

# 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.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Introduction

Setting 4

## Character Creation

Steps 6

Advancement 8

Alternate Starts 9

## The Exalted

Attributes 12

Defensive Values 12

Abilities 13

Supernatural Abilities 14

Custom Abilities 15

Merits 15

## The System

Structure 18

Core Mechanics 18

Advantages and Disadvantages 20

Stunting 20

Excellencies 20

Special Actions 21

Social Interactions 22

Essence 23

Strife 24

The Great Curse 25

Cheat Death 26

Storyteller Timelines 26

Magnitudes 26

## Encounters

Creating an Encounter 28

Encounter Types 30

Example Encounters 31

## Combat

The Combat Round 31

Zones 33

Maneuvers 33

Strike 34

Combat End 35

Defeat 35

The Environment 36

Battle Groups 36

Fighting Style 36

Armor 38

Equipment and Elsewhere 38

## Projects

Resources 39

The Right Tool for the Job 39

Obstruction Rolls 41

## Charms

System Presentation 42

The Minor Charm 42

Greater and Capstone 42

Custom Charms 43

## Sorcery

## Spells

## Solars

Solar Bonuses 51

Great Curse 51

Solar Anima Banners 52

Solar Anima Powers 52

## Solar Charms

Dawn Caste 53

Zenith Caste 57

Twilight Caste 60

Night Caste 64

Eclipse Caste 68

## Exigents

One Thousand Gods 72

## Storytelling

How do I run this game? 74

## Antagonists

Quick Characters 75

Quick Powers 75

Making Interesting Combat 76

# INTRODUCTION

## THEMES

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).

## UNOFFICIAL

**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.

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!*

## 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.

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.*

## HISTORY

### *The Time of Glory*

In the First Age of Mankind, the Exalted—those mortals gifted with a portion of the god's powers—reigned from above. And at their forefront were the brightest among them, the Chosen of the Sun—the Solars.

The First Age was a marvel. Few, if none, had want for bread, nor suffered from diseases, nor lacked purpose. The lands of Creation advanced in grand workings—vast interconnected empires spread across the land, with networks of great trade. Rivalries of course existed, and the occasional skirmish was fought, but mostly it was a time of peace, where the greatest thread to Creation came from the vast chaos of the Wyld—disturbed by the constant expansion of Creation.

### *The Time of Madness*

But in the heart of this First Age lived something dark, something that festered and grew just as the borders of Creation grew. Inside of mankind's lies a corruptive force, a so-called Great Curse that is a part of us all, but shows itself most to those who have great power. And the Exalted had so much power.

Alongside great civic works grew monuments of great ego, held together solely by force of will. Hard, necessary labor soon became the sentence of criminals and undesirables—a definition that grew to encompass more and more peoples over time. What were once rivalries between empires soon descended into endless, bloody wars that threatened the very fabric of Creation itself.

And, at the forefront of this madness were the Solars—just as they were during peace. In a shining moment of ultimate pride, one of them attempted to Usurp their Patron: the Unconquered Sun. The heavens quaked and nearly shattered at the battle, but eventually the Sun kept true to his name and defeated his Chosen, but not without great, debilitating wounds that led to his collapse. Nights—once a conscious gift—became a necessity for so that he might recover: and nights have gotten steadily longer as the years have passed on.

The Heavens raged at this affront and sealed themselves off from Creation. This was enough to shock the Exalted, and though it was bloody, they managed to survive though the lands of Creation were permanently scarred and changed.

### *The Time of Sorrow*

The Dragonblooded, the most numerous and most mortal of the Exalted, were those that were left to pick up the pieces in the rubble of the First Age. Slowly, over millennia, they rebuilt. While it was a shadow of what it once was, it became a peace of sorts. They managed to stabilize the world, beat back a thousand dooms and angry Gods that threatened the mortals of the broken, shrunken lands of Creation.

But over time, the natural distrust of the other Exalts and their actions turned to fear, eventually turning their gaze inward into a sort of pride. Left to pick up the pieces, to salvage the mess of others, they soon started to feel it was their divine duty, and in a way a judgment that their worth was better than all others.

This Pride soon became doctrine, and one mandated by their new Scarlet Empress. All other Exalts, should they not swear fealty to the Dragonblooded, would be seen as dangers to be removed.

This pride only grew when the Outer Provinces rebelled and separated at this mandate. It only grew as their Empress was slain—now a martyr to the cause. A Holy Symbol of their greatness shattered and broken by the morally corrupt “Other.”

### ***The Time of Tumult***

Today, the lands of the central Realm is in a constant state of a civil war—though none dare to call it a war. Each Dragonblooded house vies for the throne, each declaring an (often dubious) tie to the great Scarlet Empress as proof. Among them is Mnemon, a proven descendant of the Empress, but she has Exalted as a Solar and all have banded against her to stop her.

A great Lunar General rebelled against the House Tepet, splitting their Northern lands in twain. He has renamed himself the Bull of the North, and has become a constant threat from the outside.

Among all this chaos, in the central realm and the scattered city-states of the rebellious Outer Provinces, wander the Wyld Hunt. What was once a unified, independent gathering of Exalts tasked with dealing with demons, Fae, angry Gods, and other threats to Creation, has become fractured. Some chapters of the Wyld hunt stick true to their goals—recruiting new Exalts to serve Creation itself. Others have become little more than political extensions, threatening any who do not agree with their ideology.

# 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.

An online character sheet is provided [here](#). (So long as this is the most up-to-date version of the pdf.)

## STEPS

1. 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.
1. Choose a name for your character and describe them. This description should include your [Anima Banner](#), the personal soulshape of light that surrounds your character when brimming with power.
2. Choose your character's [Great Curse](#), the character flaw which your Exalt struggles with day in and day out. 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. A Great Curse must answer three 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?

### How does the Character Act Out?

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?

3. Choose Three [Intimacies](#), which are simple sentences that describes your relation or devotions to certain ideals, people, or places. Your Intimacies, when taken together, should answer these 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. Distribute **15 dots** into [Attributes](#). Each must be at least 1, and no more than 5. Attributes are your general skills, applied constantly to the world.

Suggested Spread:

[4, 3, 3, 2, 2, 1]

5. Assign points to your specific skills, or [Abilities](#).
  - Record any Supernatural Abilities granted from your Exaltation.
  - Choose **3 Abilities**, which are your primary skills—these represent what your character is *known* for.

Set them to either:  
[5, 4, 3] or [4, 4, 4]

  - Spend **10 dots** in the *remaining* Abilities, with none being higher than **3** at this time.

Suggested:

[3, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1]

6. Gain **3 Lesser Powers**, which are situational and unique effects your character can have in the world.

Powers can be any combination of:

- Charms.
- Spells
- Martial Arts
- Artifact Evocations.

7. Detail out the Fighting Style your character uses, and if they are wearing Armor.
  - You may detail out mundane equipment carried, but it is not necessary—as long as it is reasonable for your character to have, it may always be assumed to be on your character.

8. You may now spend **16 xp** freely. You may use this to increase Abilities past **3**.

Keep any experience that is unspent.

Experience Costs	
Attribute	6
Ability	2
<b>Powers</b>	
Lesser	4
Greater (Requires Essence 3)	6
Capstone (Requires Essence 5)	8

9. Detail the character's *Merits*, which are external aspects of your character—allies, money, backgrounds, and history.

- Mark down **two** standard **Languages**: one representing your local tongue, and one common to the all the Player Characters (typically Riverspeak).
- Gain **6 Dots of Resources**, with which to purchase merit dots.

Suggested:

[3,2,1]

- A **4 dot** merit *may* only be purchased with storyteller permission, and will place you into “debt” by a Keystone—represented as an unresolved plot thread tied to that merit. Perhaps you are on the run for stealing it? Maybe it is defective in some way, and requires repairs?

## 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.
2. Start with a **Mote Pool of 6**, which is how you empower might charms, spells, and techniques. The pool starts completely filled.
3. **Health**  
Set to **20**. In a combat scene, this represents how long you may remain in the fight before collapsing from fatigue.
4. Record your Physical Defensive Values. Your general **DV** will be the greater of the two:
  - **Block:** (Strength)/2  
The ability to deflect, mitigate, or otherwise directly absorb a hit in its entirety.
  - **Evasion:** (Dexterity)/2  
The ability to dodge out of the way of an attack, ensuring that it lands in a place where you are not.
5. Record your Mental Defensive Values. Your general **MDV** will be the greater of the two:
  - **Guile:** (Wits)/2  
The ability to realize when social and mental attacks are coming, and deflect them with prepared disarming counter retorts.
  - **Resolve:** (Insight)/2  
The ability to withstand, through sheer force of will and practiced mental flexibility, any social or mental assaults on the mind.

### Rounding

Always round up to the nearest whole number.

6. **Accuracy**  
For any weapons you use regularly, write down its associated (Attribute + Ability + Weapon Acc. Bonus). This is the roll you will (most often) use to attack a target.
7. **Base Damage**  
Your base Damage is (Essence + Weapon Dmg. Bonus). This, combined with the threshold successes of your attack will be the damage you deal in an attack.

# ADVANCEMENT

Essence increases automatically depending on how much **total** xp has been gained, (+30xp) for each level.

Essence	Total XP
1	0
2	30
3	60
4	90
5	120
6 (+)	150 (+50)

## 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.

Remember that each Essence Rank provides:

- +5 Health
- +2 Maximum Motes
- +1 Base Damage

At **Essence 3** and **Essence 5**, the character gains access to purchasing **Greater** and **Capstone** charms, respectively.

You may not save experience to purchase higher level powers—i.e. you cannot reach Essence 3 and then suddenly have 5 Greater Charms in your repertoire. The amount of xp spent should match

## XP GAIN

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—as well, it takes the entire group to create moments, not individuals.

Players should gain **Two XP** as a base for each Session, and gain an additional **One XP** for meeting any and each of the following:

- Creating a moment of excellent roleplay.
- Character's learning something important.
- A character falling victim to their Great Curse, impeding their journey in some way. This does not need to be a Limit Break.
- Suffering a great defeat.

In addition, a **Story Point** is granted at the important milestone of any **Story**, whether it be the overarching story, or a personal story. All characters get the Story Point, even if it is not *their* personal story reaching a milestone.

A **Story Point** may be used to *either* purchase 1 Attribute point, or 3 Ability Points. **Story Points** do not affect Essence Advancement.

Milestones are, admittedly, a loose definition. Think of them like the chapters of a book—whenever there is a natural break, whether it be a conclusion or cliffhanger, that should be a milestone.

## Tuning Experience Gain

Consider how long you want to play the game, and adjust your base Experience gain based on how quickly you want to meet milestones. Remember that:

- An average of 5xp will be 6 sessions a level, or 30 Sessions to reach Essence 6.
- An average of 7xp will be 4 sessions a level, or 22 Sessions to reach Essence 6
- An average of 10 xp will be 3 sessions a level, or 15 Sessions to reach Essence 6.

## GAINING RESOURCES

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

Each point of Resources is equivalent to a dot of Merits, or a scale of a World Project. However, Merits or Projects of Scale **4 or Higher** must seek out a **Keystone** to complete the project.

Unlike Experience Points, Resources *do not* need to be the same between characters—deciding who gets what is completely a decision that can be done in character, if something is limited.



# ALTERNATE STARTS

## HIGHER ESSENCE STARTS

If you wish to start at higher Essence, the following are *suggested* paths for character advancement—you are not *required* to level up this way.

Follow Character Creation, and then add an additional:

	Ess 2	Ess 3	Ess 4	Ess 5
Attributes	1	3	4	5
Abilities	4	5	7	8
Lesser Powers	3	5	6	7
Greater Powers	-	1	3	4
Capstone Powers	-	-	-	1
Merits/Projects	5	10	15	20

### Player Character Exceptionalism

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 +30xp until Essence 3, +50xp until Essence 5, then +100xp after Essence 5.
- Most other Exalts start at Essence 2, with an extra 8xp to spend at character creation. They advance every +30xp until Essence 5, then at +50xp.
- **Solars, Abyssals, and Infernals** start at Essence 3, with an extra 12xp to spend at character creation. They advance every +20xp until Essence 5, then +40xp.

## MORTAL START

It is quite natural to want to start the adventure before the Exalted have become what they are. This should be taken with great care and coordination with your Players—this a game of the Exalted, not mortals, after all.

Even as a mortal, those Destined to become Exalted are heroic, above normal mortals. They follow this creation guidance:

### Steps

1. Distribute **12 dots** into Attributes. Each must be at least 1, and no more than 3.

*Suggested:*

[3, 3, 2, 2, 1, 1]

2. Select **3 Abilities** that your character is known for. One of these may be a *Supernatural Ability* that will be gained when Exalting, though they must take the *Endowed (3)* Merit to reflect this.

Set these abilities to:

[4, 3, 3]

3. Distribute **9 dots** in any of the remaining Abilities. None can be brought above 3.
4. Gain one **Fact** dedicated to your history.
5. Mark down **two standard Languages**: one representing your local tongue, and one common to the all the Player Characters (typically Riverspeak).
6. Gain **4 dots** of Merits. You may go into keystone debt to do so, and may purchase Special or Supernatural Merits.
7. 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.
8. You may now spend **8 xp** freely. You may use this to increase Abilities to no more than 4.
9. Set **Health** to 15, then add (Physique) additional points.
10. The remaining derived values are calculated as normal.

### One-Shots

Exalted Reincarnated is intended to be played across multiple sessions, and so the **Limit** mechanic is balanced to buildup over several sessions.

If you do a One-Shot, **start at 5 Limit** or higher for each character. That should be more than enough for crazy, overpowered shenanigans that are a hallmark of one-shots, but not so much that there are no consequences.

As well, it is suggested you tie up a session with a Project, giving up to a generous 4 Resources and 1 Keystone each, as a way to sunset the characters and session.

# THE EXALTED

## SOLARS

The Unconquered Sun chooses his champions from the greatest of humanity to be its champions. They are the wisest scholars, the greatest generals, and the most esteemed of diplomats. To be a Solar is to be creature of extremes—they are the mightiest of heroes, and often the most cunning of villains.

Solars turn their powers inwards, enhancing what Abilities they pursue. As well, they alone can reach past their natural limitations, using high-level Powers sooner than any other Exalt.

**Excellency:** Master of Skills

*Gain successes equal to the Rating of the Ability used on the roll.*

## DRAGONBLOODED

Lineage is the single most important thing to a Dragonblooded, as the blood of the Dragons may flare up and grant Exaltation. Every single Dragonblood can trace their heritage back in an unbroken chain towards the Elemental Dragons themselves.

As such Dragonblooded form complex societal webs, rife with intrigue, politics, and backstabbing—particularly in the world-spanning empire that is the Realm. Even the far flung, forgotten branches of their family trees will not be safe from such social pressures.

Every Dragonblood gains access to the five elements: Fire, Water, Air, Earth, and Wood. As well, as the current masters of the world, they gain the ability to naturally lord and command over peoples without restraint.

