magician's House*.

- **Social class:** It doesn't come into play very often, but social class is ranked as follows: noble (highest), gentry and commoner (lowest).
- **Communities:** This is a listing of all the communities in which the PC has social contacts. This becomes relevant during intelligence gathering activities (i.e. rumor-mongering).

Win fulfilled	Lose fulfilled	Result
no	yes	Tragedy!
yes		
no	no	Live to fight another day...
yes	no	Glory!

Victory conditions

Each of the PCs have objectives which are not identical but are *mostly* complimentary. These are called Win and Lose criteria, and each PC has two Win conditions and one or two Loss condition.

Interpret the final results of the adventure depending on which conditions have been fulfilled, as follows:

This should be explained to players.

Alternate objective

If the GM wants to insure that this adventure lasts for more than two sessions, he or she need only change the conditions of the party's reward: the Duke hires them to return with Mordank the Irregular rather than finding out how to pronounce the inscriptions of the Sealing Stone.

In this case the GM may want to change one of the Win goals for the pre-generated character Velouria. Instead of being charged with insuring Mordank's demise, she seeks to discover the secrets of his power. This can be accomplished by reading his journals, studying Mordank in the library, or using the Helm of Infinite Wisdom.





Preparation

To move things along, players should be told that there are **three primary preparatory activities**: shopping, training and intelligence gathering. The players can do whatever they want with this day, but there's only enough time to get one of those kind of activities done, and the Duke has made it clear that he expects them to take a single day to prepare.

The party can choose to skip preparation and start immediately. They can even take more time, but if they do this, they will be brought into the Duke's presence. He will say that if they delay, he has much less time to send others if they fail. If the PCs still insist on **two or more days of prep**, they will be told that they be executed if they fall short.

Simplified alternative

Offer each player the opportunity to go shopping. They cannot lend each other money. Each player can roll for one unique rumor from a community that his or her character is a member of.

Shopping

Each character can spend his or her money to buy equipment. However, money cannot be lent by PCs who are not shopping – they don't know each other well enough yet!

All standard equipment is available for standard prices. The following, however, may be easily located if the players think to ask.

Witch potions

Madame Strella is a witch (**mage**) on the edge of town who sells:

- **Three** Potions of Healing
 - Restores **2d4 + 2 HP**.
 - **50 GP** each.
- **Two** Sleeping Draughts
 - After **2d4 rounds** drinker falls asleep for **2d4 hours**
 - **DC 20 Constitution saving throw** prevents sleep (but -1 to rolls for **1d4 hours**)
 - **50 GP** each.
- **One** Love Philter
 - Drinker falls in love with first living thing to touch him or her.
 - **DC 15 Wisdom saving throw** to resist.
 - **250 GP**.
- **One** Tincture of Transformation
 - Imbiber turns into a **rat** immediately, **no saving throw**.

- Effect lasts for **10 minutes**.
- **400 GP**.

Blessings

The party can also buy a blessing from various temples for **75 GP**. This bestows inspiration upon the character.

Henchmen

The 5e SRD contains rules for hiring hirelings and other services. However, those prices represent minimums and are oriented towards days of service rather than a single, dangerous mission. For single, dangerous excursions, consider the following alternate rules.

Finding the right henchmen requires recruiting and networking efforts, represented by a **Charisma (Persuasion) check**. Each type of henchman is available to different types of characters.

Henchman Availability	
Charisma (Persuasion) Check	Henchmen
< 5	0
5-9	1
10-14	2
15-19	3
20+	4

Henchmen Employment		
Henchman	Employer	Cost
Hireling	Anyone	50 gp
Town guard	Gentry or noble	200 gp
Guild thief	Criminal contacts	10% loot
Knight	Noble	500 gp

Hireling

These **commoners** must be paid in full up front. They will not willingly fight or take risks. They expect to perform menial tasks, keep watch, etc. After first being endangered, must make a **DC 10 Wisdom saving throw** to avoid deserting the next time left alone. Knows one random commoner rumor.



Hireling (Commoner)

Medium humanoid (any race), any alignment

Armor Class 10

Hit Points 4 (1d8)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
10 (+0)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)

Senses passive Perception 10

Languages any one language (usually Common)

Challenge 0 (10 XP)

Actions

Club. Melee Weapon Attack: +2 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 2 (1d4) bludgeoning damage.

Town Guard

Slow-witted **guards** that mostly keep to themselves. They love booze, and if permitted to drink enough, can become poisoned until they sober up and get over their hangover.

Town Guard (Guard)

Medium humanoid (any race), any alignment

Armor Class 16 (chain shirt, shield)

Hit Points 11 (2d8 + 2)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
13 (+1)	12 (+1)	12 (+1)	10 (+0)	11 (+0)	10 (+0)

Senses passive Perception 12

Languages any one language (usually Common)

Challenge 1/8 (25 XP)

Actions

Spear. Melee or Ranged Weapon Attack: +3 to hit, reach 5 ft. or range 20/60 ft., one target. *Hit:* 4 (1d6 + 1) piercing damage, or 5 (1d8 + 1) piercing damage if used with two hands to make a melee attack.

Guild Thief

Curt and surprisingly professional thief (**spy**). They will cut and run if things look both dangerous and unprofitable, however. The Guild will still demand the full share of any loot acquired before such desertions. They don't expect a cut of the Duke's reward. Price is per thief.

Guild Thief (Spy)

Medium humanoid (any race), any alignment

Armor Class 12

Hit Points 27 (2d8 + 2)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
10 (+0)	15 (+2)	10 (+0)	12 (+1)	14 (+2)	16 (+3)

Skills Deception +5, Insight +4, Investigation +5, Perception +6, Persuasion +5, Sleight of Hand +4, Stealth +4

Senses passive Perception 16

Languages any two languages

Challenge 1 (200 XP)

Cunning Action: On each of its turns, the spy can use a bonus action to take the Dash, Disengage, or Hide action.

Sneak Attack (1 / turn): The spy deals an extra 7 (2d6) damage when it hits a target with a weapon attack and has advantage on the attack roll, or when the target is within 5 feet of an ally of the spy that isn't incapacitated and the spy doesn't have disadvantage on the attack roll.

Actions

Multiattack: The spy makes two melee attacks.

Shortsword. Melee Weapon Attack: +4 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 5 (1d6 + 2) piercing damage.

Hand Crossbow. Ranged Weapon Attack: +4 to hit, range 30/120 ft., one target. *Hit:* 5 (1d6 + 2) piercing damage.

Knight

Will accept half pay up front, half at the end. Final half is owed unless the **knight** deserts; if he or she dies, it goes to next-of-kin. Will only join a party with a cleric. Solid fighters, but they will act superior to gentry and may order around commoners.



Knight

Medium humanoid (any race), any alignment

Armor Class 18 (plate)

Hit Points 52 (8d8 + 16)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
16 (+3)	11 (+0)	14 (+2)	11 (+0)	11 (+0)	15 (+2)

Saving Throws Con +4, Wis +2

Senses passive Perception 10

Languages any one language (usually Common)

Challenge 3 (700 XP)

Brave: The knight has advantage on saving throws against being Frightened.

Actions

Multiattack: The knight makes two melee attacks.

Greatsword: *Melee Weapon Attack:* +5 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 10 (2d6 + 3) slashing damage.

Heavy Crossbow: *Ranged Weapon Attack:* +2 to hit, range 100/400 ft., one target. *Hit:* 5 (1d10) piercing damage.

Leadership (Recharges after a Short or Long Rest): For 1 minute, the knight can utter a special command or warning whenever a nonhostile creature that it can see within 30 feet of it makes an attack roll or a saving throw. The creature can add a d4 to its roll provided it can hear and understand the knight. A creature can benefit from only one Leadership die at a time. This effect ends if the knight is incapacitated.

Reactions

Parry: The knight adds 2 to its AC against one melee attack that would hit it. To do so, the knight must see the attacker and be wielding a melee weapon.



Training

Each character can spend time training in one particular activity. For the next 3 days, or until such intensive training is undertaken again, this provides a +1 bonus to one of the following types of d20 rolls:

- Attack rolls using a particular weapon or spell
- Ability checks using a particular skill or tool
- Saving throws using a particular ability score
- The saving throw DC of a particular spell
- Anything else with similar scope that obtains GM approval

Forgery

A character with proficiency in forgery kits **automatically succeeds** in forging a new and current invitation to the house using the Duke's old copy as a template. Characters without this proficiency must succeed on a **DC 16 Dexterity** check to produce a convincing forgery. Either way, an attempted forgery takes the entire time.

Additionally, a character with a criminal community contacts can hire the guild to produce a flawless fake for **400 GP**.



Intelligence

An information seeker must choose **only one** of his or her communities to contact. Such characters learn a number of rumors equal to **3 + Charisma modifier**. Roll on rumor table for the chosen community (see below) once for each rumor.

Aristocracy

1d6	Rumor	True?
1	Mr. Inscrutable is known for his expensive (some would say gaudy) jewelry, which wears at all times, even when in his cups at some rancid hole, draped in rags.	Yes
2	He's good at curses! Mordank owed a hefty tab to Big Carl at the Perfumed Unicorn, which he paid so that anyone who busts the place up or skips on their bill is stricken with a hex. The wizard protects that which he values with curses.	Yes
3	Mordank the Irregular is not of noble blood, so one is led to wonder where he comes by so much...well, so much <i>gold</i> . Of course, wizards have their ways, but he acts like the stuff grows on trees. I've never seen a commoner who cares so little for his coins.	Yes
4	Master Mordank is a canny man of deep mystery. I have seen him cast powerful spells on multiple occasions, and whenever he does so he whispers but a single word. Such élan!	Yes
5	The wizard's servants are, without exception, creatures of no grace or intellect. They are all very easy to deceive.	No
6	I have heard that the master of the Magician House is a great lord among the faerie, and they all owe him a great debt. All faerie you find there should respect your hospitality rights if reminded.	No



Commoners

1d6	Rumor	True?
1	I hope Master Mordank is arright. He always looks out for us kids. I heard he took in Little Cammy when her da was too fierce with his bullywhip.	Yes
2	Watch out for Mordank's friend Lutz. The last guy who gave Lutz a shiner was turned into a suckling pig by Mordank...which they both promptly roasted and ate!	Yes
3	I hear the magician has a lot of faerie friends. My nana used to tell a lot of stories about them, and she said either that one must never eat faerie food, or that they can't abide by a person who won't accept their hospitality. I can't remember which.	Yes
4	Madame Strella says that the so-called "Great Magician" (her words, I swear) is just a purveyor of tricks, alliances, tools and a child's understanding of the real secrets of creation. Again, her words.	Yes
5	Mordank the Wicked is actually the source of our troubles! Why do you think he's gone scarce?	No
6	It is said that the Magician's House has a hundred doors in Blackrock.	No

Criminal

1d6	Rumor	True?
1	A team of Indigo Cartel men were buying drinks for everyone at the Philosopher a few days ago, asking about how to get into Mordank's. Big smiles and cold eyes.	Yes
2	There are rumors of a "Back Door" to the Magician's House. It's said to open to a secret password and be unguarded. The man who could pass through that could become wealthy indeed.	Yes
3	That loudmouth Lutz is always trading on his friend's name, racking up debts that nobody can collect. He was blabbing about Mordank's servants, a sorry lot of multi-hued goblins. Says they hate to be called goblins or brethren to the other colors.	Yes
4	There's a lot of people in this city, both professional thieves and desperate folk, who are just waiting for a chance to get into Mordank's house while the magician is indisposed.	Yes
5	There's said to be a corrupting curse that affects anyone who steals anything from the Magician's House.	No
6	A member of the Nine Veils broke into the Magician's House once and lived to tell the tale. He said nothing will hurt you if you don't strike the first blow.	No



Learned

1d6	Rumor	True?
1	Mordank the Irregular is said to be not of this world. When he first arrived in Blackrock seven years ago, he could not speak our tongue, and his attire was very strange. However, three days after his first appearance, he showed up at the Farting Philosopher to order a cask of whiskey with perfect grammar and an aristocratic accent.	Yes
2	The few seers who have tried to discuss scholarly matters with Mordank have concluded that he is very poorly read, and that's being kind. Not a few wise men are skeptical that he truly knows Old Giant.	Yes
3	It is said that the wizard Mordank has access to a library of unfathomable richness...it is said by the man himself! But none have gazed upon it, so he is either a liar or a miser of knowledge.	Yes
4	It's hard to know where an obvious foreigner like Mordank would have learned Old Giant. The dead tongue is only found in ruins of this area, and the scholarship is not widespread.	Yes
5	It is the considered opinion of several Lawful high priests that faerie are creatures of Chaos, as their fae presence may be repelled by invoking the power of the divine. Country folk believe that the mere symbols of Law are enough, but temple authorities insist that only anointed priests can provide protection.	No
6	It has been opined by those who have studied such matters that Mordank is himself a changeling of the faerie and not human at all.	No

Mystical

1d6	Rumor	True?
1	Be careful in the Magician's House. The place past the door lies beyond space and time, and each room is a separate world. It is probable that time flows differently in some places. Mordank has always been an enthusiastic proponent of using time manipulation to speed some things up and slow others down, but the particulars are harder than his neat theories suppose.	Yes
2	Mordank the Irregular has always been greatly enthusiastic to treat with otherworldly beings. He seems particularly fond of faeries, which is reckless enough, but at least he does not dabble in the black arts.	Yes
3	Mordank's powers have more than once betrayed a faerie origin. This is worrisome, for faerie gifts are often the opposite of what they appear.	Yes
4	One thing consistent about Mordank even from his humble beginnings is that he takes pleasure in the deceptive characteristics of mirrors and other simple tricks.	Yes
5	Few are aware that the only arts known by Mordank the Irregular are the making of glamours and astral projection. The rest are lies and illusions.	No
6	Mordank is a powerful magician, but he's almost helpless without his familiar and his wand.	No



INSIDE THE HOUSE

Basic features

Layout

The different rooms of the House exist in widely separated places, some in pocket universes or other worlds. Each doorway is really a seamless portal between such regions. The [Front Door](#) (1) and [Back Door](#) (12) are mounted on buildings that are otherwise empty and ruined with a blank wall when seen from the other side.

Decor

The default decor is mahogany-panelled walls with blue-and-white glazed tile floors and white plaster ceilings. Lighting is provided by crystal globes that contain flitting bugs that glow hues of blue, red and yellow.

Crest

Seen in various places in the House. The crest has a gold background, usually set on burgundy background. Upon it, two black lobsters meet at the bottom, possibly fighting. A very surprised white pheasant stands astride them, and a five-pointed red star blazes above.

Interior doors

Interior doors are paneled in mahogany, with shiny brass handles that rotate to unlatch. They are not heavy, but they are very sturdy. Underneath the wood is an extremely strong metal that is matte grey and light. Noise does not pass through closed doors, except for the sounds of impact on the door itself. Determined chopping will break through a door, which causes it to cease functioning. Broken doors no longer open to their destinations, and instead expose a howling void through any breaks as though they were walls (see below).

Interior walls

Internal walls are usually paneled in dark mahogany. Underneath this veneer is a greenish-purple plastic-like material that oozes and self-repairs when gouged. As with doors, determined hacking will expose a howling

void. Those who fall into this void are lost, but nobody will be involuntarily sucked through a hole.

Kitchen Doors

The [Kitchen](#) (6) has a magic door that opens into several different rooms in the House. It looks like any other internal door, except it has a small crest mounted immediately above the handle. From the [Kitchen](#) (6) itself, the door may only be opened if the Kitchen Door Key is inserted into the lock that is present on the [Kitchen](#) (6) side of the door. Depending on how far the key is turned, the door opens to a different destination, as follows:

- No turn: [Visitor's Lounge](#) (2)
- ¼ turn: [Garden - Central Island](#) (9b)
- ½ turn: [Moon - Alien Dome](#) (8a)
- ¾ turn: [Lecture Hall](#) (18)
- Full turn: [Playroom](#) (13)

From these different locations, the Kitchen Door is unlocked, except in the case of the [Visitor's Lounge](#) (2). From that room, the Kitchen Door Key is needed to open the door. These other doors only open to the [Kitchen](#) (6). While it is open to one location, none of the other Kitchen Doors may be opened.

Magic Mirrors

Some of the mirrors in the house are magical. These mirrors can be used as portals to the [Mirror World](#) (4), a world that looks very similar to the real world at the location of the magic mirror, but otherwise appears to be a [Desolate City](#) (4b). Since all of the magic mirrors in the house open to this vacant city, it's possible to go in through one mirror in the house and come out through another.

A magic mirror can be either open or closed. A closed mirror acts as a normal mirror that reflects everything in this world but shows a slightly different place beyond. An open mirror looks the same, but it is possible to pass through.

A closed mirror is opened by touching it and saying aloud "*I've a sceptre in hand, I've a crown on my head.*". An open mirror can be closed by touching it and reciting



this phrase: “*Dreaming as the days go by, dreaming as the summers die.*” This can be performed from either side, and it causes the frame to briefly glow with magic sigils.

A magic mirror can be broken like a normal mirror, which destroys its enchantment. If it is moved from its current position, it temporarily loses its connection with the [Mirror World](#) (4). Re-establishing this connection requires knowledge of how to craft magic mirrors. Each mirror is fixed in place, 5’ x 2’ and weighing 50 lbs., and is worth 200 GP.

Goblins

Mordank is served by a race of yard-high humanoid with no hair, spindly limbs, outrageous noses and multi-hued skin. This adventure refers to them as

“goblins,” but they never call themselves that, and they object to the term.

Each goblin is specialized according to its skin color, and they refer to themselves by function. The red goblins are *servants*, while the yellow are *guards*, and this is how they refer to themselves. These are the two types present in Mordank’s house. There is a low-key rivalry between these types, and they are even reluctant to acknowledge that they are of the same race.

Mordank has a contract with the Grey Sorcerers of Goblin Town, so when goblins are killed in the house, they are eventually replaced from the [Goblin Tunnels](#) (7). These open into the house through one of two yard-tall goblin doors, and eventually connect to Goblin Town.

Magic rings

Scattered through the House are a number of the wizard’s magic rings. Each ring is fashioned entirely differently with a different command word. Activating a ring takes one action and requires speaking the command word aloud. Each ring can contain up to three charges, and can only be recharged in the [Ring Forge](#) (17) or the [Horned Altar](#) (19). A ring left in the ring forge or on the horned altar regains one charge per day.

Mordank has a special trap for spellcasters who try to *identify* the command words; such spells succeed, but the caster is rendered unable to speak, write or otherwise express the word in any language. Every time he or she attempts to do so, knowledge of how the word is spoken or written is temporarily forgotten. There is no saving throw against this effect within the house, but outside the house, it can be resisted with a successful DC 18 Intelligence saving throw at the time of casting *identify*. A *remove curse* will dispel this effect from a single ring. A cursed character can’t say the word in pieces, but they can engage other PCs in a game of charades.

Here is the master list of magic rings:



Ring name	Room	Command word	Design	Power
Golden Whispers	Visitor’s Lounge (2)	Crocus	Agate torus wrapped in palladium wire on a simple tin band.	Speaking the command word causes the wearer to feel the ring tugging towards the greatest concentration of wealth within 100’ for the next turn.
Plain Truth	Main Hall	Iris	Dull grey heavy uranium gothic band	Touch will permanently dispel an illusion. A touched being is returned to its “true” form, and unable to change form or



	(3)		ringed by leering gargoyles, mounting a fractured peridot.	cast illusion or enchantment spells for one hour.
Breath of the Dragon	Study (10)	Bluebell	Blackened iron twisted into braids, ringed with studs of jagged glass.	Sheet of fire in a 20' cone . Everything in the arc takes 6d6 fire damage ; DC 15 Dexterity saving throw for half damage.
Invitation	Study (10)	Daffodil	Smooth sandalwood with a small face carved from a citrine.	Point at any door in sight and teleport to the other side. Even works on doors in the House, including magic mirrors!
Hand of the Giant	Study (10)	Gardenia	Square-cornered white gold with a cluster of opals.	Hand enlarges to giant size. It may be used for one ability check using giant-level brawn (Strength 22, +6 modifier) or one unarmed strike using this enhanced Strength that deals 2d12 + 6 damage .
Tongue of the Native	Study (10)	Dandelion	Filigree of platinum and cobalt set with a large rough chunk of turquoise.	Able to speak and read any language native to where the wearer currently stands. Note that Old Giant <i>is</i> native to the area.
Mud Magic	Ring Forge (17)	Orchid	Bone with a single large diamond.	By pointing at earth and squeezing your fist, you cause earthen matter (e.g. rock, soil, sand, clay, etc.) to soften to mud. You can transform up to 600 lbs per use. If you use this against an earth elemental or earthen construct, it must make a DC 15 Constitution saving throw , taking 6d6 bludgeoning damage if it fails or half as much on a success.
Lèse majesté	Ring Forge (17)	Tulip	Steel spiked band set with alternating small amethysts.	For 1 minute, you can cast <i>command</i> as a bonus action on each of your turns without spending a spell slot.
Wisdom of the Earth	Ring Forge (17)	Dogwood	Rune-etched coral with an aquamarine lozenge.	Ask one question, and an answer will be spelled out in the sand nearest to the wearer's feet. The answer is provided by an invisible gnome that travels through the earth. It is unable to spy on those with powerful magic, and it can only answer questions about things in contact with earth. Even then it knows the answer only 70% of the time. 20% of the time it is flummoxed, but 10% of the time it thinks it has the right answer but it is wrong.
Wind Porter	Ring Forge (17)	Hyacinth	Simple tungsten band with an alexandrite spike.	5' radius whirlwind forms where wearer makes a fist, and it can be directed to move. Flies up to 80' horizontally per round carrying up to 500 lbs 5 feet off the ground (cannot cross gaps). Picks up whatever it touches. An uncaught creature that enters the whirlwind or starts its turn there can dodge the effect with a DC 14 Dexterity saving throw . Once caught, it can only escape if it can fly or grab onto something, and must succeed on a DC 20 Strength (Athletics) check to free itself. Contents are not hurt but are restrained. Lasts 10 minutes . Cannot carry the wearer.
Hidden Hand	Ring Forge (17)	Marigold	Glittering red fat pumice band with heart-shaped bloodstone.	The wearer points at two things, speaking the command word both times, and they swap positions. Objects must be within 60' of each other and the wearer, and neither may be animate or in excess of 500 lbs .



Dollmaker	Ring Forge (17)	Azalea	Old oily rope for a band with a giant uncut ruby.	Wearer speaks the command word while touching an object. The object is shrunk down to a doll that can be fit in one's hand; this works on objects that weigh up to 1000 lbs. The effect lasts until the object is thrown into the air or damaged. A hurled doll-boulder can cause 8d6 damage for maximum size objects as a thrown weapon attack. Living beings can resist iconization with a DC 12 Constitution saving throw . If they fail, they are shrunk and immobile, but they are aware of their surroundings.
Transmute	Faerie Shrine (19)	Posey	Obsidian band carved as a lifelike serpent with lapis lazuli eyes.	That which is touched by the index finger can be temporarily transformed into whatever he or she names, so long as it is of approximately equivalent dimensions and mass and something that the wearer has observed. After one minute , the original form is restored no matter what happens to the new shape i.e. damage doesn't carry over, even death and destruction.
Stolen Moments	Faerie Shrine (19)	Wild Rose	Complex silk braid with colorful feathers and a ruby cut in the shape of a hawk.	Stops time except for the wearer, who takes 2 turns in a row. Objects may be moved and imparted momentum, but they can't be damaged, and hang in mid-air upon release.

Alerts and breaches

If the party has done something to cause the guard Captain in the [Barracks](#) (5) to become aware of their intrusion, then the House can be considered to be *on alert* for the next **hour**. Moreover, if the party has smashed through the [Front Door](#) (1) or [Back Door](#) (12),

then the House is considered to be *breached* until the door is repaired, which should take about **1 hour**.

The effect of an alert or breach is to increase the chance and variety of [encounters](#) that occurs during this time.

Encounters

When the party is moving through the House proper (i.e. everywhere but the [Mirror World](#) (4), [The Moon](#) (8), and [Cosmic Library](#) (11)), there is a chance for a random encounter every ten minutes. The base chance is **1-in-6**, but this can be modified by circumstance; if the House is currently on alert, then the chance of an encounter is **2-in-6** per turn. If breached, then the chance is **3-in-6**.

Likewise, the encounter is drawn from a table that depends on the current state of the House; roll accordingly. In any case, the GM should ignore or change any encounter that doesn't seem logical.

Normal encounters

1d10	Encounter
------	-----------

1-2	Servants
3-4	Guard patrol
5	Chief Steward inspection
6	Wandering children

Alert encounters

1d10	Encounter
1-2	Servants
3-6	Guard squad



7	Chief Steward inspection
8	Wandering children

Breach encounters

1d10	Encounter
1-2	Servants
3-6	Guard squad
7	Chief Steward inspection
8	Wandering children
9	Looting commoners
10-11	Looting lowlives
12	Invading party

Encounter descriptions

Servants

This is a group of **1d4** goblin servants. They are red-skinned with long noses, wearing the livery of Mordank under a tabard with his crest. They are fussy and mannered, but dim. Servants will only fight if cornered, but will try to escort lost guests back to the [Visitor's Lounge](#) (2).

If PCs resist returning to the lounge, they will try to alert the guards. That creates an alert, and a [guard squad](#) (see below) will arrive at the report site in **1d6+6** rounds.

Goblin Servant

Small humanoid (goblinoid), any alignment

Armor Class 12

Hit Points 7 (2d6)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
8 (-1)	14 (+2)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	8 (-1)	8 (-1)

Skills Stealth +6

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 9

Languages Common, Goblin

Challenge 0 (10 XP)

Nimble Escape: The goblin can take the Disengage or Hide action as a bonus action on each of its turns.

Actions

Punch: *Melee Weapon Attack:* +1 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 1 bludgeoning damage.

Guard patrol

This is a **pair** of goblin guards. They are yellow-skinned with bulbous noses, wearing a tabard with Mordank's crest over a suit of light mail, and they carry wicked-looking polearms with metal caps called **anti-magic batons**.

A patrol that encounters trespassers will attempt to lead them back to the [Visitor's Lounge](#) (2). If the PCs resist or lack an invitation, they will also attempt to alert their fellows. The pair will not start a fight with a larger party.

Goblin Guard

Small humanoid (goblinoid), any alignment

Armor Class 15 (leather armor, shield)

Hit Points 7 (2d6)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
12 (+1)	12 (+1)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	8 (-1)	8 (-1)

Skills Stealth +5

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 9

Languages Common, Goblin

Challenge ¼ (50 XP)

Nimble Escape: The goblin can take the Disengage or Hide action as a bonus action on each of its turns.

Actions

Anti-magic Baton (Spear End): *Melee Weapon Attack:* +3 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 4 (1d6 + 1) piercing damage.

Anti-magic Baton (Cap End): *Melee Weapon Attack:* +3 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 3 (1d4 + 1) bludgeoning damage. Against magic target (e.g. enchanted creature, wizard, etc.) deals an additional



3 (1d6) fire damage, negates all spells currently affecting the target, and negate's the target's magic powers for 10 minutes. Magic cap turns to slag 10 minutes after striking magic target, removing this action.

Mount and Rider: The goblin guard can serve as a mount for another small goblinoid. While doing so its speed is halved, and its rider gains advantage on melee weapon attack rolls.

Chief Steward inspection

The Chief Steward is inspecting the House for maintenance and cleaning, and he is accompanied by two [servants](#). Outside the [Kitchen](#) (6), he will quickly realize that the adventurers are intruders, but he will play dumb so they will leave him alone.

The Chief Steward will try to subtly send a servant for guards while he keeps he party busy with dumb questions. If they attack, he'll try to escape. It's very difficult to convince the Chief Steward that the wizard Mordank needs the help of the PCs.

Goblin Steward

Small humanoid (goblinoid), any alignment

Armor Class 12

Hit Points 7 (2d6)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
8 (-1)	14 (+2)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	8 (-1)	14 (+2)

Skills Stealth +6, Deception +4

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 9

Languages Common, Goblin

Challenge 1/8 (25 XP)

Nimble Escape: The goblin can take the Disengage or Hide action as a bonus action on each of its turns.

Actions

Shortsword: *Melee Weapon Attack:* +4 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 5 (1d6 + 2) piercing damage.

Wandering children

This will either be the trio from the [Children's Observatory](#) (14) or the bully from the [Study](#) (10) - 50/50 chance of either. The trio will be easily frightened but looking for help to save their friend [Zenni](#) (in the [Moon-](#)

[Time Dome](#) (8b)). The bully will play dumb but look for an opportunity to steal from the party. He especially wants more [magic rings](#). All have **commoner** stats.

Ring	Burrock's knowledge	Charges left
Breath of the Dragon	Ring power, command word and usage	2
Invitation	Ring power, command word and usage	2
Hand of the Giant	Ring power, command word and usage	2
Tongue of the Native	Nothing	3

Guard squad

This group consists of **four goblin guards** (see "Guard Patrol" above), led by a **single goblin sergeant**. They are yellow-skinned with bulbous noses, wearing a tabard with Mordank's crest over a suit of light mail, and they carry wicked-looking polearms with iron-shod butts.

The sergeants are unimaginative but difficult to deceive. A squad that encounters trespassers with an invitation will attempt to lead them back to the [Visitor's Lounge](#) (2). If the PCs lack an invitation, the squad will attempt to bring them to the [Barracks](#) (5) to meet the Captain. If the party resists, the squad will attempt to disarm and apprehend. If a squad is sent on alert and doesn't report back, a larger squad may come looking for it.

Goblin Sergeant

Small humanoid (goblinoid), any alignment

Armor Class 18 (chain mail, shield)

Hit Points 11 (2d8 + 2)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
13 (+1)	12 (+1)	12 (+1)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	9 (-1)

Skills Stealth +5, Insight +2

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 10

Languages Common, Goblin

Challenge ½ (100 XP)

Martial Advantage. Once per turn, the goblin sergeant can deal an extra 7 (2d6) damage to a creature it hits with a weapon attack if that creature is within 5 feet of an ally of the goblin sergeant that isn't



incapacitated.

Actions

Anti-magic Baton (Spear End): *Melee Weapon Attack:* +3 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 4 (1d6 + 1) piercing damage, or 5 (1d8 + 1) piercing damage if held with two hands..

Anti-magic Baton (Cap End): *Melee Weapon Attack:* +3 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 3 (1d4 + 1) bludgeoning damage. Against magic target (e.g. enchanted creature, wizard, etc.) deals an additional 3 (1d6) fire damage, negates all spells currently affecting the target, and negate's the target's magic powers for 10 minutes. Magic cap turns to slag 10 minutes after striking magic target, removing this action.

Mount and Rider: The goblin sergeant can serve as a mount for another small goblinoid. While doing so its speed is halved, and its rider gains advantage on melee weapon attack rolls.

Actions

Club. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +2 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 2 (1d4) bludgeoning damage.

Looting lowlives

Local scum opportunistically looking to grab what isn't nailed down. These 1d4 + 3 lowlives may try to rob a party that is smaller than theirs at crossbow point.

Lowlife

Medium humanoid (any race), any non-lawful alignment

Armor Class 13 (leather armor)

Hit Points 22 (4d8 + 4)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
11 (+0)	12 (+2)	12 (+1)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)

Senses passive Perception 10

Languages any one language (usually Common)

Challenge ¼ (50 XP)

Actions

Light Crossbow: *Ranged Weapon Attack:* +4 to hit, range 80 ft./320 ft., one target. *Hit:* 6 (1d8 + 2) piercing damage.

Scimitar: *Melee Weapon Attack:* +4 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 5 (1d6 + 2) slashing damage.

Looting commoners

These are locals **commoners** who are some combination of curious and greedy. They tend to avoid fights and act guilty if chastised. Here are the types of commoner groups:

1d4	Commoner group
1	Playing children
2	Family
3	Laborers
4	Teenagers

Commoner

Medium humanoid (any race), any alignment

Armor Class 10

Hit Points 4 (1d8)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
10 (+0)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)

Senses passive Perception 10

Languages any one language (usually Common)

Challenge 0 (10 XP)

Invading party

This is a group of hard-bitten men (same number as PCs) dressed in matte black chainmail with short swords and crossbows, and they will act as intelligently as possible. They won't start a fight unless the party gets in their way or has what they need.

Should a fight ensue, they start by using their flash grenades and hexed crossbow bolts. Each professional carries **1 flash grenade**, **2 hexed bolts** and **8 normal bolts**.

These are professionals, sent by the Indigo Cartel, with a purpose. Here is their purpose:

1d6	Purpose
1	Kill the wizard.



2	Find Mordank's magic rings and their command words.
3	Expedition to the Cosmic Library (11).
4	Gain control of the golem (at the Mirror World - Magic Mirror site (4a) for the Main Hall (3)).
5	Collect all the written materials they can find.
6	Obtain the Helm of Infinite Wisdom (currently worn by Haerla in the Children's Observatory (14)).

Professional

Medium humanoid (any race), any non-chaotic alignment

Armor Class 16 (chain mail)

Hit Points 39 (6d8 + 12)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
14 (+2)	14 (+2)	14 (+2)	12 (+1)	14 (+2)	10 (+0)

Saving Throws Str +5, Wis +4

Skills Athletics +5, Perception +4, Persuasion +2

Senses passive Perception 14

Languages any two languages

Challenge 1 (200 XP)

Actions

Multiattack: The professional makes two attacks with its longsword.

Longsword: *Melee Weapon Attack:* +4 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 6 (1d8 + 2) slashing damage one handed, or 7 (1d10 + 2) slashing damage two-handed.

Light Crossbow: *Ranged Weapon Attack:* +4 to hit, range 80/320 ft., one target. *Hit:* 6 (1d8 + 2) piercing damage.

Hexed Bolt (2 uses): *Ranged Weapon Attack:* +4 to hit, range 80/320 ft., one target. *Hit:* 6 (1d8 + 2) piercing damage, and the professional can cast *bane* on the target as a bonus action without spending a spell slot, using Wisdom as its spellcasting ability (DC 12).

Flash Grenade (1 use): The professional throws a flash grenade at a point it can see within 60 ft. Each creature within 5 ft. of that point must succeed on a DC 12 Constitution saving throw or be blinded and deafened until the end of its next turn.

Reactions

Parry: The professional adds 2 to its AC against one melee attack that would hit it. To do so, the professional must see the attacker and be wielding a melee weapon.





Children

There are several children in the House, located at [The Moon - Time Dome](#) (8b), the [Study](#) (10) and the [Children's Observatory](#) (14). As a general rule, these children are typical specimens in that they will cause trouble any time they accompany the party and are not being carefully watched and wrangled. Any time that a child is given sufficient room to misbehave, it will happen **2-in-6** times.

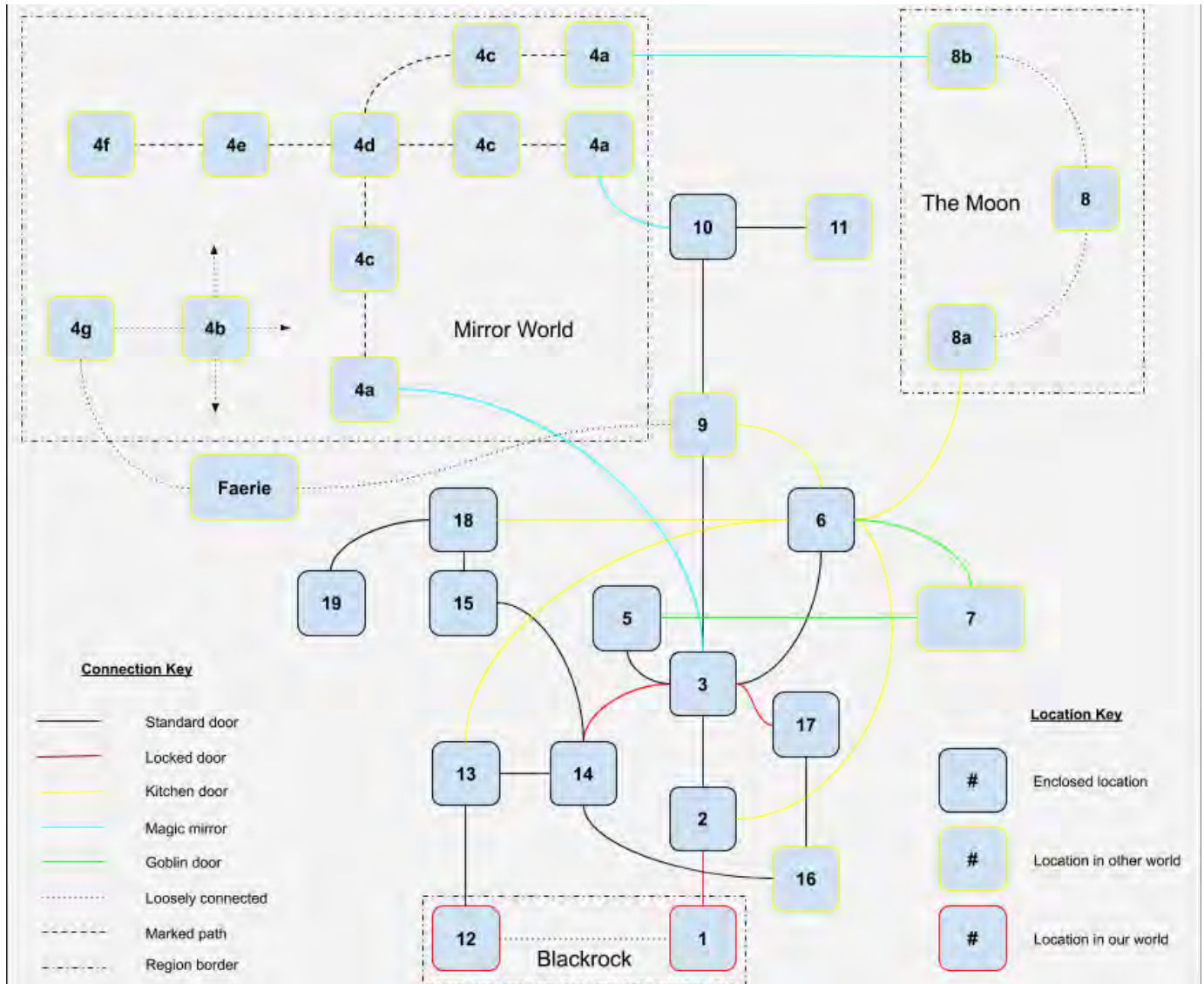
Here is an list of tantrums that the GM can use to help decide how a given child acts up:

- Oodak quietly wanders off to explore.
- Haerla corrects a PC pedantically.
- Haerla starts arguing with one of the other children.
- Minz starts singing loudly and tunelessly.
- Minz impulsively runs off in a random direction.
- Zenni is saddened by something, and weeps piteously in the corner.
- Zenni is startled and runs off screaming.
- Burrock tries to steal something.
- Burrock bullies another child.
- Burrock tries to steal something in the House.



