

Exalted Reincarnated

Dragonmystic

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Upon your brow lies the mark of a God: a brand of power that sets you apart from mortals, given in a moment of transcendent glory-regardless of your desire for the power.

With it, a vast wealth of supernatural power lies at your fingertips: tasks that you once toiled and struggled against are easily swept aside. Tasks that you deemed impossible suddenly a very real possibility.

Yet this land you reside in, this Creation, is filled with dangerous creatures, monsters, Spirits and Gods that is now your responsibility to deal with.

It is for you to decide what should be protected, what should be furthered; what is ultimately right and wrong.

But you are not alone. There are other Exalts that wander the world, each with their own agenda, ideas, and morality.

You are Chosen. You are Exalted.

Introduction

Exalted is a game where the heroes are demigods, fonts of power. That which mortals toil and test against fall easily against the might of the Exalts, and the Exalts now test their mettle against the monsters and problems of the world: from the chaotic Fae beasts which rip at the edges of the world, to the horrid effects of greed and systemic corruption that hides in the hearts of man.

More often than not, they will succeed in what they have set their mind to—yet they must explore the consequences and repercussions of such actions.

To play Exalted, there are a few core setting themes that should be followed:

Actions are Momentous

The Player Character is the right person at the right time to change the world—for better or for worse. This blessing and burden cannot be given to another, and the Gods are restrained in their actions for reasons ranging from arcane laws, to being involved in their own machinations, to being too weak to do anything.

From the small, personal stories to world-shattering changes, the Exalt stands at the center of it.

What is Done Cannot be Undone

Exaltations cannot be rescinded, the dead cannot return to life except in a hollow mockery of what they once were, and the progress of time is constantly moving forward. Exalts must face the consequences of all their actions.

The Heroes are Flawed

Despite all of their powers and might, Exalts are still human and carry with them their flaws—and this does not make them any less of a hero.

Dice

Exalted Reincarnated uses multiple ten-sided dice (d10s). It is suggested to have fifteen dice (real or virtual). The dice will represent digits between 1 and 10. (Some dice will have a 0, treat that as a 10).

As well, having an allotment of various tokens—such as coins or poker chips—can help keep track of values that change within a scene.

Setting

Creation trembles, poised at the turn of a new age. She strains as the systems and rules which long held her together collapse around her. Her population have become thrown into chaos, a time uncertain: a Time of Tumult.

The mighty Realm, whose reach expanded even out of the Blessed Isle, has lost her Empress with no heir declared. Now, each Dragonblooded Clan vies to claim the throne for their own, whether it be by politics or by force—ignoring all else that goes on around them.

The Silver Pact, that loose association only tied together by their hatred and resistance to the Realm, find their alliances crumbling. Their stances mutate and shift just as their Lunar leaders do. Deep rivalries and opposing systems clash as they turn their attention from the faltering and collapsing Realm onto each other.

The Great City of Thorns has fallen, another wellspring of Death and her servants bubbling up from the ever-present threat of the Underworld.

The silent and secretive Sidereals, those Seers from their hidden places, watch, attempting to hold together what strands of Fate and Reality they might, bickering on what Is and what Shall Be.

All the while, the minor powers seek to claim their own lands and hold in this uncertain time.

In this time, the Sun has brought his Chosen back, those great heroes, those terrible Mad Emperors.

Preface

Exalted, by **Onyx Path Publishing**, is a role-playing game blending together high-action combat, social intrigue, and epic-scale actions from demigod heroes.

The setting is full of rich lore, intricacies, and horrors that inspire and captivate the mind, begging to be explored by a hero of grand scale.

However, the complexity and sheer size of the rules structure makes playing the game a daunting task, even for experienced role-players.

Exalted Reincarnated is a fan-made work to rebuild and recreate Exalted from the ground up to better match its rich Lore, Setting, and Style.

Unofficial

This is Fan-Made material. It is unofficial, and makes no claims of ownership over Onyx Path Publishing materials.

You will need the official *Exalted* books for lore, setting and reference material. *Exalted Reincarnated* makes assumptions based off of Third Edition, but can be played with any of the editions.

Feedback

This project is constantly evolving and changing. If you find problems or want to simply share suggestions, please do so!

Have fun!

Character Creation

Aspects of the character are measured in **Dot Ratings**, the higher number representing greater proficiency. Dot ratings range from **0-5**, with 0 being untrained, 2 average, and 5 masterful.

Crafting Your Character

1. Choose a name for your character. Often on the moment of Exaltation, the character takes a new name or title befitting their past deeds.
2. Choose your **Exaltation** and associated **Caste**, noting down any special abilities granted.

Your Exaltation will influence everything about your character, from what charms they may take, so take some time exploring your options.

3. Choose Three *Intimacies*, which are simple sentences that describes your relation or devotions to certain ideals, people, or places. They should be aspects that are fundamental to your character—what shapes and drives them to do what they do. Intimacies are used to resist certain Social Influence.

Your Intimacies should answer the questions:

- What is a tie I have to the world around me? Why do I care whether the world is destroyed or not?
 - What pushes me to continue forward, in spite of all the hardship, danger, and anguish I will encounter?
 - Why do I stick with the party? Is there a particular character I resonate with? Do we share a common goal?
4. Describe the *Anima Banner*, which is the light of the very soul expressing itself to the world around it. While intensely personal, each anima Banner should have elements of their Exaltation incorporated in it—Solars will tend to the colors of gold and fire, Lunars will display their totem spirit.

The Anima Banner will show either at will, in response to powerful expenditures of Essence, or at times of large stress.

5. Choose your character’s *Great Curse*, the character flaw which your Exalt struggles with day in and day out. Often, your character’s flaw will flare up, causing them to Botch their rolls, fail their actions, or otherwise veer them off of their intended course.

Example Great Curses are provided with your Exaltation, as each exalt tends to follow similar themes, but they by no means need to be followed verbatim.

Describing a Great Curse should answer these questions:

How is the character flawed?

How does the Curse describe your character? Are they overly compassionate, taking on the worlds ills onto themselves at their own detriment? Are they a braggart, who cannot help but show off?

What aggravates the flaw?

What is something that you can encounter in the world that will cause the Great Curse to rear its ugly head? Is it the sight of those in power mistreating those that they are supposed to protect?

This should be an event that happens, on average, once every session. Work with your Storyteller and adjust it during play if it is occurring too often or nor showing up at all, as each story is different.

What happens?

When your character cannot take the accumulated stress of their adventures anymore, what action will they (most likely) take? Do they shut themselves off from the world? Do they take action, ignoring any potential consequences

6. Distribute **16** dots into *Attributes*. Each must be at least 1, and no more than 5.

Suggested:
[4,3,3,3,2,1]

Experience Costs			
Attribute	6	Powers	
Ability (Standard)	3	Lesser	4
Ability (Favored)	2	Greater (Requires Essence 3)	6
Extra Specialty	3	Capstone (Requires Essence 5)	8

7. Abilities

- Mark the Favored Ability granted from your Exaltation/Caste, and record Supernatural Abilities granted you have access to.
- Mark 5 additional Favored Abilities. These can be any combination of Natural, Trained, or Supernatural Abilities.
- Spend **18 dots** in Favored Abilities. All Favored abilities must have at least 1 dot.
Suggested: [5,4,3,3,2,1]
- Spend **9 dots** in *non-Favored* Abilities to round out your character. None can be higher than 3 at character creation.
Suggested: [3,2,2,1,1]
- Choose a Specialty for each Trained Ability that has at least 1 dot. Specializations are focused applications of an Ability, such as “Close Combat: Swords” or “Lore: Realm History”. If a character must work outside their specialty, they suffer a -2 dice penalty to their ability (minimum 0.)

Example specialties are listed with each Trained ability, but you may come up with any description you prefer, so long as it is not too broad as to be practically all-encompassing.

8. Gain 3 Lesser Powers.

You may take Powers from the list of Universal Charms, your Exalt’s Charms, Martial Arts Techniques, Spells from Sorcery, and/or Evocations from an Artifact.

Greater Powers require Essence 3, and Capstone Powers require Essence 5.

- Spend **15 xp** as desired, keeping whatever remains unspent.
- Detail out the Armor and Weapons your character uses. Any other mundane equipment the character has need not be written down—so long as it is a reasonable thing for your character to carry, it may be used.

Armor		
	Soak	Evasion
No Armor	+0	+0
Light	-1	+1
Medium	+1	-1
Heavy	+2	-2

Weapons			
	Attribute	Accuracy	Base Damage
Unarmed	Dexterity or Strength	+0	+0
Light	Dexterity	+2	+0
Medium	Dexterity or Strength	+1	+1
Heavy	Strength	+0	+2

11. Merits

- Mark down two **Facts** of your character, which are simple statements describing your past.
 - One should be dedicated to your history, such as the city they lived in, or if they are from an important family lineage.
 - The other should be dedicated to a past accomplishment. Often, this is directly tied to why you were chosen to be an Exalt.
- Mark down the two standard languages: one representing your local tongue, and one common to the all the Player Characters (typically the Trade tongue: Riverspeak).
- Gain **20 Resources**, with which to purchase additional merits. Keep any unspent Resources.
Suggested: [3,2,1,1]

With special Storyteller permission, you may start with a 4-dot merit, and in debt by 1 Keystone. This takes the form of a problem with the merit, story tie, or other plot hook that should be resolved in order to remove the Keystone debt. See Projects for more details.

Merit Cost		
Merit	Resources	Keystones
1	2	-
2	5	-
3	10	-
4	20	1
5	40	2

Finishing Touches

Once your character has been finalized, it is time to record static values. If you are using the provided character sheet, this next part will be completed automatically.

1. Set your **Essence** to 1, the starting point for all Exalts. This sets you apart from most mortals who do not have an essence rating at all. (Essence 0).

Essence level will increase automatically as you gain experience in the world.

2. Record the **Mote Pools** of Essence: your currency for empowering your mighty charms and spells. You start with your mote pools completely filled. There are two values:
 - **Personal Motes:** Set to 7.
 $(Essence) \times 2 + 5$
The first mote pool to be drawn from, but only replenishes Daily.
 - **Peripheral Motes:** Set to 10.
Once the personal mote pool has been exhausted, more energy may be pulled from the world itself—though this causes the anima banner to flare. Replenishes at the start of every Scene.

Rounding

When determining static values, always round up to the nearest whole number.

3. **Health**
 $7 + (Essence) \times 3 + (Endurance)$
In a combat scene, represents how long you may remain in the fight before collapsing from fatigue.
4. **Accuracy**
 $(Weapon Att. + Weapon Ability) / 2 + (Weapon Acc)$
The Attribute and Ability you use to calculate accuracy is dependent on your weapon. For example, a Heavy Maul will require Strength and Close Combat, while a Light Bow would require Dexterity and Ranged Combat. See [Weapons](#).
5. **Base Damage**
 $(Weapon Damage) + (Essence)$
With every attack, there is a minimum, or base amount of damage that is dealt, as determined by the weapon you used in the attack and your essence level.

The following are Static Values: Attribute + Ability defense combinations that are commonly used.

6. **Guile**
 $(Insight + Socialize or Subterfuge) / 2$
A measure of a character's social Defense, their ability to conceal their own intentions, motivations and methodologies.
7. **Resolve**
 $(Wits + Integrity) / 2$
Used to defend against anything that would sway your mind and actions, from deceptively sweet words to mind-

altering Spells.

8. **Evasion**
 $(Essence + Athletics) / 2 + (Armor Modifier)$
Allows you to dodge and avoid incoming attacks. Often the best defense is to not be hit in the first place. Does nothing against certain attacks, such as room-filling explosions.
9. **Soak**
 $(Essence + Physique) / 2 + (Armor Modifier)$
Being hit is inevitable, and the best defense is to mitigate, deflect, or otherwise absorb the damage. Does nothing against certain attacks, such as piercing attacks.
10. **Defense Value (DV)**
Greater of Evasion or Soak
For many cases, either Evasion or Soak works well enough, and so calls for the generic value of DV.

Advancement

Essence increases automatically depending on how much **total** xp has been gained, (+25xp) for each level.

Essence	Total XP
1	0
2	25
3	50
4	75
5	100
6 (+)	0

Each Essence Rank provides:

- +3 Health
- +1 Base Damage
- +2 Personal Motes

Player Characters in the same group should be kept at the same amount of experience points, so that no single character gets significantly ahead or behind others.

For each session, each player should be given **Three XP** and **Two RES**, in addition to any Extra XP or RES they may have earned.

Essence 6+

Once an Exalt reaches Essence 6, they start to transcend mortal boundaries. They may push their Attributes and Abilities past rating 5, up to their current Essence Level.

Each Essence Level past 6 requires 50 xp.

Starting Experienced

<<TODO. Just writeup what levels you expect people to be at. Stop procrastinating this, it's not hard. >>

Extra XP

The Storyteller may grant extra xp (+2 each) for each distinctive moment of roleplay. All player characters receive this bonus—while one character may initiate it, it is a shared and cooperative experience to bring that about. Examples include:

- Reaching a milestone in a player character's personal story.
- Suffering a defeat, or otherwise being impeded in their journeys.
- A character falling to their Great Curse, which changes the course of the story in a non-insignificant manner.

Gaining Resources

Resources should be sought out and rewarded, based on the Player's actions in the story—it represents riches to favors to manpower gathered.

Each individual **Keystone** *must* be intentionally sought out by the player, and requires anywhere from a Scene to a full Story to acquire.

Each source of Resource should be added together when combined. For example, by having access to the wealth and income of an entire City (20) for a Month (5) would result in 25 Res.

Resources			
	Manpower	Wealth	Time
1	Hamlet	-	Week
5	Village	Merchant	Month
10	Town	Caravan	Season
20	City	City Income	Year
40	Prefecture	Trading Network	Decade

The Uniqueness of Player Characters

Player Characters are unusual in just how quickly they progress, and are not bound by their Exaltations limits. This is *unusual* and not representative of the world at large.

For example, it often takes decades or even a millennia to reach Essence 5, a marker that may be reached within a year for your Player Characters.

As well, non-Player Characters are far more restricted by their Exaltation: the vast majority of Dragonbloods are at Essence 2 or lower, for example.

This is ignored for the sake of fun, and making sure each Player at the table are at the same level.

If you truly wish to exaggerate the difference between Exaltations for Player Characters (this is not recommended for new Players), use the following:

- Dragonbloods, and Liminals advance at +25xp until Essence 3, +50xp until Essence 5, then +100xp after Essence 5.
- Most other Exalts start at Essence 2, with an extra 10 xp to spend at character creation. They advance every +25xp until Essence 5, then at +50xp.
- Solars, Abyssals, and Infernals start at Essence 3, with an extra 15 xp to spend at character creation. They advance every +20xp until Essence 5, then +40xp.

General System

Actions

When a character encounters a situation where their success is uncertain, the Storyteller should call for an Action Roll to determine the outcome.

The Storyteller will ask for a combination of an Attribute and Ability that is appropriate for the situation, and then determine an appropriate Difficulty for the roll. The Player will then roll a number of Ten-Sided Dice (d10's) equal to the combined rating of the selected Attribute and Ability—this combined number is called the Dice Pool. This will be referred to as [Att+Abi] xd10's.

Some powers and actions will call out specific Attribute + Ability combinations, such as [Wits + Awareness], but others may simply specify one or the other. For example, an “Awareness Roll” or a “Wits Roll”. The two still require a full [Att + Abi] combination, they simply allow the non-specified part to be determined by the Storyteller.

Only Roll if the Result is Unknown

If the outcome of an action is already known beforehand (either as a failure or a success), there is no need for a roll—simply declare what happens and continue on with the story.

Successes

After rolling their Dice Pool, the player needs to count the number of dice that are showing digits equal or greater than the Target Number of (7). Examine the results of six rolled dice:

1, 4, 4, 7, 8, 8

The values of 7, 8, and 8 are greater than or equal to (7), so they are each counted as a success, meaning this particular roll would result in 3 Successes.

Double 10's

A die that shows 10 is counted as two successes, rather than one. If the roll had instead been:

1, 4, 4, 7, 8, 10

7 and 8 would be counted once, and 10 counted twice, making a total of 4 successes on the roll.

Difficulty

Before a roll is performed, the Storyteller should determine the **Difficulty** of the roll—the number of successes that the roll must match or exceed for the action to be considered a success. Here is a guiding scale for choosing difficulties:

- **Difficulty 1 (Easy)**
This task is expected to be passed by a skilled mortal, but there is still a reasonable risk of failing.
- **Difficulty 3 (Typical)**- This task is challenging to a mere

mortal, but an Exalted Hero is more than likely going to pass it. Picking a lock, calming an irate guardsman, or basic first aid would fall under this category.

- **Difficulty 5 (Difficult)**- Tasks which are daunting fall in this category—climbing a sheer cliff in winds, charming a staunch Dynast with sweet words, or avoiding the bite of a venomous beast.
- **Difficulty 7 (Challenging)**- Tasks which should be near-impossible for any mortal. Such as noticing things in pitch darkness, or landing on a precise spot hundreds of feet below.
- **Difficulty 9 (Impossible)**- Tasks a mortal could not possibly do, no matter the circumstances. Running straight up a building, leaping across a chasm unassisted, or keeping a patient alive without a heart for hours at a time with their bare hands.

Failing Forward

In a high-powered setting such as Exalted, properly handling it is important, and is in a way more difficult than a success, as it puts the burden of keeping the story moving on you, the Storyteller. Remember: you are not there to punish the players for daring to take an action, only to provide boundaries, restrictions, and consequences.

There are a few general paths to take:

1. *A simple failure*—the character don't do the action, the story continues. Typically you pick this path when the players already know of different paths they may take. Sometimes letting your players step back and reanalyze their approach is
2. *An important part fails, but not all of it*—the character does squeak by on what they intended, but at a great cost. They open the doors, but only enough for one person to slip by or by causing a great commotion. Choose this path if halting the action would kill all momentum of the session.
3. *“No, but...”*—If players have heavily invested in an action, and it just doesn't work out because of bad luck, don't give them *nothing*. Sure, they failed at the task they were intending, but another pathway opens. Maybe they failed to convince the Queen of their plight, but the Prince overheard and wishes to speak to them. Be judicious of choosing this option, as overuse may make your game feel consequence-free.

Action types

Most rolls are simple: the Player dictates what they are intending to do, and the Storyteller tells them which (Attribute + Ability) to roll, and how much the difficulty will be. While this is overwhelmingly the most common dice setup, there are a few alternate rolls that can be called for.

Assisting

A player may assist another character, granting them +2 dice. The receiving character may only accept one Assist per roll. The act of Assisting typically consumes the character's action.

Contested Actions

Certain actions are contested between abilities of two or more characters, rather than a simple difficulty.

In this case, all characters simply roll their appropriate Dice Pool, and compare who got the highest number of Successes.

Taking the Average

To speed things along, the Storyteller is encouraged to take the *average* number, rounded down, of the NPC's dice pool. If they have 4-5 dice, simply state that they get 2 successes and move on.

The exception to this guidance are important characters, such as rivals or foes of great challenge.

There are two characters in the scene: a guard and a thief. The guard is keeping watch, and the thief is attempting to sneak past them. The dice pool for the player-controlled thief would be Dexterity + Stealth.

Since this is a NPC, and there are no dice-affecting powers active, the storyteller simply takes the average: (Wits + Awareness)/2, which turns out to be 3. Should the thief match or surpass that difficulty, they successfully sneak past.

Retrying Rolls

Once a roll has been decided, a Player cannot simply try the action again—it is assumed that the character has already approached the issue from multiple different angles before truly failing in the roll. For example, their failed barter included multiple tiers of money that they were willing to part with.

Only through powers like a Charm, or by a dramatic change of the scene is a re-roll allowed—for example, the marketplace erupting in a great conflict, convincing the merchant that they need to sell and leave as quickly as possible.

Recurring Rolls

The Exalted will suffer—and inflict—many sorts of ailments and statuses ranging from toxins and diseases to more esoteric effects such as curses and mental Influence.

The onset of the status is handled as normal—if resisting a toxin, it would simply be a (Stamina + Physique) roll against the Difficulty of the Toxin. On a success, they simply would not be poisoned.

On failing, they are now subject to the status effect, and now must either wait for the status to run its course, or take *active, considered* effort to try and cure themselves. Each time they take

such an action, they are allowed to roll to resist again and potentially remove the effect. Each attempt must be some different methodology.

Any mundane statuses, even at their worst, will naturally be purged from an Exalt if they are given a full day of rest.

Advantages and Disadvantages

The difficulty of an action can be modified by various conditions, whether it be environmental, helpful, or antagonistic. These should be provided by the Storyteller as deemed appropriate to the narrative.

By default, Advantages and Disadvantages are written in terms of **dice** available for the character to roll: (+2/-2 dice). Since this is the default, the “dice” moniker is often dropped—if a power ever simply says “+2”, it means to dice.