**Excellency:** Elemental Surge

*Gain 3 Anima. On this action, you may convert an unlimited amount of Anima into dice.*

## LUNARS

Luna, the Many-Faced Moon chooses their champions from those that cannot be bound—not by definitions, not by laws, and *certainly* not by any forms of slavery. The Chosen are raw, primal heroes, channeling the raw might of nature, the soul, and the chaotic might of the Wyld.

Lunars gain access to Shapeshifting, Beasts, Spirit, and the Wyld. As well, their gain access to a Half Form, which allows them to enhance and change their natural attributes as needed.

**Excellency:** Primal Versatility

*Choose an Attribute unused during the roll, and gain that many dice. You may use your Excellency multiple times on the same action.*

## SIDEREALS

The Chosen of Fate, overseen by the Maidens of Destiny, come into power because they will have always been given that power. To be a Sidereal is to accept and understand this circular nature of reality. The Chosen of the Stars fight and guide the flow of Fate, Destiny, and the nature of reality itself.

Sidereals are gifted powers over the aspects of Fate. They may also weave in their own goals and visions into the tapestry of reality. In addition, they gain access to powerful and strange Martial Arts that stretch and bend the nature of reality.

**Excellency:** Fate-Twister

*Choose an Ability for Fate to either favor or shun. For the remainder of the Scene all characters either gain or lose (Essence)/2 successes to rolls using that Ability, respectively.*

## ABYSSALS

The force of Oblivion seeps at the hidden edges of Creation, consuming and destroying what *is* so that *nothing* may replace it. Those mortal unlucky enough to be caught in these forces will find themselves split, empty, partially consumed. Within that shell of a broken soul, the power of the void can take root and form an Abyssal.

Abyssals are creatures that are neither alive nor dead, trapped in between realms. Much like the shadows, they take the form of the strongest light source—in this case the Solars—but their substance is nothing of them. What an Abyssals chooses to do with their profane and destructive power is their choice, be it to become a speaker for the dead, spirits of vengeance, or even those that wish to hearken the end.

The powers of the Abyssal revolve around Blood, Flesh, Shadows, and Memory.

**Excellency:** Blood Magic

*You may sacrifice your Health for successes. You lower your maximum Health for a full Day by 1 for each success, as well as manifesting your Abyssal mark for the Scene. You do not gain Limit when using your Excellency.*

## INFERNALS

Before even the Age of Glory, there was a war among the Gods, who overthrew their cruel masters. These creatures chafe at their imprisonment and seek to wreak their unfocused and impotent rage upon the creations of the Gods.

Infernals are their solution, a force of power given to those that are *not worthy* to hold such destructive force—and so will use it casually and callously in whatever force this unworthy mortal deems as “right and good.”

Their power is an abomination—a thousand pieces of stolen power from the other Exalts, taken from the foolish over millennia in exchange for pieces of the Yozi’s great, destructive power, and then stitched together into a demon that merges with the mortal.

Infernals draw their powers from the nature of their masters themselves, devoting to one path or another. As well, their form can be overwhelmed with their power, showing the power of their demon in a brief moment of unholy power.

**Excellency: Spite**

*For an action, remove either 3 or (Essence) successes from a target's roll, difficulty, or from a defense such as Evasion or Resolve.*

**ALCHEMICALS**

The Machine God left careful arcane instructions to his followers, to build and create protectors while he slept and healed from his grievous wounds. From these byzantine and incomprehensible instructions are born the champions of his followers, and protector of his sleeping form.

Alchemicals are mortal souls born into an artificial body—built by mortal hands, but gifted the spark of exaltation by the sleeping god. They will always have a small community to protect and lead.

The power of the Alchemical is focused on the magical materials: Orichalcum, Jade, Moonsilver, Starmetal, and Soulsteel. Their powers are modular, allowing swapping of charms and powers as they see fit.

**Excellency: Overdrive**

*Choose an Attribute, and raise it by three points (which may exceed the cap of 5). Choose another Attribute that has at least 3 points, and set it to 1. This lasts for the remainder of the Scene. Derived values, such as Block or Resolve, are unaffected.*

# 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

*Physical Force*

Strength represents both the raw muscular strength a character contains, as well as the intuition and practice to use it effectively.

## DEXTERITY

*Physical Finesse*

Dexterity is the fine control, reflexes, and agility a character has over their own body. This encompasses everything from the nimble fingers of violinist, to the dedicated musculature control of a contortionist.

## CHARISMA

*Social Force*

Charisma is a measure of how a character can outwardly express themselves to others through active communication.

## INSIGHT

*Social Finesse*

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—as well as manipulate them.

## INTELLIGENCE

*Mental Force*

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

## WITS

*Mental Finesse*

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.

# DEFENSIVE VALUES

When a character is in direct and immediate danger, they will reflexively fall back on certain defenses, categorized into Physical and Mental Defense Values.

Against the majority of attacks, the character can freely rely on the **highest** defensive value of the category—but clever opponents may target weak defenses directly, should they take concerted effort.

Raw Defensive Values are derived from Attributes, and cannot directly be increased. There is nothing that can decrease a Defensive Value below 1.

## PHYSICAL DEFENSIVE VALUE (DV)

DV is the greatest of either **Block** or **Evasion**, and is the character's default method of resisting incoming attacks in combat.

### Block

Encapsulates all aspects of resistance, mitigation, and absorption necessary to deflect an attack. Relies on **Strength**.

### Evasion

The ability to dodge, maneuver, anticipate, or otherwise avoid incoming attacks. Relies on **Dexterity**.

## MENTAL DEFENSE VALUE (MDV)

MDV is the greatest of either **Guile** or **Resolve**, and is the character's default method of resisting unwanted mental or social influence.

### Resolve

The ability to predict, expect, and then endure influence upon yourself. Relies on **Insight** to know yourself as much as you know others.

### Guile

The ability to detect, diffuse, hide, and alter social situations before they become a problem. Keep your **Wits** about you.

# ABILITIES

Abilities are skills that have been honed, trained, and developed through education and experience. Abilities range from Zero (0) to Five (5).

**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.

## Martial

## Social

## Utility

### ATHLETICS

Athletics is a measure of *physical motion*, and covers anything that might constitute aerobic exercise—running, jumping, and swimming.

### BRAWL

Mastery of the body, allowing attacks from any part of the limb, ranging from kicking, punching, tripping, or grappling. Also used for natural weapons such as claws.

### MARKSMANSHIP

Mastery of weapons that deal damage at range—either through projectiles, hurled weapons, or even projected energy. Covers weapons such as the bow, throwing knife, and javelin.

#### Ammunition

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

### MELEE

Mastery of weapons that deal damage at the titular range—melee. This encompasses the vast portfolio of weapons from common Swords to katars to macuahuitl.

### PHYSIQUE

Physique 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.

### COMMAND

Command covers the skills necessary to manage, inspire, and otherwise organize people, typically in large groups. The most visible commanders lead from the front as glorious generals, but to each one of those there are dozens who busy themselves with social connections, logistics, and bureaucracy.

### INVESTIGATION

Investigation focuses on the ability to question people, determine their motives, search the area for specific items. It will often reveal things that characters specifically hide.

### PERFORMANCE

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.

### SOCIALIZE

Socialization is a way to relate and talk with people, making them feel heard and personally connected with them. It is primarily used to sway people to your side, or make them more likely to do something for you out of your natural charisma.

### SUBTERFUGE

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—as well as sabotaging and infiltrating large organizations.

### AWARENESS

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

### CRAFT

Craft is used to produce, analyze, and repair physical constructs and moving parts. A crafter knows how to take raw discard material and turn it into a wondrous, machines intended for mechanical and aesthetic purposes.

### LORE

**Note:** See the special Action [Recall Fact](#)

Lore is both the breadth and depth of understanding in the world, ranging from geographic knowledge to religion and philosophy. As well, it aids in understanding languages and cultures.

### MEDICINE

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.

### NAVIGATION

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.

### STEALTH

The art of not being seen, from physical stillness to knowing how to blend into a crowd. Also includes some tricks of the trade, such as lock-picking.

### SURVIVAL

Survival is the ability to tame the wild-lands, ranging from scavenging, to identifying dangerous animals, as well as how to track others.

# 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.

Since Supernatural Abilities are so closely tied with an Exaltation, Gods, or Creature of Power, most will be detailed in their respective books. Occult, however, is the only Supernatural Ability that is available to all Exalts, and even some mortals.

## OCCULT

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 be Initiated into the arts by some teacher or force. A Player should be able to point to one of their Merits as a reasonable source for their tutelage.

### 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.

### Restrictions

Occult is a broad skill, one that manipulates the very Essence that life in Creation relies upon, so it can sometimes be unclear to allow anything and everything through. So, there are a few guiding restrictions when using Occult and creating custom Spells:

- It takes time. Aside from the most basic uses, Occult is highly ritualistic, rarely being able to be used in single action. It also often may only be done in specific times of the day, or with certain reagents.
- The cost is typically higher than other powers, and more often than not dips into Anima.
- Changing the unwilling is particularly difficult, and cannot be done at introductory powers.

## 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.

### Sample Thaumaturgies

<b>Read Tea Leaves</b>	While the stars are visible, spend at least 15 minutes performing a ceremony brewing, drinking and then studying tea. After which, roll (Int + Occult). If 3+, you may ask the Storyteller a single question about the Fate or Destiny of a character that drank from the tea. The Storyteller must answer truthfully, but may do so cryptically or through riddles.
<b>Unquenchable Flame</b>	Gather and arrange a set of rocks, no wider than the width of a horse, in a geometric pattern favored by Hesiesh, the Dragon of Fire. After striking each stone with either a wooden or steel rod, flame will erupt and burn between the rocks without need of fuel, nor doused by all but the harshest of winds or rain.
<b>Exorcism</b>	By chanting, forming ritualistic circles, and performing a concentrated twisting of Essence, the sorcerer can banish a ghost or other underworld creature back to a Shadowlands. This cannot be done with any unwilling, undefeated creature that has an Essence Rating.
<b>Words of Dreams</b>	By staring into a polished mirror, pond, or other reflective surface, and by sacrificing some symbolic link to the target such as a lock of hair, the Sorcerer can appear into the dreams of the target the next time they sleep.



## 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

- **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.
- **Cooking.** Typically, this ability is not marked on a character sheet, as it does not impact the story much. But if you are a grand cook, to such a great extent that you wish to form charms and powers around it, it can be its own specialized ability.
- **Bureaucracy.** Even the might of the First Age could not function well without a the weight of an efficiently organized empire behind them.

## 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.

### Loss of Merits

Merits, unlike Powers purchased by the player, are not guaranteed to be protected for the duration of the story.

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.

During dramatic parts of the story—and with coordination between Storyteller and Player, merits can be permanently removed. This may be done through such things as a stunning defeat, or a tragic change in an Ally's cause.

## NATURAL MERITS

### Backing

The Character is an official in an organization. Their rating represents how much organizational power the character has.

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.

Backing 2 would either represent being the head of a local organization, or the leader of a local chapter of a global organization, whereas Backing 5 would represent being the head of a global organization of great note.

### Bond

**Special Note:** Bonds must be purchased by all bonded characters, though they need not be the same level.

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.

### Contacts

You have a network of contacts in a given location and class of society willing to give you information. So long as you are in a location of your contacts, there's always someone with a friendly face, or who knows someone who knows something.

### Cult

The Character is a leader and/or target of worship for a religious cult. They unquestioningly follow your commands, but will also require periodic guidance, attention, and often may do unwanted things in their fervor.

### Wealth

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.

### Ally

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 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.

### Allies in Combat

Exalted is a story about the Player Characters, not about the companions they have surrounded themselves with.

By default whenever combat breaks out, any Allies will get tied up in their own battle group—splitting off part of the attack force and dealing with them in a parallel combat scene that is only visually referenced, not mechanically.

However, the Player Character may choose to “Bark Orders” at an ally, which allows the Player to use one of their two actions as the Ally.

### 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 may have a Lesser Evocation

Rating 4 Artifacts may have 2 Evocations, and have a Greater Evocation.

Rating 5 Artifacts have up to 3 Evocations, 2 Greater Evocations, and 1 Capstone Evocation.

### Language (1-2)

Each purchase of this merit represents a specific language the Player Character has fluently learned to speak, read, and write in. Characters without this merit may be able to communicate in the most rudimentary sense, but will do so at a Disadvantage.

There are two tiers of languages: Standard, worth 1 dot, and Uncommon, worth 2 Dots.

- **Standard Language (•)**

- A Tongue local to a specific place—typically of those isolated from the outside world.
- **The Trade Language**, Rivertongue
- **A Directional Language:** Firespeak, WoodTongue, Waterspeak, and AirSpeak. This is not a single language in of itself, but covers all of the local dialects well enough.
- **High Realm**, spoken of amongst the elite of the Realm. Has been specifically tailored to remove itself from Low Realm as a marker of being learned, despite being derived from the same root language.
- **Low Realm**, spoken by the vast majority of the citizens of the Realm.



- **Uncommon Language (••)**

- **Old Realm**, an ancient tongue mostly relegated to the ancient writings of the First Age, and the language Gods know of most.
- **Dragontongue**, the language of the Shogunate area, enforced to be the common language before the Realm existed.
- **Malfean**, a terrible tongue spoken only by demons.
- **Autochthonian**, spoken by those trapped in the body of the Great Maker, separated from the rest of Creation.

### **Mutation**

A mutation represents any non-standard body configuration that may be useful to the character. This is a boon (or curse, depending on attitudes), is granted by sorcerous workings, the gods, and the eddies of the dangerous Wyld.

Sample Mutations		
Name	Cost	Description
<b>Toxin Resistance</b>	1	You can ignore small levels of a specified class of toxin, and gain a Moderate Advantage when resisting larger quantities.
<b>Natural Armor</b>	1	You have scales, leather, or other natural armor. You are never without your armor.
<b>Tail</b>	1	You have a tail, which can be used as a limited-dexterity appendage.
<b>Fins</b>	2	You may move normally through water. Your fins may be hidden or disguised.
<b>Wings</b>	2	You may fly through the air. Your wings cannot be hidden.
<b>Wings (Hideable)</b>	3	You may fly through the air. Your wings can be hidden at any time.
<b>Extra Limbs</b>	3	You have another pair of dexterous arms and hands (or legs or tentacles)

## **SUPERNATURAL MERITS**

Most Supernatural Merits require *Storyteller Approval* to purchase, or to grant to followers.

### **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 in some way: For example: Shapeshifting may be granted, but only into only one creature.

**4**—Use of the Ability, restricted in some way. In addition, they may purchase Lesser Charms.

**5**—Use of the Ability in its entirety and the ability to purchase Charms normally.

# THE SYSTEM

## STRUCTURE

The system of Exalted Reincarnated consists of the base Narrative System, Character Abilities, and three important subsystems: Encounters, Combat, and Projects.