LOCATIONS

Overview



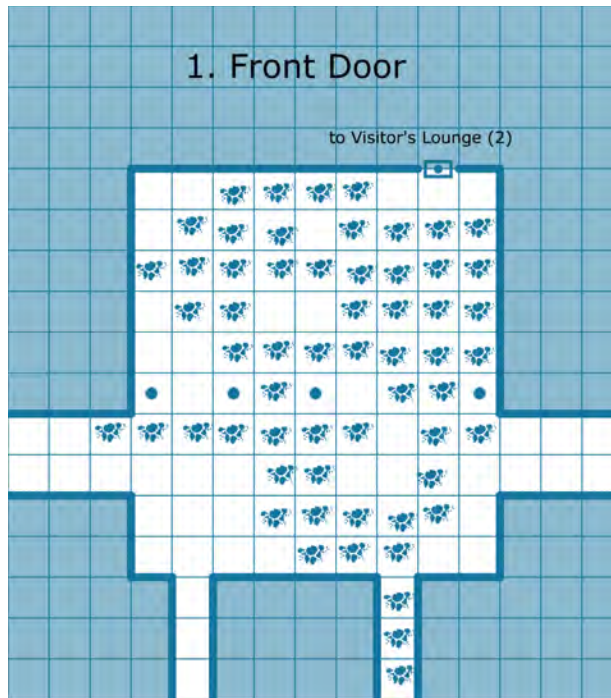
How to use

Due to the nature of the House, it is not straightforward to depict in a singular map. So instead of using such a map to track the party's position in this place, the easiest way to do so is to rely on the maps for whatever

location they are currently in, and to simply transition between room maps as the PCs transition between locations. In most cases, they should start at location 1.



1. Front Door



Scale is 5' per square.

Overview

The door to the house requires an invitation or powerful magic to get past. Breaking it down causes a curse. Children playing nearby know about the [Back Door](#) (12).

First impression

The [front door](#) is painted bright red, with the crest of Mordank in the center, and a leering bronze demonic face for a knocker. The actual building behind it is ruined and empty. These buildings are arranged into a nameless square with a few cobbles and pale weeds reclaiming the rest. A small host of grubby [children](#) are engaged in a game that involves a lot of shrieking and kicking, but they take note of the party.

Features

Front Door

When approached, the knocker animates and haughtily requests their invitation. If presented with a convincing forgery, the door will permit entry and announce the party to the servants within the [Visitor's Lounge](#) (2). Otherwise, it will only promise to let someone know that they stopped by and cannot be persuaded. Altering the

invitation in an hour requires a **DC 15 Dexterity (Forgery Kit) check**.

It's not too hard to break down the door, but there are two downsides. First, this will alert everyone in the [Visitor's Lounge](#) (2). Second, anyone within 20' when it is smashed open will be [cursed](#).

Curse

The curse from smashing open the door has two effects. First, if a character uses their inspiration, they must subtract 1d4 from their second roll. Second, if anyone asks the name of someone with the curse, he or she must make a **DC 15 Wisdom saving throw** or reply truthfully, adding "...a common thief" to the end. Mordank can undo the curse with a wave of his hand.

Children

The nine children playing in the square are rowdy and very loyal to the wizard. They all know the location of the [Back Door](#) (12) and the password to open it ("**Fart Pudding**"), but they will not divulge these unless the party is able to convince the cynical youths that they



are trying to help Mordank the Irregular. The children are not immune to credible threats of violence.

- The **Back Door** (12) is located in an alley that is several blocks away

Exits

- The Front Door itself leads to the **Visitor's Lounge** (2).
- Several mud-choked streets and alleys lead to the rest of the slums of Blackrock.

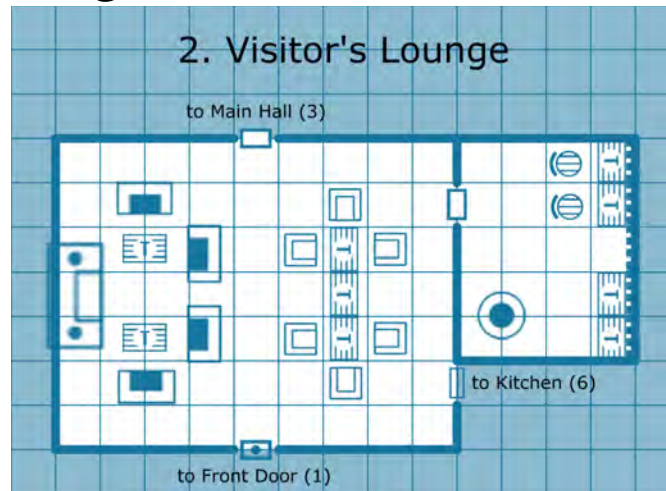
Treasure

- none





2. Visitor's Lounge



Scale is 5' per square.

Overview

This lounge is occupied by [Lutz](#), Mordank's drinking buddy, currently asleep. Two servants are in attendance and try to get visitors to wait. A [magic ring](#) is lying on the bathroom counter.

First impressions

To one side of the room are couches of fine overstuffed suede surrounding a crackling hearth and a low stone table. Spilled goblets and used dishes cover the table, and a [rumpled figure](#) snores on a couch. On the other side of the room is a high table of dark polished wood surrounded by chairs of the same style. The crest of Mordank is prominent on both sides of the chair at the head of the table. Two goblin [servants](#) anxiously await anyone who steps through the door. They wear tabards that display the wizard's crest.

Features

Rumpled figure (Lutz)

Lutz is Mordank's insolent drinking buddy. He wears wine-stained white fur doublet and his sweaty hair is plastered to his face. He lives in the Visitor's Lounge, and has been waiting here since Mordank left him to attend to a minor emergency deeper

inside. That was a couple months ago. Lutz can be pretty sarcastic, but he'll share Mordank's hospitality with anyone who doesn't annoy him. He is a **commoner**.



If anyone threatens Lutz, he'll warn them that Mordank will do terrible things to anyone who hurts him (this is true). If they are friendly, Lutz can explain how [Kitchen Doors](#) work, and give directions to the [Garden](#) (9), where time passes faster than in the outside world.

Servants

The two **goblin servants** will urge any visitors to wait in the Lounge. If the visitors seem legitimate, they will fetch refreshments. If the visitors don't seem legitimate, they will claim to do this while one fetches guards. While the party waits, they will regale visitors with stories of their master:

- The entire Magician's House is so large that no servant claims to have seen it all. Some say it may go on forever, or that new rooms materialize from the Wizard's dreams.



- One time Mordank the Irregular saved the entire city from an epidemic of deadly food poisoning by summoning a vast horde of rats to descend upon Blackrock to devour the offending grain. Their bloated carcasses littered the streets for months.
- Mordank the Irregular is famous for his blasphemies against the many shrines of Blackrock, claiming that their gods are duplicitous spirits, things dreamed into being by their followers, or simple delusions. All learned men and women appreciate Mordank's erudite philosophizing.
- Once the Wizard of Blackrock transformed all the whiskey to water after an epic hangover. That is why whiskey cannot be found in Blackrock, anymore.
- When the Duchess' famous annual Lawn Party was assaulted by a Sewage Golem, Mordank the Irregular was able to save the day by transporting the thing to the city granary, where there were none it could menace.
- Mordank the Irregular is known far beyond this realm, treating with spirits and creatures from the furthest corners of creation. He abhors violence and coercion, and he always seeks common ground, so he is welcomed by nearly all who know his name.
- Only with the help of Mordank the Irregular's stalwart friends was Blackrock freed from the deadly swarm of zombie rats a few years back. Without those angelic allies, the evil rodents would have consumed the other half of town, too.

Bathroom

The door to the bathroom is a swinging portal of polished oak. It's clean and dressed in white marble. There is the scent of rosewater and the faint tang of vomit. Behind a wash basin is the [magic ring Golden Whispers](#).

Exits

- Front door opens to the [Front Door](#) (1).
- Interior door opens to the [Main Hall](#) (3).
- [Kitchen Door](#) opens to the [Kitchen](#) (6). It has no handle or keyhole in this side and cannot be opened from her

Treasure

- The [magic ring](#) called **Golden Whispers** can be found in the attached bathroom.

Encounter statistics

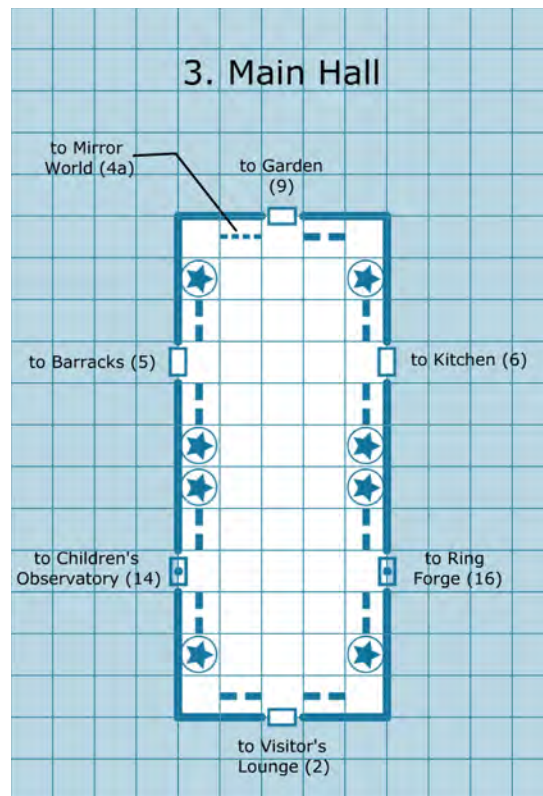
- **Lutz (1):** Commoner
- **Goblin Servants (2)**

Goblin Servant					
<i>Small humanoid (goblinoid), any alignment</i>					
Armor Class 12					
Hit Points 7 (2d6)					
Speed 30 ft.					
STR 8 (-1)	DEX 14 (+2)	CON 10 (+0)	INT 10 (+0)	WIS 8 (-1)	CHA 8 (-1)
Skills Stealth +6					
Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 9					
Languages Common, Goblin					
Challenge 0 (10 XP)					
<i>Nimble Escape:</i> The goblin can take the Disengage or Hide action as a bonus action on each of its turns.					
Actions					
<i>Punch:</i> <i>Melee Weapon Attack:</i> +1 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. <i>Hit:</i> 1 bludgeoning damage.					

Ring name	Command word	Design	Power
Golden Whispers	Crocus	Agate torus wrapped in palladium wire on a simple tin band.	Speaking the command word causes the wearer to feel the ring tugging towards the greatest concentration of wealth within 100' for the next turn.



3. Main Hall



Scale is 5' per square.

Overview

The central hall of the House, it connects many rooms. It also contains an open portal to the [Mirror World](#) (4). The guardian of the house, a [Golem](#), waits just beyond this mirror, along with a key.

First impressions

A wide and short hall, with two doors on each side and one at each end. Several abstract sculptures of colored glass flank a rug of scintillating fur. Looking glasses are set into verdigris-stained oval frames on the walls at regular intervals.

Features

Key hook

A cursory inspection will spot a rusty key hook near the door to the [Garden](#) (9). It is currently empty.

Burned box and note

Behind the base of the sculpture near the door to the [Ring Forge](#) (17) is a small black box of black lacquered wood and a partially-burned note. The interior of the box is crushed velvet molded to hold six different rings. They are not present. Provide players with [Handout C](#) for the note.

Mirror

Most of the mirrors are normal, but the one to the left of the door to the [Garden](#) (9) is a [magic mirror](#), and it has been left open. Physical objects pass through without resistance into the [Mirror World](#) (4).

There are a few differences on the other side. On the floor adjacent to the other side of the mirror is a [magic ring](#) called [Plain Truth](#). Hanging on a hook on the same wall as the [magic mirror](#) is the key to the [Children's](#)



Observatory (14). In addition, in the center of the mirror world version of the Main Hall is a (usually) motionless man-sized obsidian figure (the **golem**).

Golem

The large **obsidian golem** appears to be a primitive but beautiful obsidian figure of a muscular man with the rage-filled visage of a demonic bat. It is motionless until activated or attacked. Its left hand totally covers its **Rune of Creation** on its left hip, and its right hand grasps a large, **magic macuahuitl** with obsidian teeth, whose ebony haft has stylized jet inlays depicting ritual sacrifice to strange gods. The statue firmly grasps the weapon such that it cannot be taken through non-magical means without damaging the statue or the weapon.

The golem is activated if the wearer of the **Golem Necklace** (currently the Guard Captain in the **Barracks** (5)) speaks its activation phrase. It proceeds to the wearer of the necklace, attacking any who interfere. Once near its owner, it attacks *everyone* else in the vicinity. The wearer of the **Golem Necklace** may speak another command that sends the golem here.

If the PCs somehow manage to damage the golem, it will animate and ceaselessly pursue the one who did so. It will return here once its attacker is either dead or outside the House, or if commanded with the necklace.

If the golem's **rune of creation** is destroyed, the golem is immediately rendered inanimate again. The rune of creation is a magic object with **5 hit points and an AC of 20** that takes no damage from abilities with an area of effect unless they explicitly state they affect magic objects.

The golem's macuahuitl is a **vicious weapon** whose critical hits seek out opponent's heart. Although the golem wields it in one hand, medium and small creatures can wield it like a greatsword. The weapon remains even if the golem is destroyed or rendered inanimate.



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Exits

- Door to the **Visitor Lounge** (2).
- Interior door at the other end opens to the **Garden** (9).
- Door to the **Barracks** (5).
- Door to the **Kitchen** (6).
- Locked door to the **Children's Observatory** (14). **DC 14 Dexterity (Thieves' Tools)** check to lockpick.
- Locked door to the **Ring Forge** (17). **DC 18 Dexterity (Thieves' Tools)** check to lockpick; failure curse shrinks lockpicks to tiny proportions.
- The **magic mirror** leads to the **Mirror World - Magic Mirror Site** (4a) for anyone who leaves the reflected version of the Main Hall.

Treasure

- Each of the **8 sculptures** is bulky and delicate, but worth **150 GP each**.
- The **8 sculptures** in the mirror world version are only worth **10 GP each**.
- The **magic mirror**.
- The **magic ring** called **Plain Truth** (see below) sits on the on the other side of the **magic mirror**.
- The **vicious macuahuitl** of the animated obsidian golem (vicious greatsword).



Encounter statistics

Obsidian Golem

Large construct, unaligned

Armor Class 14 (natural armor)

Hit Points 95 (10d10 + 40)

Speed 25 ft.

STR
20 (+5)

DEX
9 (-1)

CON
18 (+4)

INT
3 (-4)

WIS
8 (-1)

CHA
1 (-5)

Damage Immunities necrotic, poison, psychic

Damage Resistances bludgeoning, piercing, and slashing from non-magical attacks that aren't adamantite

Special Vulnerabilities. If the golem's Rune of Creation is destroyed, the golem is immediately rendered inanimate again. The rune of creation is a magic object with 5 hit points and an AC of 20 that takes no damage from abilities with an area of effect unless they explicitly state they affect magic objects. Since the golem is carved with many runes, only one with the proper knowledge may identify the Rune of Creation.

Condition Immunities charmed, exhaustion, frightened, paralyzed, petrified, poisoned

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 9

Languages understands the language of its creator but can't speak

Challenge 5 (1,800 XP)

Necrotic Absorption. Whenever the golem is subjected to necrotic damage, it takes no damage and instead regains a number of hit points equal to the necrotic damage dealt.

Magic Weapons. The golem's weapon attacks are magical.

Actions

Multiattack. The golem makes two attacks with its macuahuitl.

Macuahuitl. Melee Weapon Attack: +8 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 12 (2d6 + 5) slashing damage. Deals an extra 14 (2d6, doubled) damage on a critical hit.

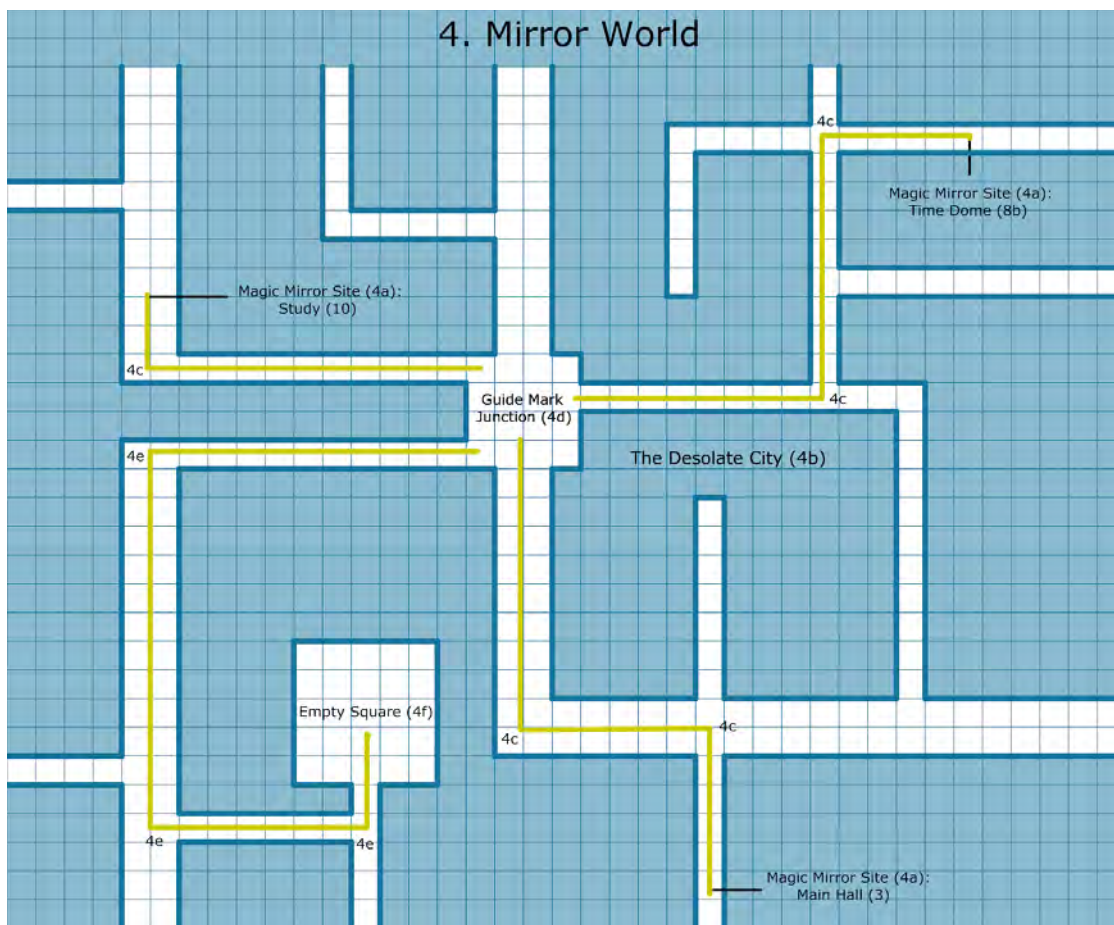
Blood Breath (Recharge 5-6). The golem exhales scalding blood in a 15-foot cone. Each creature in that area must make a DC 15 Dexterity saving throw, taking 18 (4d8) fire damage on a failed save, or half as much damage on a successful one.

Ring name	Command word	Design	Power
Plain Truth	Iris	Dull grey heavy uranium gothic band ringed by leering gargoyles, mounting a fractured peridot.	Touch will permanently dispel an illusion. A touched being is returned to its "true" form, and unable to change form or cast illusion or enchantment spells for one hour.





4. Mirror World



Scale is 100' per square.

Overview

This is the world that exists on the other side of the [magic mirrors](#) within the House. It consists of an eerily abandoned city, and the haunted mists that surround it. Someone has left markers to guide between mirrors. One path is false, however.

First impressions

The world on the other side of the mirror is eerie and still. Sounds are dulled and colors are drained. At first glance, the immediate area of a [magic mirror](#) (the usual entry point) appears like the room containing the mirror.

Features

Magic mirrors

PCs will enter the Mirror World through [magic mirrors](#) in the House at [magic mirror sites](#) (4a). These sites are connected by a network of **guide marks** that have been left on the ground.



Effects of passage

All text that passes through a [magic mirror](#) is reversed. Normal writing takes 20x as long to read, and magic scrolls are ruined.

Travel

A party can move through the [Desolate City](#) (4b) either by following a [trail of "true" markers](#) (4c) or a [trail of "false" markers](#) (4e), or by striking out in the wider [Desolate City](#) (4b) at large. Along the way, a party will gaze upon strange [architecture](#), and may have an [encounter](#).

Architecture

Here is a list of sample structures that the party may observe; the GM should feel free to invent his or her own.

- A majestic fountain surrounded by tall and skinny obelisks. It is silent and dry.
- A vast network of terraced courtyards connected by narrow stairs.
- A pointed archway topped by a massive stone sphere that seems to balance on the tip.
- An empty canal is criss-crossed by footbridges that meet on platforms with clusters of minarets.
- A massive stone cube building with no apparent doorways or windows.
- A winding staircase leads to a circular building with no ceiling. A raised platform is in its center.
- Enclosed pipes large enough for a standing dwarf run from the side of a building into the street.
- A labyrinth of walls and passages extends forward. In the center is a room that cannot be reached from the maze, and instead opens to the Catacombs below.
- A collection of impossibly narrow towers balance impossibly large spheres of stone at the top.
- A vacant amphitheater with low stone benches surrounds a stage crowded with short pillars of varying heights.

Encounter

Once per hour, there is a 2-in-6 chance that the party's trail will be picked up by a [Faerie Hound](#). If they have already run into one of these before, then this results in an immediate encounter.

If not, then the first encounter result signifies that one or two parties members hears a distant howl. The second such result means that a howl is heard much closer. Finally, on the third result, they will be attacked.

Faerie Hound

These appear as shaggy black wolfhounds the size of small elephants with burning red eyes. They will not assault those who smell of the fae unless they attack first - this includes elves and warlocks who serve patrons of a faerie nature. If such a character steps forward without attacking, Faerie Hounds will slink away and leave that party alone going forward.

Exits

- [Magic mirrors](#) can be used to return to the Magician's House. However, only the mirror to the [Main Hall](#) (3) is already open.
- Passage along [true and false guide marks](#) (4c and 4e).
- Leaving the path to strike out into the greater Mirror World.



Treasure

- None



Encounter statistics

Faerie Hound

Large fey, chaotic neutral

Armor Class 14 (natural armor)

Hit Points 74 (8d10 + 24)

Speed 50 ft.

STR
18 (+4)

DEX
14 (+2)

CON
16 (+3)

INT
3 (-4)

WIS
12 (+1)

CHA
10 (+0)

Skills Perception +3, Stealth +4

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 13

Challenge 3 (700 XP)

Keen Hearing and Smell. The faerie hound has advantage on Wisdom (Perception) checks that rely on hearing or smell.

Actions

Multiattack. The faerie dog makes one claw attack and one bite attack.

Bite. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +6 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 11 (2d6 + 4) piercing damage.

Claw. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +6 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 7 (1d6 + 4) slashing damage.

Hypnotic Howl (Recharge 5-6). The faerie dog howls, and all creatures that can hear it must succeed on a DC 15 Wisdom saving throw or have each of its speeds reduced to 0 for 1 minute. An affected flying creature descends at its movement speed without taking falling damage. An affected creature can take actions as normal, or it can spend its action trying to break free of the curse by succeeding on a DC 15 Charisma check.



4a. Mirror World - Magic Mirror Site

Overview

Each site looks a lot like the room on the other side. For details about each such site, see the section it is mirroring.

First impressions

Varied; see mirrored location.

Features

Varied; see mirrored location.

Guide mark

Immediately outside each magic mirror site is a [truthful guide mark](#) (4c). The arrow pointing towards the [magic mirror](#) is labeled with a star, while the other arrow is labeled with the number “2”.

Exits

- [Magic mirror](#) back to the mirrored location; these are:
 - [Main Hall](#) (3)
 - [The Moon - Time Dome](#) (8b)
 - [Study](#) (10)
- [Truthful guide mark](#) (4c) that leads to the [guide mark junction](#) (4d).
- The party can choose to take the path of another arrow and venture into the [Desolate City](#) (4b).

Treasure

- Varied; see mirrored location

Encounter statistics

- none



4b. Mirror World - The Desolate City

Overview

Those who step through [magic mirrors](#) and venture from the immediate surroundings find themselves within a vast and abandoned city. They can visit other [magic mirrors](#) in the city via a series of **guide markers**. They can also become lost.

First impressions

The city is constructed entirely of a hard pale-colored stone. All buildings - as well as features like bridges, towers and roads - consist of simple geometric shapes of seamless rock. Gaping doorways and windows open to nearly featureless rooms. There is not a single sound. Diffuse grey light dribbles from a sunless sky.

Features

Guide markers

The **guide markers** are painted arrows and numbers at key intersections. They are used to find the paths between [Magic Mirror sites](#) (4a). Three of these are **truthful**, but one is **untruthful**, as it leads to the [Empty Square](#) (4f).

Exploring

The party may opt to leave the paths of **guide markers** in order to explore the city. If they decide to head straight in one direction, roll **1d6** for the number of hours they need to travel before reaching the edge of the city.

It's risky to leave marks of one's own to find one's way home. If a trail exists, roll 1d6 each hour. If it's equal or under the number of hours, then it is vandalized. Trying to follow it will lead to a dead end, and get them lost.

If the party gets lost, they can attempt a **DC 20 Wisdom (Survival) check** each hour to find what they are looking for.

Exits

- Not-lost adventurers can return to where they left the path.
- Characters can purposefully or accidentally find the way to [beyond the Desolate City](#) (4g).

Treasure

- None

Encounter statistics

- None



4c. Mirror World - Truthful Guide Mark

Overview

On the ground is a painted marker that designates two directions and a number at each direction. It is easily overlooked if the party is moving quickly.

First impressions

Two golden arrows are painted on the ground, pointing different directions. A “1” is painted beside one arrow and “2” beside the other.

Features

Marker

The painted marks bear a charm to resist decay.

Travel

It takes approximately one hour to travel between a **magic mirror site** (4a) and the **guide mark junction** (4d)

via a trail of truthful marks. During this time, check once for an **encounter**.

Exits

- The arrow with the “1” points along the route to a **Magic Mirror site** (4a).
- The arrow with the “2” points along the route to the **guide mark junction** (4d).
- The party can choose to take the path of another arrow and venture into the **Desolate City** (4b).



4d. Mirror World - Guide Mark Junction

Overview

On the ground at an intersection there is a painted marker consisting of four golden arrows pointing down different streets.

First impressions

At a lonely intersection of six streets and two ramps, four golden arrows are painted on the ground. Each points down a different street.

Features

False arrow

One of the arrows is fake, leading to a trap. It bears a weak enchantment that it will be selected if the choice is left to chance. The true arrows have an enchantment to resist decay.

Exits

- Following one of the true arrows leads to a [truthful guide mark](#) (4c).
- Following the false arrow leads to a [false guide mark](#) (4e).
- The party can choose to take the path of another arrow and venture into the [Desolate City](#) (4b).



4e. Mirror World - False Guide Mark

Overview

On the ground is a painted marker that designates two directions and a number at each direction. It is easily overlooked if the party is moving quickly.

First impressions

A painted mark on the ground consisting of two golden arrows pointing down different avenues. In burgundy, the number “1” is beside one arrow and the number “3” beside the other.

Features

Arrow

These arrows are not enchanted at all.

Travel

It takes approximately one hour to travel between the [Empty Square](#) (4f) and the [guide mark junction](#) (4d) via a

trail of false marks. During this time, check once for an [encounter](#).

Exits

- The arrow with the “1” points along the route to the [Empty Square](#) (4f).
- The arrow with the “3” points along the route to the [guide mark junction](#) (4d).
- The party can choose to take the path of another arrow and venture into the [Desolate City](#) (4b).



4f. Mirror World - Empty Square

Overview

The [false guide mark](#) (4e) lead here. There's a creepy statue in the middle of an empty square. Those who gaze upon its face are cursed. However, if the party fails to do so, **two Faerie Hounds** attack.

First impressions

The **guide marks** suddenly terminate in this wide and nearly vacant square with a single entrance. Columned buildings with no doorways face a platform made of stone more weathered than anything in the rest of this city. Broad steps lead up from the far side, and at the top is a statue. It faces away from the entrance and is smoothed by time.

Features

Statue

The face of the statue is entirely indistinct, its hands outraised nubs of stone. Those who meditate upon it for a moment feel an ancient regal presence, long asleep. Those who gaze upon the statue without performing some rite or symbolic offering (even a splash of wine) will be **cursed**. If such a sign of respect is made, however, then all future [Faerie Hound](#) encounters are ignored.

If the adventurers leaves the square without everyone having gazed upon the featureless face of the statue, they will immediately be set upon by two [Faerie Hounds](#), even if they have previously backed down from the party.

Curse

Those cursed for their lack of respect will dream of the statue every night for the next week. Each time, it is nearer than the last. The PC can sense that it is angry, and wants the character to return to show it reverence. If the character doesn't return to the square to show respect before the final night, then on that evening, the PC will sleepwalk through the nearest mirror, never to be seen again.

Exits

- Return to the [false guide mark](#) (4e) trail

Encounter statistics

Faerie Hound

Large fey, chaotic neutral

Armor Class 14 (natural armor)

Hit Points 74 (8d10 + 24)

Speed 50 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
18 (+4)	14 (+2)	16 (+3)	3 (-4)	12 (+1)	10 (+0)

Skills Perception +3, Stealth +4

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 13

Challenge 3 (700 XP)

Keen Hearing and Smell. The faerie hound has advantage on Wisdom (Perception) checks that rely on hearing or smell.

Actions

Multiattack. The faerie dog makes one claw attack and one bite attack.

Bite. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +6 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 11 (2d6 + 4) piercing damage.

Claw. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +6 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 7 (1d6 + 4) slashing damage.

Hypnotic Howl (Recharge 5-6). The faerie dog howls, and all creatures that can hear it must succeed on a DC 15 Wisdom saving throw or have each of its speeds reduced to 0 for 1 minute. An affected flying creature descends at its movement speed without taking falling damage. An affected creature can take actions as normal, or it can spend its action trying to break free of the curse by succeeding on a DC 15 Charisma check.



4g. Mirror World - Beyond the Desolate City

Overview

The [Desolate City](#) (4b) is surrounded by an ancient pine forest shrouded in heavy mists. A day of marching through the trackless wood will eventually lead to Faerie. There are some unpleasant inhabitants, though.

First impressions

A primeval pine forest, the **Olden Wood**, stops right at the edge of the [Desolate City](#) (4b), extending thick tendrils of mist that melt under the grey light. There are no trails, but the undergrowth is light. It is a perpetually dusk under the shady boughs.

Features

Passage to Faerie

It doesn't matter where travelers go; once they travel out of sight of the [Desolate City](#) (4b), they cannot return to it without some kind of appropriate magic. From there, no matter what direction they march in, they will reach **Faerie** in one day.

Encounters

Those who travel through the **Olden Wood** must encounter each of its inhabitants once. Such a party will meet [wicked faerie](#) and [the dead](#), in either order.

Wicked faerie

These faerie look monstrous in their true forms, but make extensive use of glamours to make themselves and their surroundings appealing to mortals. There will be one faerie for every PC, and they will initially appear in one of the following forms:

1d6	Initial appearance
1	A misfit troupe of actors and singers who perform badly for the party.
2	A group of solemn and humble monks.
3	A hapless animal trainer with a group of poorly-trained kittens; the kittens are the other faerie.
4	A small group of plucky lost children.
5	A drunken fop and his wry servants.

6	A group of proud and beautiful young sisters who became lost on the way to their tutor.
---	---

Wicked faerie can only attack those who have accepted their hospitality or attack them first. They will do anything they can to get PCs to partake of their drink (tureens of swamp water that appear as wine) or food (maggoty rat corpses that appear as roast quails or sweet cakes). If denied three times, they snarl, revert to form and slink away.

The dead

Shades of the dead are individually encountered as shadowy and insubstantial human forms. The shades are unable to affect or be affected by the world around them. They are barely aware of their surroundings as they constantly mutter secrets to themselves.

If someone asks a shade a question, it has a **2-in-6** chance of having useful information. If it doesn't know anything, it will ignore the question, but if it does, it will look up and whisper "blood for wisdom" while cupping its hands.

If a pint of blood is fed to a shade of the dead, it will appear more substantial and cunning. It is still insubstantial, but it may be vaguely felt as a clammy breeze. The shade will tell the PC what it knows, but it will be couched to cause as much harm as possible. After doing so, they will depart in search of a way home.

Exits

- One day of travel in any direction emerges in Faerie.

Treasure

- Buried in the mud a foot below the site of a faerie encounter is an assortment of about a dozen skulls of various species, including two humans.
- Below the skulls is a parcel wrapped in filthy silk:
 - Silk wrapping: worth **50 GP**
 - Silver **chain shirt** (intended for ceremony but still functional): **500 GP**.
 - Bundle, rare spices (7): spoiled & useless
 - Gold leaf covered femur (6): **55 GP** each



Encounter statistics

Wicked Faerie

Medium fey, neutral evil

Armor Class 17 (natural armor)

Hit Points 60 (8d8 + 24)

Speed 30 ft.

STR
16 (+3)

DEX
12 (+1)

CON
16 (+3)

INT
13 (+1)

WIS
14 (+2)

CHA
14 (+2)

Skills Deception +4, Perception +4

Damage Resistances bludgeoning, piercing, and slashing from nonmagical attacks

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 14

Languages Common, Elvish, Sylvan

Challenge 3 (700 XP)

Magic Weapons. The faerie's weapon attacks are magical.

Innate Spellcasting. The faerie's innate spellcasting ability is Charisma (spell save DC 12), and it can innately cast the following spells, requiring no material components:

- At will: *minor illusion*, *prestidigitation*, *disguise self*
- 1/day: *entangle*

Actions

Multiattack. The faerie makes two Venomous Claw attacks, or one grapple attempt and one melee attack.

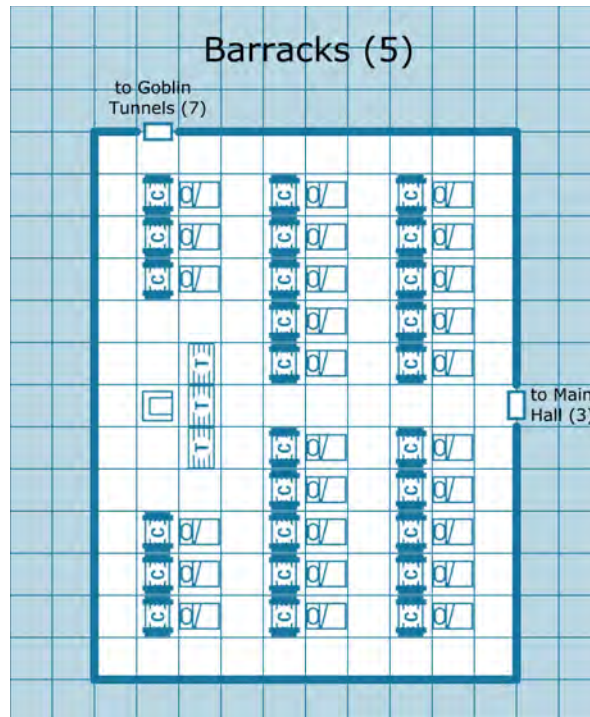
Gaping Maw. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +5 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 8 (1d10 + 3) piercing damage. Can only target a grappled, restrained, or incapacitated creature. Target makes a DC 12 Strength saving throw. On a failure, it loses a limb (roll 1d10: 1-5: an arm, 6-9: a leg, 10: head)

Venomous Claw. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +6 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 6 (1d6 + 3) slashing damage. On a hit, target suffers 1d4 reduction to Dexterity until it finishes a long rest.