Whenever a Modifier affects a static value, such as Resolve or Difficulty, you should **take the average**, rounding up. +1 or +2 dice is +1 to Resolve, for example. Some powers will directly reference Static Value or Difficulty modifiers, instead of dice.

Assigning Modifiers

Modifiers can be granted from any source, such as any powers, the environment, or even the mental condition of the character taking the action.

Advantage/Disadvantage		
	Dice	Difficulty
Minor	±2	±1
Moderate	±4	±2
Major	±6	±3

Any **Modifier** should be something significant to the scene—something that would perturb even an Exalt, and you should not concern yourself with keeping track of anything and everything that *could* be a modifier. Light rain, while thematic and aesthetic, would not be enough to affect the athletics skill of the Exalt.

Natural Modifiers and Difficulty

Remember that Difficulty has its own inbuilt assumptions—many difficulties are set because they are a particular “base” level of challenge with a specific disadvantage: picking a difficult lock (3) vs. picking a difficult lock while blindfolded in a hurricane (9).

If a character uses a charm or power to dismiss part of that difficulty—removing all impairments caused by weather—it is the same as granting them an equivalent Advantage!

Excellencies

Exalts aren't restricted to simply *accepting* the roll that is given to them. When they need to, they may activate their Exalt-specific Excellency to push their roll further than they thought they could, both before they perform the roll, or after the roll (and all power effects) have been finalized.

For example, a Solar will be able to add their Ability Ranks as a number of Successes to their roll, turning what is a certain failure into a success.

However, this does not come without a cost. The character is straining themselves beyond their mortal bonds, and so will gain a point of *Limit*, as well as inflame their *Anima Banner*, causing it to raise a level for the remainder of the Scene. The first use of the scene will set the anima banner to *Glowing*, while the second would set it to *Burning*.

Stunting

The setting of *Exalted* encourages wild, ambitious, and perhaps dangerous actions of the characters. When a player describes their character doing their action in a fun and creative way, the Storyteller should reward them. If the action described is reasonable and adds to the Scene, the Storyteller should simply let the Player dictate what happens without a roll—if a character swings from a chandelier in order to drop down on top of an enemy, don't slow that down with an Athletics roll.

If a roll is still required, the Storyteller should grant +2 Dice (or +1 to a Defense) for the action being performed—a reward and encouragement to others to engage with the setting and scenery. That said, Stunts should be kept short and sweet to keep the momentum of the game moving forward.

Stunts should operate off of the “Rule of Cool,” and may bend the rules a bit, both of reality and the game—such as falling great distances to land perfectly in a pose.

Strife

The world of Creation will push even the mighty Exalted to the brink, and in those moments of desperation, forcing them to delve into reserves they did not know they had—and can rarely replicate when needed. This moment is called a **Strife**.

Strife is a powerful tool for Player Characters to change the world around them. By expending the Strife, the character can either:

- Reset any limited-use Power.
- Use a Lesser or Greater Power they have not purchased. (They do not need to meet the prerequisites, save that they must be *able* to purchase it. A Solar cannot use a Lunar-specific Charm, for example.)
- Invent a Charm-like Effect. The Player should feel free to dictate how they use their powers in a custom-tailored way for the situation, though this does require Storyteller approval to make sure it doesn't *directly* solve the problem of the scene.

Gaining Strife

The Storyteller should award players Strife for roleplay: scenes where they go in depth of their characters, encounter drawbacks, suffer consequences, or simply “wow” the other Players with their descriptions and engagement.

The Storyteller is encouraged to not be stingy with Strife—it should be a resource gained and spent multiple times during a Session.

Multiple charges of Strife cannot be saved.

The Emergency Bribe

Sometimes things just don't go your way in the story—the players unexpectedly defeat and capture your recurring villain, stopping him from escaping when he was supposed to monologue and return later.

In a game as high-powered as *Exalted*, it happens to the best of us. You should try to play along with it as best as possible, but if you've really written yourself into a corner, you can bribe your Players with a Strife to let them go along with your plan. Try to only use this option in an emergency.

Strife Guidelines

When using a Strife, the action should simply happen without a roll. So long as a character *should* be able to do something, and it is *cool* for them to do so, it *does*. In this way, it can be thought of as a more powerful Stunt.

There are a few guiding restrictions to keep in mind with Strifes, which should

- Other character's actions cannot be dictated: only those under control of the Player's.
- The Action cannot *directly* solve the scene; it can only assist and guide it.
- The Action should flow naturally from the character—a Solar cannot suddenly shapeshift, for example.

Example

The Archer turns from the Dragonblood threatening her and focusing her essence into a point on their arrow. With a sharp hiss of air, she lets it loose into the nearest mountain, watching as the arrow explodes in an impressive show of Anima. The mountain rumbles as the snow dislodges, causing the newly-fallen snow to groan, rumble, and then start cascading into a deadly avalanche which rushes into the passage, sealing it and cutting off the dynasts reinforcements.

“I'm going to use my archery to cause an avalanche”. This example accomplishes two dramatic things: it changes the environment, but ultimately it is about stopping the Antagonist's time constraint on their battle. It assists the Player and their scene, but does not solve the pressing issue—the fight with the Dragonblooded.

Essence

Essence is the fundamental energy that flows through the world,

all creatures, and mortals—an energy that Exalts are naturally able to wield to their advantage. A character's Essence Rating is a measure of how in tune the character is with the flows of energy through and surrounding them. Much like an Attribute, it ranges between 1 and 5 for Exalts. Mortals have a Rating of 0.

The Rating of Essence cannot be directly trained. Instead, it only increases in rating as the character gains xp.

Motes

Essence expenditure is measured in *Motes*. When activating a Power that requires motes of Essence the exalt will **first** drain from their Personal Mote pool, and once that is exhausted they will drain from their Peripheral Mote Pool.

- **Personal Motes** are intrinsic to the character. Expenditure of these motes are subtle and do not agitate their anima banner. This pool replenishes at a rate of 1 mote per hour of rest, or fully after a full night's rest.
- **Peripheral Motes** are the character's ability to manipulate the world immediately surrounding them, channeling it to their will. Using these motes will *expose their anima banner*. This pool is completely refreshed at the *beginning of a new Scene*.

Anima Banner

Exalts are brimming with energy, their souls suffused with the crackling energy. Whenever they wish, they may choose to inflame this energy, crackling their soul outward in various levels from a soft glow around their body to a full towering bonfire of personal iconography and symbols deeply personal to the character.

Whenever they *intentionally* flare their Anima, they may also quickly retreat it back into their soul. (Both showing and recalling the anima is considered a Reflexive Action.

However, when a character uses Peripheral Motes, the Anima Banner will *uncontrollably* start to spill out, and the Exalt cannot do anything but wait for time to pass before they can recall it back into their soul.

Once the first Peripheral Mote is spent, those in the scene are *able* to notice the character's anima banner—otherwise only those abilities to peer into a person's soul would be able to do so.

The Difficulty for *general onlookers* in the Scene to notice the Anima Banner is equal to how many Peripheral Motes are remaining. However, characters who are *face-to-face*, or otherwise directly engaged with the Exalt, typically do not have to roll to notice the anima Banner once it reaches the Glowing stage, or are granted a Moderate (+4) Advantage to do so.

The Anima Flare should dissipate by the start of a new Scene, or at a rate of 15 minutes per Step.

Anima Steps

The anima gradually increases as the peripheral mote pool is depleted, but there are specific notable steps along the way:

- **(10) Dim**
This is considered the **default** or **natural** state of the anima. It is invisible to all natural senses, but may be seen by those that can peek into the Spirit Realm.
- **(5) Glowing**
A thin outline of the anima appears around the character, with the respective Caste Mark appearing on their brow. Characters standing face to face will most likely notice it, but may not be able to make out the exact iconography.
- **(3) Burning**
Essence burns and sheds from the Exalts body, much like the burning of a fire. The Caste Mark is unmistakable to any close-by.
- **(1) Bonfire**
A grand display of solidified Essence wraps around the body, shining its personal iconography to all of those in the scene.

The Great Curse

Exaltation is a great and wondrous blessing from the Gods, but with it comes a great and terrible Curse. Perhaps, as the ancient and lost stories speak, the slain Enemies of the Gods lay this Curse upon their servants as a last, spiteful word in their dying breath. Or perhaps it is simply inalienable nature of man, exemplified and given root in power.

Regardless of its source, every Exalt carries with them the Great Curse, an aggrandized character flaw that can interrupt and sabotage a character's well meaning in spite of their better nature.

Each individual Exaltation book details their Great Curse, but it is important to know that these are all *suggestions*. So long as a character has a flaw that affects their decision, it is an acceptable Great Curse. Custom descriptions should always include three aspects: what the flaw exposes in the character, what triggers the flaw, and what the character will (most likely) do when they enter a Limit Break.

- **Solars** suffer from their own Ego. They are those that tirelessly seek greatness and perfection, and may find others or even themselves not up to the standards they desire.
- **Lunars** suffer from being trapped between worlds and are conflicted by the unknown. Are they man or beast? A part of society or apart from it? Their form is constantly shifting, so who are they really?
- **Abyssals** have a portion of their self consumed by the void: something that is lost and that can never be reclaimed. It may be their name and relations; their lost vitality; a loss of emotion and feeling.

Fine Tuning Limit Gain

Each campaign will be different, and certain limit events will occur more or less often in the story you are portraying. Often this can be spotted before the game begins, but not always.

If you find yourself gaining too much or too little Limit as the sessions happen (the goal is an average of 1 per Session), feel free to fine tune and adjust the scope of the Limit Event.

Limit

The stress and wear of an Exalt's life will build and press upon them, eventually driving them to a breaking point. This is represented by Limit Points.

A Character gains 1 limit point by either encountering the triggering event they have detailed (no more than once per scene), or by activating their Excellency.

Limit Points represent how strained the Exalt is—how much wear and tear their psyche and soul is under. The character starts at 0, not being stressed, and can raise up to 10, a level of duress which they cannot stand anymore, at which point they will be forced Limit Break.

Breaking Early

When a character is particularly stressed, such as by being defeated, having their goals turned against them, their Intimacies being credibly threatened, or any other event the Player deems

“anguishing,” they may see if the character Limit Breaks early.

Roll a 1d10. If the result is equal to or higher than their current Limit, the character keeps it together. While they might be perturbed, hurt, otherwise emotionally compromised, they retain full faculty of their mind and actions. However, if they roll under their limit, they prematurely snap.

The Player, knowing their character better than any at the table, may forgo the roll altogether and simply decide their character snaps. Remember, this should highlight the character's flaws, and how it can impact and impede the character's own goals!

The Calming Effect of Time

Limit resets after a Limit Break, which is the main. However, long spans of rest, meditation, and peace may ease the Exalt down from their stressed life.

So long as the time breaks are particularly restful, the Exalt may lose 1 Limit per week.

Limit Break

When a character **Limit Breaks**, they lose all perspective on anything that does not align with their **Great Curse** and will make active and considered effort to fulfill it, regardless of the consequences.

A character Limit Breaking does not lose their faculties, nor do they forget their Intimacies—but those are simply *secondary* to their Great Curse. Often they will use convoluted and strange reasoning to justify their actions.

A Limit Break lasts for an entire scene. Only performing a grave offense against their own deeply-held Intimacies would be enough to snap the character out of their actions prematurely.

At the end of a Limit Break, reset Limit to 0.

During a Limit Break, the character does not gain any limit—even from activating their Excellencies. This effectively grants them free use of the Excellency for the entire scene, though it will still raise their anima level.

Ticking Time Bomb

There will be occasions when a character enters Limit Break, but turning it into a Limit Break Scene just doesn't fit—it occurred during an otherwise lighthearted scene, or when the Exalt is in the middle of nowhere on their own, or the scene was just wrapping up.

If this occurs, with both the Storyteller and Player in agreement, the Character can postpone the Limit Break to a more appropriate scene—just don't wait *too* long.

Storyteller Timelines

Rather than count the exact minutes and hours of effects, Exalted relies on a more cinematic sense of time.

- **Round**
Enough time for all characters present in the scene to perform at least one set of Actions.
- **Scene**
Long enough to set out and accomplish a single, dedicated task. Combat from start to finish would be a scene, as would characters searching for clues in an old abandoned monastery. This typically spans minutes to hours.
- **Session**
A single sitting of when Players begin and end roleplaying, spanning an entire night.
- **Story**
Several sessions that form a full narrative arch: from establishing a threat to reaching the resolution.
- **Chronicle**
A complete game, encompassing all the stories relevant to a set of characters.

Magnitudes

Exalted is styled in more of a cinematic, broad-sweeping style game rather than a precise simulation war-game. Instead of detailing out every person, time frame, or area, it will instead deal with measures of *magnitude*.

Some Powers will declare an increase (or decrease) in a *magnitude*. Those magnitude definitions are as follows:

Group Magnitudes				
Scale	Population	Name	Military Designations	
1	1	Individual	-	-
2	10	Party/Group	Squad	Fang
3	50	Crowd	Troop	Scale
4	100	Hamlet	Company	Talon
5	500	Village	Battalion	Wing
6	1,000	Town	Regiment	Dragon
7	10,000	City	Army	Legion
8	100,000	Prefecture	-	-
9	1,000,000	Province	-	-

Time Magnitudes	
Scale	Name
1	Second (Instant)
2	Minute (Moment)
3	Hour
4	Day
5	Week
6	Month
7	Season
8	Year
9	Decade
10	Century

Elsewhere and Equipment

The mechanisms of reality are flawed. Items, particularly those not paid attention to, have a tendency to reappear and move to alternate locations. Mortals will often attribute this forgetfulness, or not recognize the incongruity at all, when in reality it is the tireless motions of the Loom taking shortcuts.

Exalts, long ago, learned how to quietly and easily exploit this—simply through sleight of hand, they can store their physical items in places and not feel the weight nor brunt of the equipment. It is not unusual for an Exalt to suddenly pull out a large daiklaive from little more than a handbag's opening.

Depositing or retrieving equipment from Elsewhere takes an entire Action.

Sidereals have labeled this flaw as “Elsewhere,” since the items are neither *here* nor *there*, but simply somewhere...else. Certainly it is something that needs to be fixed. Eventually. Preferably by someone else.

Elsewhere is not all-powerful. The Exalt must reasonably be able to carry the items in the first place, and it must not be something that has a particularly close and important tie to reality. For example: living creatures cannot be kept in Elsewhere, as their mind and soul has far too great of self-awareness to be forgotten by reality.

As well, while time does not affect items *inside* of Elsewhere, the moment it is pulled out reality will quickly reassert itself. Food would rot within seconds, and we iron rust within a blink of an eye.

Items stored in Elsewhere of a dead Exalt will eventually reassert themselves into reality—often by finding themselves in nearby containers that may not have existed until needed for this precise purpose.

Attributes And Abilities

Attributes

Attributes are a character's raw, innate skills. They represent the capacity and limitations of the body, mind, and soul. Attributes may be trained and expanded on, but often take quite a bit of time and effort to do so which is represented by their experience costs.

All Attributes start at Rating One, and may reach up to Rating Five. There is nothing, save death, that can decrease a character's Attribute below One.

Strength

Strength represents both the raw muscular strength a character contains, as well as the intuition and practice to use it effectively. It is used to calculate **Base Damage**, the **Attack Roll** of Heavy Weapons, as well as feats of strength such as lifting, breaking, and climbing.

Dexterity

Dexterity is the fine control, reflexes, and agility a character has over their own body. It is used to calculate the **Attack Roll** of Light Weapons, as well as **Evasion**, and can help with various tasks such as balance, dancing, and lock-picking.

Charisma

Charisma is a measure of how a character can outwardly express themselves to others through *active* communication. It is used for actions such as **Influence Intimacy** and **Perform Task**.

Insight

Insight is a measure of how a character can understand others by observing their actions, words, and expressions. A character with high Insight would be able to correctly guess and understand an other's motivation to predict their next actions. It is used for actions such as **Read Intentions** and **Discover Intimacy**.

Intelligence

Intelligence is a measure of how a character can think logically, organize thoughts, absorb information, and connect together disparate pieces of information.

Wits

Wits is a measure of intuition, common sense, and fast-thinking. Whenever a character needs to react quickly, come up with a clever quip, or intuit something with their "Street-Smarts," they will use Wits.

Abilities

Abilities are skills that have been honed, trained, and developed through education and experience. Abilities range from Zero (0) to Five (5). There are three types of abilities: **Natural**, **Skilled**, and **Supernatural**.

- **Natural** Abilities are those that any mortal (and thus Exalt) has the capacity learn, train, and perform actions with. Characters may always roll with a Natural Ability, even if they have 0 in the rating.
- **Skilled** Abilities operate much like Natural Abilities, save that an area of **Specialization** must be chosen on purchasing the first rank. A specialty is a specific application of that ability, such as "Swords" for Close Combat, "Dance" for Performance, or "Urban" for Navigation.

When operating *outside* of their chosen Specialty, characters suffer a **-2 dice** granted from the ability, with a minimum of 0. (i.e. they would simply be rolling their Attribute score.)

An axe-specialized close combatant with 4 dots would roll (Strength) + 2 dice while punching unarmed, while an amateur geologist (Lore) with 1 dot would simply roll (Intelligence) + 0 dice to study the architecture of a building.

A list of sample Specialties are provided with each Trained Ability, but the Players are encouraged to create and personalize their own.

- **Supernatural** Abilities are those only granted by dealing with the otherworldly and mystical aspects of the world. These include abilities such as Shapeshifting, control of Fire, and the weaving of Fate through Serenity. Characters cannot use these abilities unless granted access to them, such as by a specific Exaltation.

Occult is a special Supernatural Ability that all Exalts have base access to, but requires specific *Initiations* in order to access its full potential.

Each Ability has an associated set of Attributes they naturally will be used with. While other combinations are possible, and will show up, their Primary Attributes are what the majority of the rolls will be made with.

Natural Abilities

Athletics

Primary Attributes: Strength, Dexterity

Athletics is a measure of *physical motion*, and covers anything that might constitute aerobic and strength exercise.

Actions: Swimming, jumping, running, climbing, lifting.

Awareness

Primary Attributes: Insight, Wits

Awareness is a measure of alertness and impromptu understanding of events through any and all of the senses.

Actions: Perception, investigation, analyze motive.

Command

Primary Attributes: Charisma, Wits

Command covers the skills necessary to manage, inspire, and otherwise direct people, typically in large groups.

Actions: Motivate, inspire, perform tactics.

Integrity

Primary Attributes: Insight, Intelligence

Integrity is a measure of how tightly a character can keep to their convictions, goals, and objectives without being influenced by outside forces.

Actions: Endure torture, rally others, recognize manipulation.

Endurance

Primary Attributes: Strength

Endurance is the measure of fortitude and well-being, strength and hardiness: the ability to shrug off attacks, poisons, and any debilitation of the body or mind.

Actions: Lift, crush, show off, intimidate, resist toxin or sleep.

Socialize

Primary Attributes: Charisma, Insight

Socialization is a way to relate and talk with people, making them feel heard and personally connected with them.

Characters with high Socialize will be able to congenially relate to people, softening their stance on things, and open them up for persuasion to the character's side.

Actions: Question, gather information, craft witty retorts.

Subterfuge

Primary Attributes: Dexterity, Charisma, Wits

Deception is the art of trickery, manipulation, and physical stealth. Its masters are adept at getting people to do what they want without them even realizing an outside influence is even there.

Actions: Manipulate, socially disarm, hide, blend into crowd.

Skilled Abilities

Combat, Close

Primary Attributes: Strength, Dexterity

Mastery of weapons, or the body, that is used to deliver attacks and damage up close and personal.

Actions: Attack other, parry, feint.

Sample Specialties

- Swords
- Clubs
- Staff
- Unarmed

Combat, Ranged

Primary Attributes: Strength, Dexterity

Mastery of physical weapons that deal damage through projectiles at enemies from a distance.

Actions: Attack other, target shoot, impress.

Sample Specialties

- Bow
- Javelin
- Flamepiece
- Slings
- Thrown

Ammunition

Exalted does not require the Player to keep track of their character's ammunition. You only run out when it is dramatically appropriate.

Craft

Primary Attributes: Intelligence, Dexterity

Craft is used to produce, analyze, and repair physical constructs and moving parts. A crafter knows how to take even raw discard material and turn it into a wondrous, complicated machine intended for a variety of mechanical purposes, from fending off attacks to plowing a field.

Actions: Raise barricades, analyze structure, make trinket.

Sample Specialties

- Carpentry
- Jerry-Rigging
- Blacksmithing
- Stone-working

Lore

Primary Attributes: Intelligence, Wits

Lore is both the breadth and depth of understanding in the world, ranging from geographic knowledge to religion and philosophy.

While Lore is the most broad and deep source of knowledge, it need not be *exclusive*. A Crafter would recognize the symbols of a famous architect, with an (Int + Craft) roll, for example.