### NARRATIVE SYSTEM

The **Base Narrative System** covers the base interactions of the game, and will most likely span the majority of time spent. It consists of Action Rolls, Character Powers, as well as detailing out certain specific circumstances that might come up, such as group rolls.

For the most part, the Base Narrative System is intended to provide tools to quickly resolve what happens in response to roleplay with a simple roll—something to verify that the characters can actually do what they say they are doing.

These are all intended to be tools—something you can pick up and put down as needed. Do not feel bound to use them if they are not needed.

### ENCOUNTERS

The **Encounter** subsystem is a framework that the Storyteller can use to provide twists, turns, and satisfying motion for dramatic scenes, ranging from courtrooms to mental mazes to the intricate dance of social maneuvering.

The Encounter subsystem is the lightest of the systems, intended to be flexible enough to handle a myriad of possibilities while still retaining structure and predictability.

### COMBAT

While a conflict could be determined by a simple opposed roll, it is rarely satisfying to do so. The **Combat** subsystem is provided for scenes where violence must be performed in glorious battle.

It is the most mechanically involved of the subsystems, in order to give Players the satisfaction of performing shifting tactics and powerful maneuvers that only the Exalted are capable of performing—while not getting bogged down in endless minutia.

### PROJECTS

Sometimes there are great stretches of times that pass by, that are not directly played. Yet the Exalted are constantly busy, creatures of action and motion even if there is not a direct outward change.

The **Project** subsystem details how to handle timeskips, background tasks, and how the Exalt changes the world around them when the world isn't directly falling apart.

## CORE MECHANICS

### ACTION ROLLS

Whenever an Exalt attempts something that is dangerous, uncertain, or momentous, the Player at the table will perform an *Action Roll* to check that the action can be performed.

Exalted uses a *dice pool* system, where the Player gathers a number of d10's (ten-sided dice) equal to their character's relevant Attribute and Ability scores. For example, if the character was attempting to scale a cliff, they would gather a combination of their *Attribute: Strength* (4) and *Ability: Athletics* (2) dice together into their Dice Pool. (6, in this case).

Then, with their full Dice Pool, they roll. For each die face that is showing the target number: (7) or higher, they gain one success on the action. If the number of successes is higher than the difficulty of the action, the character succeeds.

For example, examine the results of six rolled dice:

**{1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 9}**

This would count as 3 successes, as follows:

**{0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 1}**

If the difficulty of the action was 3 or less, the character would succeed on their action. The values of 1, 3, and 4 are not, and do not affect the roll in any way.

If a die face shows up as the value (10), the die generates not one (1), but *two* (2) successes, allowing for critical successes beyond the character's normal limit.

If the roll had instead been:

**{1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10}**

This would count as (4) successes:

**{0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 2}**

### WHEN TO CALL FOR A ROLL

An Action Roll should only be called for by the Storyteller when the result of a character's action is *uncertain*. Don't call for a roll if a task is either guaranteed to succeed or to fail—one of easiest traps to fall into as a Storyteller is to call for a roll expecting it to succeed or not, and then scrambling to adapt because the dice did something unexpected.

### 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.

## DETERMINING 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 challenging to a mere mortal, but an Exalted Hero is more than likely going to pass it: though there is still a reasonable risk of failing. Picking a lock, calming an irate guardsman, or basic first aid would fall under this category.
- **Difficulty 3 (Typical)**- A mortal will find this to be a difficult or challenging task, but an Exalt will most likely be able to pass it with some effort.
- **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.

**Difficulty 3** should be the default roll.

## WHAT TO ROLL?

A roll should be called *in response* to Player actions, and as a way to *represent* what is happening in the action—this is a role-playing game after all!

The Attribute and Ability should be chosen based on what most represents the action the Player's character is described as doing.

For example, if a character was charming a crowd through song, it would be *Charisma* and *Performance*.

A character's Attribute represents the character's general skills and method, whether it is primarily a *Physical*, *Social*, or *Mental* action, and if they are performing the action that action through *Force*, or *Finesse*. The six Attributes are:

- **Strength** (Physical Force)
- **Dexterity** (Physical Finesse)
- **Charisma** (Social Force)
- **Insight** (Social Finesse)
- **Intelligence** (Mental Force)
- **Wits** (Mental Finesse)

Abilities are *specific* skills relevant to the situation, such as *Lore* for knowledge of history, or *Craft* for the creation of material goods. A full description and list of Abilities may be found in the [Attributes and Abilities](#) chapter.

It is also perfectly acceptable to offer a selection of multiple different Abilities that might match the action, with the Player having the choice between them.

### Failing Forward

In a high-powered setting such as Exalted, properly handling failure is incredibly important. You, as the Storyteller, are there to make sure that the story keeps moving forward, even if the Players are unable to do so.

It is often helpful to see a failed roll as an opportunity for you to move the plot in a way that the Player characters wouldn't want, rather than simply not succeeding.

When a Player Character fails on an action, there are a few general paths that you may choose to employ:

#### A Simple Failure

The character doesn't do the action, and the story must continue through a different way.

Sometimes simply failing is perfectly fine—the limits of the character are tested and shown, and there's no shame in slowing down and reconsidering a new way to go forward.

This is the simplest way forward, and probably what most people think of with a failure. Using it should happen when the Players have plenty of potential options in front of them and can quickly jump tracks onto another way—often highlighting a different character.

The dangers of this path, though, is that it will slow down momentum of the game. A little slowdown is fine—sometimes there needs to be room to breathe—but if a game crashes to a halt based on a failure and all narrative momentum is lost, it would be better to choose a different failure condition.

#### A Great Cost

The character manages to do what they intended, but only at a great personal or story cost—they have met the bare minimum of what they wanted, but most definitely not in the way they wanted it.

They opened the doors like they wanted, but they alerted everyone to their actions. You, as the Storyteller, are allowed to take a story-based reaction against the player character, driving up the stakes of the scene. Remember: you are not there to punish the players, but to set up great adversity and challenges!

#### 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.

## 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.

### Minimum Difficulty

The minimum difficulty is **always 1**. You cannot lower difficulty past that through any means. Therefore, rolling 0 successes is **always a failure**.

## 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
Moderate	±2	±1
Major	±4	±2

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!

## 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 by letting the action proceed! If a character swings from a chandelier in order to drop down on top of an enemy, let them do so!

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 with no damage. Nobody need concern themselves with the useless physics of such a maneuver.

If the Stunt is particularly impressive consider rewarding the Player with [1 Anima](#).

Stunts also do not need to be tied to specific actions. If, as a Storyteller, you find a scene or particular interaction to be moving, reward the players with Anima.

## 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](#), a measure of how close their Great Curse is to activating.

## SPECIAL ACTIONS

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.

However, there are a few specific situations that have special rules:

### TEAMWORK

Whenever a character uses their action to assist another, they may grant a Moderate Advantage to another (+2 dice/+1 Difficulty) without the need to roll.

If two people teamwork the same target, they may bump it up to a Major Advantage (+4 dice/+2 Diff.), but no more than that is allowed.

### 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.*

### GROUP ROLLS

If a *group* of people must all succeed on the *same* action—such as sneaking—those character who exceed the difficulty may donate any extra successes to their less fortunate group mates at a rate of *2 successes given per 1 successes received*. This is a special form of automatic Teamwork.

So, if a group trying to succeed at a difficulty 3 check rolls 7, 3, and 1, the Player that rolled 7 would be able to give up their 4 extra successes to give the last Player 2 successes.

## RECALL FACT

You have two options when determining Facts about the world:

1. Ask the Storyteller a question.
2. Introduce a fact that your character “knows” about the world. This must not contradict the established setting in your game. (The Storyteller may veto a fact.)

Once you have stated your goal, the Storyteller determines the difficulty of remembering that fact, which you roll against as normal. If successful, the Storyteller must answer the question truthfully, or note the introduced fact as part of reality.

Typically, this roll is (Intelligence + Lore), but it need not be. You may use any Ability to know things related to that ability—such as using *Archery* to recall facts of a famous archer. Lore simply is the Ability that has no restrictions on use.

#### **The Non-Omniscient Scholar**

You are able to recall *facts*, not *truths*. “I want to know if Solars are actually Anathema” is not an appropriate use for Lore, but “Have Solars always been depicted as Anathema?” would be.

As well, facts known by a character are going to be *highly biased* depending on their backstory. As a Storyteller, don't be afraid to give out advantages/disadvantages! A Dynastic monk will have *very different* sources of information than, say a Sidereal.

## READ INTENTIONS/INTIMACY

Reading Intentions is a **Reflexive** Action.

When a character desires to understand another, they may attempt to read the Intentions based on their actions, though this must be in *response* to their target's actions—you can't simply read intentions of a character who is doing nothing!

On a successful roll against a difficulty set by the Storyteller, as dictated by the target's social grace, the Player may ask a question to the Storyteller about the target and the *character's action*, ranging from: “Who are they,” “What are they here (in the scene) for?” “Where are they going?” “Do they intend me harm?”

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

All Players may attempt the roll, but only the highest-roll gets to ask the question.

## INFLUENCE INTIMACY

You may grant or *suppress* Intimacies in targets. Intimacy changes made this way are temporary. They last at least a Scene, but will fade away afterwards at the Storyteller's discretion.

### 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.

Emotions are always treated as a Moderate Modifier, and so only gain +/-1 Resolve, compared to a full Intimacy.

## PERFORM TASK

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*. (If the final roll involves a "Perform Task" ask, the resolve bonus is not applied—the act of performing the encounter wears down the Resolve over the course of the scene.

- **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 an Emotion or 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 an 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.

### 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—they may be convinced that they need to help another character, but it will not override their free-will to do so.

## SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

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.

## 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. However, those same Intimacies may be used to pull the character into increasingly difficult tasks.

Whenever a character is confronted with something that *tugs* at their intimacy—such as a convincing argument that the proposed action will help them protect their family, they take a (-2) Resolve. However, if it runs *counter* to their Intimacy, such as their deep-held believe to not harm others, they gain (+2) Resolve.

Multiple Intimacies can be in play at the same time.

### 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.

## TEMPORARY 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 (+/-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.

## GROUP RESOLVE

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.

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

### 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. Showcasing horrors of the past and the casual atrocities people have done to each other is a decision *you* are making right now.

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.

## 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 ability to manipulate and channel the energies of the world are measured in **Motes of Essence**, a pool of points that is immediately spent for supernatural effects, and slowly regains over time.

Motes of Essence regain 1 per Hour when the character is taking explicit action to rest, such as sleeping, playing games, or participating in (relatively) stress-free activities that they enjoy.

The entire Mote Pool regains after a full night’s of rest, regardless of how large the pool is. However, a character will **lose** all their accumulated Anima while resting.

The mote pool will increase with the character’s **Essence**, which is a measure of how in tune the character is with the flows of energy through and surrounding them. This Rating will increase automatically as the character accrues xp.

## ANIMA

Exalts are not limited to just their own personal Mote Pool as a source of their powers. The drive of action and movement will spur them to greater and greater heights. This movement of power is represented as *Anima*, a type of Essence Flow that is ultimately more fleeting, but brimming with possibilities.

You gain Anima through a few means: On a **Critical Roll**, through **Stunting** an action, or through taking a dedicated action to **Build Power**.

Gain Anima	
<b>Critical Roll</b>	1 Anima for a roll of 8-9 2 Anima for a roll of 10-11 3 Anima for a roll of 12+
<b>Stunt</b>	1 Anima for great stunts
<b>Build Power</b>	Gain Anima by taking an action <b>or</b> Spend 5 minutes per Anima required.

Anima fades away if it is not used—If the Exalt engages in rest, regaining motes, their accumulated Anima dissipates—you can only be “brimming with energy” for so long.

### Critical Rolls and Excellencies

Unless otherwise specified, the successes added from Excellencies *counts* as true successes for a critical roll. For example, if you roll 5 successes, and then bump it up to 9 successes through your excellency, you would still gain 1 Anima.

## Build Power

During heated moments, such as in Combat or Encounters, the Exalt takes a moment to stoke their internal flames, drawing essence from the world around them.

The Player describes how the Character focuses themselves, which should be some signature aspect of their character—a Dawn Solar may find solace in flourishing their weapon, a Lunar of the Wyld might cycle through her forms, and a Dragonblood may pull energy from the surrounding area.

Building Power grants 1 Anima to the character immediately. In addition, roll (Essence + Ability) dice and gain **half** (rounded up) of the Successes rolled as Anima.

The Ability chosen should, naturally, be one of the highest your character has—the signature move of your character.

Building Power encompass a number of thematic actions—“Preparing for a devastating blow” or “catching a breather” or “bringing all the clues together in the mind.” It is intended to narratively reflect be the calm before a very, very explosive storm of power and action.

As Building Power is a narrative device to represent a character pushing above and beyond normal strength, trying to purposefully sit and gather Power in scenes without any narrative weight behind it is not allowed. Instead, use the **Narrative Scope** of building power.

## Narrative scope

Since Anima fades away so quickly, Anima need not be tracked during slower, more narrative portions of the game. Instead, use of Anima can be allowed through taking extra time on their actions: roughly **5 minutes per Anima** expended.

## Using Anima

Anima is used to empower the Exalts Anima Powers, as well as any high-level Charms, Spells, or other sources of power that might call for Anima in its activation cost.

Additionally, Anima may be used to empower a character’s *Strife*, a way for the Player to wrest control over the narrative in their favor.

Lastly, there are a couple of raw uses of anima:

- Expending 1 Anima to add 2 Dice to an action. This may only be done once per turn—you cannot expend 2 anima to get 4 dice.
- Anima may be used in place of Motes, at a rate of 1 Anima per Mote. An unlimited amount of Anima may be expended this way.
  - This is usually reserved for when all Motes have been expended, as Anima is typically a more precious resource.

## Is it rest if I...

If it is truly unclear whether a passage of time was rest, ask your players a hard question: “Do you want to regain all your motes? You will lose all of your Anima.”

Resting does not mean sleep—so long as the activity is non-stressful and relaxing to the character, such as playing games or talking over a campfire, it is rest.

## ANIMA BANNER

As an Exalt gathers energy, their souls become suffused with crackling energy, inflaming it into the seen world in a glorious expression.

Ultimately the Anima Banner is an *Aesthetic* matter—one used for Stunts and descriptions.

When using their powers, the Exalted is bathed in their power, the crackling energies surrounding them and forming into a unique expression of their soul—the more power used. First, they crackle with subtle energies across their skin. Then, this energy leaps across outwards, forming an entire colored aura around themselves. Finally, they erupt in their glorious fire, their body suffused in energy and their personal symbols visible to all around them.

The Exalt may choose to consciously hide it, if in situations where flaring their banner would be untoward. Hiding the anima banner requires *dedicated* concentration.