5. Barracks



Scale is 5' per square.

Overview

This room is a living space for the yellow goblin guards. The captain is usually found here; he is devoted to duty but crafty and ambitious.

First impressions

The room is packed tightly with racks of neat child-sized bunks. A number of goblin guards occupy themselves with sleeping, drilling and chicken-fights. There are a lot of chicken-fights.

At one end of the room is a simple study desk with several neat piles of paper. An attentive goblin with a heap of medals on his uniform sits at the head, with a cluster of others leaning forward in council. A thick leather thong is wrapped around his neck.

Features

Guards

There are **1d12+5 goblin guards**, **1d4 sergeants** and the **captain**. Their weapons are near. They won't

immediately notice a quiet entrance, but it won't take them long if the PCs stay in the open.

Intruders!

The **Captain** will insist that any intruders are disarmed. If his situation becomes dire, he will use the **Golem Necklace** to summon the **golem**. If that happens, everyone else will flee. A disarmed party will be questioned.

It is almost impossible to persuade the **Captain** that the PCs should be allowed to stay. If the party seem like rogues, he will try to recruit them in a **scheme**. Otherwise, they will be ejected from the house, warned to never return.

Scheme

The **Captain's** scheme is to embarrass the **Chief Steward** (in the **Kitchen** (6)) by tasking the party with stealing his **Kitchen Door** key without injuring anyone. If they can do that, he promises to help them. He'll probably renege.



Exits

- Door to the [Main Hall](#) (3).
- Yard-tall goblin door to [Goblin Tunnels](#) (7).

Treasure

- Golem Necklace: A small facsimile of the [golem](#) on a braided leather band. The wearer can activate the [golem](#) by speaking the phrase "*Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world.*" If the

wearer says "*The best lack all conviction,*" then the [golem](#) will return to its designated home and deactivate. See the [Main Hall](#) (3) for more details.

- Anti-magic cap (number varies): **10 GP**

Encounter statistics

- **Goblin Guard (1d12+4)**
- **Goblin Sergeant (1d4)**
- **Hobgoblin Captain (1):** Hobgoblin with halberd



Goblin Guard

Small humanoid (goblinoid), any alignment

Armor Class 15 (leather armor, shield)

Hit Points 7 (2d6)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
12 (+1)	12 (+1)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	8 (-1)	8 (-1)

Skills Stealth +5

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 9

Languages Common, Goblin

Challenge ¼ (50 XP)

Nimble Escape: The goblin can take the Disengage or Hide action as a bonus action on each of its turns.

Actions

Anti-magic Baton (Spear End): *Melee Weapon Attack:* +3 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 4 (1d6 + 1) piercing damage, or 5 (1d8 + 1) piercing damage if held with two hands..

Anti-magic Baton (Cap End): *Melee Weapon Attack:* +3 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 3 (1d4 + 1) bludgeoning damage. Against magic target (e.g. enchanted creature, wizard, etc.) deals an additional 3 (1d6) fire damage, negates all spells currently affecting the target, and negates the target's magic powers for 10 minutes. Magic cap turns to slag 10 minutes after striking magic target, removing this action.

Mount and Rider: The goblin guard can serve as a mount for another goblin guard. While doing so its speed is halved, and its rider gains advantage on melee weapon attack rolls.

Goblin Sergeant

Small humanoid (goblinoid), any alignment

Armor Class 18 (chain mail, shield)

Hit Points 11 (2d8 + 2)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
13 (+1)	12 (+1)	12 (+1)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	9 (-1)

Skills Stealth +5, Insight +2

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 10

Languages Common, Goblin

Challenge ½ (100 XP)

Martial Advantage. Once per turn, the goblin sergeant can deal an extra 7 (2d6) damage to a creature it hits with a weapon attack if that creature is within 5 feet of an ally of the goblin sergeant that isn't incapacitated.

Actions

Anti-magic Baton (Spear End): *Melee Weapon Attack:* +3 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 4 (1d6 + 1) piercing damage, or 5 (1d8 + 1) piercing damage if held with two hands..

Anti-magic Baton (Cap End): *Melee Weapon Attack:* +3 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 3 (1d4 + 1) bludgeoning damage. Against magic target (e.g. enchanted creature, wizard, etc.) deals an additional 3 (1d6) fire damage, negates all spells currently affecting the target, and negates the target's magic powers for 10 minutes. Magic cap turns to slag 10 minutes after striking magic target, removing this action.

Mount and Rider: The goblin sergeant can serve as a mount for another small goblinoid. While doing so its speed is halved, and its rider gains advantage on melee weapon attack rolls.



Hobgoblin

Medium humanoid (goblinoid), any alignment

Armor Class 16 (chain mail)

Hit Points 11 (2d8 + 2)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
13 (+1)	12 (+1)	12 (+1)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	9 (-1)

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 10

Languages Common, Goblin

Challenge ½ (100 XP)

Martial Advantage. Once per turn, the hobgoblin can deal an extra 7 (2d6) damage to a creature it hits with a weapon attack if that creature is within 5 feet of an ally of the hobgoblin that isn't incapacitated.

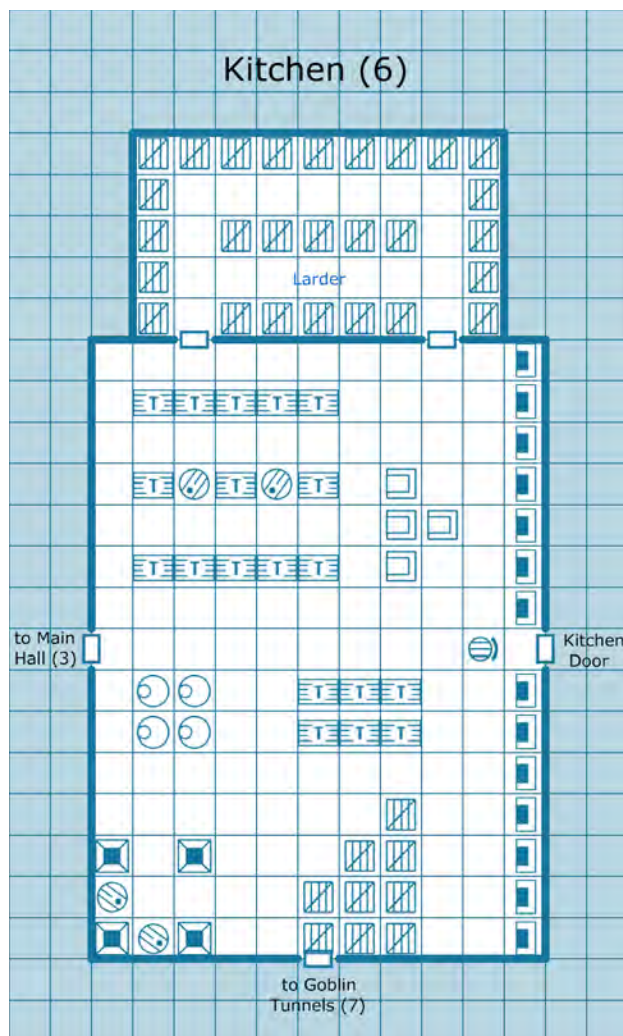
Actions

Halberd Melee Weapon Attack: +3 to hit, reach 10 ft., one target. *Hit:* 6 (1d10 + 1) slashing damage if used with two hands.

Heavy Crossbow Ranged Weapon Attack: +3 to hit, range 100/400 ft., one target. *Hit:* 6 (1d10 + 1) piercing damage.



6. Kitchen



Scale is 5' per square.

Overview

The kitchen is a hive of activity for the goblin servants. It is presided over by the **Chief Steward**, who keeps the key to the [Kitchen Door](#). He is likely to mistake the PCs for replacement waiters and send them on an errand.

First impressions

The kitchen is cavernous, dimly lit and cacophonous. Visitors can smell the roasting viands, hear the burbling soup and smell the fiery curries. A small host of squat red-skinned goblins in livery scurry about. A small group of servants with fire-spewing instruments roast a thrashing side of beef. Another group stirs a massive metal bowl from atop teetering stools. An officious

looking goblin with a magnificently tuberous nose stands amidst the chaos, imperiously ordering the rest about. He has an iron chain around his neck.

Features

Initial reaction

The **Chief Steward** will initially mistake the adventurers for large replacement servants. He'll hand out tabards



and expect them to serve a meal to guests of Mordank. The last three groups of waiters haven't returned, and it's been a month since anyone has fed them. The PCs must leave behind any unsheathed weapons.

If the PCs go along with it, he'll send them off with smaller silvery bowls of the caustic stuff being stirred. Behavior unlike a servant will quickly make the Chief Steward suspicious. If the party returns from that job, he will tell them to either go relax at home or familiarize themselves a bit with the House.

They are warned against damaging any doors or decorative objects, and to spend no more than a few minutes in the [Garden](#) (9), if at all.



Suspicion

It will be difficult to convince the **Chief Steward** that Mordank the Irregular needs their help unless they mention an escape from the [Menagerie](#) (15). He can help by opening the [Kitchen Door](#) to different rooms.

If asked, he has noted that servants sent to the [Lecture Hall](#) (18) don't come back. If the **Chief Steward** does not trust the party, he will send servants for guards, and tell the PCs to leave. If they remain, most servants will flee while they are attacked by the roasting servants.

Exits

- Door to the [Main Hall](#) (3).
- One door is the [Kitchen Door](#). This side can only be opened with the key, which is on a chain on the **Chief Steward's** neck. It opens based on the key position:
 - No turn: [Visitor's Lounge](#) (2)
 - ¼ turn: [Garden - Central Island](#) (9b)
 - ½ turn: [Moon - Alien Dome](#) (8a)
 - ¾ turn: [Lecture Hall](#) (18)
 - Full turn: [Playroom](#) (13)
- Yard-tall goblin door to [Goblin Tunnels](#) (7).

Treasure

- Wands of Roasting (4): Carried by the roasting servants. Wand, uncommon. 3 charges. As an action, fires a jet against one target for **2d6 fire damage**, half damage on a successful **DC 14 Dexterity saving throw**, range 20'. Recharges 1d4 charges each dawn.
- Key to the [Kitchen Door](#).
- Silver stirring paddles (6): Each paddle end is coated in silver worth **15 GP**.
- Golden bowl lining: The big stirring bowl is lined with **40 GP**, and the two bowls meant for the [Moon - Alien Dome](#) (8a) are each lined with **10 GP**.

Encounter statistics

- **(Chief) Goblin Steward** (1)
- **Roasting Servants** (4)
- **Goblin Servants** (2d6+3)



Goblin Steward

Small humanoid (goblinoid), any alignment

Armor Class 12

Hit Points 7 (2d6)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
8 (-1)	14 (+2)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	8 (-1)	14 (+2)

Skills Stealth +6, Deception +4

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 9

Languages Common, Goblin

Challenge 1/8 (25 XP)

Nimble Escape: The goblin can take the Disengage or Hide action as a bonus action on each of its turns.

Actions

Shortsword: *Melee Weapon Attack:* +4 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 5 (1d6 + 2) piercing damage.

Goblin Servant

Small humanoid (goblinoid), any alignment

Armor Class 12

Hit Points 7 (2d6)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
8 (-1)	14 (+2)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	8 (-1)	8 (-1)

Skills Stealth +6

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 9

Languages Common, Goblin

Challenge 0 (10 XP)

Nimble Escape: The goblin can take the Disengage or Hide action as a bonus action on each of its turns.

Actions

Punch: *Melee Weapon Attack:* +1 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 1 bludgeoning damage.

Roasting Servant

Small humanoid (goblinoid), any alignment

Armor Class 13 (leather apron)

Hit Points 7 (2d6)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
8 (-1)	14 (+2)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	8 (-1)	8 (-1)

Skills Stealth +6

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 9

Languages Common, Goblin

Challenge 1/8 (25 XP)

Nimble Escape: The goblin can take the Disengage or Hide action as a bonus action on each of its turns.

Actions

Kitchen Knife: *Melee Weapon Attack:* +3 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 4 (1d4 + 2) piercing damage.

Culinary Flamethrower: One target within 20 ft. must make a DC 14 Dexterity saving throw, taking 7 (2d6) fire damage on a failed save, or half as much on a success.





7. Goblin Tunnels

Overview

Yard-tall goblin doors lead into a warren of cramped and confusing tunnels. These occasionally emerge into various goblin facilities, and eventually connect to Goblin Town.

First impressions

A yard-tall door leads to an equally cramped hallway of dressed stone. Burning torches are mounted in sconces at distant intervals. The corridor is dim and uneven, twisting unpredictably into the distance.

Features

Purpose

The goblin tunnels exist to conduct goblins to serve in Mordank's house, or back home as needed. Any time that goblins are removed from duty, even the Captain and the Chief Steward, their replacements will emerge from these doors within the hour, if not less (**1d6 x 10 minutes**).

Conditions

PCs the size of human adults act at **disadvantage** in the tunnels and the chambers due to cramped conditions. Lighting is sparse, and due to the uneven hallways, one cannot see more than 50' at most.

Corridors branch every hundred feet or so, with 3-6 halls coming together.

Travel

Getting anywhere in the tunnels is tricky. Without a guide, they will become quickly lost. A guide will be able to lead them between the two doors in the house in **10 minutes** for **100 GP**. Getting to Goblin Town will take **3 hours** and cost **500 GP**.

Encounters

Every ten minutes of travel in the tunnels, something interesting turns up:

1d8	Encounter
1	Fungus garden: For food and beauty, grown on the bodies of deceased goblins.

2	Peat bath: Public baths of hot wet burbling peat bogs and standing pools.
3	Dormitory: Room with hundred of hammocks in up to six levels. Dedicated to one color of goblin. Invariably there are 4d12 goblins just hanging out, playing cards, arguing, etc.
4	Color vats: Bubbling vats of red, yellow, green, blue and purple. Goblins are lining up to jump in, and they come out the color of the vat. Greens are bureaucrats, blue are engineers and purple are the thinkers.
5	Engine room: It's not clear what this machinery does, but it's doing it. Random blasts of steam and sound, occasional emergency repair teams.
6	Offices: Occupied mostly by green goblins, with morose representatives of other colors. Serves several wildly unrelated bureaucratic functions (e.g. "maritime tariffs, parade permits and fungal trade dispute resolution").
7	Functionaries: Group of 2d6 red (servant), green (bureaucrats), blue (engineers) or purple (thinker) goblins. Will not fight, but if they suspect the party, a squad of guards (see below) will arrive next turn.
8	Guards: Group of 2d6 yellow goblins (guards). They will attempt to either repel (50% chance) or capture (50% chance) the party. Captured intruders will probably be prosecuted and enslaved.

Exits

- One goblin door leads to the [Barracks](#) (5).
- One goblin door leads to the [Kitchen](#) (6).
- The tunnels eventually lead to Goblin Town.

Treasure

- Not much in the tunnels, plenty in Goblin Town



Encounter statistics

- Goblin (variable)
- Goblin Guard (variable)

Goblin

Small humanoid (goblinoid), any alignment

Armor Class 12

Hit Points 7 (2d6)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
8 (-1)	14 (+2)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	8 (-1)	8 (-1)

Skills Stealth +6

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 9

Languages Common, Goblin

Challenge 0 (10 XP)

Nimble Escape: The goblin can take the Disengage or Hide action as a bonus action on each of its turns.

Actions

Punch: *Melee Weapon Attack:* +1 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 1 bludgeoning damage.

Goblin Guard

Small humanoid (goblinoid), any alignment

Armor Class 16 (chain shirt, shield)

Hit Points 7 (2d6)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
12 (+1)	12 (+1)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	8 (-1)	8 (-1)

Skills Stealth +5

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 9

Languages Common, Goblin

Challenge ¼ (50 XP)

Nimble Escape: The goblin can take the Disengage or Hide action as a bonus action on each of its turns.

Actions

Spear: *Melee Weapon Attack:* +3 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 4 (1d6 + 1) piercing damage, or 5 (1d8 + 1) piercing damage if held with two hands.

Mount and Rider: The goblin guard can serve as a mount for another goblin guard. While doing so its speed is halved, and its rider gains advantage on melee weapon attack rolls.





8. The Moon

Overview

This is the moon that orbits high above Blackrock. Portals from the rest of the Magician's House open into sealed domes, which is a good thing, because the surface is a low gravity hard vacuum environment. It is dangerous but possible to cross between domes. There's also a ruined city nearby.

First impressions

Lifeless grey pockmarked stone is underfoot, and the night sky overhead is full of vivid stars. In the darkness, the silhouettes of strange ruined buildings forms one boundary. On the other side, the ground abruptly ends in a cliff overlooking fathomless darkness. The party stands in a well-lit crystal dome with cool air. Several balls of light illuminate from the ceiling.

Features

Low gravity

A character's vertical and horizontal jump distance is doubled. A creature that attempts to Dash in the unfamiliar gravity must make a **DC 15 Dexterity (Acrobatics) check**. On a failure, it moves its regular speed and then falls prone instead of covering extra distance.

Domes

There are two **15'** hard crystal domes set **50 feet** from each other (8a and 8b below). Each dome has a crystal airlock that opens to the vacuum between the domes, like a small crystal closet with a door on each side. The other lit dome can be spotted only if a character makes a careful inspection of the environs.

The crystal that the domes are constructed from has an **AC 17** and is shattered from blows that do **15+ damage**. It has resistance to slashing and fire damage, and immunity to cold, lightning, and psychic damage.

As long as the dome is intact, it magically sustains a livable environment.

Hard vacuum

A creature exposed to the hard vacuum outside experiences a variety of mostly negative effects.

- **It cannot breathe nor hold its breath.** It loses consciousness after a number of rounds equal to $1d4 +$ its Constitution modifier (minimum of 1 round), and dies after a number of minutes equal to its Constitution modifier (minimum of 1 minute). This assumes the creature needs air to survive.
 - **It takes 1d4 damage** when it enters the vacuum and at the start of each of its turns there if it has more than 0 hit points remaining. The damage type cycles between bludgeoning, radiant, and cold.
 - **There is no sound**, so spells with verbal components cannot be cast and all thunder damage is reduced to 0.
 - **Most nonmagical flight is impossible.** Wings and balloons do not work without air.



Shadowy ruins

The ruins consists of magnificent crystal structures connected by transparent tubes and underground passages. Almost all are now open to the vacuum, though a few are still sealed. Special means will be required to visit.

Exits

- In the [Alien Dome](#) (8a) is a [Kitchen Door](#).
- In the [Time Dome](#) (8b) is a [magic mirror](#).

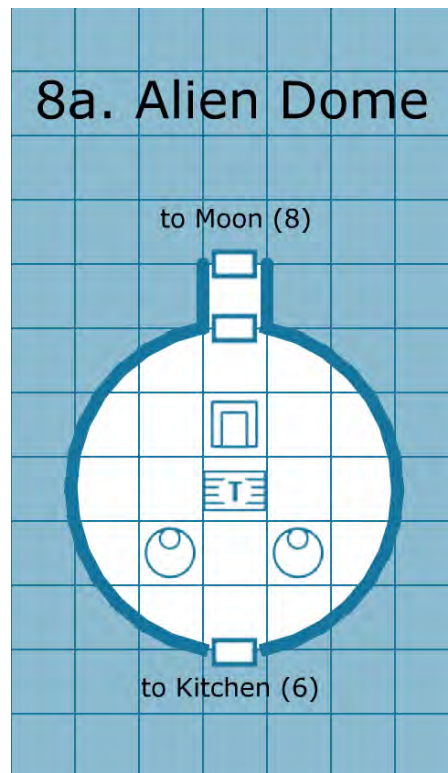
Treasure

- None





8a. The Moon - Alien Dome



Scale is 5' per square.

Overview

This dome is occupied by two friendly guests of Mordank who happen to be alien columns of slime. They readily engage in conversation if not attacked.

First impressions

The air of this dome reeks of rot and sulphur. The center of the room is occupied by a black square platform, and at its center is a low circular table. On the table is a gem-studded [contraption](#). A cluster of embroidered pillows is piled next to the table towards the [Kitchen Door](#). To either side of the table is a bubbling pool of putrescent yellow-and-blue slime. Outside this dome, [another dome](#) can be seen not too far away amidst much darkness.

Features

Slime pools

As soon as the PCs step into the room, each pool erupts into a slimy column with flailing tendrils. They vibrate faster, but after a few seconds, they emit loud burping

sounds, which are actually words in their alien tongue, accompanied by a bright green gas. They are beings called [All-Kin](#).

All-Kin guests

These two All-Kin (named **Ool** and **Nakek**) are guests of Mordank the Irregular. They are very curious alien travelers on a sabbatical of three-hundred years, so they are in no rush. Still, they have been waiting for the wizard's return for several months.

He suggested that they meet him in this place due to the agreeable gravity. Ool and Nakek are bored and eager to converse with whoever will tarry to do so. Unfortunately, although they understand Common, they cannot speak it. They can, however, form crude shapes with their pseudopods if PCs cannot find a way to understand them.

They will answer question to the best of their ability but will ask about the following things:



- How do humans reproduce?
- What do humans believe occurs after death?
- How do humans keep from going mad from loneliness?
- What are humanity's favored arts?
- Do humans wish that we could physically merge with other humans?

The All-Kin will readily volunteer that Mordank used to go to the other dome to perform some kind of experiments. They state that he owned [three green outfits](#) that allowed him to safely cross. One day, the one he wore was damaged, and Mordank was forced to cross between domes without a suit. He barely survived, and vowed to never let that happen again.

Contraption

The contraption looks like a strange foot-tall sculpture of metal and organic matter, studded with a wild variety of gemstones. The [All-Kin](#) use it to communicate with their people. Humans lack the proper appendages for it.

Another dome

The [Time Dome](#) (8b) can be seen from this one, although all that can be determined is that it is lit with its own airlock, and there seems to be a smaller and darker dome within it.

The rest of the terrain is mostly darkness. The [shadowy ruins](#) can be made out in the distance, and this is all situated on a barren stone plain. The [low gravity](#) of the moon is very apparent.

[Crossing between domes](#) is dangerous but feasible.

Exits

- A [Kitchen Door](#) opens to the [Kitchen](#) (6).
- A crystal airlock opens to the surface of the [Moon](#) (8).

Treasure

- Golden basin lining (2): The All-Kin sit in thick gold basins to resist corrosion worth **150 GP**.
- Gem-studded alien communicator worth **800 GP**.

Encounter statistics

- **All-Kin (2)**

All-Kin

Large ooze, any alignment

Armor Class 7

Hit Points 85 (10d10 + 30)

Speed 20 ft., climb 20 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
16 (+5)	5 (+3)	16 (+2)	18 (+4)	10 (+0)	7 (-2)

Skills Investigation +7, Nature +7

Damage Resistances bludgeoning, piercing, cold, lightning, thunder

Damage Immunities acid, poison

Condition Immunities prone

Senses blindsight 60 ft., passive Perception 10

Languages All-Kin. Understands Common and Deep Speech but physically unable to speak either.

Challenge 4 (1,100 XP)

Amorphous. The all-kin can move through a space as narrow as 1 foot wide without squeezing.

Corrosive Form. A creature that touches the all-kin or hits it with a melee attack while within 5 feet of it takes 4 (1d8) acid damage. Any nonmagical weapon made of metal or wood that hits the all-kin corrodes. After dealing damage, the weapon takes a permanent and cumulative -1 penalty to damage rolls. If its penalty drops to -5, the weapon is destroyed. Nonmagical ammunition made of metal or wood that hits the all-kin is destroyed after dealing damage. The all-kin can eat through 2-inch-thick, nonmagical wood or metal in 1 round.

Spider Climb. The pudding can climb difficult surfaces, including upside down on ceilings, without needing to make an ability check.

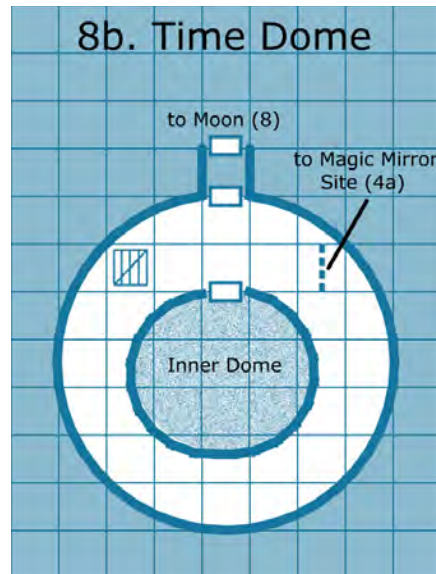
Actions

Pseudopod. Melee Weapon Attack: +5 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 6 (1d6 + 3) bludgeoning damage plus 9 (4d8 acid) damage. In addition, nonmagical armor worn by the target is partly dissolved and takes a permanent and cumulative -1 penalty to the AC it offers. The armor is destroyed if the penalty reduces its AC to 10

Merge. The all-kin merges with another all-kin to become one. Their hit points are added together but do not exceed 85. They receive an extra full action each turn in this form.



8b. The Moon - Time Dome



Scale is 5' per square.

Overview

This dome has another dome inside it. The [inner dome](#) loops time inside. Within, an ogre corners a boy and eats him, over and over.

First impressions

Within this crystal dome, there is smaller [inner dome](#) made of a smoky crystal, and it has a crystal door facing the airlock. There's a sign beside the door that depicts an hourglass in the center of a loop - give the players [Handout D](#). Two figures are dimly visible beyond the glass: a hulking humanoid far bigger than a man, and a small one cowering.

Some odd [tools and outfits](#) are scattered on the floor in front of the [inner dome](#) door. To the side is an oval [looking glass](#) fixed in a polished brass frame with a relief of smiling faces.

Outside this dome, [another dome](#) can be seen not too far away amidst much darkness.

Features

Tools and outfits

The tools are designed for cutting and shaping the crystal of the domes (and other locations). They rely on very short and super-sharp blades, as well as small

intense heating elements. The key to the [Ring Forge](#) (17) is mixed in with them.

The outfits consist of **three** green, bulky and raggedly looking space suits. They look suspect, but will safely traverse the vacuum. Wearing one suit and carrying another across the gap is feasible, but trying it with both requires a **DC 10 Strength (Athletics) check** to avoid falling for **1d4 damage** and tearing the carried suit.

One of the suits has a lot of small holes in the legs from chemical burns. This is not apparent without inspection. When used on the surface, the air leaks out halfway through the first round of movement.

Inner dome

The inner dome contains a time loop; for **twelve minutes**, it repeats the same events. The only thing that can change the loop is if something new enters the inner dome. That creates the potential for new events. Otherwise, anything that is still in the dome at the end of the loop will be part of the repeating events. Those inside are unaware of any looping.



Leaving the dome before the end of the loop will cause a “copy” to repeat the character’s actions while in the dome. If the character re-enters, the copy disappears from that point in the loop.

As one enters the inner dome, everything outside it is dark. Inside, it’s lit by a glowing purple gem set in the ceiling (10’ high). If the gem is broken (blunt melee automatically breaks; otherwise AC 20) or pried out, the loop ends.

Currently, the dome is looping the events of a child named **Zenni** running into the dome, followed by a grinning ogre named **Bloody Bones**, so named because he has the head of an ogre on the body of a hulking blood-dripping skeleton. Here’s the timeline:



Zenni

Zenni is a scrawny boy with long brown hair and a squeaky voice. He’s currently terrified of the ogre, and he will be somewhat traumatized even if rescued.

Looking glass

This is a closed **magic mirror** that can be used to travel to the **Mirror World - Magic Mirror site** (4a). The faces in the frame scowl when the mirror is open and smile when it’s closed. The mirror version of this room has the inner dome, but there is no time loop, ogre or young boy. It does have a purple gem, however.

Another dome

The **Alien Dome** (8a) can be seen from this one, although all that can be determined is that it is lit with its own airlock.

The rest of the terrain is mostly darkness. The **shadowy ruins** can be made out in the distance, and this is all situated on a barren stone plain. The **low gravity** of the moon is very apparent.

Crossing between domes is dangerous but feasible.

Exits

- A **magic mirror** is located outside the inner dome, leading to the **Mirror World - Magic Mirror site** (4a).
- A crystal airlock opens to the surface of the **Moon** (8).

Treasure

- The key to the **Ring Forge** (17) is on the floor behind the **inner dome**.
- The purple gem in the **inner dome** is worth **400 GP** intact.
- The purple gem in the mirror version of the room is worth only **40 GP** intact.
- The **magic mirror**.

Round	Events
1-2	The inner dome is empty.
3	Zenni runs into the dome and collapses on the floor.
4	Bloody Bones enters, grinning, and advances while Zenni crawls into the corner.
5-6	Bloody Bones picks up Zenni’s form and taunts him as sobbing turns to bawling.
7	The ogre angrily throws the Zenni against the wall near the door.
8	Bloody Bones skips over to the dazed boy, scooping him up.
9	Bloody Bones stares Zenni in the face, roaring as the child screams.
10	With a sickening crunch, the ogre bites down on the boy’s head.
11-12	Bloody Bones feasts upon the still-twitching body of Zenni



Encounter statistics

Bloody Bones

Large fey, chaotic evil

Armor Class 16 (natural armor)

Hit Points 90 (10d12 + 20)

Speed 30 ft.

STR
20 (+5)

DEX
16 (+3)

CON
14 (+2)

INT
8 (-1)

WIS
10 (+0)

CHA
12 (+1)

Skills Athletics +7, Intimidation +4, Performance +4

Damage Resistances piercing and slashing from nonmagical attacks

Damage Immunities necrotic, poison

Condition Immunities charmed, frightened, poisoned

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 10

Languages Common, giant

Challenge 6 (2,300 XP)

Slippery. Bloody Bones has advantage on saving throws and ability checks to escape a grapple.

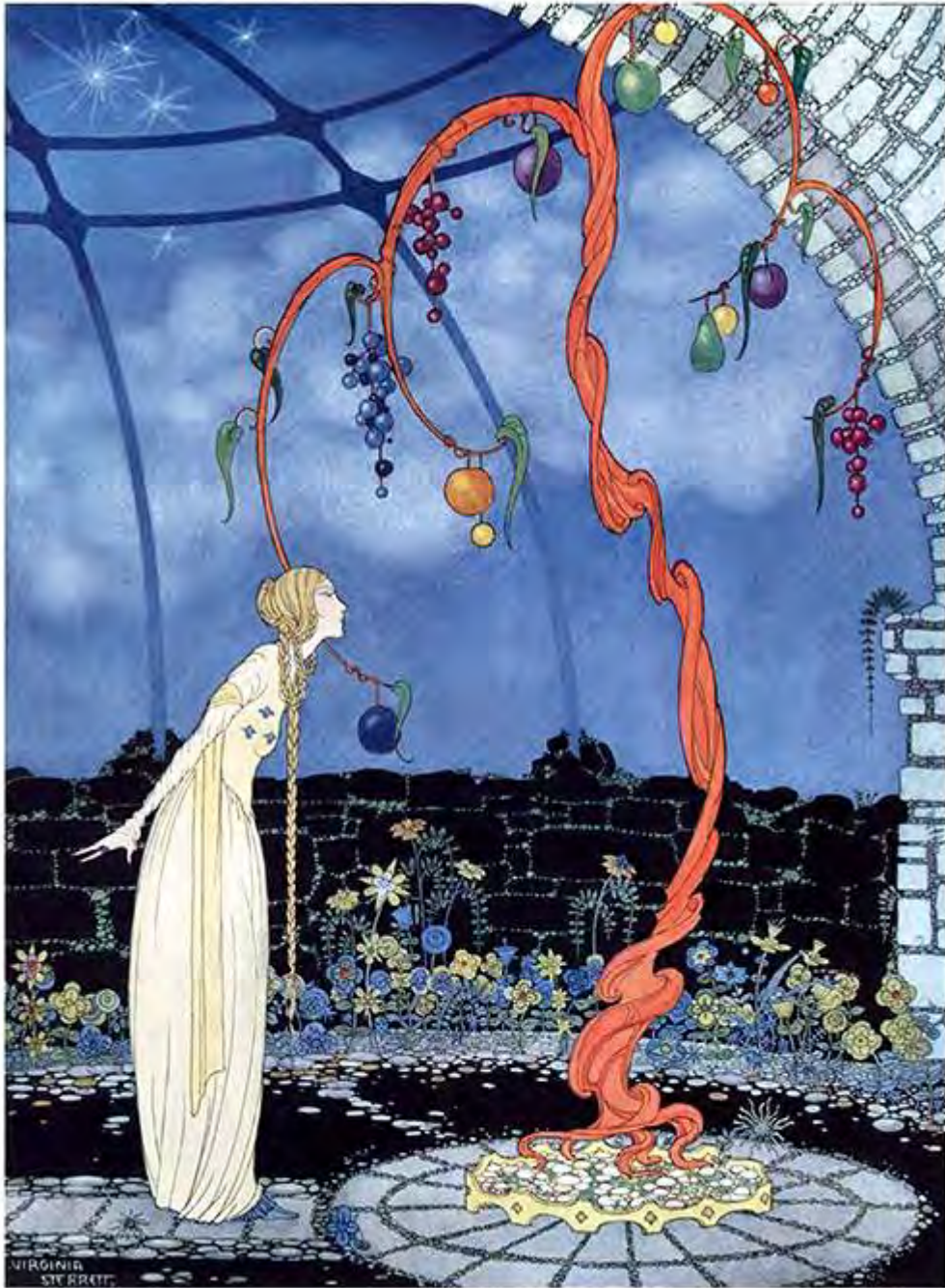
Actions

Multiattack. Bloody Bones makes two grapples and/or attacks each turn.

Swing. Melee Weapon Attack: +8 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. Must be grappling a creature. *Hit:* 10 (1d10 + 5) bludgeoning damage to both the target and the grappled creature.

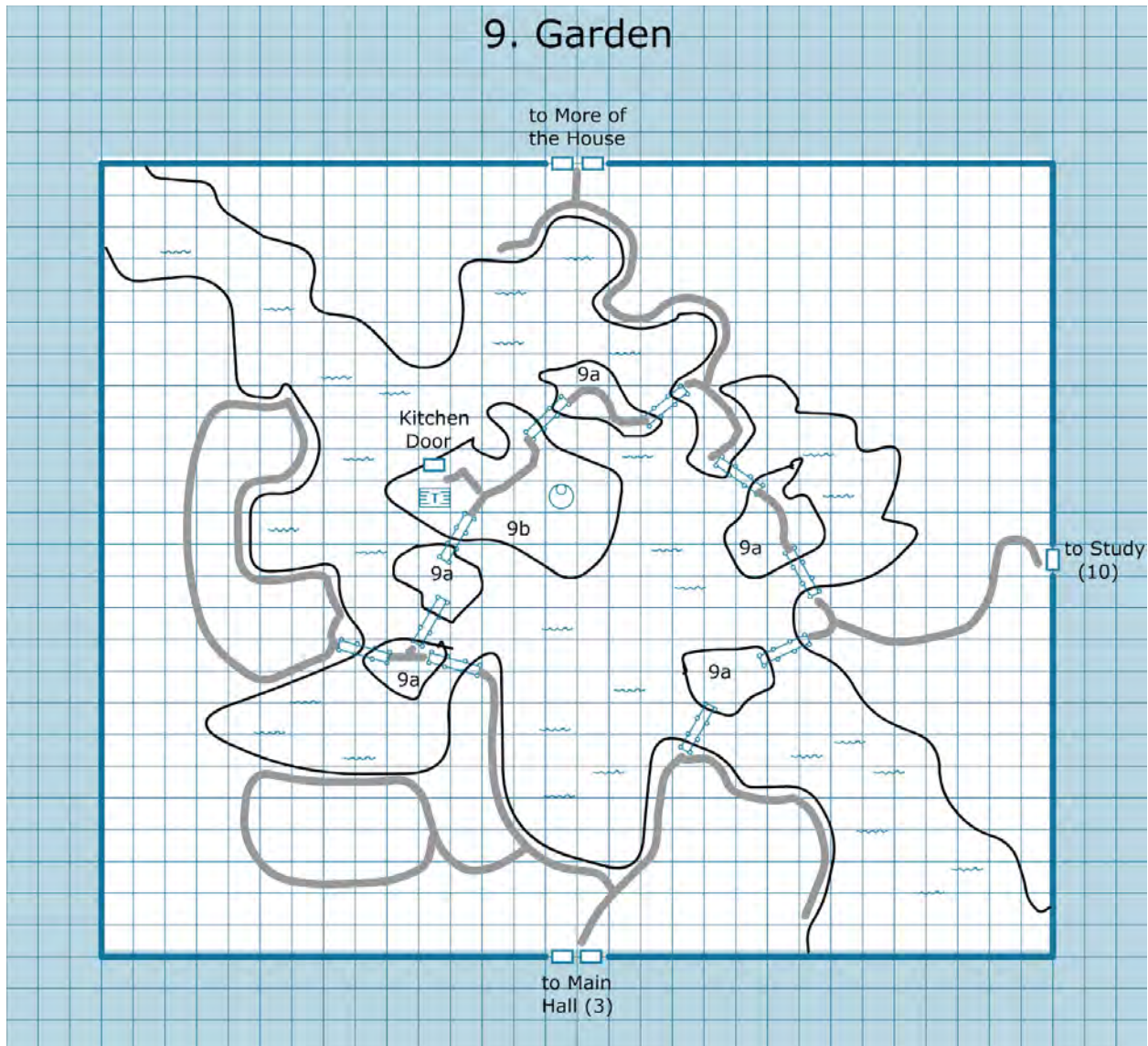
Stomp. Melee Weapon Attack: +8 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 14 (2d8 + 5) bludgeoning damage. On a hit, Bloody Bones also attempts to shove the target prone.