Actions: Recall a fact, introduce a fact, understand bestiary.

Sample Specialties

- Geography
- History
- Cryptography

Introduce a Fact

Players do not need to rely on the Storyteller to confer relay information to them—they are allowed to create facts about the world themselves that their characters would know! The Storyteller does have a right to veto this introduction if it would *directly* solve the issue at hand, or it contradicts established facts about the world—though this should be used sparingly.

The Non-Omniscient Scholar

Having a high Lore does not confer *truths* upon a character—rather it represents being well-versed in what is known—and often as much as what is unknown. “Knowing” something doesn’t mean that it is *true*—only that it is a reasonable conclusion based on the facts presented by individuals biased by their upbringing.

Medicine

Primary Attributes: Insight, Intelligence

Medicine is the study of the body and how it operates, spiritually, mentally, and physically. Those with high Medicine will know how to treat injuries, gather herbs, and strike at essence flow lines to heal (or harm) their patient.

Actions: Stabilize patient, analyze disease,

Sample Specialties

- Essence Flows
- Herbal
- Surgical

Navigation

Primary Attributes: Wits

Navigation is the ability to traverse terrains—from land, to sea, to jungle—and come out unscathed and on time. A trained Navigator will know their hand at reigns, the stern of a ship, how to survive in a city’s underworld, as well as be able to tell you which wild fruit is poisonous or edible.

Actions: Scavenge food, path-find, track.

Sample Specialties

- Ocean
- Wilderness
- Urban
- Tracking

Performance

Primary Attributes: Charisma, Insight

Performance is the measure of not only how well a character is in the technical nature of singing, dancing, or other such artistic expression, but the ability to convey meaning and thoughts through those actions. A skilled performer not only knows how to entertain their crowd, but also knows how to incite that crowd into a frenzied riot should they desire.

Actions: Sway crowd, create art, calm others

Sample Specialties

- Dance
- Singing
- Acting
- Poetry/Linguistics

Supernatural Abilities

Supernatural Abilities are those that are beyond the reach of even the most talented mortal. No amount of training or skill can induct a mortal into a Supernatural Ability-only by special circumstances will the domain of the Gods be opened to them-such as Exaltation. Even then, it is often a limited selection.

For example, those chosen to be a Dragon-Blooded are opened up to the Elemental Abilities of Fire, Water, Air, Earth, and Wood, but are restricted from the Lunar's Shapeshifting Ability.

A minimum of Rating One is required to perform any Supernatural Ability, and it cannot be learned without a specific Merit or Exaltation.

Since Supernatural Abilities are so closely tied with an Exaltation, Gods, or Creature of Power, most will be detailed in their respective books.

Occult

Primary Attributes: Intelligence

Sorcery is the method of twisting, changing, and exploiting the rules of reality to the practitioner's favor. The methods of doing so are arcane, often requiring long, drawn-out rituals to perform correctly.

Occult encompasses many things, but focuses primarily on Environmental changes, summoning of demons, and control over the spirits of the world.

All Exalted, and even some mortals, have the potential to learn Occult, however they must first be *Initiated* into the arts by a teacher or guide.

Uses

Occult, as a raw ability, can be used to sense the flows of essence around the player, as well as setup low magic rituals which are called "Thaumaturgies". Examples include reading tea leaves, laying down a protective salt circle, or performing an exorcism.

As well, studies in Occult will often give a base level understanding of the difference between Spirits and otherworldly creatures of power—though it will always be filtered through a light of what the practical application is.

Occult Knowledge

Having occult confers a certain base level knowledge about spirits, demons, and other aspects of Creation—however it should be treated as a *compliment* to Lore, not a replacement.

A general rule of thumb is to think of Occult concerned more with the "practical application" of such knowledge, with Lore focusing more on the historical, cultural, and general knowledge.

Custom Abilities

The provided Abilities are not considered comprehensive or exclusive list—simply a selection that is expected to be most useful in the *Exalted* setting. Creating abilities and charms custom to specific characters or settings is not only allowed, but it is encouraged!

There are a few guidelines that must be followed when creating a new ability:

- An ability must be well-defined. If a couple of words do not communicate what the ability is *about*, and what it encompasses, then the theme needs to be refined some more.
- It cannot be too broad. The provided abilities in the book should be the upper-limit on how broad of a theme an ability should be.
- It cannot fully encompass another ability. There will often be overlap between abilities, which is allowed, but the custom ability should not simply be an ability and something else.

When creating charms for a custom ability, using and altering existing charms is perfectly acceptable.

Shared Charms

When making a new ability that has the same design space as an other ability, many of the charms will be exactly the same. A character may use such purchased charm in both abilities, (so long as they meet the minimum ability requirement.) They do not need to purchase the charm twice.

Example Custom Abilities

- **Investigation.** A highly-tuned procedure for noticing, deducing, and piecing together aspects of a scene after the fact. Would pull largely from Awareness, Lore, and perhaps Integrity.
- **Drive.** Useful for a modern setting. Involves the natural handling of high-speed craft, ranging from finding ways around a complicated city to performing daring maneuvers to shake off pursuers. Pulls heavily from Navigation.
- **Firearms.** Useful for a modern setting. In standard Exalted setting, firearms are the exception, a rare bauble and interest to be found. But in a modern setting, this would supplant the Archery ability as the primary ranged ability. Many of the charms would be similar.

Social Influence

Intimacies

All characters have various ideals, desires, and loved ones. An Intimacy is a representation of their core being, who the person is—for better or for worse.

An *Intimacy* is a step above a person's natural likes and dislikes: it is some aspect that defines them in some way.

Intimacies should be specific and close to your character's definition and goals:

- “Hatred of the Realm's Slavery Trade”
- “Trust that inner enlightenment will bring about external good”

Intimacies are both a boon and a bane to characters—they have a resistance to any social influence that runs contrary to that Intimacy (+2 Resolve).

However, those same Intimacies may be used to pull the character into increasingly difficult tasks. (+4 Dice).

Assumed Intimacies

There are common intimacies to all mortal kinds that don't need to be explicitly written down, such as the Desire for Safety and Health, and the Fear of Death.

The list of Intimacies written for a character should only be written down if they are notable in their strength—or in the absence.

Minor Intimacies

Minor, or *temporary* Intimacies are those present for just a short time, often in response to something that has occurred in the scene—ranging from something as large as great threat to the city appearing, or from something more subtle as Social Influence to incite an emotion.

Minor Intimacies are transitory—and not quite as strong as deeply held beliefs, conferring (+2 Dice/+1 Resolve). However, their effects can still be quite strong on a large scale, and have resulted in societal upheaval and market panics.

Unacceptable Influence

There are certain actions and requests that a character will refuse to do, regardless of how convincing, persuasive, or manipulative an Exalt is, they will not do it. Unacceptable Influence protects those actions that the character considered antithetical to their very nature, such as betraying loyal causes, violating self preservation, or harming those dearly loved.

Players, as they know their characters much better than the Storyteller, reserve the sole right to declare if Influence is *Unacceptable*—though they should justify it to the rest of the group.

Changing Intimacies

At the completion of every **Story**, both the Players and the Storyteller should reevaluate their respective characters and readjust Intimacies as appropriate to reflect what has happened in the Story.

They may gain, or lose Intimacies as they see fit, though they should have at least three and at most five.

Respect Your Group

Throughout history people have committed horrific acts against each other—acts which still continue to this day. You may desire to show it as a proper challenge to overcome, to the levels that a character will sink to—even so called heroes. That said:

No Person should ever feel uncomfortable at the table.

At the end of the day, this is a game that you and your friends are playing in modern times, surrounded by modern schools of morality.

Any Player (including the Storyteller) should be allowed to raise their concerns about scenes, direction of story, or other such aspects of the game, and their concern should be respected without question. Move the theme aside and don't bring it up again.

A good tool to *minimize* these concerns is to have a “Session 0”, where all Players discuss what themes they expect out of a game, and what to avoid. However, this should not be seen as a substitute for listening to your Players at the moment. Often, they will not know what bothered them until it comes up.

Groups

Social actions against groups of people, rather than individuals, suffer from the lack of intimacy, as well as logistics. Any social action taken against multiple characters with a magnitude of “Crowd” (50 people) or larger gains +2 to their Resolve and Guile.

Crowds of magnitude “City” or larger cannot be addressed by a simple roll, and instead must be done through an Encounter.

Social Actions

Social actions are dependent on how they are approached. Using an inappropriate action for a desired outcome will not work (no roll required) or at least have severe penalties applied.

For example, no matter how well you roll, you cannot threaten someone into gaining a positive intimacy towards you.

Perform Task

(Roll) vs. Resolve

The character attempts to get another to perform a task on their behalf.

Note: Serious and Life-Changing Tasks will often require a full Scene to occur before the roll may be performed—you can't simply walk in and change a person's life! The rolls provided are for use for minor characters and unimportant scenes. For more dramatic scenes, see [Encounters](#).

- **Inconvenient task**
There is at most mild danger, opposition, or time devoted to this task. At most the task will take a few hours—maybe a day.
- **Serious Task**
(+2 Resolve)
Must leverage a Minor Intimacy to attempt.

There may be lasting repercussions to performing the task, ranging from physical to social. The task may take days to weeks to complete.
- **Life-Changing Task**
(+4 Resolve)
Must leverage a Full Intimacy to attempt.

Their lives may be permanently altered by the task, running even the risk of death. Even embarking on the task will have serious consequences.

Influence Intimacy

(Roll) vs. Resolve

The character leverages an *existing* Intimacy to either suppress a different Intimacy to Minor status, or instill a new Minor Intimacy.

Intimacy changes made this way are temporary, eventually fading away after a day without reinforcement.

Emotion

Instead of a particular Intimacy, the character may choose to suppress or inflame an *emotion*. This may have unpredictable effects. This may be useful when targeting a disparate crowd, or if specific intimacies are not known.

Players on the Defensive

The Player Characters are the main characters of the story, not NPCs.

When on the defensive from Social Actions, the Player still controls how the character acts in response to the roll, not the Storyteller. This is especially relevant for the “Perform Task” Action—the Player is free to interpret how and when they perform this task.

Read Intentions

(Insight + Ability) vs. Guile

Reading Intentions is a **Reflexive** Action.

When a character desires to understand another, they may attempt to read the Intentions based on their actions.

On a successful roll against the target's Guile, the Player may ask a question to the Storyteller about the target, ranging from: “Who are they,” “What are they here (in the scene) for?” “Where are they going?” “Do they intend me harm?”

For every extra +3 successes rolled, the Player may ask another question.

The Storyteller is obligated to respond *truthfully* to the chosen question, though it may be cryptic.

Only one Read Intentions maneuver (per target) may be made due to the target's actions. All Players may attempt the roll, but only the highest-roll gets to ask the questions.

Probe Intimacy

(Roll) vs. Guile

Intimacies, emotions, and other aspects of a character may be pressed by the Player, forcing it to be revealed.

The Player, through their action, will state what behaviors they are trying to induce or analyze with their action. If successful, the Storyteller will need to tell them the closest relevant Intimacy there is to the action --or the decided lack of one.

This may be used in an Encounter to probe for the nature of a Key Issue.

Encounters

From the intricate dance of ballroom politics, to battlefield war bands, to the high-drama of a courtroom, an Exalt's life will be filled with scenes of great importance where the fate of the world hinges on well-spoken speeches or careful deliberation.

In such moments, one or more Scenes should be dedicated to it. This Encounter system is a *framework* intended to help Storytellers craft dramatic scenes, and thus should be treated as guidelines rather than firm rules.

Goal

You have to first decide what the Goal of the scene *is*. What is it the Players ultimately want? Sometimes it may be obvious from the context, but many other times you may need to ask them what their ultimate goal is. This is the first hurdle in starting an Encounter.

It is fine if the goal *changes* during the course of the Encounter.

On the southern shores of the Inland Sea party decides that they will need a full caravan to traverse the Burning Sands. There is a local Trade-Prince whom they think they can convince to finance and supply them this caravan.

Simple Goals

It's perfectly fine to have simple, assumed goals. Not everything needs to have a complex or structured goal; sometimes a primal need is all a goal has to be. "Survive" is quite a popular one.

Key Issues

Once a goal has been established, identify and breakdown what stops the Players from reaching their goals. (2-3 are suggested, and never more than 5). Each of these obstacles are **Key Issues** that need to be overcome before the goal can be reached.

Key Issues can truly be anything—personal or political entanglements, terrain difficulties, or even logistics issues. So long as it fits the theme of the scene, and is a solid, self-contained idea, it can be a Key Issue.

Once the Key Issues have been identified, decide how many successful, distinct, *actions* must be made to overcome the Key Issue. This is an abstracted representation not of difficulty (that is determined by individual rolls), but of *complexity*.

Key Issue Complexity	
	Actions
Simple	1
Average	3
Difficult	5
Complex	7

Visualizing progress is important in an encounter—and it is recommended you keep your players in the loop that they are working towards their Key Issue! Having a set of tokens to remove, or something as simple as check-boxes to fill does wonders!

Large Groups

If you have 5 or more players, increase the required actions of any non-Simple Complexity by +2.

Generating Key Issues

It can help to visualize distinct challenges relating to the key issue, such as: "Number of people to convince over to my side," or "stages of stealth to overcome." However, always remember that you are setting up a *challenge* for players to overcome, not the method for which they must go through, and this abstracted count of actions should allow that flexibility!

It is entirely possible for you to expect your players to talk to individual bystanders, to inspire each one of them to raise moral of the village, yet your Players instead craft a monument of glory—and that is perfectly fine and encouraged! So long as each action has a narrative weight, even if unexpected, it should be allowed!

The Storyteller decides there are 3 Key Issues preventing the Trade-Prince from funding the caravan:

- 1. Monetary concerns: he needing a return on investment. (Simple). Understandably, the Trade-Prince will need to be convinced it is worth his while to dedicate so many resources to this goal.*
- 2. Antagonistic Sycophants (Average). The Trade-Prince has surrounded himself with sycophants, who deeply despise any perceived change to their position. The Party must silence their influence.*
- 3. Fear of the Immaculate Order Retribution (Difficult) (Hidden). Through the party's past actions, the Trade-Prince has secretly caught on that they are Anathema. He does not personally care, but he will need a way to make sure that the Immaculate Order will not find out about this deal—or at least be convinced of this fact.*

Altering/Adding Goals

During the Encounter, the Players may decide they want to alter the ultimate goal—perhaps they have decided to push further, or have found an alternate goal they prefer.

In both cases, the Storyteller should add an additional Key Issue to encapsulate this difference. They may decide to drop a separate existing Key Issue if the altered goal no longer applies.

Flow

An Encounter is not like a Combat Scene—the timing is fluid, and actions do not follow a set order, depending primarily on the natural flow of the narrative.

However, a “Round” is still defined: each character has one and only one Full Action (Simple Action + Supplementary) in a round.

The Storyteller should make sure that all Players know they have the *option* to act each Round.

Playing Consequences

The main tool you have as a Storyteller to interrupt and challenge the Player characters is to introduce consequences and *choices* for actions; a successful roll means the Player Characters got what they wanted, but that doesn’t mean that everything turns out positive. If they used Intimidation to cower townsfolk into submission, the townsfolk will naturally be terrified and less friendly to the group. (Represented as a negative minor intimacy: -2 dice/+1 Resolve)

However, care should be taken with Consequences: they should never feel like a *punishment*. Your job is to keep your Players on their toes, not to discourage them from taking unique and interesting ways to solve a problem. This is a situation where a little bit goes a long way: only introduce a mechanically-effecting consequence when it truly matters to change the scene.

Introducing Complications

Complications are anything introduced into the Scene by the Storyteller that will distract, inhibit, or otherwise challenge the Player Characters in their pursuit of their goals.

Complications can change, alter, or otherwise shed different light on the Key Issues, and may even block certain methods of attaining their goals. Perhaps a landslide occurs, burying the way to a quarter of the city; or there is a patrol of guards cycling through the way; or even perhaps something as simple as the chiming of the bells, denoting that a new hour has arrived.

Complications should show up fairly regularly—there should be at least one per Encounter. However, they should always make sense and be telegraphed to players beforehand. If the source of a Complication is a character, say a primary antagonist or a group of guards, this is quite easy—players will expect them to take an action every “Round” or so.

However, when it is something more abstract, such as the passage of time, you should signify it with something, be it the description of a clock’s hand ticking down, or the more abstract notion of displaying a counter filled up after actions performed. Suspense in a scene is not necessarily surprise: if you give your Players just enough information that there is *something* going to happen, when their Characters do not, it is far more satisfying and impactful when it actually does.

Antagonist Goals

Antagonists are operating on their own goal during the scene, and have their own Key Issues that they must Gather Influence upon.

Typically, the Antagonist’s Goal and Goals and Key Issues are directly related to the Party’s—whether in direct opposition, or competing to get there first. For convenience sake, these are referred to as the “the same” Key Issue.

However, antagonists having the same Key Issue is not a *requirement*—they may be working on a separate Goal for the scene, and they have tangential or completely unrelated Key Issues. Typically, these start out as hidden to the Party.

Abstract Antagonists

It is easy to recognize an antagonist when it is an individual. However, Antagonists can be anything—from mobs of people to an avalanche to *Time itself* closing off a Key Issue.

Sabotaging Progress

The Antagonist and Party’s Progress tracks are independent of each other, and can be thought of more as a “race” rather than anything. However, just like in a race, participants can *sabotage* the other’s progress.

When taking an action, a Player can apply one of their actions to removing the progress of an antagonist by one action. Or, they may attempt to wrest control over a completed Key Issue piece by piece—the latter of which often requires one action greater than

Control may be taken away if a different side gains more Influence than the previous owner, either by decreasing it through sabotage or reinforcing their own claim.

In order to wrest control over a completed Key Issue, you must take 1 *additional* action more than what would be normally required. So for an Average (3) complexity issue, you would have to make a total of (4) actions.

Characters on the Defense

Convincing important characters, particularly Player Characters, is a single Key Issue with a complexity equal to their Resolve + intimacy bonuses, rather than a simple roll.

This can be anything from forcing the character to see their point on an important fact, charming them, lying to them, or even instilling a particular Intimacy.

A successful application does not *force* the character to do anything—this isn’t unnatural influence, simply convincing speech. But they should take this new idea as part of their decision process. As well, after the idea impacts their life negatively once, they may reconsider and reject it.

As always, Players reserve the right to declare something as Unacceptable influence, if they believe it violates their character or ideas. Typically they should reference one of their Intimacies, backstory, or Facts when doing so.

It's Hard to Convince Player Characters

Ultimately, it's up to the Player whether or not their character is convinced by something. As a Storyteller, you have control over all aspects of the world, and how difficult each action is; the one thing that you don't have control over is what Player Characters think and do—you should only suggest it to the Player, not force it upon them. Even powerful effects, such as "Theft of Memory," should be used with caution.

Ultimately, this is a story about the *Player Characters* and their actions, not about Non-Playable characters and your world!

Social-focused Antagonists should be primarily represented by their actions and charm against other NPC's. While they should not shy away from trying to charm the Player Characters, don't expect them to succeed!

Encounter End

The Encounter ends the same Round that all Key Issues become *controlled*—though they do not need to be under control all by the same *side*.

If a Goal's Key Issues are completely controlled by one side, they will achieve their Goal.

A Goal with split Key Issue control will find they have a *partial* victory—they do not get the full Goal they wanted, but they do not get nothing at all.

When weighing a Partial Victory, the Storyteller should lean heavily into the uncontrolled Key Issues—why will this bring trouble to them? Perhaps they get what they want, but only at a certain cost?

Final Argument

Typically, the Encounter is wrapped up with a *Final Argument*, where a chosen Player or Storyteller summarizes what has happened in the Encounter, rolling it together and pointedly delivering as a capstone. This can take the form of a grand in character speech, addressing the crowds.

Preferably, Encounters do not end with a roll. The work has been put in already, there is no *need* for one.

But in the cases when a roll feels In those cases, this final roll carries no risk of failure with it: after all, all of the ground work has been laid for the outcome already. Rather, it is a measure of *how* successful the characters will be in their endeavor. A failure would just represent not being able to push their success further—or at worst, a request to do something in return.

Example Encounter Scenes:

<<Todo, format this nicely>>

One of the party members went full Iconic anima Banner inside a Realm-controlled outpost, and now they must escape.

Goal: Escape.

Key Issues: Hunted by the Immaculate Monks. City is winding and full of defenses. Need to obscure their tracks to prevent being followed.

Key Complication: Time will tick down. Every other round, introduce a complication into the scene, and after a set number of rounds they will have a confrontation with the Wyld hunt.

Key Issues Idea Generation	
<todo>	
Consequences Idea Generation	
<todo>	
Complications Idea Generation	
<todo>	

Combat

The Time of Tumult is one of great conflict, and the Exalted that live through it will invariably find themselves in armed conflict, wielding their great weapons and powers of destruction.