## 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 spending **3 Anima** and performing a Stunt, the Player may:

- Use a Lesser Power they have not purchased, but would otherwise qualify for. If they select a Permanent Power or one with an extended duration, it only lasts a Day at most.
- Reset a Limited-Use Power they have, such as anything that must activated “Once per Story”. This can be done regardless of the level of the Power, and affects Anima Powers. They must still pay the original activation cost of the charm, in addition to the cost of the Strife.
- Have an impact on the world through narrative means. 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.



## 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:

- 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.

For mechanical guidance:

- By default, a roll is not required with a Strife—simply expending the Anima is the cost required to succeed.
  - However, if the effect is *contested* or otherwise resisted, you are always guaranteed at least (Essence) successes on said roll, regardless of what is actually rolled.
  - Using a Strife as a **Strike** gives +4 to Accuracy, and has a Base Damage of 3+(Essence)x2

### 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". it changes the environment, stopping any reinforcements—removing the time limit on the challenge, but not destroying their enemy. It assists the Player and their scene greatly, but does not solve it.

## 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

Limit Gain should always be controlled by the *Player*, not the Storyteller. While you may setup the situations, it is ultimately up to the Player to decide how their character reacts—including if and when they gain Limit.

Some Players will not want to gain Limit at all, others will enjoy pushing their characters back and forth constantly. Both are valid so long as they are having fun.

## 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** by:

- Activating their Excellency
- Encountering the limit trigger they have detailed as part of the Great Curse.
- Working against one of their Intimacies, whether by choice or by force.

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!

## 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.

## CHEAT DEATH

The Player is the sole arbiter of their character's fate. If it is not the time for their character's story to end, that death becomes cheated. Somehow, they defy the monumental odds, crawling days through pain and anguish that none other have suffered for help.

Cheating Death can also be employed for smaller dooms that the Player disagrees with—being mentally controlled, catastrophically messing up a project, etc. “Cheating Death” is the ultimate refusal of the rules, to impose your own narrative on the story.

But cheating death comes at a **cost**. The character will be invariably changed from their experience. There will be scars of their encounter—whether it is physical, mental, or social. The Player should work with the Storyteller to come up with a consequence from the implausible survival.

Cheating Death always involves **gaining 1 Limit**, and rolling to **Limit Break** at the start of the *next* Scene.

Suggestions are:

- A dramatic change in Intimacies—such as the addition of (fear) related to the event.
- A loss of an appropriate merit, such as an Ally who sacrificed themselves to save the character.
- Physical reminders of the lost battles, such as scars.

- Recurring nightmares, where the character is forced to relive the moment of their escaped death.

### Antagonist Defeat

There will be times when an antagonist—intended to be recurring—is defeated, or otherwise dramatically halted.

These Characters, like Player Characters, have the ability to escape certain defeat if it best suits the plot. However, they should *also* suffer the same consequences for doing so.

Escaping death should never be cheap, and should not be done too many times. Let your Players have victories.

## 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:

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

Group Magnitudes				
Scale	Minimum Population	Common Name	Military Designations	
0	1	Individual	-	-
1	10	Party/Group	Squad	Fang
2	50	Crowd	Troop	Scale
3	100	Hamlet	Company	Talon
4	500	Village	Battalion	Wing
5	1,000	Town	Regiment	Dragon
6	10,000	City	Army	Legion
7	100,000	Prefecture	-	-
8	1,000,000	Province	-	-

# ENCOUNTERS

## CREATING AN ENCOUNTER

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.

An Encounter, at its fundamental, boils down to two overarching questions: “**What You [PCs] Want**” and “**What They [NPC's] Want**.” Each group works to further their goals, while trying to prevent the other from advancing their own goal.

### THE DOOM COUNTER (WHAT THEY WANT)

As a Storyteller, you are to write down **What They Want**, and decide how difficult it is for the NPCs to get to their target—how many distinct actions they will have to take in order to reach their goal if unimpeded. This is the **Doom Counter**—if it is filled,

If each action is **certain**, where an antagonist need only *take* the action to fill the doom counter, the number of actions should be:

Doom Counter (Certain)			
Easy	Medium	Hard	Challenging
3	5	7	9

Certain Actions can represent a myriad of things—the simplest being the passage of time, an oppressive clock ticking down to harm to Player's actions. But it can be any range of things, from a city guard pursuing them, an approaching avalanche burying the battlefield.

If each action is **conditional**, or are not certain to succeed when the antagonist takes their action the number of actions should be:

Doom Counter (Conditional)			
Easy	Medium	Hard	Challenging
2	3	5	7

**Conditional** actions come in two flavors: they are advanced when an antagonists takes an action that requires a roll, and succeeds on said roll (such as attempting to sway, influence or otherwise inconvenience a Player character.). Or, they can be **reactively advanced** to whenever a Player Character does something—typically failing on a roll.

The Players should be made aware of this doom counter, even if their characters are not—it will only heighten the tension in the scene. This can be done simply by having a number ticking down

on the screen, some figure being filled in, or physical counters being slowly taken away.

Of course, the *nature* of the Doom Counter should be rarely known—simply a ticking clock towards doom is enough.

There can be **multiple** Goals for NPCs in the scene, completely independent of each other---but it is suggested to never have more than **3**, as that becomes too much to track.

As well, if a scene is relaxed and easygoing, there is a possibility that there is **no** Doom Counter—the risk here is not an external force that imposes complications, but the Player Characters making a mess of the Scene themselves.

### Pushing Doom Back

Player Characters can *counter* the doom counter by taking considered actions to **halt** or **reverse** the doom counter.

You, as the Storyteller, will have to decide if the Player's described action will either prevent the doom counter from advancing this round, or remove a point from the counter—the former being much easier than the latter.

### Abstract Antagonists

It is easy to recognize an antagonist when it is an individual. However, Antagonists can be anything—mobs of people, the environment, or even Time itself.

## COMPLICATIONS

Each time a **Doom Counter** is filled, a complication is introduced into the Scene, ready to trip up, halt, or just alter the course of the Player Characters.

The simplest Complication is the most absolute: the Antagonist gets what they want, the Scene ends, the Player Characters lose. Typically this is only associated with at least Hard Dooms, and is a result of the Players completely ignoring the impending doom.

The other complications, those far more likely to happen, will simply *change* the scene in a way that is detrimental to the Player Characters. As time goes on and more Dooms are fulfilled, the Scene will become more and more untenable, to the point where the Players may have to bail on their goals.

### Examples:

- The City Guard shows up, requiring the Player Characters to sneak around, or else risk an unwanted confrontation.
- Half of the Scene gets buried under snow, unable to interacted with.
- Characters needed for questioning scatter. The Players must actively search for them.

## KEY ISSUES

### (WHAT YOU WANT)

When the Encounter starts, a certain **Goal** must be clearly decided by the Players—if there is no clear Goal, take a moment to discuss it. The goal does not need to be overly complex: “Escape” is quite a popular one, after all.

Once the Goal has been established, think up **1-3 Key Issues** that are preventing the Goal from being accomplished. Again, these need not be overly complex-- a simple sentence is all that is needed for a Key Issue. If you cannot think of any at the spot, is is perfectly fine to use the Goal itself as the singular Key Issue.

Each Key Issue should have a Counter, much like the Doom Counter. Each **successful action** that Players take will fill in a piece of the Counter, and if there is a **Critical Success** (8+), it either fills in two counters, or fills in one counter and prevents a **Doom Counter** from being filled.

As this is a narrative section, you, as the Storyteller, must decide if a stated action would fill in the counter or not—but you must communicate this to your Players before they undertake their action.

Not all actions will lead to filling in the Key Issue—there are plenty of actions that are either in support, or lead up to a deciding action.

Key Issue			
Easy	Medium	Hard	Challenging
3	5	7	9

### Large Groups

If you have more than 4 Players, you should increase the number of actions required for each Key Issue by +1 per Player.

### Hidden Issues

Like the Doom Counter, the *presence* of a Key Issue and the number of actions needed to perform it should not be kept secret—Players must know they are making progress in a Scene, and know that it is heading toward a resolution.

However, the *nature* of a Key Issue may not be known—especially in an intrigue Scene, finding out what *blocks* the goal is nearly as important as taking actions to counter it. There are two ways to handle it:

The **first way** is to simply not state what the Key Issue is, and periodically drop hints as to what it is. If they take actions that are even tangentially related to countering the issue, they get to take a reflexive action using the **Read Intentions** rules to uncover the nature of the Key Issue.

### Accidental Progress

Most of the time, a Hidden Key Issue will require uncovering what the Issue is before proceeding. Only the most targeted actions are supposed to advance the Counter.

However, either through educated guesses or sheer good luck, a Player might take an action that *precisely* matches a Key Issue. In this case...let the issue be filled, and give them a large hint as to what the Key Issue is.

This should be the *exception*, though. If their action is tangentially or near to the Key Issue, simply let them uncover the nature.

The **Second Way** is to have another Key Issue whose goal is to **Uncover** the nature of the Key Issue. What you are doing here is essentially *splitting* the Key Issue in two—half of its actions are dedicated to uncovering the nature, the other half to countering it.

### Consequences

In an Encounter, it is important that Player Actions have *Consequences*—these are **Complications** that arise directly because of the Player’s Actions.

The classic example is that of intimidation: if a Player Character gets what they want through terrorizing people into townfolk, they should *get what they want*, but it will carry with it a price. The townfolk will find themselves hostile, cowed, or scared of the Players, and be less friendly and forthcoming with information.

Essentially, an Encounter should never remain *static*, and should change and update with every character’s action. Think of it like a shifting scene with branching paths—sometimes some actions will close doors and possibilities, while others will open them up. Make sure your Encounter is *dynamic*.

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.

### FLOW

An Encounter does not *need* to have a rigid timing system like Combat—it is a narrative space where actions and reactions happen as seems fitting.

The one rule is that all character should have a *chance* to act/react, before a character acts again.

Once the Players have fulfilled their Key Issues (or the Antagonist has fulfilled theirs), the Encounter scene ends—there is no need to stick around for anything but the optional **final argument**, which wraps up the scene and moves forward.

### SPECIFIC RULES

#### 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.

### ***Final Argument***

Optionally, 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.

The roll—if there is one—for this moment carries no risk of sabotaging existing progress, rather it is a push for *something more*.

### ***Environmental Ailments***

The Exalted are *resistant* to casual exposure disease, warping effects from the Wyld, and other such external debilitation of the soul, but it does not mean they are *immune* to such effects, to say nothing of their mortal followers.

Traversing past the threshold of the Wyld, the catacombs of the Underworld, or in the middle of a plague should *feel dangerous* and risky—if they choose to do such a thing, then they are inviting disaster.

Any of these effects should be treated as an Antagonistic Key Issue—at least of Average complexity against an individual Exalt. (Simple against a mortal).

The Storyteller can advance this Key Issue either as an *active* action of the Environment, or as a reflexive effect that happens when the Characters take a specific action.

If successful, the character should gain a dot or two of a deleterious “merit” that must take a Project to remove.

### ***Characters on the Defense***

Convincing important characters, particularly Player Characters, is a single Key Issue with a base complexity of Average (3), or Difficult (5) if they have an opposing Intimacy to the idea.

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—but they must **Cheat Death** in order to avoid the influence.

### **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 TYPES**

### **THE JOURNEY**

The Player Characters are on a journey from one point of the map to the other. Their Goal is to simply get there as fast and safely as possible.

Unless the terrain is *actively hostile*, such as the treacherous deep sea or the ever-shifting Wyld, the **Doom Counter** is only filled when the Player **roll poorly**—but there may be a creature or force actively hunting them as well.

#### **Complications:**

- Getting Lost
- Losing supplies
- Coming upon dangers.
- Leaving a traceable trail.

#### **Key Issues**

- Unknown Path
- Dwindling rations
- Hostile environment, such as frigid temperatures.

### **THE COURT**

<TODO>

### **MURDER INVESTIGATION**

<TODO>

### **STEALTH MISSION**

<TODO>

## EXAMPLE ENCOUNTERS

### EXAMPLE 1: THE TRADE PRINCE

*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.*

#### Goal

Convince the Trade-Prince to fund their expedition.

#### Key Issues

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

1. **Monetary concerns**  
(Simple—1)

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—3)

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—5) (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.

#### Complications

Hidden Key Issue. The Storyteller will not immediately indicate that the Immaculate Order has a presence in the scene, only dropping hints along the way to signal that its influence is here.

### EXAMPLE 2: ESCAPE

*They were on a simple reconnaissance mission: infiltrate the Guild's meeting, and discover their end goal. They didn't realize that a Slave Trader was part of the meeting, nor that their Zenith caste would have such a violent reaction upon discovering this fact.*

*Now, they need to escape before the entire city is called down upon them.*

#### Goal

Escape from the Guild Hall.

#### Key Issues

1. **Physically Escape (silently)**  
(Average—3)

They will need to traverse the complicated and guarded corridors of the guild hall.

2. **Remove Presence**  
(Difficult—5) (optional)

If they are to get their plans back on track, they will need to confuse people who saw them into misremembering what happened, and remove any indications that they were here tonight.

3. **Calm Rampaging Ally**  
(Difficult—5)

Their Zenith cast ally is currently limit breaking, seeking to destroy the slaver's guild and free all of the 'merchandise' with their sheer force of will. They need to be either appeased or forced to take their mission in a better way.

#### Complications

This is a timed scene, with actual defined, structured rounds. The Storyteller has decided that on Round 3, the guards will alert the guild hall.

On Round 5, more guards and innocent bystanders will fill the hall, increasing the difficulty of all stealth rolls.

On Round 7, the gates will be closed, presumably forcing a failure of the scene.

## 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.

### THE COMBAT ROUND

Combat is split into distinct Rounds, where each character has a chance to take one Action, such as Attacking, using a Charm, or any other maneuver that they might wish to perform. Any powers that take up a full action are denoted as **Simple** Powers.

On their turn, a character is able to perform two actions, though only one can be a **Strike** by default. (e.g. a single **Maneuver** and **Strike**, or two **Maneuvers**.) The Actions may be performed in any order the Player desires.

There are some charms or powers that may grant a bonus action. **There is a hard limit of 1 bonus action per Turn**, no combination of Powers or effects can exceed that limit. Supplemental Powers that grant a maneuver's *effects* through do not count to that limit. (e.g. If a Charm that supplements a successful Strike with *knockback*.)

### Combined Actions

Often, the actions of a character will be against a single target. While, mechanically, these are two different actions, they do not need to be described as such. For example, if a character performs a Brawl Strike and then Holds a foe, it can easily be described as “I lash forward, grappling them down, hitting them onto the floor.” Each aspect would still require the roll to see if it was successful, but they are handled by the same description.

If there is a Stunt, apply the benefits to both rolls.

### TURN ORDER

In combat, Turns follow a swinging back-and-forth focus: once one character finishes their actions, it is passed to the next side to the opponent with the most narrative weight or physical proximity to the action, as determined by the Storyteller. For example, if a Player Character is attacking a monster, the monster would be the next to go in the action, and then the spotlight would swing back to the Player Character closest to the monster.