Zenni (1): Commoner





9. Garden



Scale is 10' per square.

Overview

This location is a walled garden. Faerie [Leaf Boys](#) harass and pilfer from interlopers. In the central grove there is a [fountain](#) of healing and a massive oak that can animate to protect the [Leaf Boys](#). It is called the [Mean Old Man](#). [Time](#) passes extremely quickly in this place!

burbling [waters](#) and buzzing insects. The sun shines bright and warm.

First impressions

This location is an expansive [walled](#) garden. Narrow paths wind through verdant groves and over gaily-painted footbridges. There are the sounds of



Features

Time

Time travels quickly in the Garden. Start the clock at **3 PM**. Then, set a timer in the real world. For every minute that passes in the real world, one hour passes in the game world. Tell players when the sun rises (**5AM**) and sets (**8PM**).

Walls

The walls are about **15' tall** of vine-encrusted stone. From any given position outside a grove, the party may spot doors on nearby (not opposite) walls. It is not hard to climb them. On the other side is a sea of tall grasses. It is roamed by giant talking animals that belong to proud territorial clans. This is the **Primeval Savannah**, and it lies betwixt Dreaming and Faerie.

Stream

The stream is gentle with thigh-high waters. Little red fish flit past banks of blue-and-white pebbles. Faerie is four days upstream. Those who wade through the stream must roll a **DC 10 Wisdom saving throw** or be changed; those who are fully immersed get no saving throw. This can happen once per PC. Those affected roll once on each of the [immersion effects](#) tables.

Leaf Boys and The Mean Old Man

There are six Leaf Boys: slender green-skinned elfin boys wearing loincloths and shortbows. Each Leaf Boy must remain on its own island. When nobody is looking, they can turn invisible by standing completely still. They enjoy pranks. The Leaf Boys have one grand joke: they pretend there is only one of them who can teleport from island-to-island.

When the party first enters the Garden, a Leaf Boy on a nearby island will be spotted peering at them from around a tree before he scampers off.

If anyone attacks a Leaf Boy, they will all fire elfshot at the party while the Mean Old Man attacks. The Mean Old Man is a hulking gnarled oak in the grove on the [central island](#) (9b) and he animates to protect the Leaf Boys. If slain, the Mean Old Man melts into sludge, leaving his **ruby heart** behind.

Grand Double Doors

These vast iron doors are engraved with etchings that depict scenes from myths in which the gods act

foolishly. They stand **15' wide** and **12' high** and glow with a faint purple hue. The doors lead to the rest of the House, but they are currently frozen in time and thus invulnerable and unmovable. A **6th-level or higher casting of *dispel magic*** is the weakest spell that can remove this effect.



Exits

- The [Grand Double Doors](#) lead to the rest of the House.
- One door leads to the [Main Hall](#) (3).
- One door leads to the [Study](#) (10).
- A [Kitchen Door](#) leads to the [Kitchen](#) (6).
- Outside the wall is the **Primeval Savannah**.

Treasure

- Ruby heart: This gem is worth **500 GP** and whispers faintly to arcane spellcasters. If swallowed by an arcane spellcaster, he or she immediately learns the **Sylvan language** and the spell *illusory script* as a ritual.



Encounter statistics

Leaf Boy

Small fey, chaotic neutral

Armor Class 13

Hit Points 22 (4d8 + 4)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
6 (-2)	16 (+3)	12 (+1)	8 (-1)	12 (+1)	16 (+3)

Skills Sleight of Hand +5, Stealth +5

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 11

Languages Common, elvish, sylvan

Challenge ½ (100 XP)

Forest Sight. The leaf boy can see through vegetation.

Motionless Invisibility. The leaf boy is invisible while motionless.

Innate Spellcasting. The leaf boy's innate spellcasting ability is Charisma (spell save DC 13, +5 to hit with spell attacks). It can innately cast the following spells, requiring no material components.

- At will: *gust, gust of wind*

Actions

Elf Shot. A creature the leaf boy can see within 100 feet must succeed on a DC 14 Dexterity saving throw or suffers one of the following effects, chosen at random. An affected target can reattempt its saving throw each dawn. After three failures, the curse becomes permanent until removed.

1. The target is enervated and suffers a -1d4 penalty to Strength.
2. The target is cursed with clumsiness and suffers a -1d4 penalty to Dexterity.
3. The target feels feverish and ill and suffers a -1d4 penalty to Constitution.
4. The target becomes bemused, and suffers a -1d4 penalty to Intelligence.
5. The target is constantly distracted, and suffers a -1d4 penalty to Wisdom.
6. The target gains social anxiety, and suffers a -1d4 penalty to Charisma.

Cure Elf Shot. The leaf boy touches a willing creature and removes one instance of the elf shot curse.

Mean Old Man (Awakened Tree)

Huge plant, unaligned

Armor Class 13

Hit Points 57 (7d12 + 15)

Speed 20 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
19 (+4)	6 (-2)	15 (+2)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	7 (-2)

Skills Stealth +5

Senses passive Perception 10

Languages Sylvan

Challenge 2 (450 XP)

Damage Vulnerabilities. fire

Damage Resistances. bludgeoning, piercing

Actions

Slam. Melee Weapon Attack: +6 to hit, reach 10 ft., one target. Hit: 14 (3d6 + 4) bludgeoning damage.



Immersion Effects

1d6	Faerie change
1	Character sprouts large dragonfly wings, destroying any armor or shirt. Gains a flying speed of 20 feet while not wearing heavy armor or carrying a heavy load. Cannot wear armor unless specially made to accomodate the wings. Flies with a loud buzz.
2	Gain an aura of otherworldly beauty, causing those who are attracted to PC's species and gender to react as though he or she has a Charisma score of 18 . The PC will become very memorable and attract drama.
3	Legs are replaced with those of a goat. Advantage on Strength (Athletics) and Dexterity (Acrobatics) checks to climb mountainous terrain, and can make a full long jump without a running start.
4	PC can now see spirits of the dead. A typical place has <i>haunts</i> with a 1-in-12 chance, but sites of death will often have them. Haunts can't speak, but their appearance can signify things. Rare haunts may be able to babble cryptically. A character who has committed murder will see those they have slain. Murderers with this gift must immediately make a DC 12 Wisdom saving throw to avoid a fit of terrified weeping for 1 minute , losing 1d4 Charisma permanently. Undead are never invisible to this character.
5	PC's skin turns gold and he or she stops aging. Alchemists who learn this will yearn for the character's organs.
6	The character learns one spell . It can cast this spell once per long rest at its lowest level without material components, using Charisma as its spellcasting modifier. The spell is one of the following (roll 1d6): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Disguise Self 2. Charm Person 3. Color Spray 4. Identify 5. Sleep 6. Silent Image

1d6	Memory loss effect
1	Lose one random win condition replacing it with " Go to the faerie lands to live forever. "
2	A terrible trauma is forgotten; +1d4 Charisma , to a maximum of 20.
3	Second childhood - drop XP to halfway through the prior level of experience . First-level characters disappear from reality.
4	Character loses chunks of his or her education, such as it is; -1d4 Intelligence .
5	Character loses proficiency in his or her current main weapon.
6	The character has lost memory of the last 10d10 months , and has no idea what they are doing here. Unable to do anything but defend, talk or flee until another PC can convince them to do otherwise.



9a. Garden - Island Grove

Overview

Each island has its own dense grove of trees and undergrowth. The garden paths that wend through these groves are very narrow, so mischievous [Leaf Boys](#) will pilfer from passing PCs.

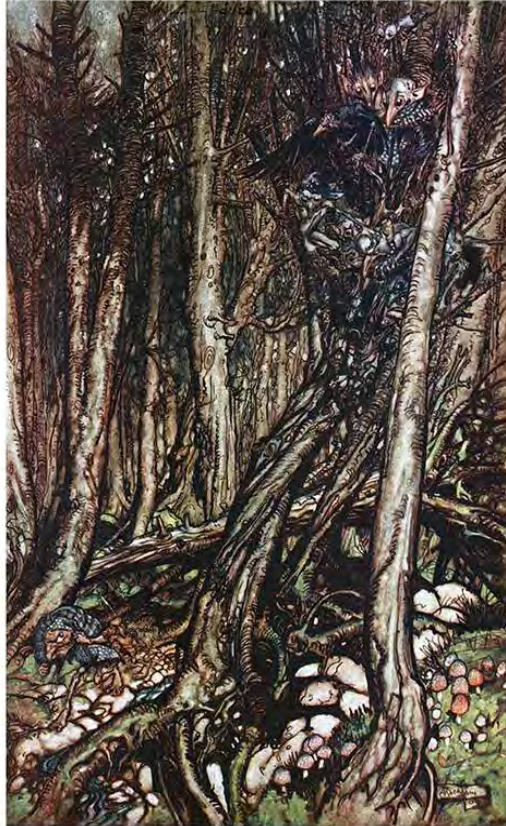
First impressions

The dense canopy admits only dapples of sunlight to reach the forest floor, which is choked with brambles. The shore of the island is ringed with bright blue blossoms the bob in the light breeze.

Features

Undergrowth

The dense undergrowth is **difficult terrain**. Attempting to Dash in it requires a **DC 12 Dexterity (Acrobatics)** check to avoid **1d4 piercing damage**. The blue flowers that ring each grove are able to talk, but they are friendly and empty-headed and are only aware of what's in their grove. They can say that the [Leaf Boy](#) is present on the island if asked.



Theft

Passing through a grove means that party members are subject to pickpocket attempts. Three attempts are made per passage; randomly assign to different characters passing through. A targeted PC gets a **passive Wisdom (Perception)** check against the [Leaf Boy's Dexterity \(Sleight of Hand\)](#) check to detect the attempt. The leaf boy has +5 to Dexterity (Sleight of Hand) checks. A detected attempt causes the [Leaf Boy](#) to abort and flee.

If the party figures out that they have been robbed, they will hear silvery laughter coming from the [central island](#) (9b). A boy's voice cries out ***"You have found me out! Please come here; let us speak!"***





9b. Garden - Central Island

Overview

The central island has its own grove. On one shore is a set of lawn furniture for picnics with a [Kitchen Door](#) set into a nearby tree. In the midst of the grove is an old crumbling [fountain](#). And at the center of the grove is a low hill with a massive tree that is the [Mean Old Man](#).

First impressions

The central island is much like the others, although at its center is a low hill topped by a sprawling gnotty oak. Near the shore of the stream stands a set of iron lawn furniture painted white. Within the undergrowth can be seen some kind of crumbling stone structure.

Features

Seating area

The lawn furniture consists of white-painted cast iron chairs and a table, shrouded by a white-and-blue umbrella. A few yards away, a [Kitchen Door](#) is set into a tree with a wide trunk.

Challenge

If the faerie have stolen anything, a [Leaf Boy](#) will be present to claim that it was a fine for trespassing without the written permission of Oberon. However, they have the opportunity to regain their possessions if they play a [game](#).

If the party is heading to the [fountain](#), a [Leaf Boy](#) will insist that the party pay for the right to approach it. The fee is a gemstone the size of a fingernail (i.e. worth **50+ GP**). He will attack if the party tries to approach without paying.

Game

The [Leaf Boy](#) proposes a game of hide-and-seek. If the party finds him, they get back their stolen possessions plus an unspecified treasure. They can play as long as they like, but the GM should keep track of [time](#) in the outside world, and notify players as the sun rises and sets.

[Leaf Boys](#) are motionless and invisible, but can be found by careful searching. A ten minute search allows each searcher a **DC 20 Intelligence (Investigation) or Wisdom (Survival)** check to find one. If the search is systematic, reduce DC by one for each roll in a given grove. Reset if the [Leaf Boy](#) gets a chance to reposition.

If the party finds a [Leaf Boy](#), it will be a good sport and return any property. He also presents them with a prize:

a heaping handful of acorns.

The [Leaf Boy](#) invites the party to take as many as they like. If the PCs are gracious about the acorns, then any which are removed from the Garden turn to silver! If anyone figures out that there is more than one [Leaf Boy](#), they get a special prize: a golden sprouting acorn!

Fountain

The fountain is made of very old concrete; so old that it almost looks natural. Yard-high stone figures bracket it from two sides, both very faded. Each feebly spouts water from its smooth face.

One seems to have a weeping face, the other is indistinct. Inside the basin are a few twinkling gems. A newer but still old stone tablet has been added to the base. It has an inscription:

Tithe a gem like a drop of rain,
And bathe within to cleanse all pain.
Once per century a light appears,
Sent from Faerie to staunch all tears.

If someone drops a gem worth **50+ GP** into the fountain, the light descends into water, which then glows. Whoever enters this water is healed of **all** ailments - even death and alcoholism! It cannot perform this feat again for **100 years**.

The healing does not work for those who have ever stolen **gems** or slain a faerie here. Anyone who removes a gem from the basin loses **1 hit point per hour from their**





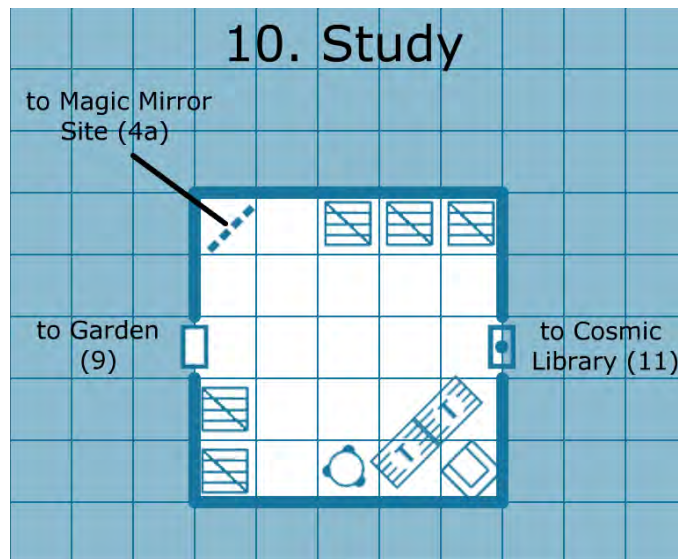
hit point maximum until all are returned. Once that person dies, the curse passes to the first person to take possession of a gem.

Treasure

- Acorns: A handful of silver acorns is worth **25GP**. There are **1200 GP** worth of acorns lying around the Garden. It will take **three person-hours** to collect all the acorns and require eight large sacks.
- Golden sprouting acorn: Any character who swallows this can gain 1 warlock level if they accept the Mean Old Man as their patron. A warlock who accepts this deal breaks their previous pact bond, most likely to the anger or disappointment of their previous patron. Worth **600 GP**.
- Gems from **fountain**: The bottom of the basin has **17** gems. Each is worth **(50 + 1d20) GP**. They are cursed as described.



10. Study



Scale is 5' per square.

Overview

This is the wizard's personal study. It contains a desk with lots of interesting documents, a closed [magic mirror](#), and a child bully equipped with [magic rings](#) who will extort the party for the documents.

First impressions

This cozy study primarily features an imposing mahogany desk piled with documents. The floor is covered with several fur rugs, and a squat iron brazier supplies the room with a warm red glow.

To the side of the desk is an oval full-length mirror set into the wall. A velvet pull-rope hangs besides a door with no handle. A stout child ([Burrock](#)) sits in the overstuffed leather chair before the desk, reading papers. He will be startled by any sudden entry.

Features

Desk

These documents are on the desk:

- The Wizard's [journal](#) ([Burrock](#) is reading this)
- [On Magic Mirrors](#)
- [The Golemic Arts](#)
- Experimental [notes](#)

On Magic Mirrors

Describes the mysterious existence of the [Mirror World](#) (4) and its [Desolate City](#) (4b). It also describes how to craft a magic mirror in detail (see the 5e rules on crafting magic items). Inside the cover is written: *"I've a sceptre in hand, I've a crown on my head."* That's the opening phrase. Inside the back cover is written the closing phrase: *"Dreaming as the days go by, dreaming as the summers die."*

Notes

These describe experiments to get different faerie to accept different [magic rings](#) to enchant. Mordank has been trying to determine the relationship between the band and its other qualities. The notes describe the properties of rings in "Group III". See [Handout E](#).

The Golemic Arts

Describes how to craft a [golem](#) (such as the one in the [Main Hall](#) (3)) in detail (see the 5e rules on crafting magic items), mentioning that they are tireless and indestructible servants. A [golem](#) is destroyed by marring its Creation Rune. This is shown in the book (give the players [Handout F](#)).



Journal

This handwritten journal describes Mordank's early days. He was an ill-treated orphan who herded his uncle's sheep. Eventually he met his patron archfey **Gentleman Hob**, who taught him the art of glamours. Next, Mordank traveled to the city Quoloon, and entered the magical demimonde. Resolving to grow, Mordank set his sights on becoming a powerful and respectable mage. The journal ends here, incomplete.

Burrock

Burrock is a stout blond boy who bullied the children in the [Children's Observatory](#) (14), chasing them into the House. He followed them but quickly lost their trail. Then he stole four [magic rings](#) from a servant in the [Main Hall](#) (3).

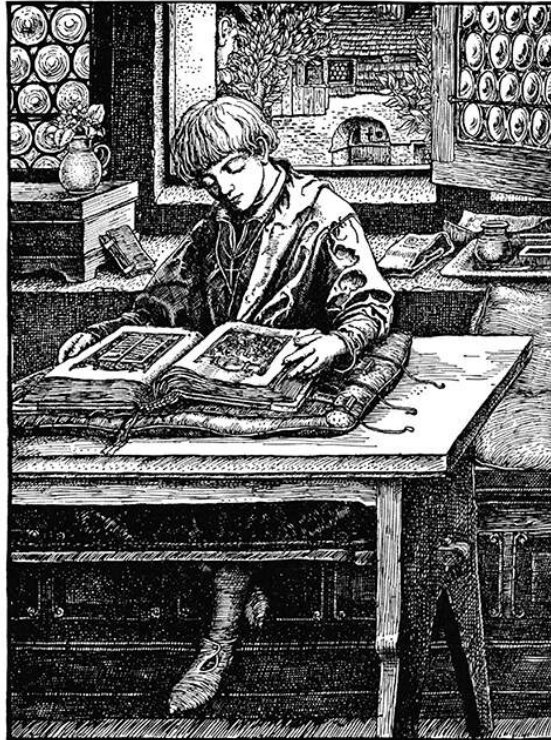
Burrock will threaten to burn the documents on the desk unless the PCs give him **300 GP**. He does so if the PCs try to steal them. Burrock will accept a lower price if he can accompany the party, but he will eventually try to rob them.

Burrock speaks the command words aloud when he uses the rings. His rings are:

Ring	Burrock's knowledge	Charges left
Breath of the Dragon	Power, command word (" <i>bluebell</i> ") and usage	2
Invitation	Power, command word (" <i>daffodil</i> ") and usage	2
Hand of the Giant	Power, command word (" <i>gardenia</i> ") and usage	2
Tongue of the Native	Nothing	3

Magic mirror

The [magic mirror](#) in this world opens to a mirror world version of this room which is superficially similar. None of the documents in the mirror version have any writing. The mirror is currently closed.



Exits

- One door leads to the [Garden](#) (9).
- A [magic mirror](#) leads to the [Mirror World - Magic Mirror site](#) (4a).
- Pulling the velvet rope rings a sonorous gong, and after a minute, the nearby door opens to the [Cosmic Library](#) (11).

Treasure

- Rugs (3): Thick soft fur from a giant tarantula, worth **65 GP**.
- Smokeless Brazier: 5 lbs empty, 10 lbs full. If filled with quartz gravel, gravel will glow with a pleasant heat.
 - [On Magic Mirrors](#): Priceless (very rare)
 - [The Golemic Arts](#): Priceless (very rare)
- The [magic mirror](#).
- The [magic rings](#) carried by [Burrock](#).

Encounter statistics

- **Burrock**: Commoner with magic rings

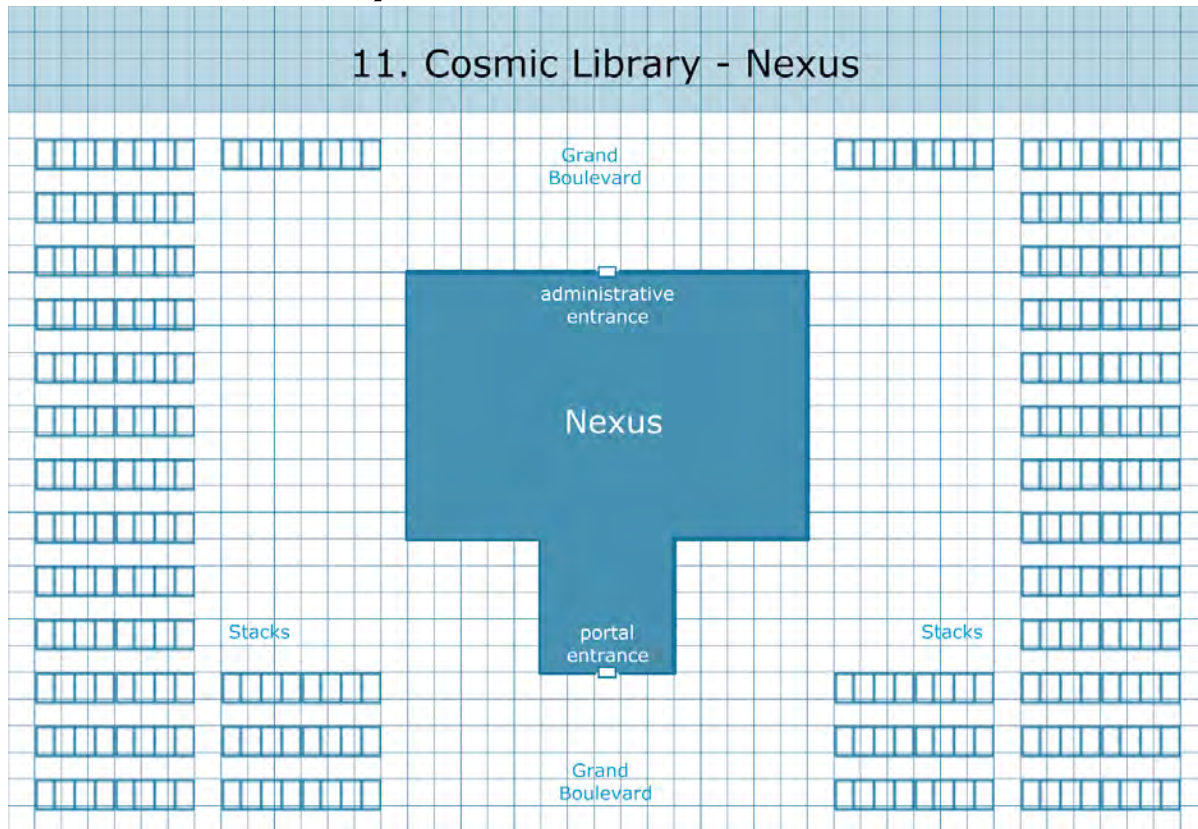


Ring name	Command word	Design	Power
Breath of the Dragon	Bluebell	Blackened iron twisted into braids, ringed with studs of jagged glass.	Sheet of fire in a 20' cone . Everything in the arc takes 6d6 fire damage ; DC 15 Dexterity saving throw for half damage.
Invitation	Daffodil	Smooth sandalwood with a small face carved from a citrine.	Point at any door in sight and teleport to the other side. Even works on doors in the House, including magic mirrors!
Hand of the Giant	Gardenia	Square-cornered white gold with a cluster of opals.	Hand enlarges to giant size. It may be used for one ability check using giant-level brawn (Strength 22, +6 modifier) or one unarmed strike using this enhanced Strength that deals 2d12 + 6 damage .
Tongue of the Native	Dandelion	Filigree of platinum and cobalt set with a large rough chunk of turquoise.	Able to speak and read any language native to where the wearer currently stands. Note that Old Giant <i>is</i> native to the area.





11. Cosmic Library



Scale is 10' per square.

Overview

This is a library that occupies an entire planet. Its creators are now degenerate savages, and several races of Librarians work eternally to maintain the books. They will also provide a guide for legitimate visitors. Almost any information can be found here, but an expedition is required.

First impressions

This is a library with stacks that seemingly extend into infinity. Tall shelves stretch to a vaulted ceiling in tight ranks that are bisected by a boulevard that extends to the horizon, wide enough for a tyrant's parade.

The doorway from the [Study](#) (10) opens from the side of a green stone building with narrow windows. A small plaza houses several ranks of empty low benches.

Standing before the doorway is a party of tall humanoids with four spindly arms and two trunk-like legs. Their hairless grey skin is decorated with magenta tattoos of geometric patterns. Their hands are raised in peace.

Features

Greeting

The door from the [Study](#) (10) opens on the side of the Nexus, one of many entrance hubs into the Cosmic Library. These **Librarians** are posted here, and have gathered to greet the party as they greet all visitors. They will keep trying languages till they find one the PCs know.

The Librarians explain that this is the Cosmic Library, the greatest repository of knowledge, cataloging the wisdom of countless peoples. Visitors may freely research what they want and the Librarians will supply a guide. The party must donate one treasured memory



for every topic they want to research. This memory is extracted via a special contraption that they will wheel out. This will remove one of a PC's win conditions if using the pregenerated characters. Otherwise, it removes one trait, ideal, or bond, or some other memory or relationship important to the PC.

Expedition

The Librarians will send one of their number as a guide who will even help in combat. She will provide rations, and water is available at periodic campsites. This is how much time the trip is projected to take:

- Time to reach first topic: **20 hours**, including rest
- Time to reach each additional topic: **approximately 10 hours**, including rest
- Time to return to the Nexus: **20 hours**, including rest

Rules

There are a number of important rules that will be explained:

- No unaccompanied visitors; if the party loses track of their Librarian, they should sit tight and wait for more Librarians to arrive.
- No documents shall be removed from the library
- No documents shall be damaged.
- Violence against anyone in the library is forbidden, except in self-defense.
- Absolutely no fire larger than a candle.

Violations of these rules can result in severe punishment. Be creative.

Environment

Most of the library is fashioned out of steel and a green marble. Shelves are **20' high** and **6' wide**, running about **60' long**. They are about 10' apart, but boulevards are about **120' wide** and run perfectly straight for many miles. The Cosmic Library is lit with hanging incandescent bulbs.

There are occasional plazas for Nexi and study areas, and occasionally other features. There are also campgrounds at regular intervals (one league apart). Other visitors and their Librarian guides can

occasionally be spotted at a distance, generally avoiding each other.

Following the guide

The Librarian guide, Sehmesh answers most questions tersely, but may open up to talk about the beautiful planet of her people. She won't talk about why her tribe are not under those skies.

If something happens to Sehmesh and the party waits, they will be found by a group of **1d4 Librarians** in **1d6 hours**. One of them will become the new guide. If they don't wait, it will take **2d8 hours**, and the **12 Librarians** who show up will be inclined to expel the party.



Exits

- The door from the Nexus leads back to the [Study](#) (10).
- Following Sehmesh will lead to the [Lover's Battlefield](#) (11a) in **ten hours**.
- Going anywhere else in the Cosmic Library is going to meet with resistance at every step from Librarians, and finding one's way will be very difficult. The GM should find a way to make this apparent.

Encounter statistics

- **Librarians (4 in greeting party, 8 more in Nexus)**
- **Sehmesh (Librarian guide)**



Cosmic Librarian

Medium humanoid, lawful neutral

Armor Class 14 (hide armor)

Hit Points 32 (6d8 + 6)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
12 (+1)	14 (+2)	12 (+1)	12 (+1)	14 (+2)	10 (+0)

Skills Arcana (+3), History (+3), Investigation (+3), Perception (+4) Survival (+4), Stealth (+4)

Senses passive Perception 14

Languages Common and any other language

Challenge 1 (200 XP)

Keen Hearing and Sight. The librarian has advantage on Wisdom (Perception) checks that rely on hearing or sight.

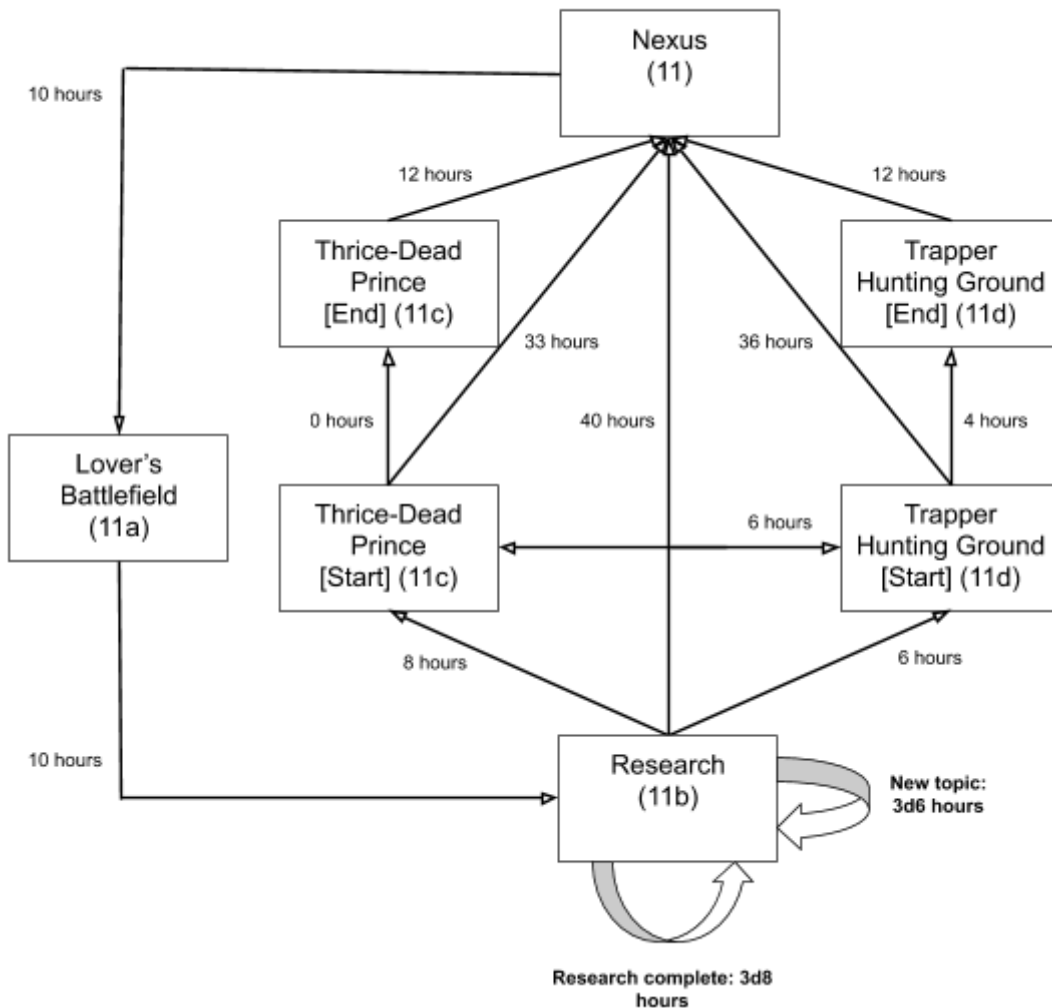
Actions

Multiattack. The librarian makes two melee attacks or two ranged attacks.

Shortsword. Melee Weapon Attack: +4 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 5 (1d6 + 2) piercing damage.

Longbow. Ranged Weapon Attack: +4 to hit, ranged 150/600 ft., one target. *Hit:* 6 (1d8 + 2) piercing damage.

Library travel flowchart







don't feel confident of victory, they will accept the gems in their stead, and they will not fight to the last man.

Winged musketeers

They are armored in shining aluminum-titanium alloy and armed with steam muskets. They are very civilized and professional. Their orders are to take the **lovers** prisoner. They cannot be bribed and will fight to the last man. However, they will also parlay, and if they learn what the **Miscegenatrix** can do, its value will outweigh that of the couple.

Lovers

The lovers need their emeralds to purchase passage to the realm of the **Thrice-Dead Prince** (11c). That is where they can find the knowledge to safely care for their hybrid offspring. They don't need the **Miscegenatrix**. The male (**Garag'arakool**) will fight till his last breath to keep his lover (**Velid**) safe.

Exits

Following the Librarian guide from here will lead to **Research** (11b) in **ten hours**, after a night of rest.

Treasure

- Satchel of emeralds: Worth **1600 GP**.

- The **Miscegenatrix**: A small idol or machine that seems to be organic and protean with many appendages. It is metallic but slightly warm to the touch. Used properly (very complicated), it allows for a fruitful union between a male and a female of any species with those genders. Worth **2250 GP**.
- **Winged Musketeer armor (5)**: Graceful and articulated light armor. Only usable by winged races. AC 12, 10 lbs. Worth **250 GP**.
- **Steam Musket (5)**: Ranged martial weapon. 1d12 piercing damage, ammunition (range 120/360), loading, two-handed. 10 lb. 500 gp.
- **Bullets**: Each winged musketeer that is defeated or pick-pocketed has **1d6 bullets** left.



Encounter statistics

- Rhino Men (7)
- Winged Musketeers (5)
- Garag'rakool (rhino man lover; 1): Rhino man
- Velid (very pregnant winged female lover; 1): Winged musketeer (see above) except no flying speed, walking speed 20 ft., unarmored, and does not add Dexterity bonus to AC (AC of 10).

Rhino Man

Medium humanoid, any alignment (often chaotic)

Armor Class 14 (hide armor)

Hit Points 67 (9d8 + 27)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
16 (+3)	10 (+0)	16 (+3)	8 (-1)	12 (+1)	9 (-1)

Skills Athletics (+5), Religion (+1)

Senses passive Perception 11

Languages Common, Rhino Man

Challenge 1 (200 XP)

Charge. If the rhino man moves at least 10 ft. in a straight line immediately before making horn attack, it can use its bonus action to attempt to Shove the target.

Actions

Greataxe. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +5 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 9 (1d12 + 3) slashing damage.

Horn. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +5 to hit, reach 5ft., one target. *Hit:* 6 (1d6 + 3) piercing damage.

Lightning Horn. *Ranged Spell Attack:* +5 to hit, range 30 ft., one target. *Hit:* 7 (2d6) lightning damage. Uses Constitution to cast this spell.

Winged Musketeer

Medium humanoid, any alignment (often lawful)

Armor Class 15 (composite light armor)

Hit Points 26 (6d8)

Speed 30 ft., fly 50 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
10 (+0)	16 (+3)	10 (+0)	14 (+2)	12 (+1)	10 (+0)

Skills Acrobatics +5, History +4

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 11

Languages Common, Primordial (Auran)

Challenge 1 (200 XP)

Actions

Steam Musket. *Ranged Weapon Attack:* +5 to hit, range 120/360 ft., one target. *Hit:* 10 (1d12 + 3) piercing damage.

Bayonet. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +2 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 4 (1d8) piercing damage.

Shortsword. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +5 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 6 (1d6 + 3) piercing damage.

Bomb (1 use). The winged musketeer throws a bomb at a point it can see within 60 ft, or drops it at a point directly below it. All creatures within 5 ft. of that point must succeed on a DC 12 Dexterity saving throw or take 10 (3d6) fire damage.

Flechettes (1 use). The winged musketeer drops flechettes directly over a 5' by 15' line from a height of at least 30 ft. Each creature within that line must succeed on a DC 13 Dexterity saving throw or take 10 (3d6) piercing damage.





11b. Cosmic Library - Research

Overview

After traveling for about a day, the party reaches their first topic of interest. They may research until they find what they want, and move on to the next topic. All of this takes time.

First impressions

Sehmesh points out a collection of about four bookcases where the desired wisdom may be found. When the party finds out what they want, they can move to the next topic, and eventually head back to the Nexus.

Features

Research time

It takes **3d8 person-hours** of research per topic to find what is desired. This can be shared by multiple participants. Non-academic characters contribute 20 minutes for every hour (i.e. 33%). A PC can research for **16 hours** per day with the other **8 hours** for rest and recuperation.

Travel between topics

It takes **3d6 hours** of travel between topics. These trips are uneventful.

Journey home

Upon the return trip, **Sehmesh** determines that a wandering tribe

of primitive **Trappers** is now hunting along the party's return route. This presents them with three options:

- Try the Gatehouse of the [Thrice-Dead Prince](#) (11c); total route length: **20 hours**
- Press through the [Trapper hunting grounds](#) (11d) despite the risk; total route length: **24 hours**
 - Take a safe route around it all; total route length: **40 hours**



Exits

The party is presented with the choice of three possible routes of return:

- Past the the [Thrice-Dead Prince](#) (11c) in **eight hours**.
- Through the [Trapper hunting grounds](#) (11d) in **six hours**.
- A safe route to the Nexus in **forty hours** after a night of rest.