Combat in Exalted focuses on the rhythm of battle, with characters constantly testing each other, looking for openings, and strategizing through Maneuvers, until they have built up enough Impulse to strike with a Decisive Blow.

Combat, Subtlety, and the Reveal of Exalted Nature

Combat Scenes allows greater latitude in what a character can do before their Exalted nature is revealed to the world; the chaos and confusion caused by the scene will often cover for the actions of all combatants.

Generally speaking, only something as extreme as a Burning Anima level, or something overtly magical such as shapeshifting might get people to wonder if the combatants are Exalts.

Setup your expectation with players before a scene starts: if something is likely to tip their hand, warn them. Don't unexpectedly punish your players for being awesome.

Combat Values

Damage Dice

Impulse is a measure of the current *tactical advantage* the character has. The higher the value, the greater the control they have over the battlefield. Impulse is:

- *Gained* through Maneuvers—actions that turn the battlefield in the character's favor.
- *Spent* on Decisive Actions—actions that deal great strikes of force upon their enemies.

Being that it is gained and spent exclusively during a combat scene, physical tokens (such as coins or poker chips) are suggested to keep track of Impulse.

The Combat Round

Combat is split into distinct Rounds, where each character has a chance to take one and only one Action, such as Attacking, using a Charm, or a Maneuver. Any powers that take up a full action are denoted as **Simple Powers**.

In addition to their simple Action, characters can Move and perform other minor actions. These are called **Free Actions**, and as many Free Actions may be performed on their turn at no consequence. The only limitation is that each Free Action must be unique—you cannot take *two* Move actions, for example, just one. (Without a Power, that is.)

Free Actions can be taken in an order—before or after the main Action of the turn.

Turn Order

Turn order is determined by the Initiative Roll:

Initiative: 1d10 + (Initiative)

The characters then proceed from highest to lowest, then restarting the round once all characters have gone.

If there is a tie of Initiative between a Player Character and a Non-Player Character, the Player gets to choose who goes first. If there is a tie between Player Characters, simply flip a coin.

Each combatant starts with a number of Impulse equal to their Initiative score.

Starting Impulse: (Initiative)

All combatants are assumed to start combat ready: their weapons are drawn, they have fallen into their Martial Arts, etc.

Balancing Large Groups

Player Characters only get One Action per round. But Non-Player Characters are not beholden to this rule. The Storyteller may choose to let a NPC have up to 3 actions per Round—if they are particularly powerful and dangerous foes.

The Rule of Thumb is to have antagonists acting no less than 1/3 of the Player actions.

Ambush Round

If characters are ambushed—not expecting combat in the least, they must suffer through an Ambush Round.

Ambushed characters:

- Start with **0 Impulse**,
- May only act *after* all other characters have acted, regardless of their Turn Order. Once the Ambush Round ends, normal turn order resumes.

Ambushes are premeditated affairs--requiring setup, planning, and coordination between the party. Players cannot suddenly go into combat if things are not going their way and declare it an Ambush.

To prevent being ambushed, Player Characters get a Reflexive (Wits + Awareness) roll against the skill of those setting up the ambush. Typically this would be a contested roll against (Wits + Stealth).

Holding Action

Any character may Hold their Action, or wait to act based on something that happens in the battlefield. To do so, the must spend **2 Impulse** and describe what it is they are waiting for: they cannot arbitrarily wait. When the specified event happens, they get a chance to act *before* or *after* the event, at their discretion. Any action may be held, be it a Maneuver, Decisive, or even Free Action.

If the event does not happen in the Round, the character regains their spent 2 Impulse, but does not get a chance to act this Round.

Change Initiative

As a Free Action, change your Turn Order. Either spend 1 Impulse per +1 Initiative gained, or drop down any number for free. This takes effect at the start of the next Round.

Maneuvers

A Maneuver is any action the character performs to gain advantage over the scene—be it to test the stance of their enemies, analyze the battlefield for strategic advantage, or to intimidate your foes through physical prowess.

The Player describes any action that would grant them tactical advantage, and then rolls the [Att + Abi] dice pool. The Number of Successes rolled is then gained as Impulse.

Remember, Exalted follows the dynamic and cinematic model—heroes should be leaping across narrow banisters, dancing steel in testing feints, and channelling their inner might during combat. Nearly any action, if described well enough, can grant Impulse.

Attack Maneuvers

Maneuvers also include a type of Attacks—but ones that are focused more on putting your foe on edge, rather than dealing a killing blow. These Maneuver Attacks that hit (a roll above the DV), would only deal superficial harm to the player: a cut on a cheek to dishearten and surprise, a blow to the chest to knock back down.

Attack Maneuvers do not deal direct damage to any normal foe on the battlefield.

Attacking Lesser Foes

However, Attack Maneuvers *can* directly harm [Lesser Foes](#). Damage is the number of Successes from the Maneuver, minus the DV of the Lesser Foe(s) targetted. The Player still receives full Impulse from the Maneuver.

- **Lesser Foe Damage:** (Maneuver Roll) - DV

Maneuver Effects

By spending 1 Mote, the

Stunts in a combat Maneuver not only grant +2 dice, they let the Player choose an effect their Maneuver has on the battlefield (in addition to gaining Impulse.)

These Stunt Maneuvers must make sense in the context of the action, and must exceed the difficulty of the action with the roll to take effect.

Moteless Maneuver Effects

There are some Charms that have the same effects as Maneuver Stunts. If a character chooses the same stunt effect as a charm, the effect can be doubled—whether it be in magnitude of the effect, duration, or other methodology.

Example Maneuver Effects (1m)		
Name	Difficulty	Description
Knockback / Pull / Hold	DV	Moves the target one range band, or force the target to stay in their current location.
Keep Pace	Evasion	When the target takes a Move Action <i>away</i> from you, reflexively move one range band toward them. This does not consume a Move Action.
Distract / Intimidate / Stun	Resolve	Instead of gaining Damage dice, the target loses ½ of what you would have gained.
Stun	Soak	The target loses 2 dice from their next action.
Smash Scenery	Based on Scenery	Change the scenery, such as by collapsing a pillar.
Seek Cover/ Destroy Cover	Based on Scenery	Attempt to find Cover, or eliminate Cover of a target.
Defend Other	(None)	Protect a character within Short Range for a Round. They may use your DV instead of their own
Disarm	Soak	Knock a weapon out of a hand, which cannot be reclaimed for a Round.
Attack Lesser Foe	DV	The Lesser foe loses (Damage Dice gained) – DV health.

As a reminder: Stunts are special, interesting descriptions of a character's action. By their very nature, *Stunt Effects cannot be repeated over and over*—they would cease to be a Stunt.

The Stunt Effects should be treated as examples, not an exhausted list. The one restriction is that a Stunt Effect **cannot deal damage**.

The Night Caste crashes through the window, barrelling into the Ogre, forcing it to stumble back from the blow.

Here, the Player is stunting a [Dexterity + Athletics] Maneuver with a Knockback effect. They have 10 dice, (+2 from the stunt), and roll 5 Successes.

They immediately gain 5 Impulse for their Maneuver, regardless. Then, (since this is a Knockback), they compare their 5 Successes against the Ogre's DV (4). The Ogre is knocked back as desired.

Charms, Stunts and Maneuvers

There are some Charms that have the same effects as Maneuver Stunts. If a character chooses the same stunt effect as a charm, the effect can be doubled—whether it be in magnitude of the effect, duration, or other methodology.

Decisive Strike

Once the character has gained enough Impulse, they may expend it in a Decisive Strike, aimed at knocking their enemy off the battlefield.

You must have a minimum of 2 Impulse available to perform a Decisive Strike, which cannot be spent on Powers or other effects until after the Accuracy Roll.

Roll the **Accuracy** dice pool against the target's DV. If the roll fails, the attack misses and you lose 2 Impulse.

- **Accuracy Pool:** (Attribute + Ability + Weapon Mod)
- **Hit:** (Accuracy Roll) >= Target DV.

On a success, take the Impulse on the character to form a Damage Dice Pool. The number of successes from this Damage Pool, plus any Base Damage the Exalt has, is how much Endurance the target loses.

The character is required to use *all* of their Impulse on a Decisive attack

- **Damage Pool:** (Impulse gathered)
- **Damage Dealt:** (Damage Roll) + Base Damage

Dice Adders and Damage Pool

Unless a Power or mechanic specifically states otherwise, they do not adjust or change a Damage Pool.

Drawbacks *may explicitly* be taken on a Damage Roll.

Flurry Strikes

The Player may target multiple characters with their decisive strike. To do so, simply make an Accuracy Roll against the target with the *highest* applicable defense.

Once damage has been calculated, it is spread out among all the targets at the Player's discretion. e.g. If 5 damage is rolled, they can decide to place 1 on one target and 4 on another.

Positioning

Range Bands

Characters are constantly in motion during combat, running down alleyways and leaping off tree limbs. Rather than rely on absolute positioning, Exalted works off of *relative* positioning between characters, represented through 4 normal Range Bands. These Range Bands are traversed by taking a Move Action.

- **Melee/Close**
Within arm's reach, and where close combat abilities such as Melee (its namesake) and Brawl reside. Characters within Melee range are currently engaged in battle, and must take

the special Move Action called **Disengage** to leave.

- **Short**
Within a few yards of each other--a distance able to be crossed within a quick sprint.
- **Medium**
Far enough that conversations would have to be shouted, and where archers and other ranged combat is naturally limited.
- **Long**
Across an entire field, far enough away that visual, rather than verbal, signals would have to be used.

There is one additional Range Band that does not act normally: **Extreme**. It cannot be reached by any normal means and simply represents anything “outside of the battlefield.”

Anything in the Extreme Range band cannot be directly interacted with during combat without specific Powers. Any reinforcements to the scene will spend one Round in the Extreme Range Band before moving into the conflict.

Maneuvers and Free Actions

Free Actions (namely Movement) can be incorporated into a Maneuver. Vaulting across the battlefield to get closer to the target is a perfectly valid Maneuver.

In these cases the Free Action is *combined* with the Maneuver, and still follows the same restrictions—namely that another Free Action of the same type cannot be made on the turn.

Attack Ranges

Close Range action, such as those made with Melee or Brawl, may only be made while in Melee/Close Range.

Ranged Decisive Strikes, namely those made with Archery and Thrown, may be made against all targets at Short or Medium range.

Ranged Strikes *may* be made against targets within Melee range, but suffer (-2) successes to their Accuracy roll—as though the target had Partial Cover.

Range and Maneuvers

By definition, Maneuver and their Stunts are dependent on judgment calls from the Storyteller.

Range only matters on Maneuvers that have contact between combatants—a character slamming into another is considered a Melee Attack, while dropping a chandelier on another would be considered a Ranged Attack.

Maneuvers that don't have contact—such as analyzing the battlefield—don't care about Range and can be performed regardless of distance. There may be other restrictions though: Intimidating an opponent by hurling insults can only work if the opponent can *hear* said insults, for example.

Movement

The following are all considered to be sub-types of the Move

Action: Move, Dash, and Disengage. If one is taken during a Round, only that one may be taken. (i.e. no Dashing and then Moving in the same Round).

All Move-type actions are Free Actions.

Move

Move one Range Band closer or further away from a target. You may not Move while in Melee Range of an enemy—instead you must take a Disengage Action.

Dash

A Dash cannot be made engaged in Melee Combat. Spend 2 Impulse, and suffer -1 DV for a round to cross 2 Range Bands instead of 1.

Dash Movements cannot be taken two Rounds in a row.

Movement and Common Sense

Movement towards or away from one character may affect the distance between others, and should be changed according to common sense. If a character is in a group and you move towards them, you also move closer to all characters in the group.

Disengage

In order to move away from Melee Range of an enemy combatant, the character must Disengage. Spend 2 Impulse to attempt to move back to Short Range.

Combatants currently in Melee Range may attempt to halt Disengagement. Those that roll (Dex + Athletics) above your Evasion remain in Melee Range—immediately joining you in your new position.

If an opponent that was successfully disengaged from tries to close into Melee Range on the next round, reflexively move back to Short Range from them. (This reflexive action does not count as a Move action.)

Situational Defenses

There are two levels of Situational Defenses:

- **Partial** – Provides +2 DV. This represents significant, but not impenetrable protection from attackers. Such as hiding behind pillars, standing in uneven terrain, or being surrounded by gale winds.
- **Full** – Cannot be attacked while the defense is active. They are standing behind a full wall, across a giant chasm, or have become Immaterial.

Full Situational Defenses must be countered before the character can be attacked. Some times it may be a simple mundane action, such as bursting in the room behind the wall. But often certain charms, stunts or powers will be required to counter or decrease the Defense by a level: Full to Partial, or Partial to None.

Cover

Cover is one of the most widely available Situational Defenses,

as it can be gained simply by ducking into the terrain of the scene.

Cover is considered **Partial** when at least half a character's body is blocked by a material that can withstand weapon blows--such as a chest-high wall of broken stone rubble.

Cover is considered **Full** when the character's entire body is blocked, such as behind a wall.

Typically, cover works both ways: a character in Full Defense from attacks is also blocked from attacking others for the same reason.

Alternate Rules:

Battlemaps and Absolute Positioning

Sometimes a particular battle, or even the Player Group will prefer the tactical feel of minatures on a battlemap. This is perfectly fine, and it is simple enough to convert to Absolute Positioning with the following changes:

- A typical battlemap will use hexagonal spaces (hexes), each representing 5 meters.
- Characters have a **Speed** value: $3 + (\text{Dex} + \text{Athletics}) / 2$
 - A character can Move **Speed** Hexes (Speed x5 meters)
 - Dash is Speed x2 hexes (Speed x10 meters)
- A character *may* move away from Melee/Close Range without Disengaging, but only at Half Speed.
- A character that successfully contests a disengage action reflexively moves *halfway* towards the new location.
- References to "Range Band" as a generic distance is 5 Hexes (25 meters)

The definition for Specific Range bands are:

- **Melee/Close:** 0-1 hex (0-5 m.)
- **Short:** 2-5 hex (6-25 m.)
- **Medium:** 6-15 hex (26-75 m.)
- **Long:** 61-30 hex (76-150 m.)
- **Extreme:** 31+ hex (151+ m.)

Lesser Foes

Lesser Foes are those that are below the power level of the main players on the field.

Instead of attacking or defending, they will do special maneuvers to slow down or harass combatants, *or* they will do Maneuvers to grant their Greater Foe Ally Impulse.

Lesser Foes tend to group up into packs. "Individual targets" for this purpose of Charms, Flurries, etc. refer to the group size magnitude, not individuals numbers.

<<TODO>>

Endurance

Endurance is a value measuring how much fight a character has left in them. Once a character's Endurance Pool has been exhausted, either through pain, disheartening, or whatever means

are employed, the character is considered out of the battle.

Regaining Endurance

A full day of rest—without dangerous interruption—will allow an Exalt to regain their Endurance.

However, an Exalt's life is dangerous, and they may not have the luxury of a full day's rest. In this case, they regain (Essence) Endurance every hour since the last combat scene.

Defeat

Characters who are knocked out of battle are typically not dead—they are simply at the mercy of the opposing characters.

Non-recurring antagonistic characters' fates should be left to the players. Depending on the narrative type of damage (slashing, stabbing, etc.) these minor characters may perish without aid.

Player Character Defeat

Any character that falls during battle gains **1 Limit**. Death is only at the choice of the Player, but if the entire party falls the Storyteller may impose a grand Complication onto their story.

Death and Dying

The death of any central characters to the story should be pivotal and moving to the story. Player Characters will only die on defeat if it is something the Player wishes for their character.

A dramatic moment of death is a perfect send-off and ending for one of the members of the Exalted.

Recurring Antagonist Defeat

If they are intended to be a recurring antagonist, they should always manage to get away, though suffering a major blow to their own plans—they will often be forced to retreat and lick their wounds.

If you force a retreat on these Antagonists, you must bribe your players each with a [Strife Point](#) as compensation.

Remember, though, that recurring antagonists can only be used so many times—eventually you will have to move to the Final Confrontation, where the fate of these antagonists should be placed into the Players' hands.

A armor and Weapons

All combat equipment in Exalted is divided into four categories: Light, Medium, Heavy, and of course Unarmed/No Armor.

A armor

The Category of Armor provides modifiers to the Soak or Evasion defenses (and ultimately to DV).

Armor		
	Soak Modifier	Evasion Modifier
No Armor	+0	+0
Light	-1	+1
Medium	+1	-1
Heavy	+2	-2

- **Light** armors are those that have been tailor made to aid in flexible movement—above and beyond what normal clothes will do. Typically, light armors will consist of padded gloves, tightly wound fabrics, and other cushions to assist in acrobatic movements.
- **Medium** and **Heavy** armors provide increasing Soak protection, but at the cost of more limited mobility. Most traditional armors, such as breastplates, chain shirts, and articulated plate fit into the Medium or Heavy Category

Weapons

The category of **Weapon** provides accuracy and base damage bonuses—the heavier the weapon, the more damage it does, but at the cost of accuracy.

Weapons also determine which Attribute is used during an Accuracy roll—whether it be focused more on Dexterity or Strength.

Weapons			
	Attribute	Accuracy	Base Damage
Unarmed	Dexterity or Strength	+0	+0
Light	Dexterity	+2	+0
Medium	Dexterity or Strength	+1	+1
Heavy	Strength	+0	+2

- **Unarmed** and **Medium** weapons can be effectively used by those who favor Dexterity or Strength.
- **Light** weapons rely only on fine, precise movements to find their targets, and so rely solely on Dexterity.
- **Heavy** weapons rely primarily on stable, graceful moves with a pendulous weight. Strength alone controls where the weapon goes.

Weapon Attributes

<<TODO>>

Weapons are associated with abilities, and a speciality of them. Swords is a speciality of Melee. Weapons can cross specialities and even abilities: a claymore can double as a Sword or Club. A Spear as a sword or a thrown weapon.

Artifacts

<<TODO>>

Artifacts combat equipment can get one of the following:

- +1 Soak or Evasion (no more than +2 total)
- +1 Accuracy
- +1 Damage.
- Use of non-standard Attribute or Ability

Projects

From waging a campaign to spreading a mercantile Guild to infiltrating and converting a spy network, to building a grand Manse, sometimes the Exalted want to do long-reaching, large-scale endeavors that are best handled through a broad-stroking brush.

All characters can perform projects, and the nature of the project is informed by their abilities. Social characters interact with masses of people to form networks; martial characters can train and inform troops; crafter characters can create tools, manses, artifacts.

Resources

Projects require a certain number of **Resources (RES)** to complete. This resource is a generalized representation of everything from labor, physical materials, knowledge, and the like that can be applied to the Project. Once applied to the project, RES is permanently consumed—while the labor force may still be there, perhaps payment toward them ran dry, or they can no longer delay tending to their crops.

Much like XP, The Storyteller should periodically award RES to the players. However, unlike XP, RES should be more based on events within the campaign, such as recovering materials from a lost manse, gaining the workforce of a thankful village, etc.

Keystone Resource

Larger and more ambitious projects will require certain Keystone to complete. This can range from needing a General to command an army to requiring a significant amount of *magical materials*, such as Orichalcum or Moonsilver.

Keystone Resources are things that Players must *seek out*, which may spawn scenes, or even an entire Story!

Converting Resources

Due to the generalized nature of Projects, the source of RES does not always match the application of them. It is simply assumed as part of the Project that RES is converted into the most applicable asset, based on a series of complicated trades and "off-screen" character activities: recovered gems could grease the eye of a noble, allowing for backroom deals that allow military training of civilians, for example. In general, this is all *assumed* to have happened, and does not need attention drawn to it.

In essence: RES is universally transitive.

One caveat is that the completion of a Project must be *possible*, given the time and circumstances of the characters. A militia cannot suddenly appear in the middle of the abandoned wilds simply because the player finally got enough RES after this session.

Pooling Resources

Players may freely transfer and give RES to other characters, should they so choose.

The Right Tool for the Job

[[You need to choose an ability you are working off of.

The project you are undertaking must be justified in what you are doing. You are socializing to make a spy network, crafting to outfit an army, doing a sorcerous working to raise manses.

Anything that doesn't match can't be done.]]

Gaining/Improving Merits

Projects can be a way for characters to gain or improve Merits. For example, the character might decide to recruit *Followers*, establish a network of *Contacts*, or make an *Artifact*.

Common Sense, and the Storyteller's approval, should be applied when gaining or improving a merit. People generally don't simply just grow *Extra Limbs* out of the blue...unless they are in the deepest recesses of the Wyld.

If a character is *improving* a Merit to a higher rating, they pay the *difference* in RES, Keystones, and time between the ratings. For example, improving *Contacts* from Rating 1 to Rating 2 would be the difference between a Minor and Basic Project: 4 RES and 6 days.