Each character only takes one turn per Round. Once all combatants on a side gone, the remaining characters finish their turns—no character should be skipped in a Round (unless they willingly passed.)

The first person to act in the combat scene should naturally flow from the end of the last scene—if a character launched a surprise attack, or was the first one on the combat scene, they are the one to act first.

However, if it unclear (as it often is,) the first character to act is determined by a (Wits + Awareness) roll performed as combat breaks out—the character with the most successes acting first, (Ties are resolved with a coin flip)

The Storyteller is the ultimate arbiter of the combat flow, guiding this alternating spotlight as they feel best fits the mood, but characters volunteering for an action, or passing their action over to a fellow character should be encouraged and respected as best as possible.

### Alternate Turn Orders

Turn Order is a mechanic highly and contentiously discussed. Everyone has their favorite way of handling combat—all with their own individual benefits.

Ultimately, what matters is simply agreement on a system, so that each Player’s turn can be quick and responsive—the exact method can be altered based on personal preferences, or even in response to a specific scene.

Here are a few alternates:

1. **Static:** At the beginning of combat, all characters roll (1d10) and add (Athletics). Each round, characters go from highest number to lowest.
2. **Popcorn:** Each character takes their action, and then the controlling Player designates the next character to act until all have acted in the Round.
3. **Nominated Team:** The side with the highest total number of successes among all characters goes first. Each round, the team nominates which character will act for their turn.

### Held Actions

A character may use up one of their actions to wait for a specific event, where they can use their other action to either act *before* or *after* the event, at their discretion. This must be a specific, non-arbitrary event such as “when someone comes through this door.” Players *must* tell the Storyteller what the event is—they cannot arbitrarily wait.

A character may hold their action until it is their Turn again in the next Round. If by this point the event has not happened, the held action is simply lost and the character must take their new Turn as normal.



# ZONES

Characters are constantly in motion in the battlefield—performing acrobatics, running across the walls, and rushing from point to point. Even the least mobile among the exalted do not simply stand in a single spot waiting to be hit.

For this reason, rather than lock characters down with a required movement action, the battlefield is split into distinct Zones, which characters can freely move within and attack each other without limitation.

When entering combat, the Storyteller should designate the battlefield into distinct Zones that have logical boundaries related to scene, such as “inside the inn” or “on top of the rooftops.” Zones should be split up logically based on the terrain, though if the Storyteller may choose to chop up a zone into smaller categories if they feel they are too large (i.e. a north and south side of a long path.)

There is no set size for a zone—they can be as large or small as is narratively required.

## MOVE

Take an action to relocate between Zones. By default, this does not require a roll. However, if there are situations such as rough terrain, environmental effects, or if another character is restraining or otherwise blockading a path, a roll will be called for.

## ATTACKING BETWEEN ZONES

Ranged weapons, such as bows, have the option to attack cross zone lines as though they were in the same zone. However, zone boundaries often are marked by some sort of barrier, such as walls, which *would still* impede an attack.

Attacks crossing a Zone boundary suffer a -2 dice penalty, but may be negated by taking an **Aim** Maneuver. Each Zone boundary adds its own dice penalty, and must be negated by its own individual Aim Maneuver. For example, striking across 3 Zone boundaries would impose a -6 dice penalty, and would require 3 Aim Maneuvers to fully counter.

**Aiming** is an action that must be declared against the target you intend to hit. You cannot simply take a general aim action.

## Zone of Control

Occasionally, a Zone might be focused around a character—typically some giant monster that dominates the battlefield, and often extends just as long as the creature’s reach. This is considered a “Zone within a Zone”

Aside from being mobile, this Zone follows most of the same rules—characters must be in that Zone to make melee attacks (including the creature itself). But there are a couple special considerations:

1. The creature can move within and between Static Zones as normal.
2. The creature can force a target character into its Zone of Control by approaching them. This may be done once freely a turn, targeting a single character within the same Static Zone. (Common Sense may bring other characters in too—such as if a group is describe as huddling together.)
3. Characters must always use a roll when attempting to leave the Zone of Control.

# 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.

Simple Charms, Powers, and other effects that do not deal damage are considered to be a Maneuver.

The Player describes any action that would grant them tactical advantage, and then rolls the appropriate [Att + Abi] dice pool if one is called for. If there is a Difficulty of **None** on the Maneuver, they simply declare they are taking that action, and move on—no roll needed.

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

The one hard and fast rule of a Maneuver is that it **cannot deal damage**—that is a Strike. Knocking back a character through a wall, shattering the wall is a Maneuver. Knocking back a character into a wall, shattering their bones, is a Strike. (Knocking them back into the wall, breaking it *and* shattering their bones would be a Maneuver and Strike actions, which would narratively be combined together.

## On Hit

Many combat powers will call for something to happen “on hit”. If not specifically calling out a Strike, this can also include Maneuvers that target the specified Difficulty involving physical contact between the two characters/their weapons. For example, knocking back a character with a kick.(or specified difficulty, such as Block and Evasion).

## BUILD POWER

The Action “Build Power” is considered a Maneuver in combat. Typically it will focus on gaining the tactical edge over the scene—studying movements of the foes, centering yourself, or making feinting moves.

### What can't I do?

Maneuvers are simply normal actions taken in combat, and so follow the same rule: “Does this make sense?” There are few hard limits imposed, rather relying on the judgment of the Storyteller and fellow players for the tone of the setting.

Can you knock back an enemy on a wave of sound by performing an epic ballad on your essence guitar? (Charisma + Performance) Whether or not this is something you want in your game is your choice.

During combat, Physical Attributes and Martial Abilities can do the most, rarely needing an explanation or stunt to justify their actions.

Maneuvers		
Name	Difficulty	Description
Aim	None	Take an Action and Aim, negating the penalty from firing across a Zone boundary. Must specifically declare a target.
Move	None (Varies)	Cross a Zone boundary. Typically has no difficulty, but may require a roll if restrained, or if the terrain is difficult.
Defend Other	None	Select a character in the same Zone as you. Attacks that target them must instead target you. You must remain in the same Zone as your charge.
Change Stance	None	Swap Fighting Style.
Weaken Defense	(3 / 5 / 8)	Decrease a single target's defense. (-1) for a (3+), (-2) for (5+), or (-3) for (8+). Cannot be stacked.  This lasts until the target recovers.
Break/Bypass Defense	(Varies)	If a weakness exists, as detailed by the Storyteller, it can break or bypass a defense—effectively setting it to 1. Tearing armor off, or trapping a beast in a cage are examples. The difficulty is determined based on the narrative.
Knockback / Pull /	Block	Moves the target up to one Zone.

Maneuvers		
Restrain	Evasion	Roll (Dexterity + Brawl) against a target's Evasion. If successful, the target cannot move Zones for one Round,. This lasts until your next action.
Distract / Intimidate / Stun	MDV	You apply a -2 dice disadvantage on another character. If you exceed their Resolve by +3, this becomes a -4 dice Disadvantage.
Recover	(3 / 5)	Remove imposed dice penalties. Purge (-2) or lower for 3, and (-4) and lower for 5.
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, granting yourself Minor/Moderate Defense Advantage. You may also destroy other's cover Advantage.
Keep Pace/ Reactionary Move	Evasion	When the target takes a Move Action, reflexively move one Zone. This does not cost an action. This lasts until your next action.

## STRIKE

**Hit:** (Accuracy) >= DV

**Damage:** (Accuracy) + Base Damage – DV - Soak

If you truly wish to kill your opponent, you may do so by striking at them with a dangerous attack. These can be performed against any character within range that is not specifically protected by some sort of narrative defense—such as a wall or a giant chasm. If a character attempts to attack an ineligible target, remind them and ask them to take another action instead.

By default, a Strike must use either **Strength** or **Dexterity**, paired with **Brawl**, **Melee**, or **Marksmanship**. Attacking with any other Attribute/Ability requires either a Stunt, Storyteller permission, or a dedicated Power.

The dice pool to attack is called **Accuracy**, which should be recorded on the character sheet for quick reference. It is the (Attribute + Ability) referenced above, with any bonuses added from your fighting style, and any Powers and Advantages you might have.

After declaring an attack, roll the **Accuracy** pool. If the number of successes is less than the target's **DV**, the attack misses. If it is greater or equal to, it hits.

On a hit, subtract the **DV** from the number of successes on the **Accuracy** roll—this is called your **Threshold Successes**. Add that to your **Base Damage**, and the total amount is the damage the target takes.

If the target has **Soak**, they absorb that much damage, but the rest is taken from their Health Pool.

### Strike Order Resolution.

A Strike consists of two parts—the Accuracy roll, and the Damage resolution. Each time, the order favors the defender over the attacker.

Supplemental Powers that enhance damage **do not** need to be declared until after the Accuracy roll is determined—if the attack misses, **don't waste motes on a failed attack**.

Use the flow of the table to determine your order, primarily. *What is important is fun, not fiddly timing rules.* This is just here to resolve disagreements.

1. Attacker rolls their Accuracy, with all Accuracy-boosting Powers.
2. Defender responds with their Static Value and any defense-boosting Powers.
3. The **Player(s)** may decide to activate their Excellency—either offensively or Defensively.
4. If the Attack exceeds the final defense value, it hits.
5. The Attacker declares any supplemental Damage boosting Powers.
6. The Defender declares any supplemental Damage reducing Powers, including Soak.
7. The final damage is calculated, then Health is removed.

### Targeted Attacks

Certain Powers will call for a **targeted** attack, attacking a derived value such as Evasion or Resolve, or calling for a contested roll. These bypasses the normal defense structure.

Instead of **DV**, you will use whatever defense is declared on the Power. For example, you may directly target Block against a highly Evasive enemy, both increasing your chances of hitting and gaining more damage in the process.

## COMBAT END

Combat ends when the outcome of the scene has been determined—you don't need to grind out all the health from opponents to know they are defeated.

Once the direction of the Scene is determined, the Storyteller may drop out of Combat and into a Narrative scene, letting the players resolve combat as they see fit—or try to recuperate from its losses.

The Exalted are also known to stop combat through strange ways—such as breaking the will of combatants so they no longer are their enemies. Moments like this should be *encouraged*, and there is no special reason that characters will keep attacking past reason.

### FLEEING

It is not unreasonable that one side or another will, instead of waiting to be slaughtered, or outright surrender, they will instead try to flee for their lives.

There are two methods to contest this. (Simply allowing one side or the other to flee is also an option.)

One, is to transfer into an **Encounter**, where chasing or fleeing is the goal of the encounter, and the Key Issues are impediments to trapping or routing the fleeing characters.

The other is to attempt to keep the fleeing characters in combat. In this case, all fleeing characters need to leave and external-facing Zones through a contested Athletics roll on their turn.

## DEFEAT

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

Though, the Storyteller should rightfully note the effects of various types of damages used, such as slashing or piercing, and indicate that minor characters may perish without active action.

Characters rarely fight to the death—or even to the point of being knocked. Surrender, escape, or other options will become the pressing concern of any NPC who gets at or below **5 Health**. They gain an Intimacy of “survival” at this point.

Player characters who are defeated and in mortal danger must **Cheat Death** in order to avoid their fate, explaining their (implausible) escape/return. If they are not in mortal danger, they still gain **1 Limit** from the humiliation of defeat. (Friendly sparring matches and competitions are excluded.)

### HEALING AND RECOVERY

Health lost in combat is regained much in the same way motes are: through rest and relaxation. **15 Points** of Health are regained after a full night's rest, or **2 points** per hour if it is interrupted.

## THE ENVIRONMENT

The Environment itself can be a “character” involved in combat, as a way to simulate things ranging from earthquakes to the turning of the night, to things such as the advancement of a firestorm raging through a city.

The Environment is generally impervious to any attacks thrown at it (You may throw water at a fire to repel its advances, but typically not pierce it with arrows), and does not have a mind of its own to coordinate.

If an Environmental “attack” is all encompassing in a Zone and predictable, such as rumbling earth, a landslide, falling a great distance, or a burning flame, there is *no need* to make an Attack roll. It is assumed to hit and deal damage.

Environmental Damage	
Light	3
Medium	5
Heavy	7
Oppressive	9

## BATTLE GROUPS

Minor Characters, especially those that cannot alone damage their foes will naturally fall into **Battle Groups**.

Groups act as a single character, but gain the following bonus based on their **Group Magnitude**:

- Add 5 Health for every Magnitude Scale increment.
- Add 1 Damage, 1 Accuracy, and +1 Dice on an action for every Magnitude Scale increment

## FIGHTING STYLE

A character’s **Fighting Style** is a combination of the **Weapon Type** and the **Weapon Style** with which it is wielded. These two aspects are completely linked, and cannot be changed once created. For example, taking the Weapon Type: Melee, and the Fighting Style: Two-Handed describes a two-handed greatsword. It cannot simply be changed to a One-Handed style due to its intrinsic nature.

A character can have up to two Fighting Styles at a time, which can be switched to and from using a Maneuver Action. (The base ‘style,’ Unarmed, or no style, does not count on this limit.) This represents the time it takes for the character to swap their weapons out. Specific Fighting Styles are often called out as a requirement for a Martial Arts.

Note that a Fighting Style **cannot increase Block or Evasion past 5**.

### Can my Weapon Pull Double Duty?

The default assumption is that each Fighting Style has an individual weapon associated with it: you fight with a firepiece in one stance, and a sword in another.

If you wanted to combine the two into one weapon, creating a gunblade, that is perfectly fine. It provides no mechanical benefit, but it is cooler.

## WEAPON TYPES

The weapon type is defined by what Ability it uses, and gains a few benefits along the way:

- **Brawl**  
+1 Accuracy, 3 Base Damage  
Typical weapons: None, tiger claws, natural weapons, brass knuckles, spiked boots.
- **Melee**  
Grants 4 Base Damage  
Typical weapons: Sword, spear, club, mace, whip.
- **Marksmanship**  
+1 Accuracy, 2 Base Damage, May attack at all ranges.  
Typical weapons: Bow, flamepiece, crossbow, throwing spear.

### Exotic Types (Custom)

Exotic abilities, those that are not of the list above, can be used with the coordination and approval of the Storyteller. For example, **Craft** could be paired with **Reach/Thrown** to represent throwing explosives as an attack.

Exotic Types offer no other benefit, save for 2 Base Damage. By default (without a custom style), they still require Strength/Dexterity as the paired Attribute.

## WEAPON STYLE

### **Grapple Master:**

(Brawl-Only)

+1 Evasion (max 5)

You may *Grapple* opponents, occupying them in close hand-to-hand combat in a way that they cannot escape. As a Maneuver, roll (Dexterity + Brawl) against their Evasion. If successful, you Restrain them for a Round, plus additional Rounds for every 2 extra Successes on the roll.