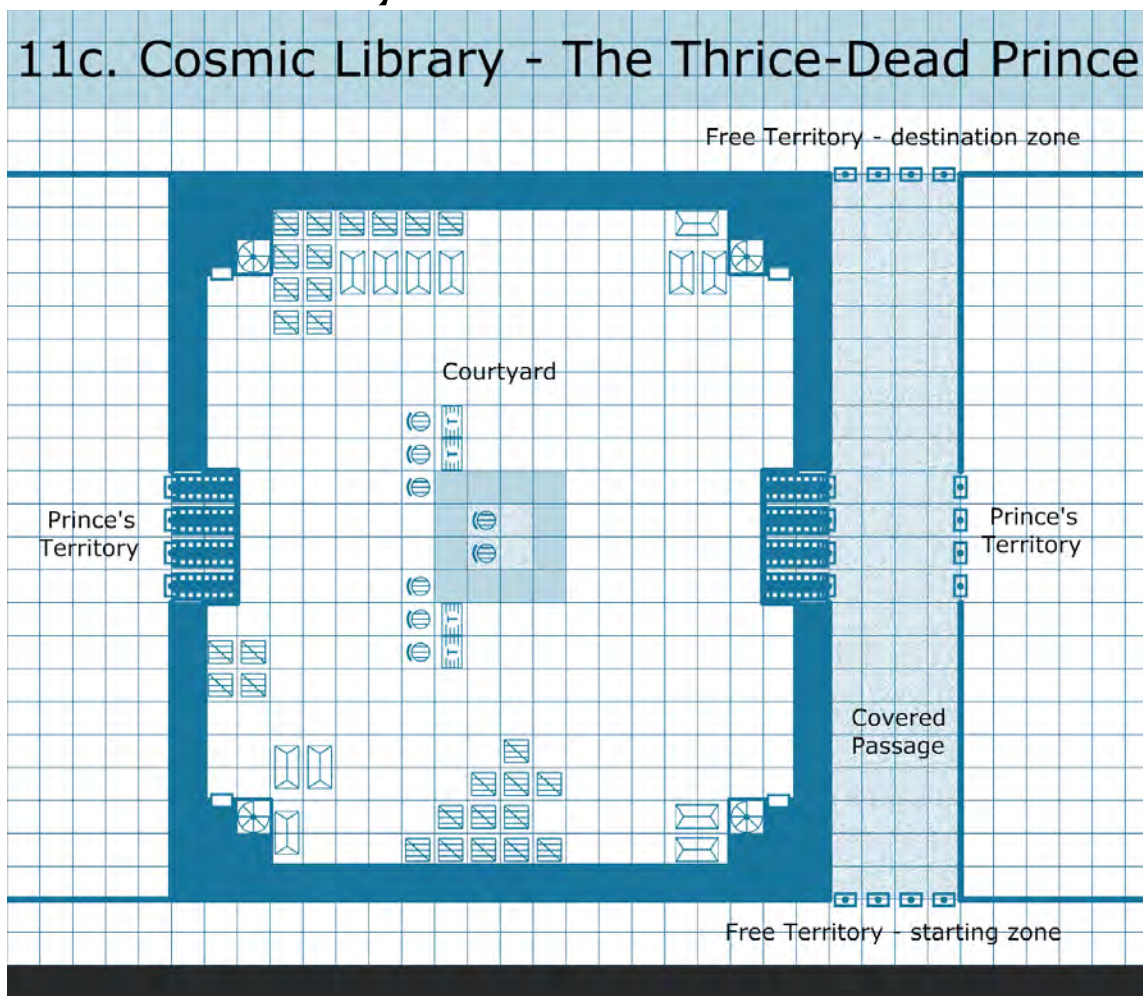
Treasure

- Knowledge! **Priceless!**





11c. Cosmic Library - The Thrice-Dead Prince



Scale is 5' per square.

Overview

A pirate-king from the other side of the world has taken up refuge in the Cosmic Library and set himself up as a petty warlord. He charges for passage through his realm or access to his books. The Thrice-Dead Prince levies capricious fees, and his demeanor varies from welcoming to murderous.

First impressions

A rude barricade consisting of disassembled bookshelves and boat rigging bars the path. It extends out of sight in either direction and stands taller than two men. Before a [gate](#) made of rime-encrusted iron-bound planks lounges a small group of [guards](#). They ready themselves as the party approaches.

Features

Guards

The **four** guards are dressed in a hodge-podge armor and are attired in a motley of purple and gold. They have tattoos and jeweled piercings and slouch against the barricade. Today's fee to pass the gate is **500 GP** per person (Librarians are free), although anyone who wants to negotiate is in luck: The [Prince](#) himself is within.



If the guards are attacked, **four** more are waiting on a walkway on the other side of the barricade. They fire crossbows, or can descend the wall with an action. In **1d4 rounds**, they will be joined by **eight** more guards. On the **fifth round** of combat, the **Prince** will appear on the wall and send his personal guard into the fray.

Gate

The gate opens into a small fortified gatehouse. The gate on the opposing side opens to the realm beyond the **Prince's** domain; this barricade lies at a chokepoint. However, a side gate opens into a barricaded courtyard ringed by barracks and a cooking area. The **Prince** is currently holding court here on a wooden throne atop an impromptu platform.

The Prince

The Thrice-Dead Prince is a barrel-chested man with a bald head, a sculpted black mustache and tufts of hair emerging from his open silk shirt. Swathed in purple and gold, he warmly greets visitors to his royal domain. He is attended closely by a man with a large shapeless satin hat with colored orbs of light that lazily orbit his head. Several armed men (the Prince's "cavaliers") lean against the

rear of his platform with a falsely casual air.

Those who wish to negotiate for passage are made an offer: choose one of their number to face his greatest champion. If they win, he will let them pass for only **5 GP** per person. If they lose, there is no penalty.

Exits

- Backtrack to the **Trapper hunting grounds** (11d) in **six hours**.
 - A long safe route to the Nexus in **thirty-three hours** with a rest for the night.
 - After passing through the gatehouse, it takes **twelve hours** to reach the Nexus with a night of rest.



Treasure

- Strongbox of ivory plates: In a trapdoor under the platform (**DC 10 Wisdom (Perception) check** to spot). There are **40** delicate plates carved with beautiful calligraphy. Each is worth **40 GP**. These are actually bank notes from a shipping insurance cartel on the other side of the world. If one can impersonate the rightful owner, they could withdraw **150K GP**.



The Challenge

If the party accepts the **Prince's** challenge, he reveals that the "champion" is his advisor, **Jacinto the Well-Read**, and the conflict is actually a debate. Here are the rules:

- There will be three questions about philosophy
- The **Prince** will ask each question in turn
- Each contestant shall answer before proceeding to the next question
- Answers should be wise, learned and concise
- The **Prince** will decide who answered better as soon as both answer
- The contestant who answers better for two or more questions in the winner
- The player can decide who answers the first question first; the other contestant answers the two following questions first

The Prince is not stupid, but he isn't well-read. Eloquence and an air of learnedness are most important. The **Prince** will get bored by long or technical answers. To win a round, the PC must succeed in a **DC 13 Charisma (Persuasion) check**. This roll is modified based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Roll modifier
Appeal to the gods	+1
Has the sound of inescapable logic	+1
Gives the shorter answer	+1
Points out flaws in opposition *	+1
Mildly witty or clever	+1
Very funny or eloquent	+2
Partly rebuts opposing argument *	+2
Skillful flattery of the Prince	+2
Demolishes opposing argument *	+4
Uses esoteric terms	-1
Boring or rambling	-1
Nonsensical	-1

The Prince asks to start (3 min.)	-1
The Prince asks to wrap up (3 min.)	-1
The Prince cuts the PC off (5 min.)	-2
Disrespects the gods	-2
Disrespects the Prince	-4

* Only one of these bonuses can apply, and the PC must answer second to be eligible.

Questions and answers

- **Question:** "What makes boats float, even when they are full of men?"
 - **Jacinto's answer:** "My Prince, you of course recall that a branch or a plank will float on the water. Thus it is the will of the gods that wood should exist above water. We see this by the fact that a tree must be watered at the roots. Why have the gods ordained this? So men could find trees upon the land that would take them upon the water, honoring the gods with their brave deeds. Such as those undertaken by my Prince before arriving in this most unusual of places."
- **Question:** "When is it acceptable to take another man's life?"
 - **Jacinto's answer:** "A man who lacks strength has been judged by the gods as unfit to care for that which is his. A man makes his place in the world through strength, and so does he lose it. This is the natural cycle of life, and those who claim otherwise lack the courage to see the truth. My Prince must surely jest by asking, for none know this as well as he."
- **Question:** How is man to know the will of the gods?
 - **Jacinto's answer:** "The gods make their wills known through many, many signs. The stars, the flights of birds, and even the wind can speak their edicts to wise mortals. A wise man who lacks the otherworldly nature or the extensive training will allow himself to be guided by those who are. Guides and mentors are inevitably marked by their exposure to the Other Side." <pulls open robe to expose third nipple, looks at PC triumphantly with a raised eyebrow>



Roll the devilish eyes wrathfully in thy head!



Encounter statistics

- Guards (16 total)
- The Thrice-Dead Prince (1)
- Cavaliers (5)
- Jacinto the Well-Read (1)

Guard

Medium humanoid (any race), any alignment

Armor Class 16 (chain shirt, shield)

Hit Points 11 (2d8 + 2)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
13 (+1)	12 (+1)	12 (+1)	10 (+0)	11 (+0)	10 (+0)

Senses passive Perception 12

Languages any one language (usually Common)

Challenge 1/8 (25 XP)

Actions

Spear. *Melee or Ranged Weapon Attack:* +3 to hit, reach 5 ft. or range 20/60 ft., one target. *Hit:* 4 (1d6 + 1) piercing damage, or 5 (1d8 + 1) piercing damage if used with two hands to make a melee attack.

Light Crossbow. *Ranged Weapon Attack:* +3 to hit, range 80/320 ft., one target. *Hit:* 5 (1d8 + 1) piercing damage.

The Thrice-Dead Prince

Medium humanoid (human), chaotic neutral

Armor Class 17 (splint)

Hit Points 58 (9d8 + 18)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
16 (+3)	13 (+1)	14 (+2)	10 (+0)	11 (+0)	10 (+0)

Skills Athletics +5, Perception +2

Senses passive Perception 12

Languages Common

Challenge 3 (700 XP)

Actions

Multiattack. The Thrice-Dead Prince makes two greatsword attacks.

Greatsword. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +5 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 10 (2d6 + 3) slashing damage.

Heavy Crossbow. *Ranged Weapon Attack:* +3 to hit, range 100/400 ft., one target. *Hit:* 6 (1d10 + 1) piercing damage.



Cavalier of the Thrice-Dead Prince

Medium humanoid (human), any alignment

Armor Class 17 (hidden chain shirt, buckler shield)

Hit Points 32 (5d8 + 10)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
13 (+1)	14 (+2)	14 (+2)	10 (+0)	10 (+0)	11 (+0)

Skills Animal Handling +4, Intimidation +2

Senses passive Perception 10

Languages Common

Challenge ½ (100 XP)

Actions

Multiattack. The cavalier makes two melee attacks.

Saber. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +4 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 5 (1d6 + 2) slashing damage.

Light Crossbow. *Ranged Weapon Attack:* +4 to hit, range 80/320 ft., one target. *Hit:* 6 (1d8 + 2) piercing damage.

Reactions

Protection. The cavalier imposes disadvantage on one attack roll targeting a creature within 5 ft. of it. It must be wearing a shield.

Jacinto the Well-Read

Medium humanoid (human), lawful neutral

Armor Class 11

Hit Points 18 (4d6 + 4)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
10 (+0)	12 (+1)	12 (+1)	16 (+3)	14 (+2)	13 (+1)

Skills History +5, Insight +4, Persuasion +3

Senses passive Perception 12

Languages Common, Draconic

Challenge ½ (100 XP)

Spellcasting. Jacinto is a 2nd-level spellcaster. His spellcasting ability is Intelligence (spell save DC 13, +5 to hit with spell attacks). He has the following wizard spells prepared:

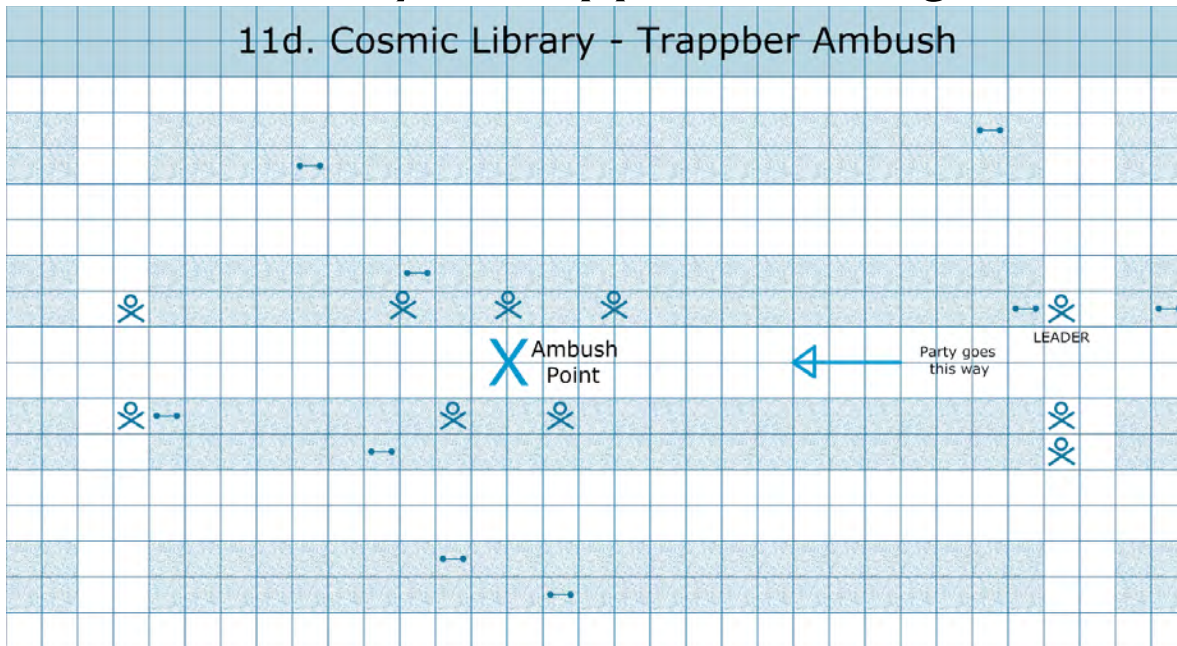
- Cantrips (at will): *fire bolt, message, prestidigitation*
- 1st level (3 slots): *detect magic, magic missile, shield, sleep*

Actions

Staff. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +2 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 4 (1d8) bludgeoning damage.



11d. Cosmic Library - Trapper Hunting Ground



Scale is 5' per square.

Overview

This area of the stacks has been taken over by a tribe of primitive hunters of a spider-like species. They will probably ambush any party that travels through the region, despite Sehemesh's best efforts.

First impressions

This area is much like the rest of the Library, except other researchers will not be seen while passing through. Sehemesh will point out some of the web lines laid down to alert the hunters.

Features

Trappers

Trappers are one of the many degenerate subspecies of the ancient people who built the Library. They have not lost all of their intelligence, so they live a primitive existence in hunter bands that make nets from their own silk and venom hunting spears with their own secretions. Trappers are the size of goblins and they hunt in groups.

Encounter

To see if the party is ambushed, roll 1d8; if the numbered rolled is less than the total number of party members (including Sehemesh and any children), then they are ambushed. The attack will occur when passing through close-knit stacks 10' across. The only chance the party has to detect the ambush when Trappers are moving behind the party, which is when combat begins.



Initial attack

Any party member who fails a **DC 17 Wisdom (Perception) check is surprised**. Trappers on top of the stacks start the attack by launching nets. Three on the left throw nets at the front of the party while two on the right throw them on the rearmost PCs. The trappers' elevated position lets them make their **net attacks with advantage**, negating the innate



disadvantage of net attacks. The next round, trappers on the ground engage in melee while those atop the bookcases throw their spears.

Battle tactics

Trappers can clamber up or down a bookcase in a single turn's movement. However, the ones up top are unlikely to join the fray below. **The Trappers will withdraw if they lose half their number or more.** They will quickly climb over and through bookshelves when fleeing.

Exits

- A long safe route to the Nexus in **36 hours** with a rest for the night.
- It takes **6 hours** to return to the gatehouse of the [Thrice-Dead Prince](#) (11c).
- It takes **4 hours** to pass through the hunting grounds.
- From there, it takes **12 hours** to reach the Nexus, with a night of rest.

Treasure

- **Bone-Lance of Rage:** *Magic weapon (spear), uncommon, requires attunement.* +1 to attack and damage rolls. As a bonus action, the wielder can take a -1d4 penalty to Charisma to increase the bonus to attack and damage rolls to +1d4 for 1 turn. If this reduces the wielder's Charisma to 0, the wielder goes berserk and attacks any creature in sight for the next hour, then suffers 1 level of exhaustion and regains 2 Charisma. The Charisma penalty ends when the wielder finishes a long rest.
- Basic poison (10)
- Trapper net (5): Silk nets worth **35 GP** per net.

Encounter statistics

- Trapper (9)
- Trapper Leader (1)

Trapper						
<i>Small beast, neutral evil</i>						
Armor Class 14 (hide)						
Hit Points 11 (2d8 + 2)						
Speed 30 ft., climb 30 ft.						
STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA	
14 (+2)	16 (+3)	12 (+1)	6 (-2)	11 (+0)	4 (-3)	
Skills Stealth +7						
Senses Darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 10						

Languages Trapper

Challenge ½ (100 XP)

Spider Climb. The trapper can climb difficult surfaces, including upside down on ceilings, without needing to make an ability check.

Actions

Poisoned Spear. *Melee or Ranged Weapon Attack:* +4 to hit, reach 5 ft. or range 20/60 ft., one target. *Hit:* 5 (1d6 + 2) piercing damage, or 6 (1d8 + 2) piercing damage if used with two hands for a melee attack, plus 3 (1d6) poison damage.

Silk Net (1 use). *Ranged Weapon Attack:* +5 to hit, range 5/15 ft., one creature. *Hit:* The target is restrained by the net. As an action, the restrained target can make a DC 12 Strength check, bursting the net on a success. The net can also be attacked and destroyed (AC 10; hp 5; vulnerability to fire damage; immunity to bludgeoning, poison, and psychic damage).

Trapper Leader

Small beast, neutral evil

Armor Class 14 (hide)

Hit Points 22 (4d8 + 4)

Speed 30 ft., climb 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
14 (+2)	16 (+3)	12 (+1)	8 (-1)	12 (+1)	6 (-2)

Skills Stealth +7

Senses Darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 10

Languages Trapper

Challenge 2 (450 XP)

Spider Climb. The leader can climb difficult surfaces, including upside down on ceilings, without needing to make an ability check.

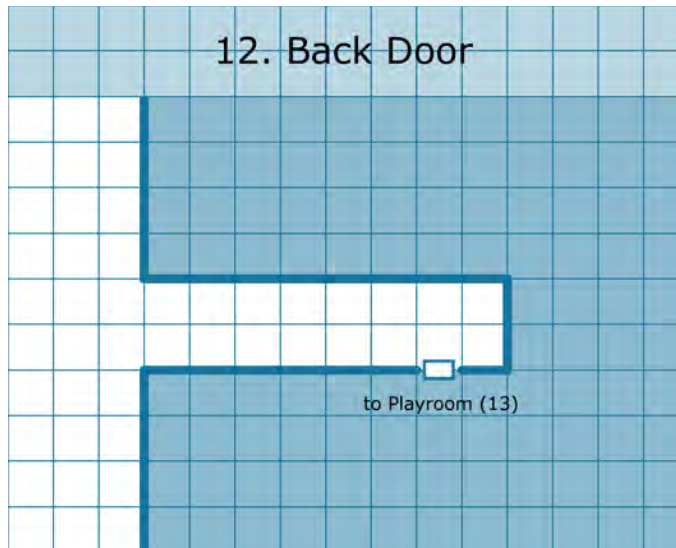
Actions

Multiattack. The leader makes two melee attacks.

Bone Lance of Rage. *Melee or Ranged Weapon Attack:* +6 to hit, reach 5 ft. or range 20/60 ft., one target. *Hit:* 7 (1d6 + 4) piercing damage, or 8 (1d8 + 4) piercing damage if used with two hands for a melee attack.



12. Back Door



Scale is 5' per square.

Overview

This is the secret alternative entrance to the Magician's House. It is used by the children of the neighborhood as a safe haven but otherwise unknown. It is several blocks from the [Front Door](#) (1) in the same slums.

First impressions

This alley smells vile as all the walls are coated in a thick coat of congealed grease. Near the end of the alley is a red-painted door. The buildings are in disrepair, crawling with rats.

Features

The door

This door is similar to the [Front Door](#) (1), except that it has no knocker or animated face that accepts invitations. Instead, it remains locked unless one speaks the password: "*Fart pudding*".

Breaking down the door

It's possible to break down the door with tools or sustained battering. Anyone within 20' of the outside of the door when it is smashed open will be **cursed**. No saving throw. The curse from smashing open the door has two effects. First, if a



character uses their inspiration, they must subtract 1d4 from their second roll. Second, if anyone asks the name of someone with the curse, he or she must make a **DC 15 Wisdom saving throw** or reply truthfully, adding "...a common thief" to the end. Mordank can undo the curse with a wave of his hand.

Exits

- Once opened, the Back Door leads to the [Playroom](#) (13).
- Leaving the alley leads to the rest of the city of Blackrock - including the [Front Door](#) (1), several blocks away.

Treasure

- none

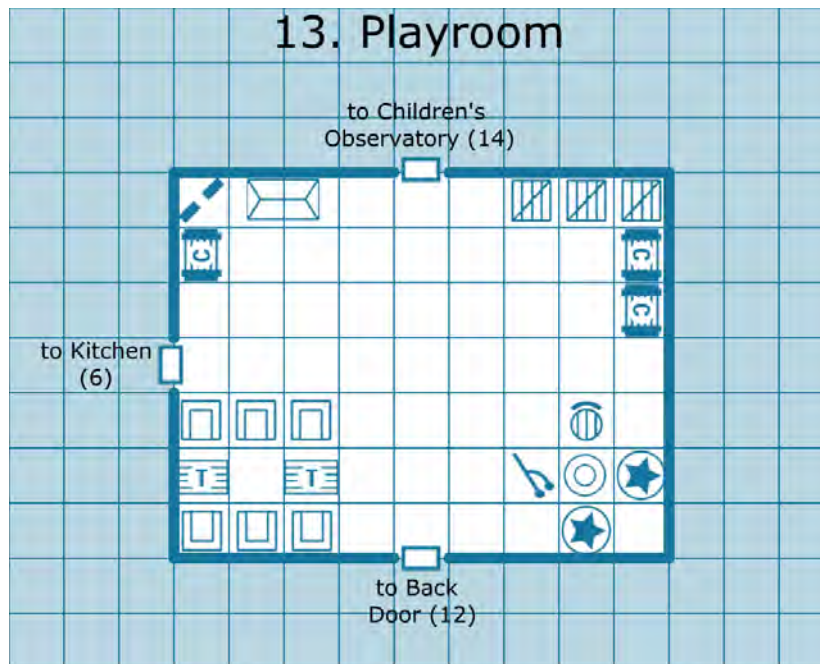
Encounter statistics

- none





13. Playroom



Scale is 5' per square.

Overview

This is a lounge for visiting children. There are a few enchanted toys.

First impressions

This room features several overstuffed **couches** that are upholstered in multi-colored yarn around low tables. The sound of trickling water can be heard from that part of the room.

Another portion of the room appears to have an **miniature palace** nearly as tall as a man. In yet another corner is some kind of polished **mechanical assembly**. Scattered **toys** lies on the floor.

Features

Couches

The couches and table forms an area for rest. To the side is a small bubbling rusted tin fountain. Beside that is a wooden box bolted to the floor, painted with scenes of children enjoying food. It is magical, and it will fill up with a mildly sweet cake every time it is closed. It loses its enchantment if unbolted.

Miniature palace

The small scale palace is a playset intended for young girls. Dressable dolls can be found within and beside the palace. There is also a rack of child-sized **enchanted frocks** (see Treasure).

Mechanical assembly

This is a large polished chrome orrery, displaying the sun and nearby planets as finely-etched metal spheres mounted on silently rotating gimbals. To the side is a telescope with a sign under it reading "**Children only!**"

Those who gaze at any of the planetary bodies through magnification will notice a stupendous level of detail, and the telescope can be used to zoom. If a viewer keeps studying, finer and finer details are revealed, but he or she starts to float weightlessly. If the character is a child or of size small or tiny, then no harm will occur.

Otherwise, the character will be pulled by the gravity of the spheres and must perform a **DC 14 Dexterity saving throw** to grab an anchor. If this fails, the adventurer appears to grow smaller to those in the room as they



drift towards the planets that suddenly loom larger in their eyes.

At this point, the PC and his companions have two rounds to figure out a way to secure him or her; attempting to use a rope requires a **DC 12 Dexterity saving throw**. After that, the character cannot be recovered, appearing to rapidly shrink and approach the planet and will finally burn up upon atmospheric entry. If the PC is secured, then the effect immediately ends as soon as they are drawn back to the ground.

Toys

Throughout the floor are scattered toy weapons, as well as strange silvery blocks. The latter are exotic magnetic toys.

Exits

- One door leads to the [Back Door](#) (12).
- One door leads to the [Children's Observatory](#) (14).
- A [Kitchen Door](#) leads to the [Kitchen](#) (6).



Treasure

- **Miniature palace:** This is heavy (**220 lbs.**) and delicate. It is worth **250 GP**.

- **Orrery:** Wondrous item, very rare. The orrery is very heavy (**400 lbs.**) and delicate. It is also enchanted and extremely valuable to the right buyer. The telescope is not enchanted and can be detached.

- **Silvery blocks (16):** These are magnetic blocks that can be snapped together for structures or used to levitate each other. The full set is worth **320 GP**.

- **Enchanted frocks (4):** Wondrous item, uncommon.

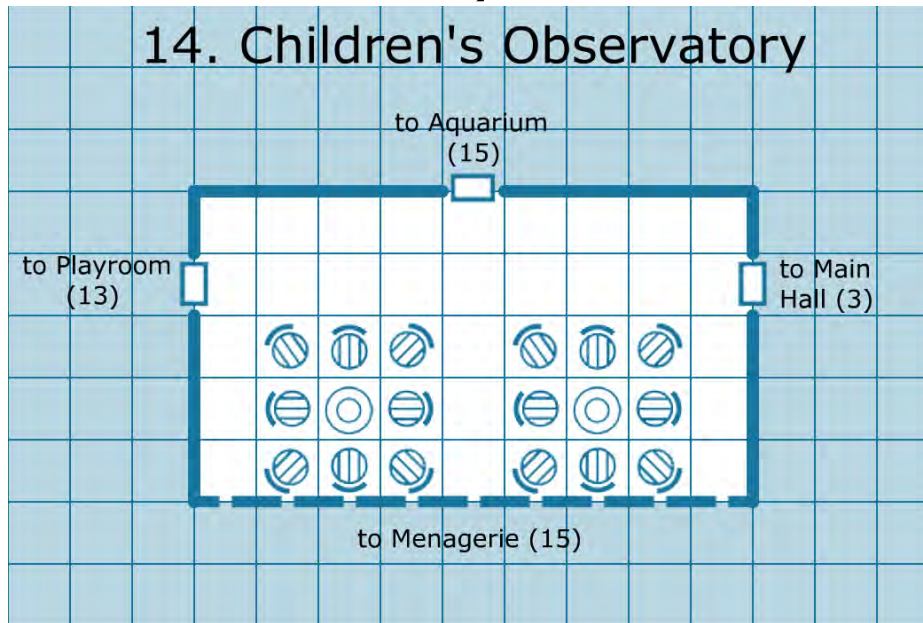
Each frock has a tag inside with command words "**fancify**" and "**mixy-upy**". The first word causes parts of the dress to turn the color of whatever touches it. The second word causes it to blend with contacted colors.

Encounter statistics

- None



14. Children's Observatory



Scale is 5' per square.

Overview

One wall of this room is a [transparent pane](#) blocking passage to the [Menagerie](#) (15). Three [children](#) hide in this room, and one of them will pretend to be a monster to scare the party away.

First impressions

This room contains two very low circular tables with equally low chairs. Between them is a large pile of quilted throw pillows. One of the walls is a transparent pane through which a dark and vacant room can be seen. As soon as the party steps into the room, the pillows in the center rise into a squat vaguely humanoid figure that gestures warningly.

Features

Transparent pane

This material has an **AC 17** and is shattered from blows that do **12+ damage**. It is **resistant to piercing and fire damage, and immune to cold, lightning, and psychic damage**. The [Menagerie](#) (15) on the other side is not illuminated, but obvious features may be seen from this side.

Children

Three children hide in this room: one under each table and one within the pillows. The one in the pillows has tied them around his body and will threaten to curse the party if they do not turn from this room. These kids ran in here with a fourth to escape a bully ([Burrock](#), currently in the [Study](#) (10)). Not long after, one child was grabbed by an ogre as the rest hid - this child is [Zenni](#), currently found at the [Moon - Time Dome](#) (8b). The children are:

- **Oodak**: The eldest, a quiet but brave boy, currently in the pillows.
- **Haerla**: A clever know-it-all girl, sister of Minz. Wearing the [Helm of Infinite Wisdom](#).
- **Minz**: An enthusiastic and highly distracted young boy.

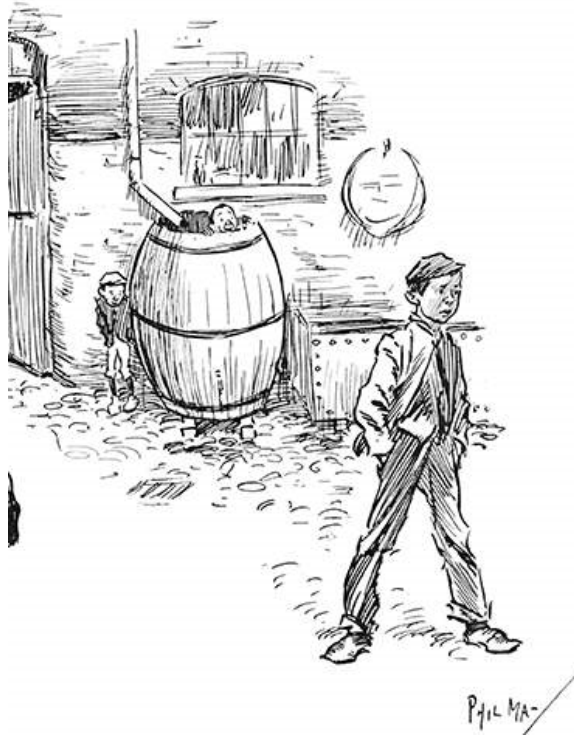
The children are afraid but they won't abandon their friend. They hope the wizard can help. If the party can help them find the wizard or [Zenni](#), they will use the [Helm of Infinite Wisdom](#) to help the adventurers. They describe [Zenni](#) as a scrawny boy with long brown hair and a squeaky voice.



If the party tries to leave the children behind, then **Minz** will sneak away and try to follow them discreetly. Then the other two will go in search of him.

Helm of Infinite Wisdom

A brightly chromed helmet with eyeballs shooting lightning around the rim and two giant metal bat wings on top. Once per hour, the wearer can concentrate on a question and get an in-depth answer; this takes one minute. The character suffers a 1d6 penalty to Charisma which recovers at 1 point per long rest, and they must make a **DC 11 Intelligence saving throw**. If this succeeds, the character gets an answer. On a failure, the character is knocked unconscious for a number of hours equal to the Charisma penalty, and fails to learn the answer. The helm cannot be removed from the



wearer's head without a command phrase ("*ignorance is bliss*") or death. Haerla has not thought to ask if there is a way to remove it and thinks it is permanent.

Exits

- On the other side of the [transparent pane](#) is the [Menagerie](#) (15).
- Locked door leads to the [Main Hall](#) (3). **DC 14 Dexterity (Thieves' Tools)** check to lockpick.
- Door to the [Playroom](#) (13).
- Door to the [Aquarium](#) (16).

Treasure

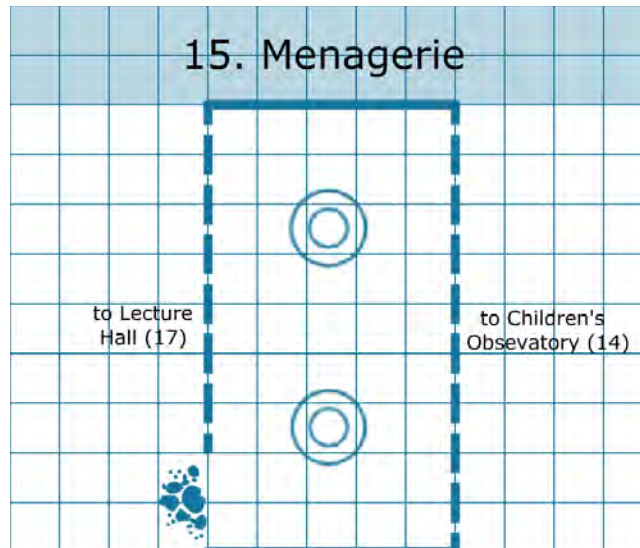
- [Helm of Infinite Wisdom](#) : Wondrous item, very rare

Encounter statistics

- **Children (3)**: Commoners



15. Menagerie



Scale is 5' per square.

Overview

This room was used to imprison otherworldly beings. The two latest inhabitants were freed from their magic circles, and they broke through the [transparent panes](#) into a room beyond.

First impressions

This room has no lighting, but the [Children's Observatory](#) (14) casts wan illumination. There is another transparent wall on the wall opposite to that, though the room beyond is even more dimly lit. One of the panes on that wall is shattered outwards. On the floor are the blasted remains of two [broken seals](#).

Features

Transparent panes

The walls facing the [Children's Observatory](#) (14) and the [Lecture Hall](#) (18) are made of transparent crystal. One of the three panes shared with the [Lecture Hall](#) (18) is shattered outwards. That room is very dimly lit, with a cluster of candles in the darkness. This material has an **AC 17** and is shattered from blows that do **12+ damage**. It is resistant to piercing and fire damage, and immune to cold, lightning, and psychic damage.

Broken seals

The two circles on the ground are both scorched and marred. They were drawn with rare pigments mixed with dried blood. Complicated patterns cause dizziness if stared at for long. A **DC 20 Intelligence (Arcana)** is required to recognize their purpose.

Exits

- [Transparent panes](#) bar passage to the [Children's Observatory](#) (14).
- One of the [transparent panes](#) has been shattered into the [Lecture Hall](#) (18)

Treasure

- None

Encounter statistics

- None





16. Aquarium



Scale is 5' per square.

Overview

This room views an underwater environment through transparent walls. A tentacled monster emerges from an open hatch to attack anyone taller than a child.

First impressions

Floor, ceiling and two walls are **thick glass** through which may be seen an alien coral reef in the depths of an unknown ocean. Unfathomable sea life gapes back at human gawkers, pulsing with color. Vast shadows pass in the blue distance. In the center of the room is a **cylindrical glass platform**. A unblinking eye, wide as a dinner plate, can be seen refracted within.

Near each door is a ring of **hanging tanks** attached to the ceiling, containing misshapen fish that pulse with a yellow-green light. A circular prayer mat lies within each ring.

Features

Thick glass

The floor, ceiling and walls are incredibly thick, requiring **50+ damage** to crack. Doing so causes flooding for **3d20 bludgeoning damage** to everyone in the room. More importantly, the doors will be destroyed, stranding everyone in the room **400'** below the surface of an alien ocean.

Cylindrical glass platform

The platform in the center of the room has an open glass hatch on top. It takes one movement action to close the hatch and one action to turn the locking wheel. Within and below the platform is a water-filled glass chamber with an exit to the open ocean.



The large eye belongs to its occupant, the **Deep Watcher**. The Deep Watcher will use its tentacles to attack anyone who comes within **10'** or tries to pass by. However, it will not attack dwarves or small humanoids unless they damage it, and it will withdraw if four or more tentacles are severed. The hatch cannot be closed while its tentacles are extended for attack.

Hanging tanks

The fish in the hanging tanks are shaped like brains with a tail and fins. They pulse with light, and the pulses become brighter and more frequent when an individual nearby is concentrating or meditating nearby. This will be evident any time a spell is cast or ki points are used, or when a monk meditates to recover ki points during a short rest.

If anyone meditates within a circle of hanging tanks for a few minutes, the fish will glow with a constant bright light while swimming in tight circles. Then, for as long as this character remains still, he or she may communicate mind-to-mind with *any* living being in sight, regardless of language or intelligence.