Obstruction Rolls

All projects, save Basic Projects, will have at least one Obstruction Roll. These are events that pop up during the Project that can potentially derail, complicate, or even aid in the project.

If a Project requires multiple Obstruction rolls, it should be spaced out roughly evenly across the lifespan of the project.

For each Obstruction Roll, the player should roll a single d10:

Roll 1d10	
	Result
10	Critical Success: Everything has seemingly clicked into place, providing an extra benefit.
7-9	Everything is proceeding exactly as planned.
4-6	An Oddity has developed and the Exalt's direct attention is requested.
2-3	Problem: Something of great import has happened, and requires your direct attention
1	Major Problem: The project is in <i>dire straits</i> , and will collapse if not attended to right now!

Critical Success

[[Examples of extra benefits that can happen]]

Oddities

Oddities are events that, while unexpected, are not directly harmful to the completion of the project. They could potentially be a boon, even, but require direct attention of the Exalt to resolve.

- Beastmen have heard of your militia, and wish to join. Current members are uneasy and do not wish them to without your input.
- Your cult desires a clarification on one of your rules: currently one of the members is in violation of the technical aspects of the law, but not the spirit.
- The magical materials to create your artifact were slightly flawed, leading to a variance in essence flow. It might lead to a new and unintended strange power.

Problems

Problems, if not dealt with, will set back the Project.

- A spy has not returned on time. You know they are not simply late.
- Loss of a minor cache of resources. A spirit has started to disrupt the village.
- An explosion rocked your campsite.
- Supply lines are being disrupted.
- Rumors of the Wyld hunt are near your border, but are unproven.

Major Problem

A Major Problem will derail the entire project if not dealt with.

- Your workers have split into two different groups, on the brink of a civil war.
- There seems to be an element inside your organization actively and effectively disrupting your society.
- One of the magical materials was corrupted with Vitriol, and has started to speak the demon-tongue of Malfeas.

Resolving Obstructions

Oddities and Problems can usually be handled with a short scene with the Player explaining how the character handles the situation.

Major Problems, on the other hand, usually take at least a full scene, and potentially an entire session to resolve.

Cost

The total **Cost** of a Project is equivalent to the Base cost, multiplied by the sum of any opposition.

You must have a base score in the related Ability to start a Project.

Project Scale				
Scale	Resource Cost	Obstruction Rolls	Required Ability Score	Affects Population
0	1	0	1	Hamlet
1	2	1	1	Village
2	5	1	2	Town
3	10	2	3	City
4	20 (1Key)	2	4	Prefecture
5	50 (2Key)	3	5	Province

Repairing, Altering, or Destroying Projects

Some Projects focus on altering an existing aspect of the world—such as repairing a great Manse or taking an existing network of people and converting them to work for you, or completely eradicating it altogether.

Since much of the work has been done already, these types of Projects will be *reduced in scale*, depending on the severity of the repairs or changes needed to be made.

Destruction of a Projects focuses more on doing so *safely*, and in a controlled manner.

- **Minor** (-2 to Scale). The repairs and/or changes needed to be made are significant enough to warrant attention, but will not consume the Character endlessly.
- **Major** (-1 to Scale). There is significant damage or resistance to your changes.
- **Monumental** (-0 to Scale). It would be the same amount of effort to repair and or alter the Project as it would be to create a new one from the ground up.

This cannot decrease the Scale below 0.

There's a Size 3 Assassin network the Eclipse Caste has recently become the leader of. Being a pacifist, he wants them to stop killing and convert into simply a network of Spys. There is enough internal resistance to this command that he must make a Minor Alteration Project (Base 3, -2) and so it becomes a Scale 1 Project.

Altering Owned Projects

You can't alter a Project if someone else *currently* owns it. You would first have to depose the current leader of a Spy Network and *then* take over the leaderless network as your own.

Opposing Modifiers

When making a change on the world, sometimes the world pushes back. Modifiers will multiply the Resource cost of the Project.

Opposition Modifiers are typically *active*

If there are any Powers or effects that modifies the Resource cost, first resolve those and *then* apply this multiplier.

x2 - Significant

- Results in a minor, but permanent supernatural force.
 - Crafting a well that supernaturally purifies water and is never empty.
- Change is *directly* opposed by powerful entities, ranging from mortal nations to other Exalted.
 - Getting a Spy network loyal to a Solar costs more in the Realm than it does the Hundred Kingdoms.

x4

- Results in a permanent, significant supernatural force.

- Something that will constantly mutate those it interacts with.
- Opposed by powerful forces, such as the Deep Wyld, Gods, or a High-Level Exalted.

Example Projects:

- Arming Militia
- Repairing a burned down village
- Establishing a spy network
- Repairing a manse
- Establishing trade
- Creating a manse

Universal Charms

Exalts, particularly new ones, will use their Essence to perform similar effects. These charms are therefore Universal to all Exalts.

While the manifestation and method of these powers will look different, the end result is the same. A Lunar might borrow the eyes of a falcon to see further, while an Air Dragonblood would create a focal lens out of the air—but they both would spend the same number of motes and end up with the same perception advantage.

Archery

There is No Wind

Cost: 2m;

Type: Supplemental

Mins: Archery or Thrown 1

The archer's bolts fly true and strong. Ignore any Disadvantages caused by environmental effects that would push or alter the trajectory of the projectile, such as high winds, rains, or even shooting through a waterfall.

Forceful Arrows

Cost: 2m

Type: Supplemental

Mins: Archery 2

On a successful hit, the target is knocked back one Range Band from the Archer.

Alternatively, the Exalt may choose to knock themselves backwards from their target by one Range Band.

Hunter's Swift Answer

Cost: 2m (+1m per)

Type: Reflexive

Mins: Archery 2

After successfully disengaging from melee, the Archer fires a returning blow on their pursuer, causing them to lose 5 Impulse. If they are fleeing from multiple pursuers, they may pay +1m per additional target.

Flying Anchor

Cost: 2m

Type: Supplemental

Mins: Archery 3

On Hit, the target becomes pinned, unable to move from their location for one Round.

Arrow Storm Technique

Cost: 3m, 1i

Type: Supplemental (Attack)

Mins: Archery 3

The Exalt buries an area with a flurry of arrows, making sure that at least one will hit. Their attack targets Soak instead of DV.

Dragonfly Finds Mate

Cost: --

Type: Permanent

Mins: Archery 3

The Exalt lets loose their weapon, knocking incoming projectiles out of the sky.

Against any Ranged attack, you may define DV as (Dexterity + Archery)/2. This may be used to Defend Others at range.

Greater Charms

Accuracy Without Distance

Cost: --

Type: Permanent

Mins: Archery 4

The Exalts Archery attacks know no bounds. They may now attack at Long Range and at Melee Range for no penalty.

Athletics

Graceful Crane Stance

Cost: 3m

Type: Reflexive, Scene

Mins: Athletics 1

The Exalt may perform athletics of balance such as running across things too narrow or weak to normally support the Exalt. Examples include awnings, precarious poles, and thin wires.

Soaring Leap

Cost: 2m

Type: Reflexive

Mins: Athletics 2

The Exalt increases their leaping distance, allowing them to cross chasms and scale buildings. They may effortlessly leap a single story vertically or horizontally in one bound, and may continue to vault upwards if there is some surface firm enough for their force.

In addition, Exalts do not take fall damage from such leaps, nor from descending from all but the tallest of buildings.

Lightning Speed

Cost: 3m

Type: Supplemental

Mins: Athletics 3

The Exalt may double their running speed for a specific task, blazing off with great abandon. For races and tests of speed, the Exalt may add (Essence) successes to their roll.

In combat, the character can Dash without Impulse cost or DV penalty.

Flashing Anticipation

Cost: --

Type: Permanent

Mins: Athletics 3

Adds (3) to the Initiative Score.

Greater Charms

Feather Foot Style

Cost: --

Type: Permanent

Mins: Athletics 4

The Exalt may run up walls, cross liquids, and even run across the underside of a horizontal surfaces, such as bridges or roofs, so long as they continue to run.

Rolling with the Punches.

Cost: (3m per Dmg.)

Type: Reflexive

Mins: Athletics 5

For every 3 motes spent, reduce incoming damage by 1 point, with no more than (Essence) damage reduced per single attack.

Awareness

Sight Without Eyes

Cost: 2m

Type: Reflexive; Scene

Mins: Awareness 1

Reduce any disadvantage from visual conditions such as smoke, fog, and darkness by up to (4) dice.

Awakening Eye

Cost: 3m

Type: Reflexive

Mins: Awareness 2

Re-roll an Initiative Roll, taking the preferred result. This may only be done once per combat.

Uncanny Perception Technique

Cost: --

Type: Permanent

Mins: Awareness 2

The presence of dematerialized, intangible, or otherwise spectral creatures may be natively detected—although the precise location still remains a mystery. The creature may attempt to use Stealth to combat this awareness.

This sense will manifest in all manner of strange sensory phenomena appropriate to the being: a chill of winter, coppery taste, or the sound of bells. As well, this sense is distinctive to the specific being, allowing for recognition upon sensing it again.

Surprise Anticipation Method

Cost: --

Type: Permanent

Mins: Awareness 3

The Exalt suffers no penalties to Awareness rolls occur due to being tired, exhausted, or other similar mental disadvantage. Awareness rolls may always be made while asleep.

In addition, the Exalt never suffers from the ill effects of an Ambush Round.

Inner Eye Focus

Cost: 4m

Type: Reflexive

Mins: Awareness 4

Re-roll an Awareness Roll, taking the preferred result. This cannot be performed on the same action multiple times.

Greater Charms

Sense-Destroying Method

Cost: 6m

Type: Simple

Mins: Awareness 4

On touching a target, and by successfully rolling (Wits + Awareness) vs the target's (Stamina + Physique), the Exalt can destroy one of the classical five senses at their choice. Only one sense of a target may be destroyed per scene.

Undoing this destruction is a Medicine Project of at least 10 PR. Most targets will not have this luxury.

Watchful Justiciar's Eye

Cost: 4m

Type: Simple; Scene

Mins: Awareness 4

By observing for an action, the Exalt can identify which characters of the scene are behaving outside what would be considered normal for the scene. They may also keep track of all characters and their actions, so long as they do not leave the place for more than a brief moment.

Ox-Stunning Blow

Cost: 3m

Type: Supplemental

Mins: Brawl 1

On a Brawl Attack Maneuver higher than the target's Soak, remove 2 + (Essence) Impulse from the target.

Sledgehammer Strike

Cost: 4m

Type: Supplemental

Mins: Brawl 2

On Feats of Strength, such as breaking through walls or destroying scenery, add (Essence)x2 dice. The Exalt is even able to damage walls made of magical materials, though must roll to do so.

Additionally, a Decisive Strikes against animate beings (such as Earth elementals and golems), add (3) dice to the Damage Roll.

Force-Delivering Blow

Cost: 2m

Type: Supplemental

Mins: Brawl 2

On a successful (Strength + Brawl) vs. DV Maneuver or Decisive Brawl Attack, knock the target back one range band.

Foe-Toppling Maneuver

Cost: 3m

Type: Supplemental

Mins: Brawl 3

On a successful Brawl Attack, destabilize their movements and footing causing them to be stunned and remove 4 Dice from the next action.

Craft

Workshop Without Bounds

Cost: --

Type: Permanent

Mins: Craft 1

In the hands of the Exalt, a simple rock can become as strong and resilient as a blacksmith's hammer, and a grand sword as nimble as a paring knife. The Exalt suffers no Disadvantages from improper or damaged tools.

There is a limit to this charm for extremely specialized tools, such as delicate changes to the flow of essence lines in an Artifact.

Durability-Enhancing Technique

Cost: 2m

Type: Simple; Scene

Mins: Craft 1

The Exalt may reinforce an object—no more than (Essence) meters in its largest dimension—and make it nigh unbreakable.

While reinforced, the object is no longer considered “mundane,” and increases the difficulty to break or otherwise destroy it by (Essence).

A Project may be performed to make this enhancement permanent.

Discerning Craftsmanship

Cost: 3m

Type: Simple

Mins: Craft 2

The Exalt studies an object, forming its composition and structure into their mind.

For the remainder of the story, the Exalt is granted +2 dice on efforts to mimic the style of the original artist. They also may use (Insight + Craft), with a +2 dice advantage to study other objects to recognize it as the crafter's work, and not a forgery.

If this current object they are studying is in *fact* a forgery, difficulty to recognize this fact is lowered by 1.

Deftly Applied Tools

Cost: 5m

Type: Supplemental

Mins: Craft 3

All things, with the proper study and analysis, may be approached without the need for brute force. During Feats of Strength, such as lifting, carrying, or destroying crafted materials, they may use (Wits + Craft) roll instead, gaining (Essence) immediate successes.

Crack-Mending Eye

Cost: --

Type: Permanent

Mins: Craft 3

Projects to repair, alter, or destroy crafted materials such as

Manses, Artifacts, and other such physical goods are now 1 scale lower. (i.e. Minor repairs now are at -3 to Scale, Major at -2, and Monumental at -1).

Mark of the Maker

Cost: 3m

Type: Simple

Mins: Craft 3

Glean immediate insight into the original purpose, material makeup, age, and other such information while studying a Crafted object. Often, you are able to glance into the very emotions of the original craftsman at the moment, seeing it in the handiwork of their creation.

Greater Charms

Timely Prototype

Cost: 5m

Type: Simple

Mins: Craft 4

On activation of this charm, the Exalt may immediately create a Craft Project prototype, such as an Artifact, for the task at hand. The Obstruction roll(s) are immediately resolved to represent flaws, quirks, or other oddities that develop from forcing a prototype into use so quickly and without testing. The prototype will always be able to perform the desired task, regardless of the rolls.

The Player may choose to go into Resource debt (up to 20 Res, 1 Keystone) to activate this charm.

Permanent Effect: On purchasing this charm, and again at the start of each Story, the Exalt gains an additional +15 Res, which may only be used only for Craft Projects.

Integrity

Enduring Mental Toughness

Cost: 3m

Type: Reflexive; Scene

Mins: Integrity 1

For the scene, remove any Disadvantages to Resolve or Guile caused by pain, illness, or other such physical anguish that the Exalt is enduring.

Integrity Protection Prana

Cost: --

Type: Permanent

Mins: Integrity 2

The Exalt is able to resist the ambient and intoxicating energies of the Wyld, and other such places of abundant swirling essence that seek to change and alter their body.

This does not protect against any *directed* effects, such as from a Fae, or any secondhand effect such as fire. As well, there is a limit to this protection in places of pure energy such as the deepest of the Wyld.

Heart-Hardening Response

Cost: 4m

Type: Reflexive

Mins: Integrity 3

Calls to pure emotion are easy to spot, and the Exalt has become trained to resist them. Against any Influence Intimacy rolls that employ emotion, raise the Exalt's Resolve by +(Essence).

Greater Charms

Righteous Lion Defense

Cost: --

Type: Permanent

Mins: Integrity 5

The Exalt becomes one with their own Intimacies, and instinctively knows when people are attempting to lead the Exalt to take action against them, no matter how sweet their words or naive their intention may be.

Additionally, if the Exalt ever finds themselves in an impossible situation where they would have to betray one of their Intimacies, they may spend a Strife Point, and they will find a new, seemingly impossible path that they will be able to successfully pursue.

Leadership

Rulership-Gazing Eye

Cost: 4m

Type: Simple

Mins: Leadership 1

With but a glance, the leader of a group can be immediately recognized if present, even if that leader is acting through a proxy. If they are not present, the Exalt recognizes this fact.

This charm immediately succeeds against any mundane group interaction, but otherwise requires a successful roll of Leadership vs. the leader's Guile.

Command-Breaking Stance

Cost: 4m

Type: Simple

Mins: Leadership 2

A skilled commander knows what brings drilled groups together, and what can break them apart.

The Exalt breaks up a group of Lesser Foes, causing their next action to be lost as they reform. This cannot be done to the same group twice in a row.

Direct Orders

Cost: 4m

Type: Reflexive

Mins: Leadership 2

The Exalt may take charge of a group of allied Lesser Foes, directing their action, and granting them +4 dice to follow through on that action (no more than 10 dice total).

Organization of Command

Cost: 4m

Type: Supplemental

Mins: Leadership 3

The Exalt may command across large groups with great ease. When commanding a Group to Perform a Task, the Exalt may counter the bonus Resolve gained from being in a Group.

Greater Charms

Fury Inciting Speech

Cost: 6m

Type: Simple

Mins: Leadership 4

The Exalt immediately Instills anger, rage, or a similar emotion into any mortal or sapient creature that can observe the Exalt with an Essence Rating less than their own.

Worshipful Lackey Acquisition

Cost: 8m

Type: Reflexive; Day

Mins: Leadership 5

After successfully completing an Encounter Scene with all Key Issues under their Party's Control, those who observed the scene become enthralled by the Exalt, willing to nearly anything.

Any who has a Resolve less than the Exalt's Essence gains a positive Intimacy towards the Exalt for the next day, and will perform any Inconvenient tasks when asked without the need of a roll.

Prophet-Uplifting Evocation

Cost: --

Type: Permanent

Mins: Leadership 5

You may now perform Projects to grant the Rank 4 [Endowment](#) Merit to those with significant ties to the character.

Rank 3 may now be granted to mortals without restriction.

Lore

Strange Tongue Communication

Cost: 4m
Type: Simple
Mins: Lore 1

Bypassing any language barriers, the Exalt can communicate a self-contained concept to the target. The concept may be moderately complicated, such as directions to a place.

Concept-Forming Thought

Cost: 3m
Type: Simple
Mins: Lore 2

The Exalt can manifest their ideas into a concise, easily-understandable format with no chance of misunderstanding.

Simple ideas and commands can be immediately transcribed onto a physical document and replicated. More complex thoughts, like entire toms, need to be transcribed over a course of a night.

Sagacious Reading of Intent

Cost: 3m
Type: Simple
Mins: Lore 2

After analyzing a written (or otherwise recorded) work, immediately glean insight into the writer's state of mind, general well-being, and motivations behind the writing. If they were trying to hide such matters, the character may roll (Insight + Lore) with +(Essence) bonus Dice against the author's Guile.

Endless Depths of Knowledge

Cost: --
Type: Permanent
Mins: Lore 3

Once per Session, Introduce a Fact related to one of the character's Specialties without using a Strife Point.

Flowing Mind Methodology

Cost: --
Type: Permanent
Mins: Lore 3

On purchasing this charm, designate a non-player character that has a significant connection to the Exalt, such as an Ally or a Ward.

Whenever the Exalt gains xp, the targeted character will keep pace, staying at around ½ of the total xp the Exalt has.

Greater Charms

Absence of Thought

Cost: 8m
Type: Simple
Mins: Lore 4

Sometimes, knowledge can be a burden. On touching a character, and on a successful (Int. + Lore) vs. Resolve roll, purge a thought, idea, or other-self contained concept from the target's mind.

This absence of knowledge is guaranteed for a Day, after which it may return based on the Storyteller's discretion.

Prophet of Seventeen Cycles

Cost: 8m
Type: Simple
Mins: Lore 4

Once a Session, the Player may introduce a complication into an antagonist's plans, plots, or ongoing Project. This operates under the same general principles of "Introducing a Fact:" the declaration must be self-consistent with what has been shown to operate in this world.

Melee

Bulwark Stance

Cost: 1m (+2m)

Type: Reflexive

Mins: Melee 2

You may Defend a target within Melee Range. The target may use your DV in place of their own.

At a cost of (2m), you may reflexively use your Move Action for the Round to move to defend another.

Dipping Swallow Defense

Cost: 3m

Type: Reflexive

Mins: Melee 2

Ignore any Disadvantages imposed on the Parry DV. (Targeting Evasion or Soak is not a penalty.)

One Weapon, Two Blows

Cost: (2m) per Impulse

Type: Supplemental

Mins: Melee 2

After a Decisive Attack, regain up to 2 + (Essence) Impulse spent on this attack, at a rate of 2m per Impulse regained.

Blow Deflecting Stance

Cost: --

Type: Permanent

Mins: Melee 3

The Exalt may parry any blows coming towards them. DV may be defined as (Dexterity + Melee)/2.

Iron Whirlwind Attack

Cost: 4m, 1i

Type: Supplemental (Flurry)

Mins: Melee 3

During a Flurry attack, deal +1 damage for each individual target, granting up to (Essence) x2 bonus.

If the target is a Group, instead add +(Group Scale) for damage. For example, a Crowd (Scale 3) grants +3.

Those hit by the attack are knocked back a range band.

Greater Charms

Perfect Strike

Cost: 4m

Type: Supplemental

Mins: Melee 4

Add (Essence) dice to accuracy, and deal an additional (Essence) damage on a Decisive Strike.

Iron Raptor

Cost: 4m

Type: Supplemental

Mins: Melee 4

The Exalt hurls their weapon, controlling it is action before it is returned to their hand. This allows an Attack at up to Medium Range.