When Restrained, you have an extra +2 dice to attack the target. As well, you may prematurely end the grapple as a maneuver, throwing or slamming the target against physical material, immediately dealing 5 damage to them (which may be soaked.)

### **Defensive Posture:**

+1 Block (max 5)

*Often represented as having a shield in the off-hand.*

Choose a target at the start of combat. You may reflexively defend them as long as you are in their Zone. As well, you may reflexively move one Zone to meet your protectorate, though it consumes your next Maneuver.

### **One-Handed:**

+1 Accuracy, +1 Damage

*A balanced style, allowing great flexibility and general bonuses.*

You can **call** a Strike, taking a Maneuver to specify the target and how you are performing the called shot. (e.g. a specific body part, trying to use psychology against them, etc.) All Strikes against this character gain +2 Acc. for the remainder of the Scene, or else until you switch targets.

### **Two-Handed:**

(Strength-only)

+2 Damage

*Focused on overwhelming power over all else.*

You may brazenly attack. Perform a Maneuver, calling out a specific *target*. Lower your DV by 1 until your next Round in order to target Evasion instead of DV on your next Strike against the target.

### **Dual-Wielding:**

(Dexterity-Only)

+1 Accuracy, +1 Damage

*A surprise attack from the off-hand weapon will catch most opponents off-guard.*

Once per battle, you may immediately Reroll a Strike should it fail. Afterwards you may spend 2 Anima to re-use this ability. Only one reroll per Strike is allowed.

### **Reach/Thrown:**

(Marksmanship excluded)

Allows attacking at range, but only across one Zone Boundary.

**Note:** you do not lose access to your weapon after throwing it. Either it returns (like a boomerang), you have a chain to pull it back, or you have multiple copies.

At the beginning of combat, call out an enemy—you do not suffer Ranged Penalties for attacking them. You may switch targets as a Maneuver.

## CUSTOM STYLE

You are by no means restricted to these listed styles, and may work with your Storyteller to craft your own.

You are granted 2 base points to spend on a style:

0 points (flavor restrictions)

- Restricting to Strength or Dexterity
- Restricting to or excluding a Weapon Type

The following each cost 1 point.

- 1 dice of accuracy (max 3)
- 1 damage (max 3)
- +2 Dice on a specific action
- Allows the use of an Exotic Attribute.
- Minor consistent benefit
- Moderate situational benefit

The following each cost 2 points

- Moderate consistent benefit
- Major situational benefit
- 1 Block/Evasion (max 1)
- 1 Soak (max 1)

You may **gain points** if you take a penalty, which are *inverse* of the above—for example gaining a point if you have a 1 dice *penalty* to accuracy. You cannot gain more than 3 points total from this method.

Once the points have been granted, you should give the Style a **Power** that enhances the style—some sort of **Maneuver** that gives the style its flavor. This should be equivalent to a **Lesser Power** in strength.

## ARMOR

- **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 Block 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.

Note that **Mundane Armor** cannot increase Block or Evasion **past 5**. Any Block or Evasion above this limit becomes **Soak**, which is only active when that defense is used. E.g. if you have a Block of 6, it becomes DV 5, +1 Soak for normal attacks. But attacks that bypass Evasion will also bypass the Soak.

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

## ARTIFACT ARMOR

Artifact Armor gains +1 Soak to all categories, in addition to their specific bonuses. This will be reiterated with the artifact stat block.

## EQUIPMENT AND ELSEWHERE

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.

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.



# 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.

Projects represent what happens during **downtime** to explain what characters are doing when the heat of action is not fully upon them. As such, performing Projects best happens during *time skips* or *between stories*—a perfect point to pause the action and reflect on what characters are not doing on-screen.

However, *this is not required*—any point of downtime or rest is a valid time to perform a Project. In this case, the time required is assumed to have been done over the course of many sleepless nights—or just hand-waved away.

A scene of Projects will often follow a montage structure—Choose a Player, let them describe what they are spending their points on, then ask for a couple of small images of what happens during the project, leading up to the inevitable Obstruction that will need to be dealt with.

## Example Projects:

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

## 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.

**1 Resource** is roughly equivalent to:

- A highly-successful Merchant route.
- An entire village's worth of manpower for a month.
- A favor from a very powerful person.

Due to the generalized nature of Projects, the source of Resource does not always match the application of them. It is simply assumed that conversion of Resources to their applicable form is handled “off-screen”: recovered gems could grease the pockets 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.

## POOLING RESOURCES

Players may freely transfer and give RES to other characters, should they so choose, but only one character will gain the benefits of the Project.

## KEYSTONE RESOURCE

Larger and more ambitious projects (Projects of Scale 4 and 5) will require a Keystone to complete—some piece of the Story that is needed to complete the project. 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*. Typically, this is done by dropping out of the “montage” section of Projects, and embracing a full scene involving the Exalt seeking out, resolving, and interacting with their desired Keystone. This need *not* be longer than a small Scene, but it *can* be used as a major driving force for the Story.

### Using keystones as Story Generation

Keystones are an excellent way to gauge what Players care about, and what they feel is central to care about—you never need a Keystone for a minor change to the world or minor merit for the character.

Therefore, it's not unreasonable to ask players early what sort of Keystone they are seeking, and then make it a plot of a **Story**, giving them the requested Keystone when certain criteria have been met—when they have recruited their General, changed the geomancy of an area, or introduced their assassin network into a new location.

**However**, Keystones aren't *required* to be important parts of the Story. Just simply detailing out a small Scene to its acquisition is perfectly acceptable.

## THE RIGHT TOOL FOR THE JOB

When you start a project, you will need to detail which **Primary Ability** will be used in the Project. Any Project using the Natural Abilities should follow rules of common sense: If you are training troops to be archers, you should be using Archery or Command. If you are creating a Spy network, use Subterfuge.

## 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*.

The level of the Merit Improved is equal to the **Scale** of the Project.

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 one Resource.

## MAKING CHANGES TO THE WORLD

From raising walls to creating vast trade networks, Projects can be used to alter the world around the Exalt to their will (and benefit.)

The Magnitude of the change determines the base Resource and Keystone cost: as determined by the population and/or terrain size affected.

Projects	
Scale	Project Affects Population/Terrain
1	Village
2	Town
3	City
4	Prefecture
5	Province

## PROJECT RESISTANCE

When making a change on the world, sometimes the world and its inhabitants pushes back. If you are attempting to muster a great army while in the middle of hostile territory, it certainly will take much greater care and effort to do so!

If the change is **Unnatural**, or **Significantly opposed**, increase the Scale by **+1**. This would encompass such oddities such as advanced technology that is self-maintained or changing a ragtag set of farmers with no military knowledge into an organized army within a month. Or trying to establish a Spy network in a network loyal to an Exalt without them knowing, or attempting to reclaim land from hostile places such as the Wyld.

If the change is clearly **Supernatural** in nature or **Overwhelmingly opposed**, such as making a well that perpetually draws fresh water from the middle of the desert, increase the Scale of the project by **(+2)**. Resistance of this magnitude would be opposed by extreme forces, such as Gods, or networks of Exalts, such as the Bronze Faction of Sidereals.

## 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 1.

### 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.

*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.*



# OBSTRUCTION ROLLS

All projects greater than **Scale 1** will have an Obstruction Roll, to represent any sort of random events and/or problems that will inevitably show up during the course of your Project.

Once the Player knows the scale of their Obstruction, they should describe what the result is, and how their character deals with the results.

If desired, the Player may request ideas from the Storyteller or other players.

An Obstruction Roll uses an (Attribute + Ability) roll. However, **this is not a normal Ability Roll**, and cannot be modified by normal Powers, as this roll represents a considered effort over a great amount of time, not burst effort. Only Powers which **explicitly** mention the Project system affect this roll.

The **Excellency** may be used on an Obstruction Roll, but the **cost** is doubled—2 Limit. (Abyssals gain a Limit, and must start with their decreased Health Pool at the next non-Project Scene.)

The results of the Obstruction Roll operates on a **Degree of Success**, which subtracts the project's scale from the number:

**Degree of Success:** (Att + Ability) - Scale

The Degree of Success determines how well the character did on their project. Do note that the Project has already been bought and paid for with their Resources, so even a negative roll will allow the project to come to fruition—at a cost. The exception being 0 Successes rolled—a critical failure.

## OBSTRUCTION RESULTS:

### **Critical Failure: 0 Successes Rolled**

The Character has so incredibly botched their attempt that it is has become actively dangerous to them and all involved.

The character may either to *immediately* Cheat Death—sacrificing an existing Merit or something close to them—or else allow the disaster to spiral out of control, allowing the Storyteller to create an incredible consequence for their actions.

Should they choose to push forward despite the incredible disaster they have caused, they must Cheat Death again.

Regardless if they push forward or not, all Resources are lost.

#### **Examples:**

- Your workers have split into two different groups, on the brink of a civil war.
- An uncaught spy sabotaged your works, and has successfully usurped your hard work for their own gain.
- One of the magical materials was corrupted with Vitriol, becoming a touchstone gateway for unbound Demons.

### **Problem: Result is negative**

The Project turned out to be incredibly more challenging than expected, and you are only able to pull it off by the skin of your teeth, putting great strain on your well-being.

You have quelled the issue—for now. It is almost certain to show back up later.

#### **Examples:**

- 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.

### **Alteration: (0-3)**

Something unexpected happened—nothing that you can't handle, but it did require you to change something significant about the project.

#### **Examples:**

- 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. What is the precedent that you wish to set?
- 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.

### **Success: (4-5)**

Everything went according to plan. Describe your character excelling at what they are good at, anticipating any and all issues that might have happened with their greatest grace.

### **Critical Success: (6+)**

The Maidens of Fate smiled upon you, and decided to grace your efforts beyond your wildest ability.

Not only do you succeed, but you *exceed* at your expectation. You may either describe how your efforts go above and beyond what you wanted, gaining one extra Scale to your Project, reclaim 1 Resource from the Project, or allow the Storyteller to grant you a boon from this effort to be reflected in the story.

# 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.

## SYSTEM PRESENTATION

Charms, and other powers, will have a header designating quick information.

**Type:** Reflexive; Scene  
**Cost:** 1m

### TYPE

The **Type** will designate the rules for how it can be activated, and how long the power will last, as follows:

**Type:** (Activation); (Duration)

#### Activation Types:

- **Simple.** Consumes an entire Action.
- **Supplemental.** Does not consume an action, but can only be activated on a character's turn. Often, the text of the charm will describe some additional restriction—for example supplementing a Strike action.
- **Reflexive.** Does not consume an action, and can be used outside of the normal turn order. Often will have specific conditions that need to be met to be used, such as "in response to being attacked."
- **Permanent.** Once purchased, this power is always active.
- **Ritual.** Requires a specific set of conditions to be performed, and will often take longer than a single action to activate.

The duration then specifies how long the power will naturally be active for. This ranges from the remainder of the **Scene**, to days, to even stranger conditions. If a duration is not specified, the duration is **Instant**, meaning that it immediately activates and then dissipates.

Exalts may always prematurely terminate their Powers early, if so desired.

#### Resolving 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 Wits.

### COST

The cost of charms is almost always designated in terms of **Motes (m)** or **Anima (a)**. The character must remove the designated number of motes or anima from their sheet to activate the power. The motes or anima then must be regained through their natural means.

### PREREQUISITE

Occasionally, a charm will require a prerequisite before being purchased, such as a different charm, or dots of a particular ability.

## THE MINOR CHARM

The Powers of the Exalted are not restricted to life-changing, magnificent events. Sometimes they just desire to Show Off.

Spend 1 mote and perform an action that has at most a minor utility effect which appropriately themed to your character. Much like a Stunt: so long as it is cool and appropriate, it is allowed.

For example, you may use a burning Anima as a light source, shoot sparks into the air to the delight of onlookers, or purify your clothes of accumulated grime. A Fire Dragonblooded could light all candles in a room, punctuating a dramatic entrance.

## GREATER AND CAPSTONE

Some Powers are designated as **Greater** or **Capstone** Powers. These powers require extra skill and precision to use, and so cannot be learned until **Essence 3** or **5**, respectively. Normal charms are sometimes called **Lesser** Charms, to help differentiate between the tiers.

There are very few Greater or Capstone Universal Charms—these almost always the domain of Exaltation specific areas.

### UPGRADE

Most charms can only be purchased once, and at a set power level. However, there are some Charms and Powers that may have their power increased through an upgrade—increasing a Lesser Charm to a Greater Charm, and so on. Only the XP difference must be paid, and the Exalt retains all lesser benefits when they do so.

#### Unstoppable Force, Immovable Object

As the player enters into the *Capstone* level of play, they will start to gain some extremely powerful Charms that simply declare that *something happens*. This can run aground of other effects of equal power that may something *different happens*. The classic situation is a Power declares that it *hits* another, while another Power declares that they *are not hit*.

Whenever a situation like this occurs, the two sides should immediately perform a relevant *Contested Roll* (e.g. Accuracy vs. Defense) to see which Power overwhelms the other.

As consolation, the losing side regains half of the motes/anima spent to activate it (rounded up), and does not "use up" the Power if it is limited use—such as once per Scene.

# CUSTOM CHARMS

Making and using Custom charms (or other powers) is completely encouraged. Creating a charm follows much the same rule as a *Strife*: “Is this cool?” and “Does it enhance the story to have?”

## JUDGING LEVEL

- **Lesser** means this will be a standard power for an Exalt—something they would have with little training or experience. Remember that Exalted is a high-powered system: simple tricks are something you can do with a roll, and don’t require a dedicated charm!

These typically cost 1-2 motes to activate.

- **Greater** powers will be those that fundamentally *changes* how your character plays and interacts with the world, and are only available after concentrated study and enlightenment. Greater Powers represent someone who is a *master* at what they do.

These typically cost 2-3 motes, or 1-3 anima.

- **Capstone** powers are those whose presence and use will utterly warp the narrative around them, reserved for only the highest and most powerful of Exalts. Capstone Powers are reserved for Exalts of *Legend*, which is why Solars with their Supernal Force are so terrifying.

These typically cost 3-4 anima.

**Note:** Reflexive charms should favor using motes over anima.

### Dice Adders

You may notice that—compared to standard Exalted—charms that purely add dice are a bit more rare. This is an intentional design choice to limit dice inflation.

If a Power adds dice to a roll, it should be to a fairly conditional and specific thing.

The largest and most reliable way to increase a character’s dice pool is to purchase Attributes and Ability points.

# SORCERY

Sorcery is an extension of the **Occult** Ability. It is the 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 to enact the power upon the world.

Spells are different than charms, as they are **exact, classified, and known by name**. Charms are simply descriptions of things the Exalted naturally gravitate towards—Spells are ritualistic, prescribed motions that bring about the same result that must be learned. Only the most skilled of Sorcerers can even make aesthetic changes to the spells they perform.

The three levels of Spells are classified and known in the world of Creation and have many names depending on the tradition and culture of the sorcerer. The most widely known accepted is **Emerald, Sapphire, and Adamant** to represent Lesser, Greater, and Capstone, respectively.