The rings and mats are out of the reach of the **Deep Watcher**. The power of the brain fish can be used to negotiate with it - the **Deep Watcher** is slow-witted but utterly treacherous.

Exits

- One door leads to the [Children's Observatory](#) (14).
- One door leads to the [Ring Forge](#) (17).

Treasure

- Brain Fish (3 per tank x 8 tanks): Each one is worth **250 GP** alive and **20 gp** dead. They have exotic fish requirements like periodic spinal fluid infusions into their tanks.
- Prayer mats (2): Soft, thick and beautiful, woven with rare dyes and gold thread. **210 GP** value each.

Encounter statistics

Deep Watcher

Huge aberration, true neutral

Armor Class 14 (natural armor)

Hit Points 133 (14d12 + 42)

Speed Swim 40 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
20 (+5)	10 (+0)	16 (+3)	8 (-1)	8 (-1)	6 (-2)

Saving Throws Str +9, Con +7, Int +3, Wis +3

Skills Insight +3, Investigation +3, Perception +7

Condition Immunities charmed, exhaustion

Senses truesight 60 ft., passive Perception 17

Languages Primordial (aquan) and Deep Speech. Speaks telepathically, and cannot speak with those who cannot communicate telepathically.

Challenge 7 (2,900 XP)

Ageless. The deep watcher cannot age or be aged past maturity, and cannot die of old age.

Sleepless. The deep watcher does not sleep.

Waterbreathing. The deep watcher breathes water, and suffocates without it.

Multifarious Tentacles. For each interval of 20 damage it takes, a tentacle (of many) is destroyed. An attacker can target a specific tentacle within range. These tentacles regenerate after a long rest.

Actions

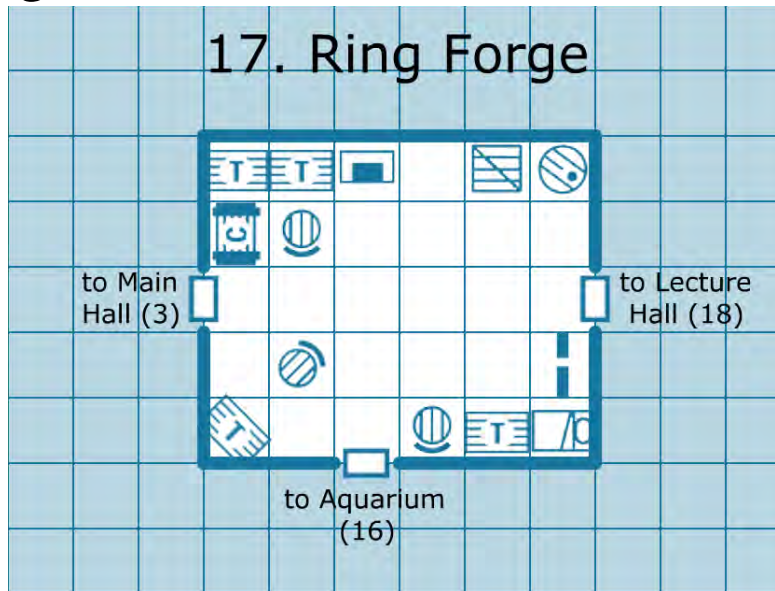
Multiattack. The Deep Watcher makes up to 4 tentacle attacks, each one targeting a different creature.

Tentacle. Melee Weapon Attack: +9 to hit, reach 10 ft., one target. *Hit:* 11 (1d12 + 5) bludgeoning damage, and the target is grappled (escape DC 15). The target is released if the tentacle is destroyed.

Bite. Melee Weapon Attack: +9 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target, can only target a creature it has grappled. *Hit:* 21 (3d10 + 5) piercing damage.



17. Ring Forge



Scale is 5' per square.

Overview

This is where Mordank spent his time building and enchanting his [magic rings](#). There are some useful notes on [magic rings](#), as well as a few other trinkets.

First impressions

This room has a lot of stuff in tight quarters. There's a [work area](#) that includes a workbench with scattered tools and a squat metal box with a hatch. On a canted [desk](#) are scattered documents and an assortment of ink bottles and discarded styluses. Finally, a cot, mirror and low table are somehow crammed into a corner. The moldy remains of a meal are still upon the table.

Features

Work area

The work area consists of a long workbench connected to a small forging area in the corner. The forge itself is a highly compact and heavy metal cube - it is atomic-powered and emits no heat until opened. There are broken clay moulds for rings in the vicinity. On the workbench are fine metal-working tools, slugs of different metals and a small box brimming with semi-precious jewels. There's also a small bin of bric-a-brac: bits of ivory, amber, petrified wood, etc. Amidst this is the [magic ring](#) Lèse Majesté.

Desk

The desk contains sketches and notes about theories for why a faerie approves of one ring design over another. The notes can be summarized by [Handout G](#). The book on the desk is entitled "[On Magic Rings](#)". At the base of the angled top is a [silver wand](#).

On Magic Rings

This is the draft of a scholarly autobiography. The story it tells is of the wizard's rise to greater prominence. Mordank the Irregular was looking for sources of power. Disdaining the diabolical, he sought a more powerful faerie Patron - The Gentle Lady.

She taught him the art of making [magic rings](#), available to her patron-bound wizards. Each ring is a contract with a different faerie. But the precise ring a faerie will accept is very unpredictable. That is the chief difficulty of the art. Also one must be able to summon or visit faerie, as well as negotiate with or coerce them.

The Gentle Lady also led Mordank to the [Cosmic Library](#) (11), where he has learned some of the arts of its creators (who he calls The Visitors). With that knowledge, he can bend space and time, and he made this House.



Rest area

Consists of a simple cot, a cheap steel mirror, a wash basin and a low table with the moldy remains of the last meal.

There is an enchantment that causes anything under the bed to be invisible. In this space is a small jewelry box made of black lacquered wood with a red velvet lining. Within the box are five [magic rings](#).

Exits

- Door to the [Main Hall](#) (3). **DC 18 Dexterity (Thieves' Tools) check** to lockpick; failure activates curse that shrinks lockpicks down to comically tiny proportions.
- Door to the [Aquarium](#) (16)

Treasure

- [Magic rings](#): These are the ones in the room; see below for more details.
 - **Lèse Majesté**: On the workbench.
 - **Mud Magic**: In the box under the bed.
 - **Wisdom of the Earth**: In the box under the bed.

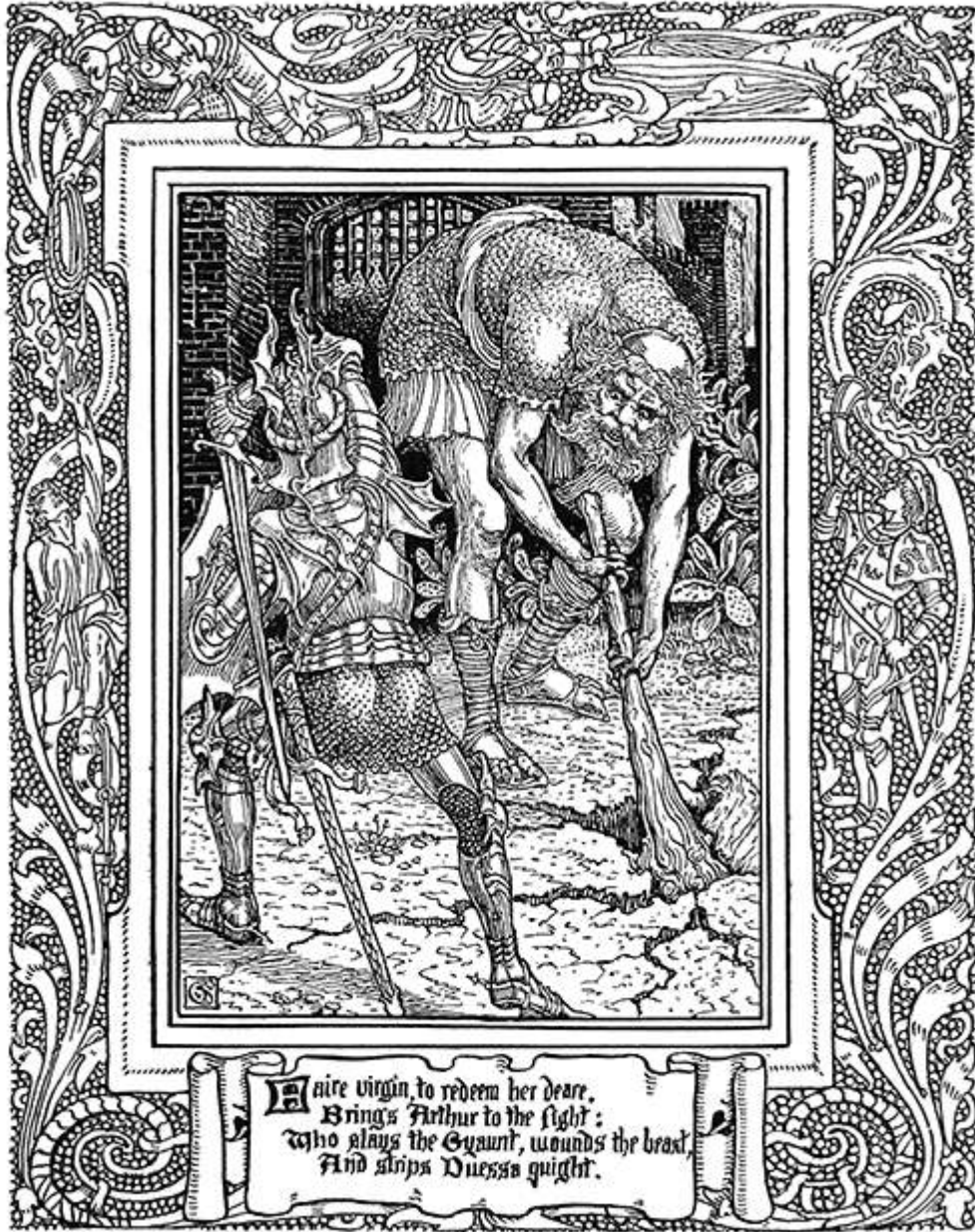
- **Wind Porter**: In the box under the bed.
- **Hidden Hand**: In the box under the bed.
- **Dollmaker**: In the box under the bed.
- **Atomic forge**: Compact but very heavy oven of steel and boron, super-hot and never needs fuel. As priceless as a rare magic item.
- **Silver wand**: *Wand, Rare*. The wand is made of silver shaped like a realistic gnarled root that clasps a small skull of black crystal. The wand bonds with whoever next casts an arcane spell while holding it. Whenever its bonded wielder tries to cast a spell, the spell is randomly chosen from the list of all spells the caster knows, but it is cast 2 levels higher than the spell slot spent to cast it. The caster can still direct its effect. The bond can be removed with *remove curse* or a similar effect.
- **Semi-precious gems**: About two handfuls, worth a total of **110 GP**.
- **Metal slugs (14)**: The precious $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. slugs (4) are worth a total of **60 GP** while the set is worth **85 GP**.
- *On Magic Rings*: Worth **50 GP**.

Encounter statistics

- None



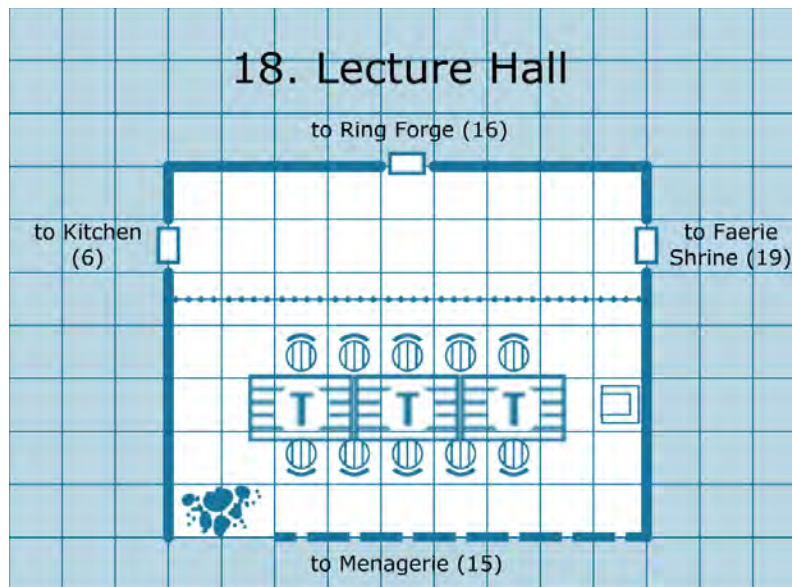
Ring name	Room	Command word	Design	Power
Mud Magic	Ring Forge (17)	Orchid	Bone with a single large diamond.	By pointing at earth and squeezing your fist, you cause earthen matter (e.g. rock, soil, sand, clay, etc.) to soften to mud. You can transform up to 600 lbs per use. If you use this against an earth elemental or earthen construct, it must make a DC15 Constitution saving throw , taking 6d6 bludgeoning damage if it fails or half as much on a success.
Lèse majesté	Ring Forge (17)	Tulip	Steel spiked band set with alternating small amethysts.	For 1 minute, you can cast <i>command</i> as a bonus action on each of your turns without spending a spell slot.
Wisdom of the Earth	Ring Forge (17)	Dogwood	Rune-etched coral with an aquamarine lozenge.	Ask one question, and an answer will be spelled out in the sand nearest to the wearer's feet. The answer is provided by an invisible gnome that travels through the earth. Unable to spy on those with powerful magic, and it can only answer questions about things in contact with earth. Even then it knows the answer only 70% of the time. 20% of the time it is flummoxed, but 10% of the time it thinks it has the right answer but it is wrong.
Wind Porter	Ring Forge (17)	Hyacinth	Simple tungsten band with an alexandrite spike.	5' radius whirlwind forms where wearer makes a fist, and it can be directed to move. Flies up to 80' horizontally per round (carrying up to 500 lbs 5 feet off the ground (cannot cross gaps)). Picks up whatever it touches. An uncaught creature that enters the whirlwind or starts its turn there can dodge the effect with a DC 14 Dexterity saving throw . Once caught, it can only escape if it can fly or grab onto something, and must succeed on a DC 20 Strength (Athletics) check to free itself. Contents are not hurt but are restrained. Lasts 10 minutes . Cannot carry the wearer.
Hidden Hand	Ring Forge (17)	Marigold	Glittering red fat pumice band with heart-shaped bloodstone.	The wearer points at two things, speaking the command word both times, and they swap positions. Objects must be within 60' of each other and the wearer, and neither may be animate or in excess of 500 lbs .
Dollmaker	Ring Forge (17)	Azalea	Old oily rope for a band with a giant uncut ruby.	Wearer speaks the command word while touching an object. The object is shrunk down to a doll that can be fit in one's hand; this works on objects that weigh up to 1000 lbs . The effect lasts until the object is thrown into the air or damaged. A hurled doll-boulder can cause 8d6 damage for maximum size objects as a thrown weapon attack. Living beings can resist iconization with a DC 12 Constitution saving throw . If they fail, they are shrunk and immobile, but they are aware of their surroundings.



A faire virgin, to redeem her deare,
Brings Arthur to the fight:
Who slays the Gyant, wounds the beas,
And slays Quessa quight.



18. Lecture Hall



Scale is 5' per square.

Overview

The only lighting is a candelabra held by a dangerous faerie lord called the [Lonely King](#). He will insist on the party's company, and he attacks if they insult him.

First impressions

The room is mostly dark. There's a long high table set for a feast that runs along a glass wall with a broken pane. At the head of the table is a handsome elfin man in a robe of ermine and lace; he wears an enormous moonstone on a mithril choker. He holds a candelabra in one hand as he stands to receive visitors.

Features

Table

The table is set with a mouth-watering feast that can scarcely be seen in the shadows. Sitting at **four** of the chairs are the corpses of adventurers; they all have their heads twisted at very unnatural angles.

Lonely King

The Lonely King is an arrogant and heartless faerie lord who usually appears as a dandy, but can transform in a blink to his murderous alter ego, **Rawhead**. He will do so if assaulted once or displeased three times. He will invite the party to sit and accept his hospitality. The Lonely

King will be quite insistent, and dismiss the corpses as "rude guests." He will attack if the party absolutely refuses to tarry.

The Lonely King urges guests to partake of the feast but is not insulted if they merely sit. His Highness will eagerly gossip and bandy wit. He is quick to boast, and just as quick to denigrate the dull and the crude. He can be condescending but may take a liking to characters who display wit and beauty.

The Lonely King was a captive of Mordank until he and his brother **Bloody Bones** (currently in the [Moon - Time Dome](#) (8b)) were released by the Fae Cats that now occupy the [Faerie Shrine](#) (19). The Lonely King and his brother would like to enter the [Faerie Shrine](#) (19) to slay Mordank, but a ward keeps them out. **Bloody Bones** is supposed to be looking for another way in.

The two passions of the Lonely King are his love of [games](#) and his hatred of Mordank the Irregular. He often insults the wizard, calling him an uncouth charlatan. If Mordank enters this room, the Lonely King will attack him.



Games

The **Lonely King** is eager to play games of chance. If they have nothing in mind, he'll teach a game called **Lachesis** that is played with a tarot deck.

Resolve any game with **three opposed Intelligence (Playing Cards) checks**. The lonely king's modifier for these rolls is +2. The first to win two rounds wins the game.

The **Lonely King** will not cheat, and he treats cheating as an insult. He has little to wager at this time except his moonstone choker, but he will only bet it if goaded. He will take it as an insult even if he loses it fairly, however.

Ending the feast

Unless angered, the **Lonely King** will eventually let them pass. He will insist on being a warlock patron of any PC that he really enjoys. Use the Archfey patron or the custom variant in Appendix E.

All who ate or drank at the table are cursed to try to kill the wizard the first time they see him outside the **Faerie Shrine** (19); they get a **DC 15 Wisdom saving throw** to resist.

This curse is broken if Mordank or the **Lonely King** dies.

Fighting the party

The Lonely King becomes Rawhead in a blink of an eye as soon as he is engaged in combat. He appears to be an ogre with long muscled arms and a skinless bloody head.

If the Rawhead fights the party over an insult and is reduced to one-quarter hit points, he will revert to *gaseous form* and (probably) escape.

However, if they pass into the **Faerie Shrine** (19), the **Lonely King** will wait for their return, fully healed. If they return with Mordank, he will fight to the death, assisted by any PCs who partook of his feast and do not resist its enchantment.

Exits

- **Kitchen Door** to the **Kitchen** (6).
- The broken pane on the transparent wall opens to the **Menagerie** (15).
- Door to the **Ring Forge** (17).
- Door to the **Faerie Shrine** (19).

Treasure

- On burly female warrior corpse:
 - Splint mail
 - High elven blade: Mithril sword that damages as a magic weapon; worth **45 GP**
- On tall tattooed shaman corpse:
 - **Red-flower robe**. *Wondrous item, uncommon*. Endure any weather as long as it stays dry.
- On bald female thief corpse:
 - Thieves' tools
 - Pair of extremely high-end custom daggers worth **60 GP**
 - On wizened male alchemist corpse:
 - Potion carrying case: Handy tote, snaps open, secures up to **20** potions. Contains one potion; acts as **Stinking Cloud (potion, rare)**.
 - **Moonstone choker**. *Wondrous item, uncommon*. **Once per day for one round**, the wearer may command up to **200 lbs.** of a natural elemental substance (e.g. dirt, flames, rock, ice, etc.) within **50'**, moving it up to **50'** with **Strength 20** as an action. This can be used offensively. The wielder chooses a point he or she can see within 100 feet. Each creature within 10 feet of that point must make a **DC 14 Dexterity** saving throw, taking 4d6 damage on a failed save or half as much on a success.
 - Flatware setting (9): Paper-thin bone china, **30 GP**.
 - Silverware setting (9): With Mordank's crest, **40 GP**.
 - Wine bottle (5): Fine vintage, **50 GP**.





Encounter statistics

Rawhead

Large fay, chaotic evil

Armor Class 15 (natural armor)

Hit Points 52 (8d10 + 8)

Speed 30 ft.

STR
16 (+3)

DEX
10 (+0)

CON
12 (+1)

INT
10 (+0)

WIS
12 (+1)

CHA
16 (+3)

Saving Throws Str +6, Con +4, Wis +4

Skills Athletics +6, Nature +3, Playing Cards +3

Damage Resistances slashing, bludgeoning, and piercing from nonmagical weapons

Condition Immunities petrified

Senses darkvision 120', passive Perception 11

Languages Common, Elvish, Goblin, Sylvan

Challenge 5 (1,800 XP)

Magic Resistance. Rawhead has advantage on saving throws against spells and other magical effects.

Moonrise Restoration. Rawhead regains all lost hit points each moonrise.

Dead Wringer. When Rawhead successfully grapples a creature, he can immediately attempt a Head Twist as a bonus action.

Innate Spellcasting. Rawhead's innate spellcasting ability is Charisma (spell save DC 17, +9 to hit with spell attacks). It can innately cast the following spells, requiring no material components.

- 1/day: *gaseous form*

Actions

Multiattack. Rawhead makes three Punch attacks.

Head Twist. Rawhead attempts to twist the head of any one creature it has grappled. It makes a DC 16 Strength saving throw, taking 8d6 bludgeoning damage on a failure.

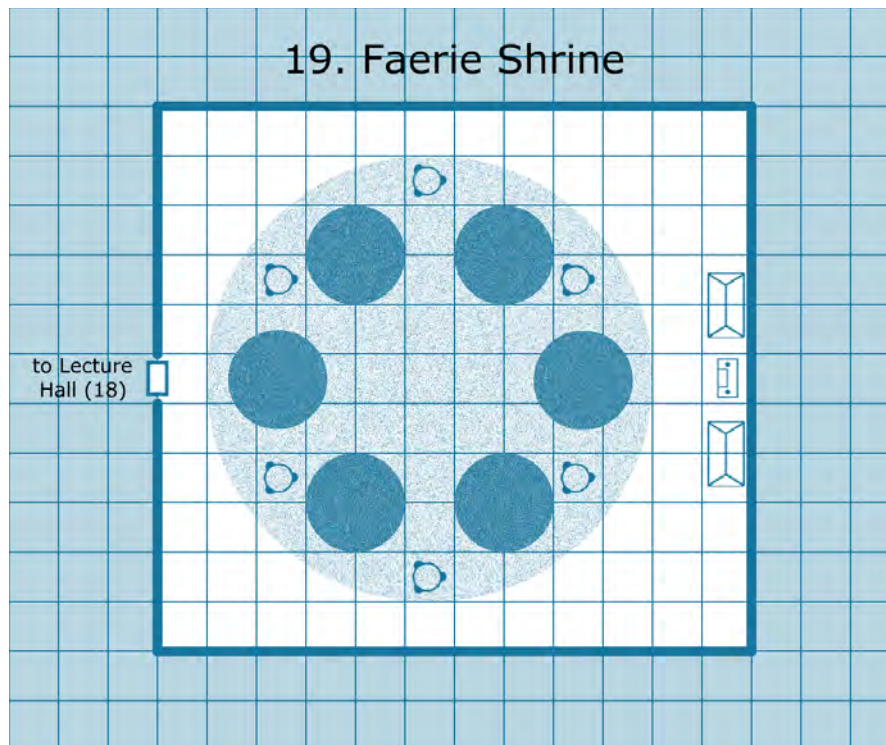
Punch. Melee Weapon Attack: +6 to hit, reach 5ft., one target. *Hit:* 5 (1d4 + 3) bludgeoning damage.

Moonstone Choker (1/Day). Hurls elemental matter. Each creature within 10 feet of a point Rawhead can see within 100 feet must make a DC 14 Dexterity saving throw. It takes 4d6 damage on a failed save, or half as much on a success. The damage type depends on the type of elemental matter hurled.





19. Faerie Shrine



Scale is 5' per square.

Overview

Mordank the Irregular is in this room with **five Fae Cats** who are pretending to be him. They are all imprisoned in magic circles from which they cannot escape, but the party can easily free any of them. They all try to convince the party that they are the real wizard.

First impressions

The center of this wide room is lowered three steps, and five unlit braziers surround it. A rustic altar stands at the far end of the room from the door. On the floor of the recessed center of the room is a great diagram of complex glowing geometry. Six smaller circles are arranged in a circle, and within each of those there is a rumpled middle-aged man. All six men are identical!

Features

Situation

The **Fae Cats** got into the house through a [magic mirror](#). They were sent by **Gentleman Hob** to torment Mordank. When they came here, Mordank imprisoned them, but the magic of the **Fae Cats** reflected this on him. Now,

they use a glamour to mimic Mordank. The magic circles occur at the intersection of complex patterns of glowing geometric lines.

Nothing may cross the lines, but a circle's containment is broken if the symbols are defaced from the outside as an action. Magic cannot pass in either direction, but a circle can be dispelled from the outside with *dispel magic* or a similar effect. The gap is large enough that one may not discreetly whisper to a circle's occupant.

Time distortion

Passing through the door into this room, in either direction, causes an entire day to pass. This is a side-effect of the seal against magic entities. Mordank can toggle this at will if free. The prisoners will volunteer this information.



The Dilemma

All of the circle occupants will try to convince the PCs that they are Mordank. The **Fae Cats** are cunning!

Things they definitely know about Mordank:

- Mordank's relationship with **Gentleman Hob** and the **Gentle Lady**.
- The fact that he gets much of his powers through his **magic rings**.
- The command words for the rings are the names of flowers.
- The wizard's general personality.
- The nature of the **Leaf Boys** and the **Mean Old Man** in the **Garden** (9).
- The nature of the **Mirror World** (4).
- The passphrase to *open* the **magic mirrors**.
- The existence of the **Back Door** (12).
- The nature of the house and the **goblins**.
- The **golem** in the **Main Hall** (3).
- The **Kitchen Doors** and **Goblin Tunnels** (7).

Things they definitely don't know:

- The actual command words used to activate any rings.
- Mordank's soft spot for children.
- The passphrase to *close* the **magic mirrors**.
- The secret of the **golem's Creation Rune**.
- The passphrase for the **Back Door** (12).
- The **Golem Necklace** in the **Barracks** (5).
- The owner of the **Kitchen Door** key (i.e. the Chief Steward in the **Kitchen** (6)).



Mordank will be extremely reluctant to reveal any command words or other secrets. The gap is too wide to safely whisper without being overheard.

Freeing a captive

If a **Fae Cat** is freed, it will attempt to free its fellows as soon as it's feasible to try. In the meantime, it will try to maintain the ruse.

Once Mordank is free, he will be friendly. Mordank will try to get the party to escort him to his rings. He fights with great reluctance.

In combat it takes **1 action** to marr a circle (no check required), and the freed creature rolls initiative and **can act on the following round**.

Horned altar

Surrounded by an ivy-covered bier, this scented altar of dogwood sprouts antlers atop. Lit candles coat most of the surface with wax. A **magic ring** left on a horn point will regain one charge per day. Two rings are hanging fully recharged.

Exits

- Door to the **Lecture Hall** (18)

Treasure

- **Magic rings** on the altar (see below for details):
 - **Stolen Moments**
 - **Transmute**
- **Mordank the Irregular!**

Ring name	Room	Command word	Design	Power
Transmute	Faerie Shrine (19)	Posey	Obsidian band carved as a lifelike serpent with lapis lazuli eyes.	That which is touched by the index finger can be temporarily transformed into whatever he or she names, so long as it is of approximately equivalent dimensions and mass and something that the wearer has observed. After one minute , the original form is restored no matter what happens to the new shape i.e. damage doesn't carry over, even death and destruction.
Stolen Moments	Faerie Shrine (19)	Wild Rose	Complex silk braid with colorful feathers and a ruby cut in the shape of a hawk.	Stops time except for the wearer, who takes 2 turns in a row. Objects may be moved and imparted momentum, but they can't be damaged, and hang in mid-air upon release.



Encounter statistics

- **Fae cat (5)**
- **Mordank the Irregular (1)**. Mordank's true power comes from his faerie rings.

Mordank the Irregular

Medium humanoid (human), chaotic neutral

Armor Class 12 (15 with mage armor)

Hit Points 22 (4d6 + 4)

Speed 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
10 (+0)	14 (+2)	14 (+2)	18 (+4)	11 (+0)	14 (+2)

Saving Throws Int +6, Wis +2

Skills Arcana +6, Nature +6

Senses passive Perception 10

Languages Common, Elvish, Draconic, Giant

Challenge 3 (700 XP)

Spellcasting. Mordank is a 4th-level spellcaster. His spellcasting ability is Intelligence (spell save DC 15, +7 to hit with spell attacks). He has the following wizard spells prepared:

- Cantrips (at will): *fire bolt*, *mage hand*, *minor illusion*, *prestidigitation*
- 1st level (4 slots): *expeditious retreat*, *mage armor*, *magic missile*, *shield*
- 2nd level (3 slots): *invisibility*, *misty step*, *see invisibility*, *suggestion*

Actions

Staff. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +2 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 1d8 bludgeoning damage.

Fae Cat

Large fey, chaotic evil

Armor Class 15 (natural armor)

Hit Points 55 (10d10 + 0)

Speed 50 ft., climb 30 ft.

STR	DEX	CON	INT	WIS	CHA
16 (+3)	17 (+3)	10 (+0)	9 (-1)	12 (+1)	17 (+3)

Saving Throws Dex +6

Skills Deception +5, Perception +3, Stealth +5

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 15

Languages Common, Elvish, Sylvan

Challenge 3 (700 XP)

Cunning Action. The fae cat can take the Dash, Disengage, or Hide action as a bonus action.

Pounce. If the fae cat moves at least 20 ft. straight toward a creature and then hits it with a claw attack on the same turn, that target must succeed on a DC 13 Strength saving throw or be knocked prone. If the target is prone, the fae cat can make one bite attack against it as a bonus action.

Mirror Magic. If the fae cat fails a saving throw against a spell targeting it or is hit by a spell attack, it can take 2d6 force damage to copy the spell, targeting the caster or the caster's position.

Humanoid Disguise (1 / day). The fae cat casts *disguise self* with unlimited duration as if it were a humanoid of average height.

Cheshire Grin (1 / day). The fae cat uses an action to turn all of its body invisible except for its teeth. The invisibility ends after one minute or if it touches another creature.

Actions

Multiattack. The fae cat makes two claw attacks.

Bite. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +5 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 9 (1d12 + 3) piercing damage.

Claw. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +5 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 6 (1d6 + 3) slashing damage.



COMPLETING THE ADVENTURE

Consequences

There are a lot of things that can happen as a result of this adventure, even if the party succeeds in their quest. If Mordank is freed, he will insist on the return of any of his property, but he will reward each PC for freeing him with one of the following, as requested:

- 500 GP
- Instructions for a random spell of his choosing
- A minor magic item
- Information about where to find a valuable magical treasure
- Referral to **The Gentle Lady** as a Patron

- A favor to be requested in the future
- Friendship!
- Anything roughly equivalent

If the wizard isn't freed, then the House may be invaded by other entities, possibly including the PCs, and freeing him could be a future quest. Keep in mind that Mordank will seek out his property and its thieves if and when he finally escapes. Alternately, if he doesn't survive, the party may try to take over the Magician's House, but there will be other interested parties to contend with. But at least they will get to keep their loot.

Winning and losing

Ben Meeks

Win

Save the city

- Save Mordank the Irregular from imprisonment in the [Faerie Shrine](#) (19).
- Figure out how to use the [magic ring Tongue of the Native](#) (found in the [Study](#) (10)).
- Find a book in the [Cosmic Library](#) (11) to translate the Sealing Stone inscription.
- Get the cooperation or helmet of Haerla from the [Children's Observatory](#) (14).

Spread the faith to new lands and people

- Convert the All-Kin in the [Moon - Alien Dome](#) (8a) to the way of the Father.
- Find his way to Faerie, intent on being a missionary. Routes from:
 - Over the wall of the [Garden](#) (9).
 - [Beyond the Desolate City](#) (4g).

Lose

Do not allow innocents to be harmed

- Let any of the children from the [Children's Observatory](#) (14) come to serious harm if encountered.



- Not saving [Zenni](#) from the [Moon - Time Dome](#) (8b), if encountered.
- Let [Burrock](#) from the [Study](#) (10) be seriously hurt, if encountered, unless [Burrock](#) attacks someone.
- Failing to save the city.

Tom Sharply

Win

Obtain 2,500 CP of wealth for himself

- His share of the wealth is **2,500 GP** or more.
- The amount of wealth he has stolen is worth **2,500 GP** or more.
- A combination of the prior two.
- Any money spent during preparation or the adventure itself counts against this total.

Save Mordank the Irregular and secure a favor

- Mordank is rescued from imprisonment in the [Faerie Shrine](#) (19), and Tom extracts a promise

Lose

Do not lie to an ally

- Anyone who one has an explicit expectation of mutual aid is considered an “ally”.
 - Obviously other PCs who do not betray
 - This *can* include friendly NPCs.

Deng Zench

Win

Discover the source of the wizard’s power and his fate, and report back

- The treatise *On Magic Rings* from the [Study](#) (10) is read.
- The [Lonely King](#) in the [Lecture Hall](#) (18) can impart this knowledge.

Die while slaying a worthy foe

- [Bloody Bones](#) in the [Moon - Time Dome](#) (8b)
- The Rawhead form of the [Lonely King](#) from the [Lecture Hall](#) (18)
- [Mean Old Man](#) from the [Garden](#) (9)
- The **five** Fae Cats from the [Faerie Shrine](#) (19)

Lose

Do not allow Mordank the Irregular to learn your name and live

- If any servants or guards learn Deng’s name and live, that’s a problem.
- Big risk: the curse that comes from breaking through either the [Front Door](#) (1) or the [Back Door](#) (12).

Lithwick the Curious

Win

Obtain a source of powerful magic

- Must be able to use power in question.
- Must also be able to safely lay claim to it; e.g. if Mordank is free, he will eventually come for his property.
- Any of the following:
 - At least **ten magic rings**.
 - The formulae for crafting golems and magic mirrors.
 - The [Miscengnator](#) from the [Lover’s Battlefield](#) (11a)
 - *All* of these patrons:
 - The [Mean Old Man](#) from the [Garden](#) (9).
 - The Gentle Lady from the [Study](#) (10).
 - The [Lonely King](#) from the [Lecture Hall](#) (18).

Find a powerful patron or teacher

- The [Mean Old Man](#) from the [Garden](#) (9).
- The [Gentle Lady](#) from the [Study](#) (10).
- The [Lonely King](#) from the [Lecture Hall](#) (18).

Lose

Do not die

- Pretty straight-forward.
- If she gets the curse of the statue of the [Mirror World - Empty Square](#) (4f), resolve whether or not she succumbs at the end. That counts as failure.



Karn Zun Veshna

Win

Save the city

- Save Mordank the Irregular from imprisonment in the [Faerie Shrine](#) (19).
- Figure out how to use the [magic ring Tongue of the Native](#) (found in the [Study](#) (10)).
- Find a book in the [Cosmic Library](#) (11) to translate the Sealing Stone inscription.
- Get the cooperation or helmet of Haerla from the [Children's Observatory](#) (14).

Destroy a great source of evil

- Bloody Bones from the [Moon - Time Dome](#) (8b).
- Rawhead (aka the [Lonely King](#)) from the [Lecture Hall](#) (18).

Lose

Do not end the adventure corrupted in body or soul

- The faerie mutations of the stream in the [Garden](#) (9).
- The curse of the [Front Door](#) (1) or [Back Door](#) (12), if not removed by Mordank.
 - The curse of the statue from the [Mirror World - Empty Square](#) (4f) doesn't count because it is not permanent.
 - But if he dies from it, that counts.
 - Enchanted by the [Lonely King](#) in the [Lecture Hall](#) (18) to attack Mordank.

Velouria

Win

Verify the death of the human wizard...one way or another

- The death of Mordank the Irregular in the [Faerie Shrine](#) (19) is required.

Discover a way back to Faerie for her tribe

- Through the [magic mirrors](#) and [beyond the Desolate City](#) (4g).

- Over the wall and upstream from the [Garden](#) (9).

Lose

Do not die

- Pretty straight-forward.
- If she gets the curse of the statue of the [Mirror World - Empty Square](#) (4f), resolve whether or not she succumbs at the end. That counts as failure.

Rictus

Win

Find a cure for his raging alcoholism

- The ancient fountain on the [Garden - Central Island](#) (9b).
- Self-help books from the [Cosmic Library](#) (11).

Find a better place to drink his life away than that moist and filthy alley

- If [Lutz](#) likes him, the [Visitor's Lounge](#) (2).
- Mordank will see to this is he is freed from the [Faerie Shrine](#) (19), and friendly.
- Note that money alone won't do it, since Rictus will fritter away any sum.

Lose

Do not let an insult go unpunished

- Possible conflicts:
 - [Lutz](#) in the [Visitor's Lounge](#) (2).
 - A [Leaf Boy](#) in the [Garden](#) (9).
 - The [Lonely King](#) in the [Lecture Hall](#) (18).
 - [Burrock](#) in the [Study](#) (10).
 - Mordank the Irregular in the [Faerie Shrine](#)(19).
 - Other PCs?
- Punishment typically consists of injury or compensation, plus an apology.
 - Injury/compensation should be about 2x as much as initial insult.
 - An apology is *necessary*.