Navigation

Master Maintainer

Cost: --

Type: Permanent

Mins: Navigation 1

No accidents, such as horseshoes falling off, ships springing leaks, or wheels falling off of wagons will happen under the Exalt's care, so long as the exalt is able to spend moments attending to their mode of transportation each day. Even the most shoddy of ships will hold together for a trip, or the sickliest of horses keep their breath.

Deliberate sabotage may be uncovered with a roll during the Exalt's maintenance.

Living off the Land

Cost: --

Type: Permanent

Mins: Navigation 1

The Exalt will always find enough food and water to survive during their travels. They may guarantee provisions for at least a Group of people during their travels, so long as the land is not barren or hostile to life (such as the Underworld and Malfeas.) The sustenance is not guaranteed to be palatable.

In places that are questionable, such as the deepest of deserts or Shadowlands, the Exalt may roll with no penalties.

Friendship with Animals

Cost: 3m

Type: Simple

Mins: Navigation 2

Animals may be calmed, so long as a mundane animal has no direct antagonism toward the Exalt, such as overwhelming hunger or protection of offspring. This will allow safe passage through a predator's territory, or docile approach to even the most skittish of herbivores.

Against semi-sapient creatures, such as Fogsharks, the Exalt gains (3) dice to their rolls.

Terrain Conquering Path

Cost: 4m

Type: Simple

Mins: Navigation 2

The rough terrain of the deepest of jungles and the maelstroms of oceans hold little sway over the Exalt. They may ignore such disadvantages on their Navigation rolls.

Unshakable Bloodhound Technique

Cost: 5m

Type: Simple

Mins: Navigation 2

With but the most minute signs, the Exalt may always track their quarry. In addition, they gain (3) dice if they have an item of significant link to their quarry.

Greater Charms

Sometimes Horses Fly

Cost: 2m

Type: Reflexive

Mins: Navigation 4

For an Action, the Exalt's mode of transportation is able to defy conventional movement. Horses can run across rushing rivers, ships barges across land, and wagons can sail across an empty canyon.

Traceless Passage

Cost: 6m

Type: Simple

Mins: Navigation 5

When purchasing this Charm, the Exalt chooses a favored terrain, such as city streets, jungle, desert wilderness, or river passages. The Exalt may disappear with up to a Crowd of followers into this terrain, leaving behind no trace or chance for pursuit.

In any other terrain, this charm may be activated to disguise their tracks, increasing the difficulty of any pursuit by (Essence).

Performance

Soul-Firing Performance

Cost: 2m

Type: Supplemental

Mins: Performance 1

On attempts to Instill Emotion, counter the bonus Resolve gained from being in a Group.

Phantom Scenery

Cost: 2m

Type: Supplemental; Scene

Mins: Performance 2

The Exalt may conjure scenery, props, or other phantoms as extensions of their anima, showing up as distorted, shadowy figures.

In typical application, such as on stage or during a performance, this magical flare does not arouse suspicion of the Exalt's nature. In other circumstances, the Exalt must use contested (Cunning + Performance) vs. (Insight + Awareness) to disguise this as a mundane effect.

Irresistible Diversion

Cost: 3m

Type: Supplemental; Scene

Mins: Performance 3

The performer can command attention to themselves, making sure that they and only they are noticed by onlookers with a successful Performance roll vs. Resolve.

Those entranced lose (Essence) successes on any awareness rolls while the performance is ongoing.

Dance of Flashing Swords

Cost: 4m

Type: Simple

Mins: Performance 3

After the fact, the Exalt can explain away that a particularly egregious action—a fight, explosion, or similar altercation—as an artistic performance with a successful Performance roll vs. Guile.

Greater Charms

Shining Expression Style

Cost: 5m

Type: Simple

Mins: Performance 4

The Exalt embodies a specific Emotion, folding it perfectly into their performance. All who watch are struck with the raw power of that emotion, and cannot help but resonate.

Any with a Resolve less than (Essence) will openly display their closest Intimacy to the emotion to all in the Scene. For the rest, the Exalt may discover the Intimacy with a (Insight + Performance) with + (Essence) extra dice, against the target's Guile.

The Exalt cannot direct the effects of this charm—any who observe their performance, even their own allies, will be struck by the effects.

Physique

Increasing Strength Exercise

Cost: 3m

Type: Simple; Scene

Mins: Physique 1

The Exalt may lift, carry, haul, or otherwise exert such feats of strength far beyond their mortal limits. They may double their Strength score for such rolls.

Visage of Force

Cost: 3m

Type: Reflexive

Mins: Physique 1

All who gaze upon the Exalt can see that their threats are not empty. On attempts to intimidate, threaten, or otherwise coerce another through physical means, you may reroll and choose which result to take.

Whirlwind Armor-Donning Prana

Cost: 1m

Type: Free

Mins: Physique 1

Don or remove armor with supernatural speed. The Armor may be instantly donned so long as it is within sight, or has been banished to Elsewhere.

Toxin Acclimation

Cost: 3m

Type: Reflexive; Scene

Mins: Physique 3

The Exalt resists any mundane toxin, poison, or psychotropic, and is granted +(3) dice to resist any supernatural version.

As well, they do not suffer ill-effects from mundane drink or other mundane recreational substances.

Greater Charms

Body-Mending Meditation

Cost: 6m

Type: Simple; Day

Mins: Physique 4

The Exalt speeds up their natural recovery, and may recover their full Endurance after a full night's sleep.

When unable to rest properly, they regain (Essence) Endurance every 15 minutes.

Durability of Oak

Cost: 3m

Type: Reflexive

Mins: Physique 4

The Exalt can withstand nearly any blow thrown at them. Against a Decisive Strike, reduce incoming damage by (Essence).

Politics

Hat and Scroll Technique

Cost: 4m

Type: Simple; Scene

Mins: Politics 1

The Exalt takes on the appearance of a haggard and busy individual of an organization, quickly integrating themselves and a small group of followers into the hustle and bustle. So long as none in the group call attention to themselves, their presences is accepted and not questioned.

Speed the Wheels

Cost: 5m

Type: Simple; Month

Mins: Politics 2

Cutting efficiently through red tape and other impediments, the Exalt may speed the machinations of an organization. They will double their speed on a particular task for one month.

Alternatively, the Exalt may jam up the organization with some well placed words, slowing down a task by ½ of its original pace.

Unknowable Visage

Cost: --

Type: Permanent

Mins: Politics 3

Through vast experience, the deft Politician knows exactly how to disarm and dismiss probing questions. They may define Guile as (Int + Politics)/2.

As well, their political actions always keep opponents guessing. If an opponent attempts to “Read Intentions” after performing a Political action, gain +(Essence) to their Guile.

Testing the Waters

Cost: 3m

Type: Simple

Mins: Politics 3

Studying the actions of those in a court, the Exalt may quickly predict what future Political action the subject will embark on, ranging from how they will vote, to whom they will speak with next.

Perform a Politics vs. Guile roll. On a success, the Player may perform a “Read Intentions” act on the subject to ask a question regarding their target’s current *intended* political action.

Greater Charms

Foul Air of Argument Technique

Cost: 8m

Type: Simple; (Essence) Weeks

Mins: Politics 4

The Exalt knows that a few well placed words are all it takes to crash the trust of an organization. Exploit the weaknesses of a regional organization, or a local charter. For the next (Essence) weeks, that organization becomes mired in in-fighting, red-tape, and miscommunication. All overt actions cease in the organization, trapped on the course it was already headed on.

Only one target may be so influenced at a time, and the same target cannot be affected more than once a Season.

Prematurely repairing the damage done by this charm is a 5 Res Project.

Infinitely-Efficient Registrar

Cost: 10m

Type: Simple

Mins: Politics 5

Immediately push a friendly and cooperative organization to finish a task of monumental proportions. What normally takes months to complete takes but hours.

This charm may be used to force a Politics Project to immediately complete. The Obstruction roll(s) of the Project are immediately resolved and interpreted in this light.

The Player may go into resource debt (up to 20 Res, 1 Keystone) if using this on a Project.

Socialize

Excellent Friend Approach

Cost: --

Type: Permanent

Mins: Socialize 1

The charms of the Exalt are hard to resist. So long as there is no specific reason against it, Mortals and beings with Essence lower than the Exalt's will be friendly and cordial to them, even if they have just met.

Dauntless Assayer Method

Cost: 3m

Type: Reflexive

Mins: Socialize 2

The Exalt, on failing a Read Intentions roll, may try their roll again. The Player must describe a small action that allows for a new roll, from spilling a drink, readjusting their observing position, or simply clearing their mind.

Easily-Discarded Presence

Cost: 2m

Type: Reflexive; Scene

Mins: Socialize 2

It is easy to make people believe what they want to see. On activating this charm, the Exalt specifies a false Intimacy or intent, which is seen as truth to any who fails a "Read Intention" action against the Exalt.

Discretionary Gesture

Cost: 3m

Type: Reflexive

Mins: Socialize 2

A chain is only as strong as its weakest link—a fact known by any in the socialite circles. Through subtle (and not-so subtle) means, the Exalt can interrupt an interrogation of one of their compatriots, using the Exalt's Guile in place of their own.

Irresistible Salesman Spirit

Cost: 4m

Type: Simple; Day

Mins: Socialize 3

On a successful Socialize roll, instill a near-obsession level of fascination, idea, or desire for a product in the target—so long as it does not conflict with an existing Intimacy.

For a day, the target(s) gain an Intimacy towards the specified product, and will attempt to pursue it, potentially leaving their posts or other aspects of their life temporarily behind.

Greater Charms

Heart-Eclipsing Shroud

Cost: 6m

Type: Simple; Scene

Mins: Socialize 4

The Exalt takes on a perfected persona, with its own intimacies, deeply-held beliefs, intentions, and past. Any attempts to Read Intentions, or otherwise divine the Exalt's personality will return the Persona's, instead of the Exalt's.

However, the Exalt must reinforce this persona through their actions during the scene—including being influenced by their false Intimacies. If they do not, or if their crafted history is revealed to be a sham, the persona falls apart and a new one cannot be entered into during the Scene.

Crafting a new Persona is an extended action, taking a few hours to perform.

Effective Counterargument

Cost: 6m

Type: Reflexive

Mins: Socialize 5

Once per scene, the Exalt may interrupt an other's action to cajole, sway, or otherwise persuade a target, rolling their own Socialize roll with +(Essence) extra dice.

So long as the Exalt's roll is greater than the opponent's, the target and those with similar mindset will gain a negative Intimacy towards the original argument.

Stealth

Blurred Form Style

Cost: 2m

Type: Reflexive

Mins: Stealth 1

The Exalt may sink into hiding, even in the middle of an open field. The suffer no penalties from a lack of cover or items to hide behind.

Lightning-Hand Sleight

Cost: 3m

Type: Reflexive

Mins: Stealth 2

The Exalt is unseen in their movements, and may reach out and swap, change, or tamper with anything that is within reach without anyone noticing, so long as the alteration is smaller than the hand.

So long as the item is not directly used, this alteration will not be noticed for at least (Essence) hours.

Magpie's Invisible Talon

Cost: 3m

Type: Supplemental

Mins: Stealth 2

Extending their Essence, the Exalt is able to manipulate objects at a distance of up to (Essence) meters away.

Easily-Overlooked Presence

Cost: 3m

Type: Reflexive

Mins: Stealth 2

The Exalt easily blends into a crowd, becoming impossible to pick out from a sea of faces. So long as the Exalt takes no distinct or overt action and stays with the same crowd of people, they cannot be found by anything except for systematic checking of each individual.

Lock-Opening Touch

Cost: 5m

Type: Reflexive

Mins: Stealth 3

Gain +(Essence) automatic successes on any attempts to open a lock, knot, gate, or other contraption used to bar people's way.

Greater Charms

Shadow Victor's Repose

Cost: 6m

Type: Reflexive

Mins: Stealth 4

After landing a successful Decisive Attack, the Exalt disappears into the shadows, becoming hidden from all sight. All opponents must roll (Wits + Awareness) vs the Exalt's (Cunning + Stealth), or else lose track of the Exalt's position.

Shadow-Crossing Leap

Cost: 6m

Type: Reflexive

Mins: Stealth 5

The Exalt may cross a threshold without disturbing anything between the two locations. They need not set a foot down, nor do they trip any wires, disturb dust, or even alter the air with their passing. Doors and windows remain shut, as though they had not passed through them.

Only solid walls without any opening may halt their passage from one location to the next.

Subterfuge

Mimicry of Form

Cost: 3m

Type: Simple; Week

Mins: Subterfuge 1

After studying a mannerism of a target for a short time, such as handwriting, voice, or even walking pattern, the Exalt may replicate it as needed for a week, gaining (4) additional dice to do so.

Hidden Meaning

Cost: 3m

Type: Supplemental

Mins: Subterfuge 2

The Exalt hides their true meaning in inflections, allusions, and other roundabout ways of speaking, writing, or other methods of communication.

The intended contact will be the only one who can divine the true meaning of the conversation, but others may make a contested roll (Cunning + Awareness) vs. the Exalt's (Cunning + Lore) to notice that there is a coded message.

False Pursuit

Cost: 4m

Type: Simple; Scene

Mins: Subterfuge 3

On a successful (Charisma + Deception) roll against the Guile of a target, they become convinced that an ultimately benign or small point of the Scene holds great value to their current goal. For example, they may be convinced that the blades used murder are made of a special composition, which is a keystone to their case, despite the blades being only slightly out of normal make.

Greater Charms

Flashing Quill Atemi

Cost: 4m

Type: Simple

Mins: Subterfuge 4

With just a short moment in possession of a written text, the Exalt may insert, expunge, or replace words as they see fit. No mundane means or mortal characters will be able decipher the difference between the altered content.

An Exalt, God, or other creature of power must successfully contest the Guile of the forging Exalt to notice that the document has been altered at all—let alone what specifically has been altered.

Mind-Wiping Gaze

Cost: 6m

Type: Reflexive; Scene

Mins: Subterfuge 5

The Exalt pierces the target with a gaze that penetrates the very soul, extinguishing the flame of memories.

Interrupt a target taking a Social Influence action, or who is attempting to communicate in a way. On a successful Deception vs. Guile roll, the target loses their thoughts and memories regarding their action and immediately fails on their action. In addition, they cannot remember to pick the task up again until after the scene.

The given target may only be affected by this once per scene.

Thrown

Flashing Draw Mastery

Cost: 3m

Type: Free (Supplemental)

Mins: Thrown 1

Pull all weapons thrown by the Exalt back to themselves, so long as a possible path still exists. This charm may be used Supplemental to an attack to perform a thrown attack from an unexpected angle.

Angle-Tracing Edge

Cost: 2m

Type: Supplemental

Mins: Thrown 1

With perfect control, the Exalt lets loose a Thrown Attack that performs a perfect set of ricochets to reach its target, diminishing the target's Cover. Those in Full Cover only gain Partial Defense, while those in any less find their cover becoming meaningless.

Cascade of Cutting Terror

Cost: 5m

Type: Supplemental

Mins: Thrown 2

When making a Flurry Decisive attack, add +1 Damage per target. Groups grant +1 per Size scale.

Fan of Blades

Cost: 5m

Type: Supplemental

Mins: Thrown 3

The Exalt spreads out a hundred blades, ensuring that at least one will hit. They may target Soak instead of DV on their Thrown attack.

Greater Charms

Joint-Wounding Attack

Cost: 4m

Type: Supplemental

Mins: Thrown 4

On a successful Decisive Attack that deals at least 3 points of damage, disable a limb of the target for 3 rounds, or inflict a Physical Wound.

Sorcery And Necromancy

Sorcery is the complex manipulation and control of the flows of Essence of the world, rather than their internal flows. Instead of Charms, Sorcery relies on ritualistic, exact recantations called Spells and Thaumaturgies to enact the power upon the world.

Sorcery is split into **Three Circles**, the first being the lowest. Each tradition and tutor will have a different name for the circle, although the most widely known is **Emerald, Sapphire, and Adamant**, respectively.

Dynasts and Sorcery

It is known that Dragonblooded do not reach past the First Circle: that power is corruptive, created by the Anathema to tempt and trap those that seek power for the sake of power--save for the pure and righteous Empress herself.

So says the Immaculate philosophy.

But there is no such declaration. Careful Monks, when reviewing the passages so often quoted as proof, will find it lacking. Proper historical context and translations from Old Realm will unravel this as an "incorrect surface level reading."

Perpetually, there will be a champion who takes on the mantle to correct this, to pull up this noxious weed that has grafted itself to the Immaculate Order. But so far, they have all been silenced.

For now, those very few who manage to reach the Second Circle do so in secret, hiding in dark corners of the Realm.

Necromancy

The art of Necromancy was stolen from the Void, and has become a part of Sorcery--much to the ire and horror of many Sorcerous Practitioners.

Initiation into either Sorcery or Necromancy will qualify the user to both.

The Rules of Necromancy are the same as Sorcery. For convenience, the rules will simply state "Sorcerer" instead of "Sorcerer or Necromancer".

Casting Spells

Spells, unlike charms, pull their magic from the precise manipulation and twisting of the laws of reality to the Sorcerer's will. The Sorcerer's expenditure of Motes is a way to speed up their Casting --a Sorcerer without a mote pool would be required to take days or months to prepare and cast even the First Circle of Spells--if at all.

In order to purchase Spells, a character must first be Initiated into the respective circle.

Moteless Casting

There are alternate ways to cast Spells, whether it be through purpose built Wonders, long, elaborate rituals, or even

physically rearranging the Essence lines of Creation itself.

Practically speaking, none of these methods can or will be used by Player Characters--Sorcerous Motes are faster and easier in every way--but it can be an interesting narrative tool for a crafty Storyteller.

Sorcerous Motes

Sorcerous Spells relies on the manipulation and alteration of the world's energies around them, rather than the internal expression of power that Charms are.

Shaping a spell is therefore represented by **Sorcerous Motes (sm)**, which represent the usage of external Essence to twist and conjure the mechanics of the world into the shapes needed for the Spell.

Sorcerous Motes follow much the same rules as normal motes—they may be pulled from the Personal or Peripheral Mote pools at choice

The difference is that using Sorcery is *not instantaneous*. There is a distinct passage of time from starting a spell to casting and releasing it unto the world.

This means that characters, on noticing that a Spell is starting to be cast, will have the chance to react before the Spell has finished. In scenes, (such as an Encounter), this is two Actions: one to Shape the spell, the next to release it.

As a note: Sorcerous Motes are unique to the very spell they are being shaped for. It is not possible to start "Shaping Motes" for a generic spell and switch which spell is released.

Combat Casting

Casting in Combat requires a bit more granularity, and is handled through the Special Maneuver called **Shape Motes**, and then the Decisive action of **Cast Spell**.

Shape Motes

Roll (Intelligence + Sorcery). You may shape up to that number of your Motes into Spell's Sorcerous Motes.

Shaping Motes is a messy affair, the force required to twist the flows of the world will often cast off essence into the world—a talented Sorcery will know how to use these sparks of sorcery to perform Stunt Maneuvers.

Cast Spell

Once all Sorcerous Motes of the Spell have been gathered, the Sorcery may take the Decisive Action to Cast the Spell, as according to its Spell description.

Countermagic

Once a Spell has been cast, it is incredibly difficult to undo, requiring a **Project**.

- **First Circle**

2 RES

- **Second Circle** 5 RES
- **Third Circle** 10 RES

All Spells, once unraveled, have a chance of their discarded magics being cast aside in wild effects. A single **Challenge Roll** should be performed for the unraveling to see if a side-effect occurs.

Initiations

While all Exalts *can* become Sorcerers, it does not come naturally to them. They must first be **Initiated** into the mysteries of the world by creatures of power, or life-changing events. Their link to power becomes their guide through all three circles throughout their life—swapping tutors is unheard of.

While it is almost always the case, the Master teaching and Initiating their pupil does not need to be of the Circle the student is being inducted into—they don't even necessarily have to be a sorcerer themselves.

The First Circle Sorcery can be learned at Essence 0. While extremely rare, there are even known Mortals who have become Sorcerers.

The Second Circle Sorcery requires Essence 3, and the Third Circle of Sorcery requires Essence 5, in almost all cases.

Each Circle Initiation grants a (N/A) Merit that allows the Sorcerer to learn the respective Circle of Spells, along with another effect that has been derived from their source of Power.

(Mortals – Initiation (1)--thaumaturgy)

(1st Level – Initiation (3))

(2nd – Initiation (4))

(3rd – Initiation (5))

Initiation Tasks

The Laws of Sorcery written into the world dictate that each **Initiation** must be accompanied by a **Task**. The Masters inducting their students are required to have this minimum during an induction. Often, the Master will concoct their own tests and preparations for the **Task**, as failing the higher-circle Task may bring doom and destruction on all.