## INITIATIONS

All Exalts have the *potential* to become a Sorcerer, but they still need to be initiated into the arts by some sort of mentor. A Player should be able to point to a specific Merit their character has as a source of their training, such as an Ally, or one of their starting Facts.

When advancing to the **Sapphire** and **Adamant** Circle Spells, their mentor will require a **Task** to be performed. The mentor must ask the Exalt to undertake something they find difficult in order to find a deeper enlightenment and understanding of themselves before they are allowed such power over the world.

Access to the **Sapphire Level** has a repercussion to the character for years on end, changing how they view life and themselves. The **Adamant Level** Task will have a permanent change to their character.

These tasks could be any such as sacrificing a cherished item, scaling a cliff devoid of their exalted powers, or facing their greatest fear.

### Raksi and the Third Circle

By all accounts, the elder Lunar Raksi should be a Third Circle Sorcerer—she has all the training and ambition to do so.

However, she has stubbornly refused to complete her Task—the moment she saw what was required, she balked at and immediately vowed to find another way. Which is, of course, impossible.

However, if there was ever one who could break that impossibility, it would be Raksi, and should she ever find such a way, it would be a terrible day for the foundations of Creation as it is known.

## SOURCES OF SORCERY

The simplest way to be taught sorcery would be to be mentored by an Exalted Sorcerer. But they are few and far between, and are often far too wrapped up in own devices to mentor others. It is fortunate that there are plenty of alternate mentors that may show up.

It is important to note that the source of Sorcery may train others in levels past what they themselves have reached. A Mortal Sorcerer steeped in the Emerald Circle may induct a Solar into the Adamant Circle.

### Gods, Elementals, and Demons

As the original tutors of Sorcery, the various Spirits of the world may be willing to do so again—though they are far more reluctant to do so since the Age of Glory.

More often than not, being trained by a Spirit will leave a physical mark upon the exalt—those taught by an Ifrit Lord will find their inner fire breaking through their skin and smoke curling in their breath.

### The Heptagram

Located in the northern reaches of the Realm, the Heptagram is perhaps the only location in Creation with Sorcerers employed and organized into a functioning teaching structure. Nearly all Dragonblooded Sorcerers hail from this isolated fortress.

The separation of the Outer Provinces greatly impacted the Heptagram, as nearly all knowledge of the Sapphire and Adamant Circles were seized in protest as they fled the reach of the Realm.

### The Salinian Working

As the Age of Glory crumbled and the Gods sealed themselves away from mortals, the Sorcerers of old feared their art would be lost forever, and so wove tutelage of Sorcery into the very fabric of Creation.

Now, very rarely, the knowledge of Sorcery will reveal itself in an unrelenting fashion to individual chosen of forgotten and arcane criteria. The knowledge and mentorship will take many forms, from a book of infinite pages to the whispering of the winds through the trees.

# SPELLS

## Emerald

### ALL-ENCOMPASSING SORCERER'S SIGHT

**Type:** Simple; Scene

**Cost:** 1m

Making a quick incantation infused with essence and then gently pressing a finger to their forehead, the Sorcerer is able to open their inner eye to the flows of Essence surrounding them.

For the remainder of the scene, the character may make an (Intelligence + Occult) roll to observe and understand the traces of supernatural spiritual energies around them, ranging to the tracks of spirits, to the workings of levitating platforms, to even the subtle traces of other Exalt's powers.

### COIN OF DISTANT VISION

**Type:** Permanent

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. Only one shard may be used at a time.

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.

### CORRUPTED WORDS

**Type:** Simple; Year

**Cost:** 2m

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 free their charges at will.

### DEATH OF OBSIDIAN BUTTERFLIES

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 2a

Out of their own essence, the Sorcerer carefully crafts shimmering black glass into a form reminiscent of obsidian butterflies. Then, the glass shards launch out in a deadly stream, cutting all in a thousand razor-thin cuts.

This attack is (Wits + Occult + Essence) vs Block, and hits all foes that are in front of the Sorcerer up to two Zones away for (Int + Essence) damage. Then, the glass shards fall to the ground, become a hazardous terrain that deals (5) damage to all who walk across it.

Groups are particularly vulnerable to this spell, taking an extra (Group Scale)x2 damage.

### FLIGHT OF THE BRILLIANT RAPTOR

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 3a

Flames surround the sorcerer, whipped by their Anima in to the shape of the elemental Garda bird. As the spell completes, it unfurls its wings, shrieking to the sky as it rushes forward in a terrifying blaze towards a point up to two zones away from the Sorcerer.

Roll (Int + Occult + Essence). All characters (including the sorcerer and their allies) inside the target zone with a Block less than the roll immediately take 5+(Essence)x3 damage, and become burned, taking an additional (3) damage every turn.

Creatures attuned to fire, such as its Elementals and Fire-Aspected Dragonbloods are immune to this attack.

The Sorcerer may **call out** to their allies in the targeted Zone, allowing them to Dive For Cover—moving to a different Zone with an (Dexterity+Athletics) roll vs. 3. If successful, they move to the new Zone, but lose one of their next Maneuvers. As well, quick-witted enemies have a chance to hear this warning and may make the same maneuver.

### INFALLIBLE MESSENGER

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 1m

Conjure a six-winged messenger spirit, which captures Sorcerer's words as they are spoken, sealing it away before those around can hear. The spirit then dashes away to its target—taking at most a day—opening the seal on the sorcerer's words, gifting the message to the target alone.

The spirit cannot carry any Essence in the words, only the sound, and so Sorcerers cannot use social Charms remotely. The message cannot be longer than five minutes, and the target must be in the same realm of existence as the sorcerer.

## MISTS OF EVENTIDE

Type: Simple; Scene  
Cost: 2a

From atop the highest peaks of the elemental Pole of Air, the Sorcerer summons an opalescent fog that induces Slumber to all who breath it in—save the Sorcerer themselves. The mists expand and fill up a large building's worth of volume, and those that breath in the mists or find it contacting exposes skin must make a (Wits + Physique) roll vs. 3 in order to stay awake, or else sleep for several hours—rolled each time the character enters a new area with the mists. Those that sleep will rouse if they are harmed or otherwise imperiled.

In combat, the Mists may expand to a maximum of two Zones. The adrenaline of combat will keep those that fail the roll awake, but they will lose 1 Action per turn while they remain in the mists.

## SUMMON DEMON

Type: Ritual; Task  
Upgradeable  
Cost: 3m (5m, 7m)

Spending at least 15 minutes, out of sight of the Sun, the Sorcerer draws an elaborate summoning circle detailing out the Ancient Contract that will bring forth and bind an appropriate First Circle Demon (or group of demons) to perform a task on behalf of the Sorcerer. A specific demon may be named in the summoning, if desired.

Should the task be simple, it is done without question. However, if the task is more complicated or requires the creature to stay in servitude for an extended time (no longer than a year and a day), they will bargain for extra payment, which can be as simple as motes expended, a taste of blood, or even certain accommodations while performing the task. If a bargain is not struck, they are simply banished back to where they came from.

The Demon (or group of demons) counts as an Ally (3) when in the service of the Exalt, and the Exalt cannot have more than one active servant attending them at any one time.

This Spell may also be used to summon **Elementals**, spirits, or even minor Gods. This *may be done* while in the presence of the Sun. However, these creatures are free to dismiss the calls at their whim, and so are considered far more unreliable.

This Spell may be repurchased at the Sapphire and Adamant level to summon Second and Third Circle Demons/Spirits, which act as Ally (4) and (5), and cost (5m, 7m) respectively. Second Circle Demons may only be summoned at midnight, and Third Circle only on the night of the No Moon.

### It's not a Faustian Deal

The Demons of Creation are bound to mortal servitude due to the surrender oaths after the War in Heaven. A Summon is simply a continuation of their punishment. If they have any ill will, it is with the Gods and their binding oaths, not the mortals who summoned them.

The terms of their servitude will bind the service of the Demon to the *spirit* of the contract, as well as the letter. A bound demon cannot and will not turn on their Summoner.

When a demon bargains, they are simply trying to get a *better* deal—personal comforts, or trophies of status. They learned long ago trying to gain power or leverage over an Exalt would be a folly.

The greatest threat that exists with summoning is the *alien* mindset of demons, their inhuman requests. A pack of Blood Apes tasked with protecting a young heir will do so—and will do so with wild abandon, crushing even the mildest of threats with no regard to collateral damage and then offering the dripping blood of the corpse to their young charge.

**There is one important caveat:** the spell must be performed correctly. An Exalt misperforming the spell is unheard of but there are many stories of Mortal Sorcerers unleashing a demon beyond their abilities.

## THEFT OF MEMORY

Type: Ritual  
Cost: 2m

The Sorcerer draws out a pure-cut emerald, placing it onto the forehead of their target. They

Focusing on a specific, known memory, the Sorcerer makes a (Wits + Sorcery) roll vs the Target's Resolve over the course of 10 minutes.

If successful, they place a pure-cut emerald 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.

# Sapphire

## CALLING THE CALIBRATION GATE

**Type:** Ritual

**Cost:** 2m

In the time of Glory, the thirteenth gate of Yu-Shan was thrown open during Calibration to allow mortals a day of festivity in the heavenly city—where gods and man would walk among each other in revelry. Now it remains dormant and silent, used only by those elite few who know how to call it.

The Sorcerer weaves their essence into a small weave of rippling gold, placing it onto a solid surface. Then, they reach far into the surface and pull on the handle of the door. After a minute, chimes fill the air, and then after another, the Celestial gate appears, taking form in whatever solid surface it was woven into.

The gate remains open for no more than ten minutes, through which any and all may enter into. Those who enter find themselves at the impossibly grandiose steps of Yu-Shan, the heavenly city. There, the stoic and incorruptible Celestial Lions watch and guard the main gates as the pilgrims may choose any of the twelve gates back to Creation to depart through.

The twelve gates of creation are arranged in two concentric rings: four on the cardinal directions of the Blessed Isle, one of which is inside the Imperial City. The outer ring of eight gates form the cardinal and ordinal directions in the Outer Provinces, one of which is inside of the city of Nexus.

The gates are places of secrets, hidden from mortal eyes—though the gate in the Imperial city is guarded by an elite sect of Dragonblooded.

## HIDDEN JUDGES OF THE SECRET FLAME

**Type:** Ritual

**Cost:** 4m

Lighting seven candles, and speaking a recitation of appeals, the Sorcerer summons council of judgment from those forgotten Gods dedicated to the order of Law.

Figures cloaked in black will appear, whose hooded figures reveal naught by a single blue flame, and whose hands are of darkened bones.

The Sorcerer may solicit their services in one of two ways: The first is to request that these Hidden Judges reign over any matters of law, instead of another.

According to the Law of Power, the Hidden Judge will *force* any with an (Essence) lower than the Sorcerer to recuse themselves, reflecting whatever horrors against the Law they have performed against them in a terrifying state of mental anguish should they refuse to vacate their seat. Against those with (Essence) equal to or greater, the Hidden Judge will only politely request compliance, accepting refusal if given.

These servants of Order and Law are guaranteed to be impartial and incorruptible, accepting no manner of bribes, nor appeals to emotion, nor calls for mercy—not even from the Sorcerer themselves. Only arguments of logic, such as those of jurisdiction and contradictory laws, will sway their ears.

The punishments and laws applied will all be according to the laws of the land in which the judgment takes place. The Divine Law of the Unconquered Sun will reign supreme in all of Creation.

The second manner the Sorcerer can call forth from the Hidden Judges is that of application of the law. Should someone be found guilty of a crime—under a fair trail that does not contradict the Divine Law—the Hidden Judge will pursue the criminal with endless, sleepless determination until the exact punishment has been delivered. Like the creeping specter of death, the Hidden Judges will not stop in their pursuit.

## IMPENETRABLE VEIL OF NIGHT

**Type:** Simple; Scene

**Cost:** 3m

The Sorcerer takes an action form a twisting sphere of living shadows, and then hurls it into the sky where it unfurls and envelops an area the size of a city inside its horrid tendrils.

Inside this blanket of ebon darkness, no celestial body shines its light. Only the light and sounds emitted from inside can be perceived, and even that is consumed by the unnatural darkness, shining at half of its natural range and at an off-putting hue. Spoken words are muffled and altered, changed in tone and pitch and echoing in unsettling ways. Often, residents forced to endure this spell will see shadows moving of their own accord, as though something that should not and cannot be perceived is nearby.

All actions to perceive through sight and sound suffers -2 successes, even those with supernatural senses, and those mortals of weak minds will find themselves unable to do anything but hide from the inescapable darkness.

## IVORY ORCHID PAVILION

**Type:** Ritual

**Cost:** 3m

After tracing an area with the heel of their foot, the Sorcerer stands at the threshold of the area and politely knocking where a gate should be. Perhaps to the surprise of other, a Gate will appear and open in a slow but smooth manner as a splendid mansion rises from the ground to fill the area.

The mansion is filled with impossibly ornate furniture, soft silk curtains, and the finest of bedding available, along with a veritable feast of food and wine that never empties.

All who enter and partake of the mansion's many offerings will find their mood softened, their mind relaxed, and their lips loosened. All gain an Intimacy of blissful contentment to the mansion and the Sorcerer, and no acts of intentional violence (save that of drunken revelry) will occur.

Before the day of revelry and peace is complete, a useful Secret from the guests will be revealed to the Sorcerer.

After a full day, the mansion folds back into the ground, softly depositing its guests outside the circles. White orchids will grow in the sanctified ground for five years afterwards.



## MAGMA KRAKEN

**Type:** Simple; Scene

**Cost:** 4a

The Essence of fire erupts at three Zones the Sorcerer designates, whose floors or walls must have a connection to the Ground. In those spots, a gout of fire explodes out, and then forms into groups of five writhing tentacles each of roiling lava.

Each Group of flaming tentacles has the following values, based on the Sorcerer summoning them:

**Health:** 35

**Accuracy:** (Wits + Occult) + 2

**Damage:** (Intelligence) + 3

**Evasion:** 3

**Soak:** 6

If there are not three Zones on the battlefield, or if the Sorcerer so desires, they may combine groups of tentacles. A Combined group gains +5 health, +1 Damage, +1 Accuracy for each group.

On their turn, each group will attempt to coil and crush their opponent, which is a Restrain and then Strike action. They choose a random enemy in their Zone. If there is no enemy in their zone, they will destroy and set fire to any scenery around them.

The Sorcerer can use one of their actions to direct all three groups to attack specific people, or to cause one of the groups to move zones, where the tentacles retract into the hole they have formed into the ground, sealing it with cooling magma, tunneling through the ground and then reappearing in the new zone in a great explosion of fire.

## SHADOWS OF THE ANCIENT PAST

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 4m

The Echoes of the past seep into the very bones of reality, which the Sorcerer may coax out carefully.