APPENDIX A: PRE-GENERATED CHARACTERS



Ben Meeks

Ben Meeks	
Male human	Animal trainer
Lawful good	Cleric 4

Stats and Health	
Armor class	16 (chain mail)
Speed	30
Initiative	+0
Proficiency bonus	+2
Hit points	/ 31
Hit dice	/ 4d8 + 2
Death saves	○○○ ○○○ †

Ability Scores			
STR	15	Saving Throws	+2
		Athletics	+2
DEX	11	Saving Throws	+0
		Acrobatics	+0
		Sleight of Hand	+0
		Stealth	+0
CON	14	Saving Throws	+2
		Saving Throws	-1
INT	9	Arcana	-1
		History	-1
		Investigation	-1
		Nature	-1
		✓ Religion	+1
		✓ Saving Throws	+6
		✓ Animal Handling	+6
WIS	18	✓ Insight	+6
		✓ Medicine	+6
		Perception	+4
		Survival	+4
		✓ Saving Throws	+3
CHA	13	Deception	+1
		Intimidation	+1
		Performance	+1
		Persuasion	+1

Personna
Trait. Passionate debater and devoted friend.
Bond. Fiercely devoted to Civictus, The Father of Cities.
Flaw. Greatly enjoys the sacrament of the cultivated grape, and revelry in general.
Class. Gentry
Communities. Commoners, learned

Win Conditions
As a minister of Civictus, Ben's mission is clear: Save the city.
The City, and its Father, is not a single place – it is an idea. Spread the faith to new lands and people

Loss Conditions
Do not allow innocents to be harmed. "Innocents" are humanoids who are neither violent combatants nor criminals.
Do not let the city fall.

Background Feature
Correct Behavior. You have a knack for getting domesticated animals and small children to behave properly.

Proficiencies	
Weapons	Simple weapons
Armor	All armor, shields
Tools	Herbalism kits, flutes
Languages	Common, Dwarvish



Attacks

Attack	Hit	Damage	Range
Mace	+5	1d8 + 3	5'
Sacred flame	DEX save	1d8	60'

Class Features

Channel Divinity. 1 / short rest. DC 14. Choose which option to use each time you channel.

Turn Undead. 1 action. Each undead that can see or hear you within 30 ft. makes a WIS save vs. turned for 1 minute or until it takes any damage. Turned creatures flee from you, and can only Dash or Dodge.

Preserve Life. 1 action. Restore 20 hit points divided in any way among any number of creatures you can see within 30 feet of you. This feature can restore a creature to no more than half of its hit point maximum. Does not work on undead or constructs.

Disciple of Life. Whenever you use a spell of 1st level or higher to restore hit points to a creature, the creature regains additional hit points equal to 2 + the spell's level.

Spellcasting.

Wisdom. Spell save DC 14. Attack bonus +6
Prepared non-cantrip, non-domain spells: 8
Spell slots recharge after long rest.

Level 1 ○○○○

Level 2 ○○○

Cantrips: *guidance*, *sacred flame*, *spare the dying*

Notes and Conditions

Life Domain Cleric Spells

Level 1

- bane*
- bless*
- command*
- create or destroy water*
- cure wounds*
- detect evil and good*
- detect magic* (ritual)
- detect poison and disease* (ritual)
- guiding bolt*
- healing word*
- inflict wounds*
- protection from evil and good*
- purify food and drink* (ritual)
- sanctuary*
- shield of faith*

Level 2

- aid*
- augury* (ritual)
- blindness / deafness*
- calm emotions*
- continual flame*
- enhance ability*
- find traps*
- gentle repose* (ritual)
- hold person*
- lesser restoration*
- locate object*
- prayer of healing*
- protection from poison*
- silence* (ritual)
- spiritual weapon*
- warding bond*
- zone of truth*

Inventory

433 gp
Chain mail
Mace
Backpack
Holy amulet
Tinderbox
4 torches



Tom Sharply

Tom Sharply	
Male human	Gambler
Lawful neutral	Rogue 4

Stats and Health	
Armor class	14 (leather)
Speed	30
Initiative	+3
Proficiency bonus	+2
Hit points	/ 31
Hit dice	/ 4d8 + 2
Death saves	○○○ ○○○ †

Ability Scores			
STR	14	Saving Throws	+2
		Athletics	+2
DEX	16	✓ Saving Throws	+5
		✓ Acrobatics	+5
		✓ Sleight of Hand	+5
		✗ Stealth	+7
CON	14	Saving Throws	+2
		✓ Saving Throws	+1
INT	9	Arcana	-1
		History	-1
		Investigation	-1
		Nature	-1
		Religion	-1
WIS	11	Saving Throws	+0
		Animal Handling	+0
		✓ Insight	+2
		Medicine	+0
		Perception	+0
		Survival	+0
CHA	16	Saving Throws	+3
		Deception	+3
		Intimidation	+3
		✓ Performance	+5
		✗ Persuasion	+7

Personna
Trait. Flashy member of Blackrock's biggest underworld syndicate, the Ten Tailbones.
Bond. Suave and exuberant but also known for his sense of honor and manliness.
Flaw. As good with a pair of dice as he is with a pair of daggers, and a tad too eager to prove it.
Class. Commoner
Communities. Commoners, underworld

Win Conditions
Tom desperately needs to pay some big debts so he can disentangle himself from the underworld. Obtain 2,500 GP of wealth for himself.
If Tom is not able to pay his way out of the underworld, he's going to need a powerful friend. Save Mordank the Irregular and secure a favor.

Loss Conditions
Your word is your life. It always has been. Do not lie to an ally.

Background Feature
Gambler's Luck. You are skilled at determining whether the odds of a game are stacked against you, and at designing rules to make them subtly in your favor.

Proficiencies	
Weapons	Simple weapons, hand crossbows, longswords, rapiers, short swords
Armor	Light armor
Tools	Thieves' tools, playing cards, dice sets
Languages	Common, Goblin, Thieves' Cant



Attacks

Attack	Hit	Damage	Range
Dagger	+5	1d4 + 3	5' or 20'/60'
Acid	+3	2d6	20'
Alchemist's fire	+3	1d4	20'

Class Features

Sneak Attack. 1 / turn. You can deal +2d6 damage to one creature you hit with a finesse or a ranged weapon when one of the following conditions are met:

- You have advantage on the attack.
- Another enemy of the target is within 5 feet of the target, that enemy isn't incapacitated, and you don't have disadvantage on the attack roll.

Cunning Action. You can use your bonus action to Dash, Disengage, or Hide.

Second Story Work. Climbing does not cost you extra movement, and your running long jumps covers 17 feet.

Fast Hands. You can use the bonus action to make a Dexterity (Sleight of Hand) check, use your thieves' tools to disarm a trap or open a lock, or take the Use an Object action.

Notes and Conditions

Inventory

620 gp
Backpack
2 daggers
Leather armor
Vial of acid
Alchemist's fire
Dice set



Deng Zench

Biographical

Male human Aristocrat
 Chaotic neutral Fighter 4

Stats and Health

Armor class 16 (studded leather)
 Speed 30
 Initiative +4
 Proficiency bonus +2
 Hit points / 36
 Hit dice / 4d10 + 2
 Death saves ○○○ | ○○○ +

Ability Scores

STR	13	✓ Saving Throws	+3
		Athletics	+1
DEX	18	Saving Throws	+4
		✓ Acrobatics	+6
		Sleight of Hand	+4
		Stealth	+4
CON	15	✓ Saving Throws	+3
		Saving Throws	-1
		Arcana	-1
INT	9	✓ History	+1
		Investigation	-1
		Nature	-1
		Religion	-1
WIS	14	Saving Throws	+2
		Animal Handling	+2
		Insight	+2
		Medicine	+2
		Perception	+2
CHA	11	Survival	+2
		Saving Throws	+0
		Deception	+0
		Intimidation	+0
		✓ Performance	+2
		✓ Persuasion	+2

Personna

Trait. Jolly and impeccably dressed fop.

Bond. Will fight for glory, for money, or for fun.

Flaw. A lethal duelist who does not seem to fear death.

Class. Noble

Communities. Aristocracy, criminal

Win Conditions

Long ago, Deng betrayed Mordank's rival, Edwina the Unforgiving; now his twin sister is her hostage. Discover the source of the wizard's power and his fate, and report back.

If you can't complete the mission, Edwina may let your sister go if you die trying. If not, life is not worth living, anyway. Die while slaying a worthy foe.

Loss Conditions

Do not allow Mordank the Irregular to learn your name and live. Edwina will do terrible things to your sister if her hand is discovered.

Background Feature

Noble Privilege. You have rights where others do not, people assume you have the right to be where you are, and you can get away with lesser crimes against commoners.

Proficiencies

Weapons Simple weapons, martial weapons
 Armor All armor, shields
 Tools Chess sets
 Languages Common, Halfling, Elvish



Attacks

Attack	Hit	Damage	Range
Rapier	+6	1d8 + 6	5'
Dagger	+6	1d4 + 6	5'
Dagger (thrown)	+6	1d4 + 4	20' / 60'

Notes and Conditions

Class Features

Fighting Style: Dueling. When you are wielding a melee weapon in one hand and no other weapons, you gain a +2 bonus to damage rolls with that weapon.

Improved Critical. Your weapon attacks score a critical hit on a roll of 19 or 20.

Second Wind. Bonus action. 1 / short rest. Regain 1d10 + 4 hit points.

Action Surge. 1 / short rest. On your turn, you can take one additional action.

Inventory

538 gp
Rapier
Dagger
Studded leather armor
Backpack
Steel mirror



Lithwick the Curious

Biographical

Female human Corn farmer
True neutral Wizard 4

Stats and Health

Armor class 12 / 15 mage armor
Speed 30
Initiative +2
Proficiency bonus +2
Hit points / 26
Hit dice / 4d6 + 2
Death saves ○○○ | ○○○ †

Ability Scores

STR	11	Saving Throws	0
		Athletics	0
DEX	14	Saving Throws	+2
		Acrobatics	+2
		Sleight of Hand	+2
		Stealth	+2
CON	15	Saving Throws	+2
		Saving Throws	+4
INT	18	✓ Arcana	+6
		History	+4
		Investigation	+4
		✓ Nature	+6
		Religion	+4
WIS	13	Saving Throws	+1
		✓ Animal Handling	+3
		Insight	+1
		✓ Medicine	+3
		Perception	+1
CHA	9	Survival	+1
		Saving Throws	-1
		Deception	-1
		Intimidation	-1
		Performance	-1
Persuasion	-1		

Personna

Trait. Haphazardly-dressed woman with curly hair jutting at all angles.

Bond. Extremely passionate to obtain as much magical prowess as she can.

Flaw. Indifferent to social convention and the feelings of strangers.

Class. Commoner

Communities. Commoner, mystic

Win Conditions

Lithwick wants to learn how to live for thousands of years like the mages of legend. Obtain a source of powerful magic.

One path of power is to secure the proper assistance. Find a powerful patron or teacher.

Loss Conditions

Lithwick is especially averse to death. Do not die.

Background Feature

Common Folk. You are familiar with the work and manners of the peasantry. Peasants and yeoman will shelter you, offer you protection, and share news and gossip with you, although they will not risk life and limb to do so.

Proficiencies

Weapons Daggers, darts, slings, quarterstaves, light crossbows
Armor –
Tools Cook's utensils, land vehicles
Languages Common, Elvish



Attacks

Attack	Hit	Damage	Range
Staff	+2	1d10	5'
Fire bolt	+6	1d10	120'
Ray of frost	+6	1d8	60'

Class Features

Arcane Recovery. Once per day when you finish a short rest, you can choose expended spell slots to recover. The spell slots can have a combined level no greater than 2.

Evocation Savant. The gold and time you must spend to copy an evocation spell into your spellbook is halved.

Sculpt Spells. When you cast an evocation spell that affects other creatures that you can see, you can choose a number of them equal to 1 + the spell's level. The chosen creatures automatically succeed on their saving throws against the spell, and they take no damage if they would normally take half damage on a successful save.

Spellcasting.

Intelligence. Spell save DC: 14. Attack bonus: +6.
Max prepared non-cantrip spells: 8
Spell slots recharge after long rest.

Level 1 ○○○○

Level 2 ○○○

Cantrips: *fire bolt, light, minor illusion, ray of frost*

Notes and Conditions

Spellbook

Level 1

- burning hands*
- color spray*
- comprehend languages* (ritual)
- disguise self*
- find familiar* (ritual)
- grease*
- mage armor*
- magic missile*
- shield*

Level 2

- enlarge / reduce*
- levitate*
- shatter*
- suggestion*
- web*

Inventory

405 gp
Staff (arcane focus)
Backpack
Lamp
2 flasks of oil
Tinderbox



Karn Zun Veshna

Biographical

Male dwarf
Lawful neutral

Miner
Ranger 4

Stats and Health

Armor class 16 (studded leather, shield)
Speed 25
Initiative +1
Proficiency bonus +2
Hit points / 44
Hit dice / 4d10 + 3
Death saves ○○○ | ○○○ †

Ability Scores

STR	16	✓ Saving Throws	+5
		✓ Athletics	+5
DEX	12	✓ Saving Throws	+3
		Acrobatics	+1
		Sleight of Hand	+1
		Stealth	+1
CON	16	Saving Throws	+3
		Saving Throws	-1
INT	8	Arcana	-1
		History	-1
		✓ Investigation	+1
		Nature	-1
		Religion	-1
		Saving Throws	+2
WIS	15	Animal Handling	+2
		✓ Insight	+4
		Medicine	+2
		✓ Perception	+4
		✓ Survival	+4
		Saving Throws	+0
CHA	10	Deception	+0
		Intimidation	+0
		Performance	+0
		Persuasion	+0
		Saving Throws	+0

Personna

Trait. Stern and stoic Royal Scout of the Gadajok, the great dwarven Undercity.

Bond. Keen to uphold the honor of his clan and reputation as a Scout (i.e. dwarven knight).

Flaw. Uncompromising and tenacious for better and for worse.

Class. Noble

Communities. Aristocracy

Win Conditions

The Rune Seers sent you to this place because they saw great peril from the servants of Chaos. Gadajok could be next. Save the city.

It is the First Mission of the Royal Scouts to strike at the heart of Chaos when it presents itself. Destroy a great source of evil.

Loss Conditions

If you are defiled, your soul can never come to rest. Do not end the adventure corrupted in body or soul.

Background Feature

Hi-ho. People of other races often assume that you are scouting to set up a mining operation. If you lead them on to that idea, they may try to curry favor in the hopes of bringing wealth and riches to the area.

Proficiencies

Weapons Simple weapons, martial weapons
Armor Light armor, medium armor, shields
Tools Smith's tools, mason's tools, jeweler's tools
Languages Common, Dwarvish, Elvish



Attacks

Attack	Hit	Damage	Range
Battleaxe	+5	1d8 + 3	5'
Battleaxe (2H)	+5	1d10 + 3	5'

Class Features

Favored Enemies: Fey. You have advantage on Wisdom (Survival) checks to track fey creatures, and on Intelligence checks to recall information about them.

Natural Explorer: Forest. Your proficiency bonus is doubled for Intelligence and Wisdom checks concerning forests. While travelling in a forest for an hour or more, you gain the following benefits.

- Difficult terrain doesn't slow your group's travel.
- Your group can't become lost except by magical means.
- You remain alert to danger.
- If you are traveling alone, you can move stealthily at a normal pace.
- When you forage, you find twice as much food as you normally would.
- You also learn the number, sizes, and timing of creatures you track.

Fighting Style: Dueling. When you are wielding a melee weapon in one hand and no other weapons, you gain a +2 bonus to damage rolls with that weapon.

Horde Breaker. Once on each of your turns when you make a weapon attack, you can make another attack with the same weapon against a different creature that is within 5 feet of the original target and within range of your weapon.

Spellcasting.

Wisdom. Spell save DC: 12. Attack bonus: +4.
Spell slots recharge after long rest.

Level 1 ○○○

cure wounds, detect magic, hunter's mark

Racial Features

Darkvision. 60 feet, grayscale.

Dwarven Resilience. You have advantage on saving throws against poison, and you have resistance against poison damage.

Stonecutting. Whenever you make an Intelligence (History) check related to the origin of stonework, you are considered proficient in the History skill and add double your proficiency bonus to the check, instead of your normal proficiency bonus.

Dwarven Toughness. +1 hit point / level.

Notes and Conditions

Inventory

738 gp
Battle-ax
Shield
Studded Leather Armor
Backpack



Velouria

Biographical

Female high elf
True neutral

Barrister
Warlock 4

Stats and Health

Armor class 16 (mage armor)
Speed 30
Initiative +3
Proficiency bonus +2
Hit points / 27
Hit dice / 4d8 + 1
Death saves ○○○ | ○○○ †

Ability Scores

STR	8	Saving Throws	-1
		Athletics	-1
DEX	16	Saving Throws	+3
		Acrobatics	+3
		Sleight of Hand	+3
		Stealth	+3
CON	13	Saving Throws	+1
INT	14	Saving Throws	+2
		✓ Arcana	+4
		✓ History	+4
		✓ Investigation	+4
		Nature	+2
		Religion	+2
		WIS	10
Animal Handling	+0		
Insight	+0		
Medicine	+0		
✓ Perception	+2		
Survival	+0		
CHA	16	✓ Saving Throws	+5
		✓ Deception	+5
		Intimidation	+3
		Performance	+3
		Persuasion	+3

Personna

Trait. Ambitious “young” elf seeking early entry to the ranks of elven aristocracy.

Bond. Pines for the lost days of elven dominion.

Flaw. Dashing and clever, but insufferably sarcastic.

Class. Gentry

Communities. Learned, mystic

Win Conditions

Mordank the Irregular has gravely offended the Elf Lords with his refusal to relinquish certain ancient elven codexes. Verify the death of the human wizard... one way or another.

The elves were exiled from faerie for ancient crimes, and have since wandered the earth. Discover a way back to Faerie for your tribe.

Loss Conditions

At 241, you are far too young to perish. Do not die.

Background Feature

Lawyer. You are well versed in legal matters. You are more likely to notice loopholes in laws and contracts, and people tend to trust your opinion on legal matters.

Proficiencies

Weapons Simple weapons, short swords, longswords, shortbows, longbows
Armor Light armor
Tools Calligrapher’s supplies
Languages Common, Elvish, Goblin, Draconic



Attacks

Attack	Hit	Damage	Range
Pact rapier	+5	1d8 + 3	5'
Eldritch blast	+5	1d10	120'
Dart	+5	1d4 + 3	20'/60'
Shocking grasp	+5	1d8	5'

Class Features

Dark One's Blessing. When you reduce a hostile creature to 0 hit points, you gain 7 temporary hit points.

Armor of Shadows. You can cast *mage armor* on yourself at will, without expending a spell slot or material components.

Eyes of the Rune Keeper. You can read all writing.

Pact of the Blade. 1 action. Create a magic melee weapon in your empty hand. You are proficient with this pact weapon regardless of its type. It disappears if it is more than 5 feet away from you for 1 minute or more, if you use this feature again, if you dismiss the weapon (no action required), or if you die.

Pact Magic.

Charisma. Spell save DC: 13. Attack bonus: +5. Spell slots recharge after short rest.

Level 2 ○○

Spells

- Cantrips: *eldritch blast*, *mage hand*, *shocking grasp*
- Level 1: *charm person*
- Level 2: *invisibility*, *mirror image*, *misty step*, *spider climb*

Racial Features

Darkvision. 60 feet, grayscale.

Fey Ancestry. You have advantage on saving throws against being charmed, and magic can't put you to sleep.

Trance. You require 4 hours of deep meditation instead of 8 hours of sleep.

Cantrip. You know the *prestidigitation* cantrip, using Intelligence for casting.

Notes and Conditions

Inventory

511 gp
Backpack
10' pole
4 darts



Rictus

Biographical	
Male halfling	Haberdasher
Chaotic evil	Barbarian 4

Stats and Health	
Armor class	15 (unarmored)
Speed	25
Initiative	+3
Proficiency bonus	+2
Hit points	/ 41
Hit dice	/ 4d12 + 2
Death saves	○○○ ○○○ †

Ability Scores			
STR	16	✓ Saving Throws	+5
		✓ Athletics	+5
DEX	16	Saving Throws	+3
		Acrobatics	+3
		✓ Sleight of Hand	+5
		Stealth	+3
CON	14	✓ Saving Throws	+4
		Saving Throws	+0
INT	10	Arcana	+0
		History	+0
		Investigation	+0
		Nature	+0
		Religion	+0
		Saving Throws	+1
WIS	12	Animal Handling	+1
		Insight	+1
		Medicine	+1
		✓ Perception	+3
		Survival	+1
CHA	9	Saving Throws	-1
		Deception	-1
		✓ Intimidation	+1
		Performance	-1
		Persuasion	-1

Personna
Trait. Somehow gives really inspiring speeches part-way through drunken rants.
Bond. He lives among humans because his kind won't have him.
Flaw. Piss-drunk unkempt bastard with a penchant for murder.
Class. Commoner
Communities. Criminal

Win Conditions
Rictus is on a downward spiral and it's only getting worse. Find a cure for his raging alcoholism.
If he can't find a way to climb out of the bottle, best make it a soft landing. Find a better place to drink his life away than that moist and filthy alley

Loss Conditions
Rictus once cut the legs off a man who called him "Rictum the Short Little Asshole." Do not let an insult go unpunished.

Background Feature
Fashion Sense. As a haberdasher, you have picked up an understanding of good fashion and quality clothing. You are well versed in the principles of timeless fashions, and can easily distinguish between passing fads and true fashion innovations.

Proficiencies	
Weapons	Simple weapons, martial weapons
Armor	Light armor, medium armor, shields
Tools	Leatherworker's tools, weaver's tools
Languages	Common, Halfling



Attacks

Attack	Hit	Damage	Range
Shortsword	+5	1d6 + 3	5'
Dagger	+5	1d4 + 3	5' or 20' / 60'

Class Features

Rage. Bonus action to enter rage. 3 / long rest. Lasts for 1 minute. Ends early if you are knocked unconscious or if your turn ends and you haven't attacked a hostile creature since your last turn or taken damage since then. You can also end your rage on your turn as a bonus action. While raging you have:

- Advantage on Strength checks and Strength saving throws.
- +2 bonus to Strength based melee weapon damage.
- Resistance to bludgeoning, piercing, and slashing damage.

Unarmored Defense. While you are not wearing any armor, your Armor Class equals 10 + your Dexterity modifier + your Constitution modifier. You can use a shield and still gain this benefit.

Danger Sense. You have advantage on Dexterity saving throws against effects that you can see, such as traps and spells. To gain this benefit, you can't be blinded, deafened, or incapacitated.

Reckless Attack. When you make your first attack on your turn, you can decide to attack recklessly. Doing so gives you advantage on melee weapon attack rolls using Strength during this turn, but attack rolls against you have advantage until your next turn.

Frenzy. You can go into a frenzy when you rage. If you do so, for the duration of your rage you can make a single melee weapon attack as a bonus action on each of your turns after this one. When your rage ends, you suffer one level of exhaustion.

Racial Features

Brave. You have advantage on saving throws against being frightened.

Halfling Nimbleness. You can move through the space of any creature that is of a size larger than yours.

Lucky. When you roll a 1 on an attack roll, ability check, or saving throw, you can reroll the die and must use the new roll.

Naturally Stealthy. You can attempt to hide even when you are obscured by only a creature that is at least one size larger than you.

Notes and Conditions

Inventory

276 gp
Dagger, shortsword
Backpack
Crowbar



APPENDIX B: HANDOUTS

Print the following pages for sharing with players as their character encounter them in the adventure.



Handout A

THIS HANDBILL HEREBY GRANTS
TO ITS RIGHTFUL BEARER

The Duke of Blackrock

MOST WELCOME AND HONORED!

ENTRY TO THE
MYSTERIOUS ABODE
OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS SORCERER

MORDANK!

(THE IRREGULAR)

ON THE DATE OF

The Seventy-Eighth Day of the Third Season

OF THE YEAR

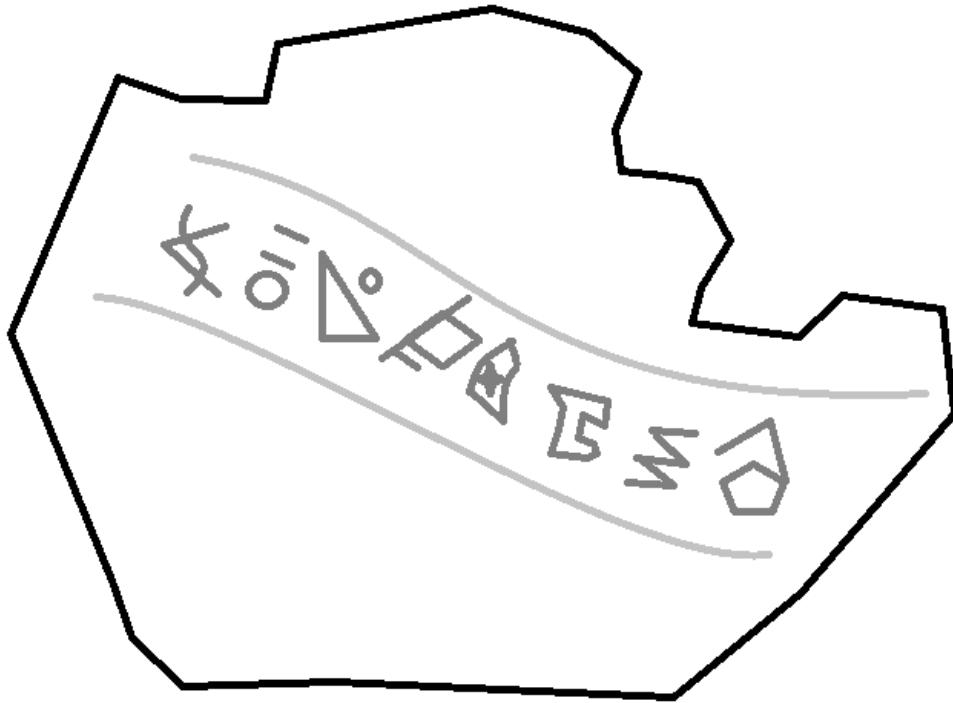
Fifty-One Thousand Eight-Hundred Twenty-Two

(SINCE THE FOUNDING)



Handout B

Sealing Stone





Handout C

“Sir, the missing members of group III...”

Name	Power description	Ring description	Instructions	Command word
Breath of the Dragon	<i>burnt</i>	<i>burnt</i>	<i>burnt</i>	<i>burnt</i>
Hand of the Giant	Swell one's hand and imbue with great might for a short time.	Square-cornered white gold with a cluster of opals.	Speak the word	Gardenia
Wisdom of the Earth	Ask a question, a gnome shall spell the answer in the sand.	Rune-etched coral with an aquamarine lozenge.	Speak the word, and then ask your question	Dogwood
Invitation	Transport oneself to the distant side of any door in sight	Smooth sandalwood with a small face carved from a citrine.	<i>burnt</i>	<i>burnt</i>
<i>unknown</i>	<i>burnt</i>	<i>burnt</i>	<i>burnt</i>	Dandelion



Handout D

Sign on Door





Handout E

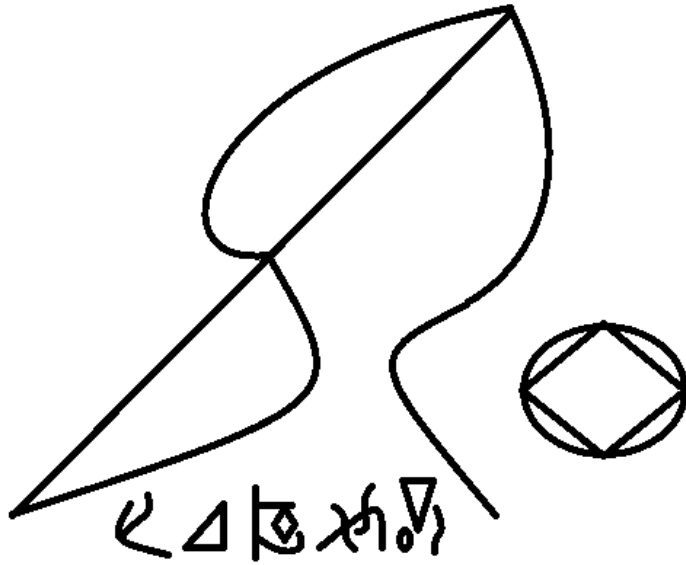
Summary of magic ring descriptions from the Study:

Ring	Power description	Ring description	Instructions	Command word
Lèse majesté	For a short spell, others must obey one's commands or suffer.	Steel spiked band set with alternating small amethysts.	Speak the word, and then speak your commands	Tulip
Stolen Moments	The entire world will cease in its motion for a very brief span, except for the wearer.	Complex woven silk braid with colorful feathers and a ruby cut in the shape of a serpent.	Speak the word	Wild Rose
Wisdom of the Earth	Ask a question, a gnome shall spell the answer in the sand.	Rune-etched coral with an aquamarine lozenge.	Speak the word, and then ask your question	Dogwood
Wind Porter	Summon a harmless miniature cyclone to carry the weight of two men for an hour.	Simple tungsten band with an alexandrite spike.	Speak the word, and direct the cyclone with one's hand. Form a fist to release contents.	Hyacinth
Plain Truth	Dispel glammers, and disable magic deceptions for a day.	Dull grey heavy uranium gothic band ringed by leering gargoyles, mounting a fractured peridot.	Speak the word and touch that which deceives you.	Iris
Golden Whispers	Sense the greatest concentration of nearby wealth.	Agate torus wrapped in palladium wire on a simple tin band.	Speak the word.	Crocus



Handout F

Rune of Creation





Handout G

Summary of notes about magic rings from the Ring Forge

Ring	Power description	Ring description	Instructions	Command word
Tongue of the Native	none	none	none	<i>none</i>
Mud Magic	Transform a ton of earth to liquid mud.	Bone with a single large diamond.	Speak the word and gesture with a closed fist to the targeted earth	Orchid
Call the Wolf-King	Self-explanatory	Spiral narwhal horn with sacred gallium etchings	Speak the word and prepare yourself	Hydrangea
Transmute	Harmlessly transform that which is touched into that which is named, for a short span of time.	Obsidian band carved as a lifelike snake with lapis lazuli eyes.	Speak the word; then, in any order, say the word and touch the target.	Posey
Hidden Hand	Swap the position of two nearby things.	Glittering red fat pumice band with heart-shaped bloodstone.	Speak the word while pointing at one object, and then repeat with another object.	Marigold
Dollmaker	Reduce even boulders to small dolls.	Old oily rope for a band with a giant uncut ruby.	Speak the word and touch the subject. Throw or damage the doll to release it.	<i>illegible</i>



APPENDIX C: MONSTERS

All-Kin

Large ooze, any alignment

Armor Class 7

Hit Points 85 (10d10 + 30)

Speed 20 ft., climb 20 ft.

STR
16 (+5)

DEX
5 (+3)

CON
16 (+2)

INT
18 (+4)

WIS
10 (+0)

CHA
7 (-2)

Skills Investigation +7, Nature +7

Damage Resistances bludgeoning, piercing, cold, lightning, thunder

Damage Immunities acid, poison

Condition Immunities prone

Senses blindsight 60 ft., passive Perception 10

Languages All-Kin. Understands Common and Deep Speech but physically unable to speak either.

Challenge 4 (1,100 XP)

Amorphous. The all-kin can move through a space as narrow as 1 foot wide without squeezing.

Corrosive Form. A creature that touches the all-kin or hits it with a melee attack while within 5 feet of it takes 4 (1d8) acid damage. Any nonmagical weapon made of metal or wood that hits the all-kin corrodes. After dealing damage, the weapon takes a permanent and cumulative -1 penalty to damage rolls. If its penalty drops to -5, the weapon is destroyed. Nonmagical ammunition made of metal or wood that hits the all-kin is destroyed after dealing damage. The all-kin can eat through 2-inch-thick, nonmagical wood or metal in 1 round.

Spider Climb. The pudding can climb difficult surfaces, including upside down on ceilings, without needing to make an ability check.

Actions

Pseudopod. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +5 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 6 (1d6 + 3) bludgeoning damage plus 9 (4d8 acid) damage. In addition, nonmagical armor worn by the target is partly dissolved and takes a permanent and cumulative -1 penalty to the AC it offers. The armor is destroyed if the penalty reduces its AC to 10

Merge. The all-kin merges with another all-kin to become one. Their hit points are added together but do not exceed 85. They receive an extra full action each turn in this form.

All-Kin

Unknown to this world, the all-kin are a strange race of highly intelligent oozes, who live on other worlds that can only be reached by sailing beyond the vast oceans of the sky.



Bloody Bones

Large fey, chaotic evil

Armor Class 16 (natural armor)

Hit Points 90 (10d12 + 20)

Speed 30 ft.

STR
20 (+5)

DEX
16 (+3)

CON
14 (+2)

INT
8 (-1)

WIS
10 (+0)

CHA
12 (+1)

Skills Athletics +7, Intimidation +4, Performance +4

Damage Resistances piercing and slashing from nonmagical attacks

Damage Immunities necrotic, poison

Condition Immunities charmed, frightened, poisoned

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 10

Languages Common, giant

Challenge 6 (2,300 XP)

Slippery. Bloody Bones has advantage on saving throws and ability checks to escape a grapple.

Actions

Multiattack. Bloody Bones makes two grapple attempts, or one grapple attempt and one swing attack.

Swing. Melee Weapon Attack: +8 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. Must be grappling a creature. *Hit:* 10 (1d10 + 5) bludgeoning damage to both the target and the grappled creature.

Stomp. Melee Weapon Attack: +8 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 14 (2d8 + 5) bludgeoning damage. On a hit, Bloody Bones also attempts to shove the target prone.

Bloody Bones

Some say he is just a boogeyman made up to frighten children. A leering ogre's head perched upon a hulking skeleton, slick with blood. But Bloody Bones isn't real, right? Oh, how I wish I could say "yes," but Bloody Bones is coming for you.



Deep Watcher

Huge aberration, true neutral

Armor Class 14 (natural armor)

Hit Points 133 (14d12 + 42)

Speed Swim 40 ft.

STR
20 (+5)

DEX
10 (+0)

CON
16 (+3)

INT
8 (-1)

WIS
8 (-1)

CHA
6 (-2)

Saving Throws Str +9, Con +7, Int +3, Wis +3

Skills Insight +3, Investigation +3, Perception +7

Condition Immunities charmed, exhaustion

Senses truesight 60 ft., passive Perception 17

Languages Primordial (aquan) and Deep Speech. Speaks telepathically, and cannot speak with those who cannot communicate telepathically.

Challenge 7 (2,900 XP)

Ageless. The deep watcher cannot age or be aged past maturity, and cannot die of old age.

Sleepless. The deep watcher does not sleep.

Waterbreathing. The deep watcher breathes water, and suffocates without it.

Multifarious Tentacles. For each interval of 20 damage it takes, a tentacle (of many) is destroyed. An attacker can target a specific tentacle within range. These tentacles regenerate after a long rest.

Actions

Multiattack. The Deep Watcher makes up to 4 tentacle attacks, each one targeting a different creature.

Tentacle. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +9 to hit, reach 15 ft., one target. *Hit:* 11 (1d12 + 5) bludgeoning damage, and the target is grappled (escape DC 15).

Bite. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +9 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target, can only target a creature it has grappled. *Hit:* 21 (3d10 + 5) piercing damage.

Deep Watcher

This alien leviathan from a distant plane observes myriad things with its giant eyes. Many portals of sight surround it. Why does it watch? What eldritch secrets must it know?



Fae Cat

Large fey, chaotic evil

Armor Class 15 (natural armor)

Hit Points 55 (10d10 + 0)

Speed 50 ft., climb 30 ft.

STR
16 (+3)

DEX
17 (+3)

CON
10 (+0)

INT
9 (-1)

WIS
12 (+1)

CHA
17 (+3)

Saving Throws Dexterity +6

Skills Deception +5, Perception +3, Stealth +5

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 15

Challenge 3 (700 XP)

Cunning Action. The fae cat can take the Dash, Disengage, or Hide action as a bonus action.

Pounce. If the fae cat moves at least 20 ft. straight toward a creature and then hits it with a claw attack on the same turn, that target must succeed on a DC 13 Strength saving throw or be knocked prone. If the target is prone, the fae cat can make one bite attack against it as a bonus action.

Mirror Magic. If the fae cat fails a saving throw against a spell targeting it or is hit by a spell attack, it can take 2d6 force damage to copy the spell, targeting the caster or the caster's position.

Humanoid Disguise (1 / day). The fae cat casts *disguise self* with unlimited duration as if it were a humanoid of average height.

Cheshire Grin (1 / day). The fae cat uses an action to turn all of its body invisible except for its teeth. The invisibility ends after one minute or if it touches another creature.

Actions

Multiattack. The fae cat makes two claw attacks.

Bite. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +5 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 9 (1d12 + 3) piercing damage.

Claw. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +5 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 6 (1d6 + 3) slashing damage.