The **First Circle Task** is fairly simple: the student must seek out and be selected for Induction into Sorcery.

The **Second Circle Task** requires the student to be **Essence 3**, and will result in them suffering the equivalent of a **Major Drawback**--a repercussion that will be felt across multiple scenes, if not the character's entire life.

The **Third Circle Task** requires the student to be **Essence 5**, and will result in a permanent change in the character.

Raksi and the Third Circle

By all accounts, Raksi should be a Third Circle Sorcerer—and yet she is not.

She has not completed her Third Circle Initiation. Whatever her third Task was, she has refused to complete it. Instead she chooses to rail against the task, seeking desperately another way.

Sidereals and Sorcery

Sidereals have the time, resources, and training available to them to become highly skilled Sorcerers—and many of them pursue this path quite readily.

However, while Sorcery is a part of the workings of Creation, The Second and *especially* the Third Circle Spells are rather rough on the Loom of Fate. More often than not, these overt, flashy, and incredibly disruptive actions run counter to all of Sidereal methodology.

For this reason the Sidereal Host, particularly the Bronze Faction, encourages Sidereals to always try a Fate-Based solution first, and discourage new Sidereals from advancing up the circles “before they are ready for the responsibility.”

Sources of Sorcery

[[Possible sources of Sorcery. Not exhaustive]]

Pact with Ifrit Lord

One of the Lords of fire has granted you power, breathing a shard of themselves into your body.

First Circle (Kindled)

While casting, the skin of the Sorcerer becomes glowing hot, burning with their inner fire. Crackling rivulets trace along like flames across their skin.

Second Circle (Ignited)

Fire comes naturally to the Ignited.

The Sorcerer gains a +1 defense against all natural Fire damage, and finds little trouble breathing in smoke-filled rooms.

Third Circle (Firestorm)

[...]

Chosen by the Salinian Working

The First Age Sorcerers feared that their knowledge and practices would be lost to the ages, and so bound it into the fabric of reality so tightly that it has become indistinguishable.

This process will select and teach those it chooses, according to those arcane rules written so long ago and lost to time.

The Salinian Working will appear in a way that represents knowledge to its potential Student: it may be a book that writes itself or the whispering of the winds.

First Circle (Emerald)
Second Circle (Sapphire)
Third Circle (Adamant)

Heptagram Study

The Heptagram trains Dragonbloods in the First Circle, and warns of the Second and Third Circles. They often do not differentiate the “Anathematic” levels.

Ancient, old texts untouched by generations since the Shogunate call these Celestial and Solar Levels.

First Circle (Terrestrial)
Second Circle (Celestial [Anathematic])
Third Circle (Solar [Anathematic])

By additionally expending 3 *personal* motes, the Exalt may reduce the anima flare caused by a casting by one level.

Spells

Tiered Spells of Sorcery

[[Need to decide how the xp cost on this works]]

Summon Demon

Summon Demon need only be purchased once as a spell, but may be used to summon greater demons as the Sorcerer becomes initiated into higher circles.

First Circle Summoning

Cost: 8sm; Ritual

Mins: Sorcery 1

Summoning of the First Circle demons must be done with a demon's name class (such as "Blood Ape Pack"), and is a ritual lasting 1 hour, ending at the moment of sundown.

A demon of the First Circle is summoned and bound to a particular task. The Sorcerer must make a deal with the bound demon for this task, suffering the equivalent of a **Minor Complication** as a way to bargain with the Demon, otherwise it will return back to whence it came.

In return, the Sorcerer tasks the Demon with a change worth **2 RES** or less, which they will do for at most one Month. Anything from "digging a tunnel" to "Entertain guests." However, summoning does not inherently grant the demon the ability to *do* such things.

The Sorcerer cannot have more than (Essence)x2 active Summoned Demons (or groups of demons) at a time.

Demons, once their agreement has been made, will follow both the spirit and the letter of their binding. Additionally, they are bound to not harm their Summoner. In other words, demons can be assumed to be loyal to their summoner and are generally not interested in trying to creatively break out of the bindings.

However, Demons should always be considered to be *alien* in mind, not understanding much of how mortals and their summoner think. A Blood Ape will not think twice about instantly choosing to murder someone instead of politely shooing them away, were the Sorcerer to ask them to "prevent people from disturbing me".

Second Circle Summoning

Cost: 12sm; Ritual

Mins: Sorcery 3

Once inducted into the Second Circle of Sorcery, the Sorcerer may summon Second Circle Demons. This may only be done on the night of the New Moon.

Second Circle Demons may make changes up to **5 RES** upon the world.

Second Circle Demons must be bargained with a task that will cause the summoner to take a **Moderate Complication**. If failed or refused, the Second Circle Demon often return peacefully

from whence they came, but the more belligerent may try to break their summoning bonds and even attack the Sorcerer.

The Sorcerer may have only (Essence) Second Circle Demons (or pack of demons) summoned at a time.

Third Circle Summoning

Cost: 15sm; Ritual

Mins: Sorcery 5

Once inducted into the Third Circle of Sorcery, the greatest demons may be summoned, though this may be done only on the first night of Calibration, which comes once a year.

Third Circle Demons may make vast and wide-ranging changes to the world, up to **15 RES** in scale.

Bargaining with a Third Circle Demon requires a **Major Complication**. To fail or refuse is to let the demon free for the remaining four nights of Calibration, a disaster in the making.

Only 1 Third Circle Demon can be summoned at a time.

First Circle of Sorcery

Coin of Distant Vision

Cost: 5sm

Mins: Sorcery 1

When learning this Spell, the Sorcerer coalesces their flows of essence around a shard of obsidian, entwining their senses with it, regardless of its distance.

The Sorcerer may choose to peer their the obsidian shard as though it were their own senses. If the shard is in a small container, such as a pocket or pouch, they may sense beyond with a (-2) disadvantage.

The Sorcerer may remotely disentangle their sense from the obsidian shard as a Secondary Action. This will require them to craft a new connection to a new shard, which typically takes an evening to do. Only one shard may be used at a time.

Corrupted Words

Cost: 5sm; **Mins:** Sorcery 2

Duration: One Year

The Sorcerer coalesces a mass of all taboo words and topics into a small egg-shaped mass in their hands, and whispers into it a new topic that shall be bound with its unspoken peers. This could be something as specific as "Secret Letters you will write to me" or as general as "The Existence of the Sidereal Exalted."

On a successful (Intelligence + Sorcery) roll vs. Resolve a target, and while close enough to physically do so, the Sorcerer may force this ball of unspoken words down the throat of the target, binding their words on the now taboo topic.

The now bound words will become impossible for the target to communicate to another being--be it through words, written letters, or any other such method. Attempting to do so will cause a vision of a mass of writhing, repulsive maggots (or whatever else the target finds repulsive) crawling from their mouth.

The Sorcerer may affect no more than (Essence) targets with this spell at a time, and may choose to discontinue their charges at will.

Theft of Memory

Cost: 5sm; **Mins:** Sorcery 2

Duration: Indefinite

Focusing on a specific, known memory, the Sorcerer makes a (Wits + Sorcery) roll vs the Target's Guile.

If successful, they place a pure-cut emerald (Resources 2) on the forehead of their target, and siphon the memory away into the gem. The target may no longer relive the memory. Anyone with the gem may spend 1m, clasp it to their forehead and relive it.

The Sorcerer, casting this spell again, may pull the memory out of the emerald, where it will return back to its original owner.

Martial Arts

Martial Arts Styles are widely found across creation, with mortal, God-blooded, Spirit, Demon, and Exalted practitioners alike. For mortal practitioners, the motions of the Techniques are taught as a manner of self discipline and motion, as they are often unable to press the Motes required to activate its true effects.

Only one Martial Arts Style may be active at a time, and only Techniques from that Style may be used during the same action. (i.e. Combos cannot contain Techniques from multiple Styles..) Characters may switch their Style and their Weapons at the start of their action as a free movement.

Techniques, unlike other Powers, **must be bought in the order they are presented in.**

Form Weapons and Armor

As well, Martial Arts are restricted by what sorts of **weapons** and **armor** the Stylist uses—after all, it would be all but impossible to take the light, dancing maneuvers of Snake Style in Heavy Plate!

When using multiple styles, Stylist may start to use an array of weapons. The **Switch Style** Secondary Action allows for this quick changeover, so long as both weapons are within easy reach of the character.

Alternatively, the Stylist may begin **creating new types of weapons**. If they have two styles, one that calls for Thrown (disks), and the other Melee (swords), they may decide that a *bladed chakram* is exactly what they need.

Weapons

[[Need to give a listing of example weapons types. These will be used for Attack Ability Specialties...

Melee

- Swords (All bladed-type weapons)
- Clubs (All Blunt-type weapons)
- Staff
- Note how “Spears” is a Staff with a blade, that can also be thrown like a Javelin.
- Throwing Disks (Chakram, shields)]]

Weapons Master

Some Exalts may choose to forgo a Martial Arts Style altogether, instead turning their attention to perfecting their natural fighting style.

They may choose **one** of the following:

- +1 Evasion
- +1 Soak
- +1 Accuracy
- +1 Base Damage

The “Weapon Master” perk can only be purchased if the Exalt

has not bought a specific Martial Art—it is in effect a proto-Martial Arts. Xp is refunded if a Martial Arts style is purchased.

Snake Style

Abilities	Brawl, Dodge
Weapons	Unarmed, Needles
Armor	Unarmored, Light
Range	Melee

Snake stylists use quick, precise strikes, disrupting Chakras and the flow of their targets motions. As well, they prey on those that are slower than them. Masters can even deliver paralyzing poisonous Essence through their fingertips, or through specialized hollow hand needles.

The Stylist gains **+1 Evasion**. Anytime they Strike a character who has not acted yet this round, they also gain **+1 Accuracy**.

Hand Needles

Hand Needles are specialized equipment made specifically for practitioners of this Style. They are finger-length hollow needles, typically made of strengthened glass, wood, or obsidian, that allow for quick piercing strikes. Trainees often use harmless chopsticks as their practice weapons.

Armor-Penetrating Fang

Cost: 2m, 1i
Type: Supplemental
Mins: Brawl 2

The Stylist knows how to precisely strike to deliver their devastating results, whether it be between joints in armor or in targeted weak spots.. Their attack targets Evasion.

Crippling Pressure-Point Strike

Cost: 3m, 1i
Type: Supplemental
Mins: Brawl 3

On a successful Decisive Strike, the Stylist rapidly jabs at their Target's nerve clusters and pressure points, numbing and deadening portions of their target's body.

Do not add **Base Damage** to the Damage Roll. Instead, paralyze one limb of the target, blind one of the senses, or deliver a Physical Wound.

Rhythm-Interrupting Venom

Cost: 3m
Type: Supplemental
Mins: Brawl 3

On Hit, the Stylist disrupts the momentum and motions of their target, instantly reducing the target's Initiative by 2.

Greater Techniques

Countless Coils Evasion

Cost: (2m and 1i per 1 damage); **Mins:** Brawl 4
Type: Reflexive
Duration: Instant

On being hit by a Decisive Strike, the Stylist may react with startling speed, deflecting and shunting part of the damage. For every 2 Motes and 1 Initiative spent, the Stylist may reduce the amount of incoming damage by 1. They may reduce up to (Essence)x2 damage this way from one attack.

Should the Stylist reduce the incoming damage to 0, the attack is considered to not have hit in the first place.

Essence Venom Strike

Cost: 6m, 3i; **Mins:** Brawl 5
Type: Simple
Duration: Instant

The Stylist strikes out, making an immediate Contested Roll of their (Dexterity + Brawl) against the target's Evasion. Should the Stylist succeed, the target becomes poisoned with vile Essence.

For the Stylist's (Essence) rounds, the Target suffers 2 Damage, and is considered to be at a -2 DV penalty when attacked by the Stylist.

As well, for the remainder of the scene, the target is always considered to have "not acted this round" for the purposes of Snake Style bonuses.

Tiger Style

Abilities	Brawl, Athletics
Weapons	Unarmed, Light, Medium
Armor	Unarmored, Light

Tiger Stylists focus on a low-centered, wide stances, which provides both incredible balance and flexibility in their motions. Their actions are fluid and active, using their entire body in their motion full of rolls, kicks, and extensive footwork. It is not uncommon for Tiger Stylists to use the environment to their advantage, leaping off of walls and rafters in a ravaging pounce.

While in Tiger Style form, the Stylist is immune to any disadvantage from unsteady ground or being prone to attack: they may use their entire body in their strikes. As well, their attacks are vicious and carry with them the momentum, providing **+1 to Base Damage**.

Retreating Momentum

Cost: 2m
Type: Reflexive
Mins: Brawl 2, Athletics 1

On an incoming attack, the Stylist whirls around to defend themselves, enhancing their defenses with their motion. They increase both their DV by 3, but must surrender their current position by immediately taking a Move Action away from the attacker. This consumes their next Secondary Action.

Crimson Leaping Cat

Cost: 4m, 1i
Type: Simple
Mins: Brawl 2, Athletics 1

The Stylists leaps onto their target, stunning them and halting their target's movement.

Make a (Dexterity + Athletics) roll against the target's Evasion, if successful, the target cannot move from their position for (Essence) Rounds.

Prey-Maiming Frenzy

Cost: 4m, 1i
Type: Supplementary
Mins: Brawl 3, Athletics 2

Against a stunned, paralyzed, or otherwise forcefully stationary target, the Stylist may make frenzied, brutal strikes, increasing their Base Damage by +2.

Greater Techniques

Bone-Shattering Bite

Cost: 8m, 2i
Type: Reflexive
Mins: Brawl 4, Athletics 3

After delivering a successful Decisive attack that deals at least 3 points of damage after all calculations have finished, the Stylists may inflict a Wound on the Physical Attributes, or disable one of the target's limbs. Healing this damage after a combat is often a long and arduous process, often requires bones to be set.

Angry Predator Frenzy

Cost: --
Type: Permanent
Mins: Brawl 5, Athletics 4

The apex Predator stalks the jungle. While in Tiger Style Form, the Stylist permanently adds an additional (Strength)/2 to their Base Damage.

As well, whenever the Stylist attacks a stunned, paralyzed, or otherwise forcefully stationary target, they may add an additional +2 damage.

Gale of the Siroccan Wastes

Abilities	Performance, Melee or Thrown
Weapons	Melee (Swords) or Thrown (Chakram)
Armor	Unarmored

Practitioners of the style gain +1 Evasion. As a Free Action, they may transfer their own Impulse to an ally.

Their movements across the battlefield are ones of grace and beauty, quickly followed by great and terrible blows.

Long ago in the Great Siroccan Wastes, voices of slaves cried out into the winds of the sands in anguish.

Instead of carrying the voices afar as they had done so many times before, the Inescapable Winds themselves listened to the anguish of the mortals and became enraged, rushing down from the dunes in a glorious storm.

In this moment, the truths of the southern winds were imparted to these mortals, and the slaves learned to harness the deadly winds to their advantage.

The style formed around it, hidden in a beautiful and entrancing dance, the grace and poise belying the strength and danger behind every move. With it, the Slaves struck down their cruel master, and its practitioners have vowed to come to all who are so oppressed, inescapable in its message.

Performer's Grace

Cost: 1m

Type: Reflexive

Mins: Performance 1

The Practitioner gains (Performance)/2 dice on Athletics checks during a combat scene, and may always do so to counter environmental hazards such as unsteady terrain.

Distracting Performance

Cost: 2m; 1i

Type: Supplemental

Mins: Performance 2

The Practitioner's movements commands the attention of others, slowing and confusing their movements while at the same time positioning themselves to their death.

On a Performance Maneuver, all enemies with a Resolve less than the number of successes and who can see the Dancer, lose 3 Impulse. The Practitioner then gains that Impulse, up to a maximum of (Performance) per Round.

Dancer's Reach

Cost: 3m, 2i

Type: Supplemental

Mins: Performance 3, Melee 2 or Thrown 2

The movements of the Dancer are unpredictable on the battlefield, allowing the practitioner to move in and out of standard movements before their opponent can catch up.

Attacks made with Melee may be done at Short Range, while attacks made with Thrown may be done at Close at no penalty.

Greater Technique

Blade Dance

Cost: 8m

Type: Simple; Scene

Mins: Melee 1

You control the area surrounding you, a dangerous dance of death that lasts through the scene.

Starting with this action, anytime an enemy passes through Short Range they lose 2 Impulse, which you gain.

Octarine Angles of Impossibility

Based on [Omicron's 2e version](#)

Abilities Lore, Sorcery
Weapons Unarmed
Armor None

The Octarine Angles of Impossibility style delves into the concepts of *nothing*, that which cannot exist in reality.

The Stylist is able to space and compress it in a sheering manner around enemies, which is considered a **Ranged Light Weapon** (+2 Acc, +0 Dmg). This uses an Int + Lore Attack.

The Stylist's anima becomes fractured and twisted, as if seen through broken glass.

Angular Time Displacement

Cost: 2m
Type: Supplemental (Move)
Mins: Lore 2, Sorcery 1

The Stylist folds Space and Time of their destination and their current position into a singular point, allowing them to cross the distance in a simple step.

When taking a Move Action, the stylist does not cross any intervening places. This may be used to pass through walls, cross vertically, and across chasms.

Book of No Words

Cost: 2m
Type: Simple
Mins: Lore 3, Sorcery 2

The Stylist speaks the language of Nothing, articulating its emptiness with perfect articulation, yet devoid of any meaning.

The Stylist takes a Distract Action of (Wits + Lore) vs Resolve of all enemy characters that can hear the Stylist within Short Range.

Door to Nowhere

Cost: 4m, 2i
Type: Simple
Mins: Lore 4, Sorcery 3

The Door to Nowhere may be opened, forcing those it touches into a state of non-existence—though this cannot last as *nothing*, having no properties, cannot contain *something*.

The Stylist makes a (Wits + Sorcery) roll against the target's **Evasion**. (The target may choose to not Evade.) If successful, the target ceases to exist for the next (Essence) actions, where they will reappear in a location up to one Range Band away from where they disappeared.

Characters that cease to exist cannot take any actions, but are also fully protected as well.

The Target gains a resistance to this effect, gaining +2 Evasion against the attack to avoid it for the remainder of the scene.

Greater Techniques

Gaze of the Blind God

Cost: 6m
Type: Reflexive; Scene
Mins: Lore 4, Sorcery 4

The Stylist strikes at the very essence of their target, filling their vision and senses with overwhelming terror.

On a successful ranged (Wits + Sorcery) vs. Resolve roll, the target will only see a terrifying visage when gazing on the Stylist—regardless of anima banner.

In addition, the Stylist gains Partial Defense (+2) on any attack from the target.

Lost City Labyrinth

Cost: 10m
Type: Simple; Scene
Mins: Lore 5, Sorcery 4

The Anima Banner of the Stylist flares, arcing upwards and then envelops a sphere of up to (Essence x20) yards in radius. The space in the sphere starts becomes more and more twisted and broken each round as the lost city that never was erupts into reality.

Those trying to exit this sphere must make a (Dexterity + Athletics) check vs the Stylist's anima, or else be returned on the opposite side of the sphere.

Space and distance becomes a broken thing in this sphere, marginally under the Stylist's control. Once per Round, the Stylist may Reflexively warp the space around those moving or performing a ranged attack, forcing the target to make a (Dexterity + Athletics) check vs. the Stylist's Essence level, or else find their action wasted.

Powers

The word “Powers” refers to the various sources of supernatural effects the Exalt can have upon the world, including (but not limited to): Charms, Evocations, Spells, and Martial Arts Techniques.

System Presentation

Powers are presented in a manner similar to the following:

Cost: 2m
Type: Primary
Mins: Awareness 3
(Prerequisite)

Cost

Designates what character resources it takes to use the Power. A Power of no cost (such as Permanent effects) will be designated with “--”.

- **m**—Motes of Essence, which can be a chosen combination of Personal or Peripheral
 - Some Powers will specifically designate (personal) or (peripheral) in their cost.
- **i**—If used in a Combat Scene, requires **Impulse**. If used in an Encounter Scene, requires **Influence**.
- **sm**—Sorcerous Motes, which are described in more detail in the [Sorcery](#).

Type

The Power’s Type designates how the power may be activated, and then how long it is active for in the format:

Type: (Activation Type); (Duration)

So, a Power that activates *Reflexively* and is then *active* for the remainder of the scene would be written as:

Type: Reflexive; Scene

If there is no duration written, the power is considered *Instant*, and immediately dissipates after activation.

Terminating Active Powers

An Exalt may willfully terminate a Power early, should they desire. However, they must then pay the activation cost again if they want to reactivate the power.

Activation Type

- **Simple.** Consumes an Action Slot. Only one Action may be taken per turn.
- **Free Action.** Does not consume an Action Slot, but must still be activated on the character’s Turn. (i.e. not Reflexively.)
- **Supplemental.** Enhances a Primary or Secondary Action. There is no limit to the number of supplemental

Powers that may be combined together.