Fae Cat

Fae cats are deceptive, tricky fae. Between their cat-like agility, their ability to mirror offensive spells, and their illusion magic, they can make life rather difficult for those they are sent to harass and harangue. While one fae cat may be dangerous but manageable, a group can get quickly out of hand.



Faerie Hound

Large fey, chaotic neutral

Armor Class 14 (natural armor)

Hit Points 74 (8d10 + 24)

Speed 50 ft.

STR
18 (+4)

DEX
14 (+2)

CON
16 (+3)

INT
3 (-4)

WIS
12 (+1)

CHA
10 (+0)

Skills Perception +3, Stealth +4

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 13

Challenge 3 (700 XP)

Keen Hearing and Smell. The faerie hound has advantage on Wisdom (Perception) checks that rely on hearing or smell.

Actions

Multiattack. The faerie dog makes one claw attack and one bite attack.

Bite. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +6 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 11 (2d6 + 4) piercing damage.

Claw. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +6 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 7 (1d6 + 4) slashing damage.

Hypnotic Howl (Recharge 5-6). The faerie dog howls, and all creatures that can hear it must succeed on a DC 15 Wisdom saving throw or have each of its speeds reduced to 0 for 1 minute. An affected flying creature descends at its movement speed without taking falling damage. An affected creature can take actions as normal, or it can spend its action trying to break free of the curse by succeeding on a DC 15 Charisma check.

Faerie Hound

Faerie hounds are bestial fae that take the form of canids the size of small elephants. Unlike true dogs, they are often fairly solitary. When hunting, they first use their enchanting howl to freeze their prey in place.



Leaf Boy

Small fey, chaotic neutral

Armor Class 13

Hit Points 22 (4d8 + 4)

Speed 30 ft.

STR
6 (-2)

DEX
16 (+3)

CON
12 (+1)

INT
8 (-1)

WIS
12 (+1)

CHA
16 (+3)

Skills Sleight of Hand +5, Stealth +5

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 11

Languages Common, elvish, sylvan

Challenge ½ (100 XP)

Forest Sight. The leaf boy can see through vegetation.

Motionless Invisibility. The leaf boy is invisible while motionless.

Innate Spellcasting. The leaf boy's innate spellcasting ability is Charisma (spell save DC 13, +5 to hit with spell attacks). It can innately cast the following spells, requiring no material components.

- At will: *gust, gust of wind*

Actions

Elf Shot. A creature the leaf boy can see within 100 feet must succeed on a DC 14 Dexterity saving throw or suffers a random condition below. An affected target can reattempt its saving throw each dawn. After three failures, the curse becomes permanent until removed.

1. The target is enervated and suffers a -1d4 penalty to Strength.
2. The target is cursed with clumsiness and suffers a -1d4 penalty to Dexterity.
3. The target feels feverish and ill and suffers a -1d4 penalty to Constitution.
4. The target becomes bemused, and suffers a -1d4 penalty to Intelligence.
5. The target is constantly distracted, and suffers a -1d4 penalty to Wisdom.
6. The target gains social anxiety, and suffers a -1d4 penalty to Charisma.

Cure Elf Shot. The leaf boy touches a willing creature and removes one instance of the elf shot curse.

Leaf Boy

Leaf boys and girls are innocent fae who take the form of small faerie children. While they generally mean no real harm, their games can be inconvenient, mischievous, or even dangerous. Stealing items may simply be a way of instigating a game of chase or keep-away.



Obsidian Golem

Large construct, unaligned

Armor Class 14 (natural armor)

Hit Points 95 (10d10 + 40)

Speed 25 ft.

STR
20 (+5)

DEX
9 (-1)

CON
18 (+4)

INT
3 (-4)

WIS
8 (-1)

CHA
1 (-5)

Damage Immunities necrotic, poison, psychic

Damage Resistances bludgeoning, piercing, and slashing from non-magical attacks that aren't adamantine

Special Vulnerabilities. If the golem's Rune of Creation is destroyed, the golem is immediately rendered inanimate again. The rune of creation is a magic object with 5 hit points and an AC of 20 that takes no damage from abilities with an area of effect unless they explicitly state they affect magic objects. Since the golem is carved with many runes, only one with the proper knowledge may identify the Rune of Creation.

Condition Immunities charmed, exhaustion, frightened, paralyzed, petrified, poisoned

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 9

Languages understands the language of its creator but can't speak

Challenge 5 (1,800 XP)

Necrotic Absorption. Whenever the golem is subjected to necrotic damage, it takes no damage and instead regains a number of hit points equal to the necrotic damage dealt.

Magic Weapons. The golem's weapon attacks are magical.

Actions

Multiattack. The golem makes two attacks with its macuahuitl.

Macuahuitl. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +8 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 12 (2d6 + 5) slashing damage. Deals an extra 14 (2d6, doubled) damage on a critical hit.

Blood Breath (Recharge 5-6). The golem exhales scalding blood in a 15-foot cone. Each creature in that area must make a DC 15 Dexterity saving throw, taking 18 (4d8) fire damage on a failed save, or half as much damage on a successful one.

Obsidian Golem

The Obsidian Golem is a fearsome magic construct sculpted from black, glassy, volcanic rock. It mindlessly follows the dictates of its enchantment. Destroying its rune of creation will immediately disable it.



Rawhead

Large fay, chaotic evil

Armor Class 15 (natural armor)

Hit Points 52 (8d10 + 8)

Speed 30 ft.

STR
16 (+3)

DEX
10 (+0)

CON
12 (+1)

INT
10 (+0)

WIS
12 (+1)

CHA
16 (+3)

Saving Throws Str +6, Con + 4, Wis +4

Skills Athletics +6, Nature +3, Playing Cards +3

Damage Resistances slashing, bludgeoning, and piercing from nonmagical weapons

Condition Immunities petrified

Senses darkvision 120', passive Perception 11

Languages Common, Elvish, Goblin, Sylvan

Challenge 5 (1,800 XP)

Magic Resistance. Rawhead has advantage on saving throws against spells and other magical effects.

Moonrise Restoration. Rawhead regains all lost hit points each moonrise.

Dead Wringer. When Rawhead successfully grapples a creature, he can immediately attempt a Head Twist as a bonus action.

Innate Spellcasting. Rawhead's innate spellcasting ability is Charisma (spell save DC 17, +9 to hit with spell attacks). It can innately cast the following spells, requiring no material components.

- 1/day: *gaseous form*

Actions

Multiattack. Rawhead makes three Punch attacks.

Head Twist. Rawhead attempts to twist the head of any one creature it has grappled. It makes a DC 16 Strength saving throw, taking 8d6 bludgeoning damage on a failure.

Punch. Melee Weapon Attack: +6 to hit, reach 5ft., one target. *Hit:* 5 (1d4 + 3) bludgeoning damage.

Moonstone Choker (1/Day). Hurls elemental matter. Each creature within 10 feet of a point Rawhead can see within 100 feet must make a DC 14 Dexterity saving throw. It takes 4d6 damage on a failed save, or half as much on a success. The damage type depends on the type of elemental matter hurled.

Rawhead

Rawhead has the appearance of an overgrown goblin with skin made of wood and a large, bloody skull for a head. He is the brother of Bloody Bones, and has a nasty habit of snapping people's necks. He enjoys card games and high fashion when in the form of his alter ego, the Lonely King.



Rhino Man

Medium humanoid, any alignment (often chaotic)

Armor Class 14 (hide armor)

Hit Points 67 (9d8 + 27)

Speed 30 ft.

STR
16 (+3)

DEX
10 (+0)

CON
16 (+3)

INT
8 (-1)

WIS
12 (+1)

CHA
9 (-1)

Skills Athletics (+5), Religion (+1)

Senses passive Perception 11

Languages Common, Rhino Man

Challenge 1 (200 XP)

Charge. If the rhino man moves at least 10 ft. in a straight line immediately before making horn attack, it can use its bonus action to attempt to Shove the target.

Actions

Greataxe. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +5 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 9 (1d12 + 3) slashing damage.

Horn. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +5 to hit, reach 5ft., one target. *Hit:* 6 (1d6 + 3) piercing damage.

Lightning Horn. *Ranged Spell Attack:* +5 to hit, range 30 ft., one target. *Hit:* 7 (2d6) lightning damage. Uses Constitution to cast this spell.

Rhino Man

Rhino men are strong and devout warriors. Their traditional enemy are the winged musketeers, against whose flight they employ their lightning horn attack.



Wicked Faerie

Medium fey, neutral evil

Armor Class 17 (natural armor)

Hit Points 60 (8d8 + 24)

Speed 30 ft.

STR
16 (+3)

DEX
12 (+1)

CON
16 (+3)

INT
13 (+1)

WIS
14 (+2)

CHA
14 (+2)

Skills Deception +4, Perception +4

Damage Resistances bludgeoning, piercing, and slashing from nonmagical attacks

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 14

Languages Common, Elvish, Sylvan

Challenge 3 (700 XP)

Magic Weapons. The faerie's weapon attacks are magical.

Innate Spellcasting. The faerie's innate spellcasting ability is Charisma (spell save DC 12). I can innately cast the following spells, requiring no material components:

- At will: *minor illusion*, *prestidigitation*, *disguise self*
- 1/day: *entangle*

Actions

Multiattack. The faerie makes two Venomous Claw attacks, or one grapple attempt and one melee attack.

Gaping Maw. Melee Weapon Attack: +5 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. **Hit:** 8 (1d10 + 3) piercing damage. Can only target a grappled, restrained, or incapacitated creature. Target makes a DC 12 Strength saving throw. On a failure, it loses a limb (roll 1d10: 1-5: an arm, 6-9: a leg, 10: head)

Venomous Claw. Melee Weapon Attack: +6 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. **Hit:** 6 (1d6 + 3) slashing damage. On a hit, target suffers 1d4 reduction to Dexterity until it finishes a long rest.

Wicked Faerie

Wicked faeries are evil hags intent on destroying those who enter the land of Faerie. Like most hags, they use glamours and enchantments to disguise their true nature. Unlike most other hags, they can disjoin their jaws to bite off limbs with their rows of hideous teeth. For reasons unknown, they only seem to attack those who accept their food or drink.



Winged Musketeer

Medium humanoid, any alignment (often lawful)

Armor Class 15 (composite armor)

Hit Points 26 (6d8)

Speed 30 ft., fly 50 ft.

STR
10 (+0)

DEX
16 (+3)

CON
10 (+0)

INT
14 (+2)

WIS
12 (+1)

CHA
10 (+0)

Skills Acrobatics +5, History +4

Senses darkvision 60 ft., passive Perception 11

Languages Common, Primordial (Auran)

Challenge 1 (200 XP)

Actions

Steam Musket. *Ranged Weapon Attack:* +5 to hit, range 120/360 ft., one target. *Hit:* 10 (1d12 + 3) piercing damage.

Bayonet. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +2 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 4 (1d8) piercing damage.

Shortsword. *Melee Weapon Attack:* +5 to hit, reach 5 ft., one target. *Hit:* 6 (1d6 + 3) piercing damage.

Bomb (1/day). The winged musketeer throws a bomb at a point it can see within 60 ft, or drops it at a point directly below it. All creatures within 5 ft. of that point must succeed on a DC 12 Dexterity saving throw or take 10 (3d6) fire damage.

Flechettes (1/day). The winged musketeer drops flechettes directly over a 5' by 15' line from a height of at least 30 ft. Each creature within that line must succeed on a DC 13 Dexterity saving throw or take 10 (3d6) piercing damage.

Winged Musketeer

Winged musketeers hail from a technologically advanced society. In combat they use their aerial superiority and ranged weapons to take down their foes. Their ancestral enemies are the rhino men.



APPENDIX D: NEW MAGIC ITEMS

Anti-Magic Baton

Weapon, common

Inflicts 2 (1d4) bludgeoning damage from a typical strike. Against magic target (e.g. enchanted creature, wizard, etc.) deals an additional 3 (1d6) fire damage, negates all spells currently affecting the target, and negates the target's magic powers for 10 minutes. Magic cap turns to slag 10 minutes after striking magic target, reducing it to scrap.

Bone-Lance of Rage

Weapon (spear), rare (requires attunement)

This savage spear is constructed from the spindly bones of some unidentifiable monster. The spear has a +1 bonus to attack and damage rolls. As a bonus action, the wielder can take a -1d4 penalty to Charisma to increase the bonus to attack and damage rolls to +1d4 for 1 turn. If this reduces the wielder's Charisma to 0, the wielder goes berserk and attacks any creature in sight for the next hour, then suffers 1 level of exhaustion and regains 2 Charisma. The Charisma penalty ends when the wielder finishes a long rest.

Enchanted Frilly Frock

Wondrous item, common

Each frock has a tag inside with command words "fancify" and "mixy-upy". The first word causes parts of the dress to turn the color of whatever touches it. The second word causes it to blend with contacted colors. They are sized for children, although a drunken unarmored halfling could fit with no problem.

Golden Sprouting Acorn

Wondrous item, rare

Any character who swallows this can gain 1 warlock level if they accept the Mean Old Man as their patron. A warlock who accepts this deal breaks their previous pact bond, most likely to the anger or disappointment of their previous patron.

Helm of Infinite Wisdom

Wondrous item, legendary

A brightly chromed helmet with eyeballs shooting lightning around the rim and two giant metal bat wings on top. Once per hour, the wearer can concentrate on a question and get an in-depth answer; this takes one minute. The wearer suffers a 1d6 penalty to Charisma which recovers at 1 point per long rest, and it must make a DC 11 Intelligence saving throw. If this succeeds, the wearer gets an answer. On a failure, the wearer is knocked unconscious for a number of hours equal to the Charisma penalty, and fails to learn the answer. The helm cannot be removed from the wearer's head without a command phrase ("ignorance is bliss") or death.

Hexed Bolt

Weapon (bolt), uncommon

When a hexed bolt strikes a target, *bane* is cast upon the target with a DC 12. This effect occurs only the first time that the bolt is fired.

Love Philter

Potion, uncommon

The drinker falls in love with first living thing to touch him or her. DC 15 Wisdom saving throw to resist.

Magic Mirror

Wondrous item, very rare

Magic mirrors act as portals to a strange and desolate city (see [Mirror World](#) (4)). Such a mirror can be in an open or closed state. When it is open, it is possible to walk through the mirror into the Desolate City. When it is closed, passage either way is impossible.

In either state, a person on one side of the mirror is able to see the other. The site of the magic mirror in the Desolate City appears very similar to the site on the other side, although there may be subtle differences.

When the mirror is created in a fixed location, it will open to a random location in the Desolate City. If the mirror is moved, then it becomes ordinary until someone



with knowledge of their creation performs a ritual to re-establish the link. At this point, it will open to a new random location in the Desolate City which will shape itself into a facsimile of what lies on our side.

Miscegenatrix

Wondrous item, legendary

This bizarre object is the size of a small bust, made of varying materials both metallic and organic, bristling with inexplicable sockets and appendages. Correct usage allows a male and a female of any two species to mate successfully. Incorrect usage will result in tragic offspring. The secrets of its operation are hidden in obscure tomes.

Moonstone Choker

Wondrous item, uncommon.

As an action, the wearer of this moonstone choker can move up to 200 lbs. of a natural elemental substance within 50', moving it up to 50' with Strength 20. Natural elemental substances include dirt, flames, rock, ice, and similar. This can be used offensively. The wielder chooses a point he or she can see within 100 feet. Each creature within 10 feet of that point must make on a DC 14 Dexterity saving throw, taking 4d6 damage on a failed save or half as much on a success.

Red-Flower Robe

Wondrous item, uncommon

The wearer of this charming floral-patterned robe is protected from all effects of natural (non-magical) weather as long as it remains dry.

Ruby Heart of the Woods

Wondrous item, rare

This large ruby whispers faintly to arcane spellcasters who hold it. If swallowed by such a mage, he or she immediately learns the Sylvan language and the spell *illusory script* as a ritual.

Sleeping Draught

Potion, common

After 2d4 rounds drinker falls asleep for 2d4 hours. A DC 20 Constitution saving throw prevents sleep (but -1 to rolls for 1d4 hours).

Smokeless Brazier

Wondrous item, uncommon

This squat metal receptacle is 5 lbs empty, 10 lbs full. If filled with quartz gravel, gravel will glow with a pleasant heat (20' illumination).

Tincture of Transformation

Potion, uncommon

The imbiber turns into an innocuous creature (chosen by the maker of the potion) immediately, no saving throw. The effect lasts for 10 minutes.

Wand of Roasting

Wand, uncommon

When this wand is activated, it fires a jet of flame against one target for 2d6 fire damage, half damage on a successful DC 14 Dexterity saving throw, range 20'.

Wand of Uncontainable Power

Wand, rare

The wand is made of silver shaped like a realistic gnarled root that clasps a small skull of black crystal. The wand bonds with whoever next casts an arcane spell while holding it. Whenever its bonded wielder tries to cast a spell, the spell is randomly chosen from the list of all spells the caster knows, but it is cast 2 levels higher than the spell slot spent to cast it. The caster can still direct its effect. The bond can be removed with *remove curse* or a similar effect.

Vicious Macuahuitl

Weapon (greatsword), rare

This large macuahuitl has obsidian teeth and an ebony haft, stylized with jet inlays depicting ritual sacrifice to strange gods. It deals an additional 2d6 damage on a critical hit (before doubling).



Mordank's Faerie Rings

Ring, varies (usually rare)

The perplexing wizard Mordank the Irregular learned the art of crafting faerie rings from his fae patron. Creating these rings requires either summoning or visiting a powerful faerie and petitioning for an enchanted ring. After much negotiation, if the faerie lord agrees, it is still necessary for the crafter to design a unique and expensive band to delight his new friend.

Each faerie ring requires a command word to activate and takes 1 action to activate. Each ring can hold up to 3 charges, and can only be recharged at a special altar constructed and maintained by its creator. A ring left in such a location regains one charge per day.

Breath of the Dragon

Ring, rare

A band of blackened iron twisted into braids, ringed with studs of jagged glass. By saying the command word "Bluebell", a sheet of fire in a 20' cone. Everything in the arc takes 6d6 fire damage; DC 15 Dexterity saving throw for half damage.

Dollmaker

Ring, rare

An old oily rope for a band with a giant uncut ruby. If the wearer speaks the command word "Azalia" while touching an object, the object is shrunk down to a doll that can be fit in one's hand. This works on objects that weigh up to 1000 lbs. The effect lasts until the object is thrown into the air or damaged. A hurled doll-boulder can cause up to 8d6 damage for maximum size objects as a thrown weapon attack. Living beings can resist iconization by succeeding on a DC 12 Constitution saving throw. If the creature fails, it is shrunk and immobile, but it is aware of its surroundings.

Golden Whispers

Ring, uncommon

An agate torus wrapped in palladium wire on a simple tin band. Speaking the command word "Crocus" causes the wearer to feel the ring tugging towards the greatest concentration of wealth within 100' for the next turn.

Hand of the Giant

Ring, rare

A square-cornered white gold with a cluster of opals. Speaking the command word "Gardenia" causes the bearer's hand to enlarge to giant size for one round. This can be used for one ability check using giant-level brawn (Strength 22, +6 modifier) or one unarmed strike using this enhanced Strength that deals 2d12 + 6 damage.

Hidden Hand

Ring, rare

A glittering red fat pumice band with heart-shaped bloodstone. The wearer points at two things, speaking the command word "Marigold" both times, and they swap positions. The objects must be within 60' of each other and the wearer, and neither may be animate or in excess of 500 lbs.

Invitation

Ring, rare

A smooth sandalwood band with a small face carved from a citrine. Speaking the command word "Daffodil" while pointing at any door in sight and teleport to the other side. Even works on doors in the House, including magic mirrors!

Lèse Majesté

Ring, rare

A steel spiked band set with alternating small amethysts. For 1 minute after speaking the command word "Tulip," you can cast *command* as a bonus action on each of your turns without spending a spell slot.

Mud Magic

Ring, rare

A bone ring with a single large diamond. By pointing at earth and squeezing his or her hand into a fist while speaking the command word "Orchid," you cause earthen matter such as rock, soil, sand, or clay to soften into mud. You can transform up to 600 lbs per use. If you use this against an earth elemental or earthen construct, it must make a DC15 Constitution saving throw, taking 6d6 bludgeoning damage if it fails or half as much on a success.

Plain Truth

Ring, rare

A dull grey heavy uranium gothic band ringed by leering gargoyles, mounting a fractured peridot. Speaking the command word "Iris" will cause one's touch to permanently dispel an illusion. Also, any touched being is returned to its "true" form, and unable to change form or cast illusion or enchantment spells for one hour.

Stolen Moments

Ring, very rare

A complex silk braid with colorful feathers and a ruby cut in the shape of a hawk. Speaking the command word "Wild Rose" stops time except for the wearer, who takes 2 turns in a row. Objects may be moved and imparted momentum, but they can't be damaged, and hang in mid-air upon release.

Tongue of the Native

Ring, uncommon

A filigreed band of platinum and cobalt set with a large rough chunk of turquoise. By speaking the command word "Dandelion," the wearer can speak and read any language native to where the wearer currently stands.



Transmute

Ring, rare

An obsidian band carved as a lifelike serpent with lapis lazuli eyes. That which is touched by the index finger while speaking the command word "Posey" can be temporarily transformed into whatever he or she names, so long as it is of approximately equivalent dimensions and mass and something that the wearer has observed. After one minute, the original form is restored no matter what happens to the new shape i.e. damage doesn't carry over, even death and destruction.

Wind Porter

Ring, rare

A simple tungsten band with an alexandrite spike. While speaking the command word "Hyacinth" a 5 ft' radius whirlwind forms where wearer makes a fist. The whirlwind can be directed to move. It flies up to 80 ft. horizontally per round, carrying up to 500 lbs 5 feet off the ground. The whirlwind cannot cross gaps. It picks up

whatever it touches. An uncaught creature that enters the whirlwind or starts its turn there can dodge the effect with a DC 14 Dexterity saving throw. Once caught, it can only escape if it can fly or grab onto something, and must succeed on a DC 20 Strength (Athletics) check to free itself. The carried contents are not hurt but are restrained. The effect lasts for 10 minutes, and cannot carry the wearer.

Wisdom of the Earth

Ring, rare

A rune-etched coral ring with an aquamarine lozenge. Ask one question including the command word "Dogwood", and an answer will be spelled out in the sand nearest to the wearer's feet. The answer is provided by an invisible gnome that travels through the earth. Unable to spy on those with powerful magic, and it can only answer questions about things in contact with earth. Even then it knows the answer only 70% of the time. 20% of the time it is flummoxed, but 10% of the time it thinks it has the right answer but it is wrong.



APPENDIX E: NEW PATRONS

The Mean Old Man



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The Mean Old Man is an ancient spirit of the land, and to those who would listen, he has many stories to tell. He exists to protect the untamed wilderness, and to punish those who would despoil it. The Mean Old Man is not an enemy of civilization, but when it grows unchecked, the mark of man must be obliterated lest it consume the land. He most often takes the form of an ancient tree, weathered but noble.

Serving the Mean Old Man

When The Mean Old Man requests favors, they typically involve punishing those who encroach in the deep forest, or otherwise pollute tracts of wilderness or profane

sacred groves. Those he would punish may be completely unaware of their transgressions.

The Mean Old Man's Displeasure

When irked by those who serve him poorly, the Mean Old Man can live up to his name. When he doesn't simply



trip those who annoy him with his crooked branches, he induces upon them the trials of old age so that they can share in his own sleepiness, stiffness, aches, and hearing impairment. Sometimes he also inflicts them with his grumpy demeanor. However, these bouts of anger are short-lived, and his warlocks tend to return to form quickly, regardless of whether they truly learned their lesson, or whether there was even a lesson to be learned. The most severe punishments are doled out rarely, but country folk murmur rumors of hideous plant-like transformations.

Boons of the Mean Old Man

In general, warlocks who serve the Mean Old Man have entered into the service of a powerful fey warden, and so

gain the features outlined in the Pact of the Archfey. Warlocks of the Mean Old Man often learn spells such as *hellish rebuke* and *hold person* to ward off trespassers. Those who receive the tome as their pact boon often learn *shillelagh* to curmudgeonly cudgel ne'er-do-wells and hooligans, or *thorn whip* to put those nasty vines to some good use.

Alternate Expanded Spell List

Instead of the spells regularly associated with the Archfey, your GM may allow you to choose from the Mean Old Man's alternate expanded spell list.

The Mean Old Man's Spells

Spell Level	Spells	Notes
1st	<i>alarm</i> <i>goodberry</i>	Warlocks of the Mean Old Man are known to bait creatures with goodberries, trapped with an alarm spell.
2nd	<i>animal messenger</i> <i>barkskin</i>	The Mean Old Man requires his warlocks to thank animal messengers with a kind word and a morsel of food.
3rd	<i>plant growth</i> <i>speak with plants</i>	The Mean Old Man's warlocks sometimes spend more time talking to plants than people.
4th	<i>faithful hound</i> <i>giant insect</i>	<i>Faithful hound</i> summons one of the Mean Old Man's watch dogs, who are about as mean and old as he is.
5th	<i>awaken</i> <i>tree stride</i>	The Mean Old Man's warlocks have a special knack for awakening trees, and can do so in half the time as normal.



The Lonely King



The Lonely King is a pompous and cold-hearted faerie, enamored with his own cleverness and sense of fashion. Through the ages, he has favored mages who were wise enough to praise his infinite qualities, as well as display their own verve and wit. To bond with the Lonely King, one must first throw him an extravagant banquet with fine wine. If he attends and toasts the host, they are accepted.

Serving the Lonely King

During his patronage, the Lonely King will often arrive without warning to require his bondsman to accompany him on a journey to a faraway place. The trip may be uncomfortable and even dangerous, and His Highness will demand many services, ranging from the menial to the impossible.

The King's Displeasure

The Lonely King is not one to suffer fools gladly, and will often call for their heads, only to quickly reverse his sentencing and expect to be lauded for his clemency. For lesser transgressions, he will simply slap his subjects silly. Those who do not remain fashionable enough are commanded to spend lavishly on fine jewels and clothing. But sometimes, the most dangerous mood of

the king is not displeasure but favor. Those who are toasted as guests of honor during his lavish balls and banquets are at the risk of becoming forever entranced to the resplendent merriment and of the faerie court.

Boons of the Lonely King

In general, warlocks who serve the Lonely King have entered into the service of a powerful faerie king, and so gain the features outlined in the Pact of the Archfey. Warlocks of the Lonely King often learn spells such as *charm person*, *enthrall*, and *unseen servant*. Those who receive the tome as their pact boon often learn *prestidigitation* to keep their clothing spotless and impeccable at all times.



Alternate Expanded Spell List

Instead of the spells regularly associated with the Archfey, your GM may allow you to choose from the Lonely King's alternate expanded spell list.

The Lonely King's Spells

Spell Level	Spells	Notes
1st	<i>command, detect poison and disease</i>	When you cast <i>detect poison and disease</i> , you are leant the services of the King's official and unfortunate food taster.
2nd	<i>arcanist's magic aura, protection from poison</i>	You can use a masquerade mask as an alternate material component for <i>arcanist's magic aura</i> .
3rd	<i>phantom steed, sending</i>	<i>Phantom steed</i> calls forth one of the King's many prized thoroughbreds.
4th	<i>banishment, compulsion</i>	The verbal component of <i>banishment</i> must include a hearty "begone!"
5th	<i>dominate person, geas</i>	The Lonely King considers <i>geas</i> a most wonderful spell, and applauds creative usage thereof.



The Gentle Lady



The Gentle Lady is a faerie princess of unbearable grace. Her slender bare feet never touch the ground, her diaphanous gowns glide over the shining aura that sheaths her form, and she scarcely speaks more than a word at a time. Despite her shy demeanor, the Gentle Lady adores the attention of ardent suitors - male or female - who flirt, woo and court at all times. Their affections ever unrequited, she is nevertheless a great patroness of romance.

Serving the Lady

Pledging to the Gentle Lady as a patroness requires a season of courtship that obeys all the forms of proper romance while being inspired with ardor. If the Lady is convinced, she will accept the pledge at the end of this time. Those who would ever expect more from this relationship are likely to be terminally disappointed. The Gentle Lady will occasionally mention things to her suitors in passing, such as how she heard of a singular blossom on the side of a troll-infested mountain, it's

Boons of the Gentle Lady

In general, warlocks who serve the Gentle Lady have entered into the service of a powerful fey queen, and so gain the features outlined in the Pact of the Archfey. The Gentle Lady's servants often learn spells such as *charm*

beauty great enough to break your heart. A proper gentleman knows what to do next.

The Lady's Displeasure

Like all patrons, you may sometimes invoke the Gentle Lady's displeasure through your thoughts, words, or deeds. The Gentle Lady rarely doles out punishment herself; however, her mere disappointment can be a weighty burden on those who have beheld her, inflicting deep despondence, obsessive longing, or compulsion towards dramatic signs of affection for the Gentle Lady. *person* and *suggestion*, and those who receive the pact boon of the tome typically gain the *resistance* cantrip as a manifestation of the Gentle Lady's favor and protection



Alternate Expanded Spell List

Instead of the spells regularly associated with the Archfey, your GM may allow you to choose from the Gentle Lady's alternate expanded spell list.

The Gentle Lady's Spells

Spell Level	Spells	Notes
1st	<i>bane</i> <i>cure wounds</i>	<i>Bane</i> takes the form of a heartsick song. <i>Cure wounds</i> is delivered through your healing kiss.
2nd	<i>prayer of healing</i> <i>warding bond</i>	<i>Prayer of healing</i> is cast by reading aloud a beautiful love letter from the Gentle Lady herself.
3rd	<i>beacon of hope</i> <i>spirit guardians</i>	<i>Spirit guardians</i> can take the form of the Knight of Hearts, one of the Gentle Lady's personal guards, in addition to its other forms.
4th	<i>death ward</i> <i>secret chest</i>	An item lost to <i>secret chest</i> becomes a gift for the Lady.
5th	<i>dominate person</i> <i>greater restoration</i>	<i>Greater restoration</i> is delivered through your tender embrace.



DESIGN NOTES

The Magician's House has evolved from humble beginnings as a side-quest in a larger Blackrock campaign (which will probably never see publication) into what you see before you today. The initial idea was that Mordank got himself into trouble with too much demonology - you know, standard wizard stuff. But then I took a fateful road-trip, during which I listened to my favorite fantasy novel on audiobook: *Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell*.

Some things encountered in Mordank's house were directly inspired by that wonderful tome: the magic mirrors and the Desolate City beyond and the Lonely King were blatant homages (what a nice euphemism for "theft!") to Ms. Clarke's timeless work. But more importantly, *The Magician's House* embraces the idea that faeries embody both whimsy and peril.

A couple other influences that stand out in my mind: *The Dancing Hut*, an AD&D adventure by Roger Moore in issue #83 of *Dragon* magazine, and James Raggi's *Tower of the Stargazer*, an adventure for his *Lamentations of the Flame Princess* RPG. Finally, Jim Ward's *Tower of the Scarlet Wizard* inspired the whimsical atmosphere and use of children.

Note that despite strong similarities between the Cosmic Library (11) and Emmy Allen's inestimable *Stygian Library*, I developed the idea for a home campaign before the latter was published. Note also that I am **not** implying that my private campaign somehow had influence on that wonderful work.

Oh yes! I almost forgot to mention that the Lover's Battlefield in the Cosmic Library (11a) was directly inspired by Brian K. Vaughan and Fiona Staples' *Saga*.

There were several design objectives that guided how the House is put together. First of all, it was important that there be multiple entrances and loops within the floorplan - all to encourage unpredictable exploration. Also, there had to be secret doors of some sort. That's what the Magic Mirrors and the Kitchen Doors are for;

they aren't traditional secret doors, but those wouldn't be terribly interesting, would they?

Something else that has occurred to me lately is that there's a dirty secret to traditional role-playing: combat is often the least exciting part. Many old-schoolers consider D&D to be a game of *exploration* and not a strict *wargame*. Combat breaks up the free-flowing conversation and action of normal play.

As a result, it's possible to actually "win" *The Magician's House* without drawing your sword. Of course, it's not *easy*, because combat serves a very important function: to create suspense. Whether or not the party gets into scraps, there's always the *threat* of bloodshed and malevolent magic.

Fortunately, *The Magician's House* puts several tools for creating tension at the GM's disposal.

First of all, there is the time limit of the adventure, and several encounters (i.e. the Garden, Cosmic Library and Faerie Shrine) have the potential to consume much of it.

Second, there are the goals of the pre-generated PCs, which are designed to interfere with each other while not leading to direct conflict.

Third, there are a couple of encounters (i.e. the Time Dome and the Playroom) where characters can be lost to dangerous magic. The Time Dome can even lead to a T.P.K.!

Finally, it is hoped that the presence of children NPCs (i.e. in the Time Dome (8b), Study (10) and Children's Observatory (14)) will give even the most stone-hearted player something to worry about beyond mere pillaging.

Or maybe not. *The Magician's House* is designed so it can be approached, literally and figuratively, in more than one way. Embrace the chaos!



DEVELOPMENT NOTES

The Magician's House was originally written for the *Dungeon Crawl Classics* role-playing game. I had this site in mind as part of a larger campaign, and I decided to develop it into an adventure of the spur of the moment. I was heading to Gen Con 2018 to judge for Goodman Games for my second year in a row, and I challenged myself to run an original adventure. So that's how this started.

I worked on it gradually from late 2017 until early 2019. The whole time, I figured I'd release it in a form like this. Between Gen Con and my limited personal gaming opportunities, I've been able to playtest the DCC version pretty well, if not exhaustively.

A few months ago, I thought it wouldn't be too hard to convert this adventure to a number of OGL systems. *Lamentations of the Flame Princess* is probably my favorite system after DCC, and it's mechanically simple, so that was a no-brainer. 5e was also obvious; it's the most popular RPG of all, and a cousin of DCC.

Just about a month prior to writing this, I agreed to run a session with a large group of utter role-playing novices. This is something I've long been very interested in doing, so I leapt to the task of creating a simple and intuitive RPG for people who have never played one. That became *Lark Fantasy*, which distills a number of ideas I've had about role-playing in recent years.

To keep things simple for me, I decided to run *The Magician's House* for this group, so I had to do a conversion of it for *Lark*, anyway. The session was a success, and the players are asking for more - plus, *Lark* received positive reviews from people I showed it to. So it

was only natural to bundle *Lark Fantasy* together with the *Lark* edition of *The Magician's House*.

Anyway, I'm being pretty straight with you, here: not all of this has been playtested in all the editions I'm putting out. The DCC edition has been around the block and I've played one session of the *Lark* edition once as of the time of writing. But the 5e and LotFP editions aren't battle-tested. So keep that in mind, and consider tweaking the adventure for your group.

On the other hand, *The Magician's House* isn't designed to be an exercise in fantasy military tactics. If an edition's stats are "unfair," keep in mind that it's possible to get through the adventure without resorting to violence. If things feel too tough, give the party a chance to fall-back, and try to more obviously signpost the dangers going forward.

By the way, the 5e conversion was performed by someone more knowledgeable in the ways of that wonderful game: Xavier Lebec. I encouraged him to stay true to both the spirit of this adventure and 5e, and otherwise do as he saw fit, and I think he did a great job.

Addendum: After some early feedback from Bryce Lynch (name-level OSR reviewer nonpareil) as well as Xavier Lebec (my 5e collaborator extraordinaire), some late game changes have made small but substantial improvements. Primarily, improvements to the layout have achieved something very useful: all the numbered locations are described in pairs of facing pages. A host of clarifications and tweaks have also elevated the final product. I'm extremely grateful for their input at this stage of the process.



CONVERSION NOTES

When Ray first asked me to convert *The Magician's House* to the 5e ruleset, I thought it would be a quick job of rewording some ability checks and replacing some stat blocks with references to the SRD. I'm happy to report that the task proved far more involved.

The first real trouble came with the monsters. Often I would find that a black pudding *could* represent a friendly space alien... if only I gave it lots of intelligence and the ability to speak. Or that an ogre *could* represent the dreaded Bloody Bones... except that he would lose his penchant for swinging people around like clubs. Again and again I would find that using an SRD stat block would compromise some element of Ray's invention.

And so we rolled our own stat blocks. In some cases, such as the goblins, only a few tweaks were needed. In others, especially the golem, the SRD was a source of inspiration rather than just a mechanical launching point. And some creatures were so wild it was easier to write them up from scratch. In each case, the alterations made the monster feel more unique.

And in my opinion, uniqueness of experience is one of strengths of Ray's adventure. I suspect that an element of mystery is required to breathe a sense of magic into a work of fiction. When all the monsters are organized into a taxonomy, when every magic item is catalogued and memorized, then their glammers fade and they become simple facts about the world - or even worse, about the game system. But when everything is allowed to be new again, the rigidity of world-building gives way to the freedom of discovery.

The conventions have their rightful place as the foundation of the hobby, and they might just be the perfect starting place for new roleplayers. They provide a common experience for groups across the world, form a sort of legendarium of their own, and offer a plethora of material from which to draw. But the creativity of the community ensures that there will always be another adventure into the unknown, and another story of strange magic to unfold. I had a great deal of fun being party to this adventure during playtesting, and I hope it gives you even more.



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