- **Reflexive.** Conditional powers that may be used outside of normal turn order. So long as the condition is met, the Reflexive Power may always be used.
- **Permanent.** Once purchased, this power is always active.

Prerequisite

Occasionally, some Powers will require the purchase of another Power first. If this exists, the prerequisite charm will be listed here.

Timing Conflicts

If there is ever a timing conflict, such as with two Reflexive Charms going off at once, the resolution goes according to the *defender’s choice*.

If that is still unclear, there should be a contested roll using the relevant *Finesse* Attribute: Dexterity, Insight, or Cunning.

Minimum Requirements

When buying a Power, there are certain Minimums that must first be met—such as the dot Rating in a specific Ability.

Glossary of Terms

There are specific words and phrases that charms commonly use as a shorthand for mechanical actions—so that the power description isn’t constantly cluttered with the same mechanical saying.

- **On Hit** Any Action, including Maneuvers and the Accuracy Roll, which exceeds a target’s DV. Unless otherwise stated, this hit must be on an action from the character, using the Ability that the Power is under.
 - Sometimes the Power will explicitly target Evasion or Soak.
- **Feats of Strength** Rolls, typically using Strength and Physique, with the intent of expressing physical prowess—hefting boulders, breaking walls, carrying tons, etc

Charms

Charms are the natural expression of a character’s essence, a specific and trained way for their internal power to be expressed upon the world.

These powers are inherently personal, and each expression will vary from individual to individual: those that are listed are simply generalizations and categorization for easy shorthand.

Typically, a character does not know they are using a specific charm: it is simply an instinctual channeling of essence to produce the desired effect.

Greater Charms

Greater Charms are powers more powerful, and far more complicated to learn and perfect than a normal Charm.

A character must first be at **Essence 3** to learn a Greater Charm, and it will cost **double** the amount of XP to learn.

Making New Powers

[[NOTE: This section is old and slated for rewrite.]]

Use Sparingly: Dice Tricks

(TN Shifting, Double X's)

“Dice Tricks” are effects that rely on the face values of dice, and often contain wording such as “Whenever a 1 is rolled...” These types of mechanics should be considered **very carefully**, and used **extremely sparingly**.

When using a Dice Pool system, such as Exalted does with its (Att+Abi)x d10's, all players around the table will start to rely on *memorization* of dice faces as symbols, rather than individually interpreting the numbers.

In essence, people will start to quickly stop seeing the numbers:

{ 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 }

Instead, minds will short circuit this: seeing it as the much more manageable:

{ 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1, 2 }

If you create a power that has “Dice tricks” built into it, such as doubling any number with an 8 or higher, *you mess with this short-circuit memorization*. This will slow down play considerably as players will suddenly have to focus on the dice, reinterpret the dice as actual numbers again, and then potentially undo their memorization.

Only use a Dice Trick if it is necessary. A sparing number of these effects here and there—perhaps restricted by a conditional—is fine. But if too many of them appear, it will slow down play considerably!

Judging Costs

- Charms should have mins from 1-3 (maybe 4)
- Greater Charms should have Mins from 3-4 (maybe 5)
- Effects in the Maneuver Stunts table should be 2m at base. If you improve them, no more than 5m.
- Targeting Evasion/Soak is 3m, 1i. Targeting a non-standard defense is 4m, 2i.

Merits

A Merit is any sort of benefit or background that may help the character, outside of their normal internal powers would grant.

Merits are often intimately tied to a character's story—they have wealth because they were born into it—and typically may only be gained or upgraded during character creation, or through the Projects system during campaign.

Almost all Merits are location or context-dependent, and so are often restricted based on the nature of the story campaign.

When you purchase Contacts, for example, you must specify what their nature is, and their location. i.e. "The assassins of the Eastern Forests."

Multiple merits of different locations and types can be purchased.

Using Merits

Most of the time a Merit is just a statement of fact about your character, and should simply shape the story with its presence-- Followers will do what you say, wealth backs a bribe attempt with truth, and an ally will generally be helpful if they can be. A good rule of thumb is that if the difficulty of the action is less than the rating of the merit, it simply just happens.

On the rare cases when the outcome is uncertain, an appropriate [Attribute + (Ability or Merit rating)] may be asked for. For example, you may raise a glorious ancient artifact to prove your worth to a crowd with [Composure + Artifact rating], attempt to convince an ally to do a dangerous task for you with [Charisma + Ally], or know a piece of obscure Lunar history with [Intelligence + Fact: Silver Pact Member]

Exhausting Merits

At the storyteller's discretion, a Merit can be exhausted for a period of time after a large, impactful use of the merit, and be unable to be used except in limited ways. For example, after a character with Wealth (4) manages to bribe the Prince of a city into their pocket, the Storyteller declares that this is a serious use of their Wealth merit, and that all significant expenditure of their wealth is now tied up into this one action and must recover.

The Storyteller designates the length of time the merit is exhausted, though this cannot last longer than a single story.

Merit Protection

Merits cannot be removed or canceled *permanently* by the Storyteller without the Player's permission, and should be considered under the complete ownership of the Player. For example, an Ally should not suddenly turn face and become an antagonist without both the Player agreeing to such a turn of events.

Temporary restrictions to merits—such as an Ally being unable to help in this situation, even if the merit isn't exhausted—is explicitly allowed. However, the Storyteller should always be judicious about such decisions.

If a Player chooses to lose or downgrade their bought Merits through story means, they are awarded back whatever resources they used to buy or upgrade the Merit.

The Storyteller may decide to award temporary Merits that are under the full control and whim of the Storyteller—such as a platoon of soldiers as a Command. If appropriate to the story, the Player may purchase control of said Merit at full cost of either xp or Project Points, with Storyteller permission.

<<TODO>>

Author's Note: Most existing merits in 3e work pretty well with minimal translation to Exalted Reincarnated, so translating them over properly has been a bit lower on my todo list. For the moment, 3e's merits will be a good placeholder.

Couple addendum to that:

- Mutations are overpriced, knock them down a dot or two.
- Ambidextrous, Martial Artist, and Hideous don't do anything.
- Hearthstones should just be considered an Artifact, without any need for a Manse.

<</TODO>>

Merit Count

There is no enforced limit on the number of a Merits a character can have. However, this shouldn't be used as an excuse to hoard a laundry-list of low-rank merits.

The rule of thumb is that you should start consolidating merits at 10, and should not have any more than 15 individual merits. (Excluding Facts and Languages)

General Merits

Facts

(3)

Facts are simple, undeniable statements about the character that may help them in their adventures. They are the most free-form of all the merits, and encompass anything from a description of a character's origin to markers of accomplishments.

Facts are typically chosen during character creation, awarded at the end of a Story, or to mark completion of a significant world Project.

Natural Merits

Backing

(1-5)

The Character is an official in an organization. Their rating represents how much organizational power the character has.

For example, Backing 2 would either represent being the head of a local organization, or the leader of a local chapter of a global organization.

The Character may instruct subordinates to Perform a Task without question, so long as it is in line with the goals and morals of the organization.

Disadvantage: Higher-ranking members may call upon the Character to do a task and uphold duties. As well, lower members may come to the Character for guidance.

Bond(1-5)

Special Note: Bonded individuals must each have the Bond merit, though the level does not need to be the same.

Your soul has been entwined with another, uniting your Destinies. The character instinctively knows if their Bond is in danger, and the general direction they are in.

Influence to directly harm, endanger, or otherwise disadvantage their Bond is treated as Unacceptable Influence. This may be used reflexively.

Disadvantage: Their Bonded may always use the Bond in place of an Intimacy to socially influence the character.

Contacts (1-5)

You have a network of contacts in a given location and class of society willing to give you information.

Every story, you may *Introduce a Fact* with information gathered by your Contacts without expending a Strife Point for every point of Contacts.. The Fact must be centered on information your Contacts could have gathered.

Cult(1-5)

The Character is a leader and/or target of worship for a religious cult, gaining +2 **Peripheral Motes** per dot Rating.

Disadvantage: The cult requires periodic guidance and attention. As well, it is often an unwelcome influence and potential political hazard.

Wealth (1-5)

Wealth is a renewable source of money. A character with any source of Wealth needs not worry for basic necessities or sustenance, and may always purchase a place to rest.

Targets can be paid (or bribed) to Perform a Task without needing a roll or any Social Influence. Some characters may refuse this offer, or even be offended by it.

<<TODO: Translate over more of the Resources merit>>

Ally (1-5)

Allies are individuals, groups, or organizations that a character may call upon to aid them in their endeavors—proven to be an asset.

Allies are not at the whim and mercy of the character—they have their own lives and concerns to deal with, but they can be assumed to not willingly or knowingly hurt the player character.

The Rating of Allies represents both the scale and influence of the ally: Rating 1 would be a competent, but still mortal--guard. Rating 3 would be an Exalt or a medium spanning organization. Rating 5 would be a high-rating God or an organization such as the Guild.

Artifact (2-5)

Artifacts are items that contain wondrous, supernatural effects upon the world. Artifacts typically have some sort of inherent supernatural usefulness to them that is **immediately available** on purchase of the artifact.

Evocations are Powers the artifact contains that must be awakened by **additionally** purchasing Evocations with xp.

Rating 2 Artifacts are minor wonders: they have some sort of inherent supernatural usefulness, such as a water skin inlaid with jade that filters and purifies all water within. Rating 2 Artifacts have **no** Evocations.

Rating 3 Artifacts have up to 3 Evocations.

Rating 4 Artifacts have up to 5 Evocations, and have a Greater Evocation.

Rating 5 Artifacts have up to 5 Evocations, and have 2 Greater Evocations.

Language (1)

Each purchase of this merit represents a new language the Player Character has learned to speak, read, and write in.

Note: All Characters start with 2 Languages, typically their Local Tongue, and the trade Language Riverspeak.

Example Languages

- **Local Tongue:** This marks the character as having the exact speech patterns and mannerisms as locals.
- **Directional Language:** While not a true language in itself,

a Directional Language is a collection of general speech patterns and dialects that would fit as “close enough” with the local tongue of anybody living in the respective Cardinal Directions (Air, Water, Fire, Wood) to communicate most thing.

- **High Realm:** While using the same words and structure as Low Realm, formal and rigorous selection of certain words have marked the language of the Elite of the Realm into its own recognizable pattern.
- **Low Realm:** Used by the commoners of the realm, this is a blend of Tradespeak and High Realm. The words and written characters are blended and simplified.
- **Old Realm:** An ancient language which High Realm is based off of, though no longer shares all but the base similarities. Is the formal text of Ancient texts and documents from the First Age, and is still the most commonly-used mortal language used by the Gods.
- **Riverspeak:** An artificial, crafted language made by the Guild to facilitate basic trade, and heavily promoted as the common language of Creation. While functional, it does not lend itself well to communicating complex topics.

At Essence 3, Exalts may take a Project to grant Rank 3 to mortals with significant ties to them, such as Allies or Wards.

Master Stylist (3)

Mortal-Only

Allows a mortal to purchase Techniques of a specific Style, (excluding Greater Techniques), and grants them a mote pool of 10 that may only be used on the styles Techniques.

A Mortal may learn this merit on their own, though it is rare.

Supernatural Merits

Most Supernatural Merits require *Storyteller Approval* to purchase.

Endowment (3-5)

Gain access to a Supernatural Ability normally outside your purview. This must be given as a boon from a supernatural entity that already has access to that Supernatural Ability.

Mortal Sorcerers must have this merit to access Sorcery or Necromancy.

Endowment grants access to a mote pool of 10 if the character does not have one. This mote pool may only be used for this specific Endowment.

If a Mortal Exalts with this merit, and that supernatural ability is granted to them, they are refunded the merit costs.

- **3**—Use of the Ability, but restricted to a specialty. For example, Shapeshifting into only one creature.
- **4**—Use of the Ability, restricted to a specialty, with the ability to purchase related Charms (excluding Greater Charms).
- **5**—Use of the Ability in its entirety and the ability to purchase its Charms, (excluding Greater Charms).

Mutations

[[Cosmetic Mutations do not cost points, but have no mechanical Advantage. For example, the player may decide they have a tail, but without purchasing it as a merit, they do not get the effect.]]

[[Alternate Travel (Air, sky, burrowing, climbing)

- Perceive further
- Perceive differently (electro-sensing)
- Native(Mice, cats, etc.)
- Gain of natural weapon
- Camouflage
- Deadly
- Penetrating Strike
- Ranged weapon
- Toxin
- Fine Dexterity
 - Humans have this boon.
- Change of Size (Larger/smaller) --only with knack.
 - Carrying Capacity
 - +more to feats of strength

Banes

- Loss of dexterity (cannot open doors, etc.)
 - Humans have the “fine dexterity” Boon. The baseline is going to be around a house cat. This Bane goes below tht.
- Conspicuous
- Dangerous
- Cannot do feats of strength
- Reduced Endurance Pool]]

Boons

All Mutations are built with a combination of **Boons** and **Banes**.

- (+2) Flurry Bonus
 - The first Flurry of any attack does not pay Impulse.
- (+1) Dexterous Limb(s).
 - Allows for grabbing and holding onto items at once. (Humans naturally have this boon for their two arms.)
- (+1) Subtle Mutation
 - Most Mutations are obvious, this modifier allows the mutation to be hidden by natural means when not in use. (e.g. retractable claws).
- (+X) Endurance Bonus
 - Grants 3x (X) extra Endurance. At level 3 or above, cannot be paired with Subtle.
- (+2) Physical Specialty Bonus
 - +1 to a specialty in an ability. May only affect Natural, Physical Abilities such as Athletics, Physique, Stealth, and Awareness.
- (+1, +2) Natural Weaponry
 - +1 grants Unarmed and Light Weapons. Paired with subtle, this can be something like retractable claws.
 - +2 grants Medium and Heavy natural Weapons. Cannot be paired with subtle.
- (+2) Non-Standard Movement. (wings, gas bladder, fins,

wall-walking).

- (+1, +2) Environmental Adaptation.
 - Grants adaptation to non-standard environments, like extreme cold.

Banes

- **(-1, -2) Environmental restriction:** The character cannot live outside a specific, non-standard environment. -2 means this is temporary, such as amphibians drying out on land, -4 will cause the character to start dying.
- **(-1) Reflexive action:** (Cannot be paired with Subtle). The Mutation will react to stimuli, without any control of the character. (Chameleon skin changing color when under stress, for example)

Example Mutations

Extra Arms (3)

Flurry Bonus (+2)

Dexterous Limbs (+1)

The character possesses more than the normal amount of arms.

Enhanced Sight (1)

Specialty Bonus: Awareness (Vision)

Fins (2)

Non-Standard Movement: Swimming

Wings (2)

Non-Standard Movement: Flying

Scales (1-3)

Endurance Bonus

Tail (1)

Specialty Bonus: Athletics (Balance)

Tail, Prehensile (2)

Specialty Bonus: Athletics (Balance)

Dexterous Limb(s)

Toxin Resistance (1)

Specialty Bonus: Physique (Resistance)

Gills (Restrictive) (0)

Environmental Adaptation (+2): Underwater

Environmental Restriction (-2): Underwater

Mutation (X)

[[Might have a bit of a different thing for mutations than just pure points. Something like “You build the effect the mutation gives you. +1 DV is 2. Obvious -1.

That or I spell out specific mutations. 3e Core has them priced way too high though.

Low priority.]]

Sizes and their bonuses (will be with Lunars/Mutations):

- **Miniscule** + 2Evasion/Sneak, cannot use Strength, -5 Endurance.
- **Small** +1 Evasion/Sneak, -1 Feats of Strength -3 Endurance
- **Medium**
- **Large** +1 Soak, -1 Fine Dexterity/Sneak, +3 End
- **Gigantic** +2 Soak, No Fine Dexterity/Sneak, -2 Evasion, +5 End
- **Titanic** +3 Soak, +10 End, Obvious, no Dex/Sneak, no Evasion

Antagonists

Lesser Foes and Groups

Lesser Foes are those that have no chance at harming their antagonists, and instead will use their actions to **Support** a Greater Foe. During their action, they may instead give ½ their Attack Pool in Impulse to their Ally.

Lesser Foes may be **Grouped** together. For each increase in **Magnitude**, they gain 5 Endurance and 2 to their Attack Pool.

Mortals Have a lesser pool of Endurance:
5 + (Stamina + Athletics + Physique)

Antagonists are not Player characters

[[Don't build them like they are.

Dragonblooded tend to be Essence 1-2.

Essence Rating prerequisites aren't hard-enforced for antagonists. The essence rating represents how hard it is to train, how long they have to dedicate your life to it. A typical DB isn't going to get an Essence 4 MA technique while stuck at Essence 1, but a monk who has been training at it their entire life might, while still technically at Essence 3]]

Estimating Defenses

When choosing or modifying enemies, you need to pay close attention to the Defenses to make sure the combat is fun and interesting—*too high of DV will result in an unfun combat*, because the Players will never be able to hit their target.

Adjusting Endurance, rather than DV, is often the more reliable way to show that an enemy is either tougher or weaker than their fellows.

It helps to judge what each DV number represents, and to keep in mind that DV is an **average** of (Att + Abi), so an additional point in DV is quite a large deal!

DV Scale	
1	The target has the barest, weakest defenses that could exist. Missing would be an embarrassment to an Exalt.
2	Typical Mortal defenses.
3	The median DV, what will often be a noticeable, but not insurmountable challenge. Most enemies should hover around DV 3.
Note: Any Enemy with DV 4 or higher should have their Soak and Evasion tracked separately—they will often be wearing armor to boost their DV. Only extremely powerful enemies (such as Exalts) can have both Soak and Evasion simultaneous higher than 3.	
4	A Strong, noticeable defense. Will often come paired with a weaker defense. (e.g. Soak 4, Evasion 2).
5	As high as heavily-armored Mundane target can reach. This is a significant challenge and should not be thrown at players lightly.
Note: Even defense-focused Exalts cannot reach above 5 without assistance, and typically a trade-off. For example, Soak armor at the expense of Evasion.	
6	Only strong Gods, their Chosen, and other beings of great power will be able to attain this level of DV.
7+	Typically, a DV of 7 or above means that the character is untouchable in this defense—though Exalts have been known to defy the odds.

Quick Powers

Antagonists and Maneuver Stunt Effects

Important Non-Player Characters may attempt Stunt Effects, though the Storyteller should be judicious about their use.

<<TODO: clean up the following draft>>

As a Storyteller, your job in combat is to make an interesting and dynamic fight—even if the fight doesn't have pre-generated characters.

The variety of mortals, monsters, and Gods you can throw at your Players is endless, and their sources of the following Powers can be flavored however you wish.

Typically, what you want to do is have a leadup for a Power—some action that signals that the character will use it. Only the most powerful of foes will offhand be able to use these powers, and not at the Greater Level.

Quick Powers			
	Normal	Greater	Description
Increase Accuracy	+2 Dice	+4 Dice	On a decisive attack, add dice to the Accuracy of the attack.
Raise Defenses	Partial (+2DV)	Full	Create defenses out of nothing, typically with a weak point. For example, an Ice Golem summons a sphere of Ice surrounding them.
<Reserved>			
<Reserved>			
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Spirits

Fogshark

Endurance 15

DV 4

Evasion 4

Soak 3

Attack Pool 8

Base Damage 4

Sensing: 6

Stealth: 8

Fogsharks are creatures that live between the Spirit and Waking world, and may only be found where the veil between the worlds is thin, particularly in respect to the element of Water.

They swarm in the skies, dragging their fog and mists with them—a fogshark attack can not occur in any bright-lit or

otherwise illuminated area.

Tactics

Fogsharks are ambush predators, almost always moving in small groups or packs. Typically there will be a Prime shark to act as a Major Foe, swarmed with a pack of Lesser Foes.

The sharks will ambush characters in seeming moments of physical weakness, particularly any who is bleeding. They will perform a grapple maneuver, and then single-minded attack their target until forced off.

If forced off their target, or by missing their grapple, they will attempt to retreat to the mists to await their next attack.

Being mindless beasts, they *cannot be reasoned with*.

Abilities

Blood in the Water

The Fogshark gains +3 on any roll to perceive or track characters that are bleeding.

The Fog

The Fog is a supernatural impairment to all senses, providing Full Cover to those that cannot perceive through it. Characters must have supernatural senses to attempt to pierce the fog, rolling against a Difficulty 4 to counter only Partial Cover.

Fogsharks may sense through the fog without penalty.

Dissolve into the Fog

As a Gathering Action, the Fogshark may return to the supernatural mist. They may only do so once every three actions, and cannot reemerge from the Fogs for at least one action after entering them.

Demons

Blood Ape

Endurance 20

Initiative 3

DV 5

Evasion 3

Soak 5

Attack Pool 8

Base Damage 4

Sensing: 3

Stealth: 1

Guile: 0

Resolve: 3