Choose a specific time, such as “one hundred years ago” or “when this corpse died.” Images of the event in question will gracefully materialize for all to see. The Sorcerer may pause and accelerate the flow of time within the illusion. Reversing or reviewing a missed portion will require an (Intelligence + Occult) roll to successfully perform.

While accurate, there are limitations to the illusions. Moments of intense Essence in the past will disrupt the memory, leaving important gaps in the recollection. The memory will also have difficulty showing details of magically cloaked, shadowed, or otherwise forgotten pieces of the scene. The Memorys is particularly vulnerable to Sidereal’s Arcane Fate. Lastly, the further back in time the Sorcerer goes, the less substantial the illusions become, with gaps forming in the displayed memory. Anything past 500 years is nearly unusable.

# Adamant

## ABJURATION OF THE MAIDENS

**Type:** Ritual

**Cost:** 8m

For Five hours, the Sorcerer creates intricate words of spun Essence, reflecting each of the 25 major constellations of the sky—Five for each Maiden of Fate. As the last minutes approach, the words expand rapidly, forming a sphere around a space as large as a metropolitan city

As the woven words match their associated constellation, drifting snow-like particles descend from the heavens and the sky becomes altered: light bends at subtle new angles, and colors take on a shimmering hue as the free Essence of the world slows down and freezes for five days.

At the end of the five days, the Sorcerer may extend this spell by spending the requires number of motes without a new ritual. They must be at the origin of the sphere at the precise moment it would dissipate to do so.

Those inside of this sphere—including the Sorcerer—will find they are unable to express motes or anima—no Charms, Sorcery, nor anything else will have an effect inside this sphere. Even permanent Charms will be unable to gift their ability to their owners. Anything that crosses the barrier will be stripped of its power.

Only powerful Spirits—such as the Gods themselves, may overpower this spell, and then must make a roll with a difficulty of the Sorcerer's (Essence) each time they attempt to take an action.

Creatures that rely on a constant flow of Essence, such as constructs, Spirits, Fae, or the undead, will not have their internal Essence drained and may operate normally for a time. However, they will not be able to replenish while inside, and would eventually starve based on their internal needs.

## CURSE OF UNYIELDING MIST

**Type:** Ritual

**Cost:** 5a

Once per Story, the Sorcerer designates an area—no larger than a city—and moves to stand in the center. There, over the course of 10 minutes, they will chant the laws of reality, and slowly start to raise up into the sky, held aloft and surrounded by an ever-thickening fog.

As the Spell nears its completion, the Sorcerer snaps their eyes open, radiating in white glory, and speaks a new condition of reality that must be appeased, such as “The King must turn over power to me” or “All in this land must speak nothing but the truth for a month.” This condition is restricted in that it *must be possible*, and can only affect those with a *lower* Essence than the Sorcerer.

Once the condition is spoken, the thick fog explodes immediately outward, bathing the entire land in a dark gray mist. All within it becomes cloaked in an eldritch grayness which is not affected by day or not. All people within the fog will find their mental faculties dampened, and their mood swallowed sour—a permanent -2 on all Social or mental actions while in the borders.

If the condition is not met within a month, all plant life will start to wither, and strange and bizzare fungi will grow in its place. This fungi will spread across all buildings within another month. The fungi cannot grow or exist past the border of the spell.

If a Season passes, no animal will be able to birth new life, and the fungi will start to latch onto the clothes of people, as well as any parts of their body that receive no blood flow, such as hair and fingernails. The Fungus will not spread to the living, but will consume anything organic.

There is no known method which to destroy this curse, aside from appeasing the condition the Sorcerer set forth, or leaving the blighted land.

## DEATH RAY

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 5a (+2a)

The Sorcerer pulls all the ambient destructive energy into a singular point, then with a quick twitch of their fingers, releases it into a singular, continuous stream of Essence that sears and incinerates any objects and people that stand in its path.

The beam, centered on the Sorcerer, is a line that extends out to the edge of the battlefield across any and all Zones necessary to do so, or to the edge of the Scene. Each Zone the beam crosses through is considered hazardous terrain to foes of the Sorcerer, making a successful (Dexterity + Athletics) vs (Essence) roll to avoid the beam.

On their turn, the Sorcerer must spend (2a) to maintain this spell. If so, they can change the angle and direction of the beam, specifically targeting a person or object, rolling (Intelligence + Occult) against the target's Evasion to hit.

If the beam comes in contact with a person, they suffer (Essence)x10 damage immediately. Objects are immediately melted, unless they are made of the strongest magical materials.

# SOLARS

To be a Solar is to be a creature who knows no half-measures. They are natural-born leaders, scholars, generals, and the architects of society. Yet they are also its cruel tyrants, forcing others to follow in their grand plan—regardless of their desires.

They are paragons of mankind, representing Humanity at its most extremes. Whatever a Solar sets their mind to, *it will be done*.

## HEROES OF MANKIND

The Solars have always been at the forefront of Creation's history. They are the ones that gathered the other Exalts together, forming the wonders of the First Age, the shining beacon of hope of all mankind.

However, they were also those that tore it down, whose greed and self-righteousness spurred them to assault the gates of heaven and strike at their patron, the Unconquered Son—the greatest of all Gods.

After the fall of mankind, the numbers of their host greatly dwindled—they were both hunted by the other hosts out of fear and retribution, regardless of their involvement in the Great War, and their wounded patron chose very few to replace their numbers.

Their absence only heightened their ignoble legend—soon only those that stormed the gates of heavenly Yu-Shan were remembered, not those that fought against their brethren to prevent such an act. What few were chosen in this time were regarded with fear and anger—warily regarded, if not outright attacked on sight by those who blame them for the fall of the First Age.

And yet, the Unconquered Sun, the one assaulted and most harmed by this rebellion still Exalts new Solars; giving of his own self to his Chosen. Were the others not so afraid, might have the Great Contagion not have been prevented? The constant erosion of the land in the Wyld halted and turned back? These are questions that might just be answered, as the Sun has started Exalting his chosen in unprecedented number.

### How is the Unconquered Sun doing?

The Unconquered Sun was greatly wounded in the First Age—the attempt on his life leaving behind great scars. Beyond that fact, and the fact that Exalting his Chosen comes at a cost to him—there is little given of the Sun's condition to mere Mortals.

It could simply be that he has taken this long of time to heal, and only now has he recuperated enough to bring his Chosen back en masse. It could be that this is his last gasp—a blaze of glory as he fades into the great unknown. More than likely it falls in between the two.

Ultimately, though, this is a story of the *Exalted*, not the Unconquered Sun, so use what best fits your campaign.

## EXALTATION

The Unconquered Sun grants his blessing to those who have an incredible drive, a force of personality that would change their world no matter what power they have.

Every exaltation is different, but the blessing of the Sun will often come during a seminal moment of the mortal's life, after they have accomplished some great achievement that is theirs and theirs alone. The moment is more often than not extremely obvious, as a great bonfire of anima erupts, bathing the mortal in golden light.

The Unconquered Sun occasionally chooses to speak to his Chosen in their moment of exaltation, giving them ancient wisdom and guidance. More often than not, though, he simply communicates through a feeling of pure emotion, ensuring that the Solar knows they were chosen for a reason.

## SOLARS AS PROTAGONISTS

A Solar will naturally find themselves as the nexus point of events—where they go, others will follow. They are natural leaders, even if their style of leading is unorthodox, such as a Night Caste gathering the masses silently.

Choosing to be a Solar means that you will often be the “main character” of the story, on which everything else depends on.

## SOLARS AS ANTAGONISTS

There is little more dangerous in the world than those who think they are right, and who can sway others to believe in their vision.

The same qualities that make a Solar a natural Hero will also produce some of the greatest villains. Simply to stand in the way of Solar's progress—even unintentionally—is enough to earn their ire.

They will never will think of themselves as being in the wrong. To them, they are always the hero—no matter what drastic actions they take or people they hurt along the way.

## SOLAR BONUSES

### SKILLED START

The Solar starts with **3 extra dots** of abilities during character creation. These points may raise abilities past **3**.

### EXPANDED MOTE POOL

The Solar expands their mote pool permanently by **2 motes**.

### SUPERNAL FORCE

A Solar is able to push themselves beyond normal capabilities. They may purchase Greater Charms of their Caste at Essence 1, and Capstone Charms of their Caste at Essence 3. Twilight Caste Solars may do the same with Greater and Capstone Spells.

Solars may choose a single Martial Arts, which will follow this same advantage.

At Character Creation, you must still purchase 3 Lesser Powers, but may purchase the Greater Charms with the bonus experience.

### SOLAR EXCELLENCY

At the cost of 1 Limit, the Solar gains successes equal to the Rating of the Ability used on the roll. For example, if they rolled (Dexterity [3] + Stealth [4]), they could immediately gain 4 successes. This cannot be used on derived static values, such as Resolve or Evasion.

Like most Excellencies, this may be used after the roll is normally determined.

#### Soulfire

The boundless essence of a Solar is, in itself, a dangerous weapon. With certain charms and actions, the Solar can lance out their anima itself as an extension of themselves.

This Soulfire is particularly threatening to Creatures of Darkness.

#### CREATURES OF DARKNESS

These are any Spirits, demons, or other supernatural creatures whose bodies and nature recoil at the sight of the Sun and his Chosen. The following are a broad stroke classification of Creatures of Darkness:

- Denizens of the Underworld, such as ghosts, specters, and zombies, and even its champions, the Abyssal Exalted.
- Any Spirits of the Night, those gods and monsters of Creation that live in the shadows of reality. Luna and her chosen are not part of this classification.
- Demons descended from the Ebon Dragon.

Being classified as a Creature of Darkness does not belay some corruption of the heart—for example, many of the Night Spirits are dutiful citizens and stewards of the Unconquered Sun—it only represents that their very Essence cannot stand the incredible light in front of them.

## GREAT CURSE

Solars are often plagued and defined by their Ego and Control. Caretakers of great power, they will see the problems and ills of the world only in relationship to themselves. Great injustices that have been generational problems will become their personal responsibility, and a judgment on their mind until it has been solved.

### ALL-CONSUMING GRIEF

The horrors of the world become too much to bear, and the Solar shuts down, weeping tears at the great injustices that they perceive. They may turn to purifying rituals in an attempt to heal the soul of the world, or even themselves.

### CONTEMPT OF THE VIRTUOUS

The world may be beyond saving, but those around the Solar must be unfaltering in their purity. No slight against purity, no matter how small, should be upheld in the presence of the Solar. If lectures and kindness will not work, then other methods of reprimands must.

### CRUSHING DOUBT

The burden of the world is too much for the Solar to take, and they become filled with self-doubt and depression. The simplest of tasks becomes unbearable, the smallest of responsibilities just a chance to fail yet again.

### DELIBERATE CRUELTY

The world is a broken place, why fight it any longer? The Solar snaps at those closest to them, speaking words of biting retort that pierce hearts with unerring accuracy and painful depths.

### HEART OF FLINT

Caring for others is too much of a hassle, and too much pain. The Solar becomes a machine of pure logic, following a path devoid of empathy and feeling.

# SOLAR ANIMA BANNERS

The anima of Solars will naturally be naturally composed of golds, whites, as well as various oranges and reds that are associated with the setting sun. The figures show inside of the banner will show highly intricate details, often containing symbols, words, and fractal designs that all have deep representations of the Exalt's soul.

## SOLAR ANIMA POWERS

### DAWN

The Dawn Caste come from those of raw military strength—warriors, generals, strategists, rebel fighters. Their physical might is unparalleled, nor their ability to coordinate and command others.

#### *Fearsome Visage*

Reflexively spend 1 Anima. Instill an emotion of Fear, Awe, Intimidation, or similar into a target. This may affect targets that normally do not feel said emotions, such as golems and zombies.

#### *Daybreak*

Nothing can outrun the advancing light of a sunrise. Reflexively Spend 2 Anima and immediately Strike your target again. This does not take an action. This may be used once per Combat without a Strife to reset the limit.

### ZENITH

Priests, zealots, and orators embody the spirit of the Zenith, who gaze upon their inevitable followers with the fire of the Sun in their hearts, spurring them forward into the shadows.

#### *Divine Mandate*

Spend 2 Anima. The mark of the Sun appears on their brow of the Zenith, and all ghosts, spirits, gods, or any other dematerialized beings are forced to revealing themselves for the Scene. Additionally, the Zenith may send any willing or subdued ghosts directly to into the cycle of Reincarnation, releasing them from their torment.

#### *Passion of the Heart*

The Zenith's words *will be heard*. Once per Session, spend 5 Anima, and force all who witness them in their moment to gain one of their Intimacies, at least for a day.

### TWILIGHT

Knowledge—in all its forms—is the domain of the Twilight Caste. They are undoubted geniuses in whatever fields they choose to study: engineers, doctors, and scholars.

#### *Brilliant Mind*

Once per Session, spend 3 Anima. The Twilight's mind brims with possibilities they see unfolding before them. Predict a sequence of events that will happen in the scene, which is now considered a fact so long as there is no interference.

### *Anima Assistant*

Spend 2 Anima. You shed a portion of you anima into glowing, burning shell(s) of your choice of shape—either a single creature, or a group of small creatures. These assistant(s) are an extension of yourself—a perfect execution of your will. They are represented as a 4-dot Ally.

### NIGHT

Even when the Sun sets, his presence can be felt everywhere. The Night caste embody divine determination: they will do whatever needs to be done, in any way necessary.

#### *Silent Presence*

Reflexively spending 2 Anima, the Night Caste folds their essence inwards, using it to muffle all of their movements in the Scene. No sound is uttered, nor footsteps imprinted into the dirt. No circumstantial evidence of the Solar will exist after the scene.

#### *Shadow Watch*

Once per Session, the Night Caste may immediately Recall a Fact of something they have done in the past that immediately benefits them now—such as tailing someone to discover a Secret, or planting false evidence.

### ECLIPSE

The Eclipse entreaty with all, ensuring that all are heard and understood. They are the diplomats, peacemakers, and merchants of the world, bridging it together into a beautiful harmony—one that they officiate.

#### *Oath-Binder*

Once per Story, spend 4 Anima, and sanctify an Oath made between willing characters. Any who have sworn this oath will suffer Divine, Storyteller-driven retribution—including the Player Characters.

#### **Oathbreaker**

Characters who break their oaths will find laws of reality working against them. They often won't be able perform tasks in ways they wish to, or will find massive Disadvantages to their actions.

However, this should be used as a Story Device, not a punishment. Don't blindly apply the disadvantages—make sure it only pops up in momentous situations.

#### *Armistice*

The Eclipse is the ultimate diplomat, and can bring even hardened enemies to the table. Once per Story, spend 5 Anima and force an armistice between two (or more) parties. For the next scene, all involved are forced to meet peacefully, and cannot attack each other during discussions.

# SOLAR CHARMS

## DAWN CASTE

### Lesser

#### ARROW STORM TECHNIQUE

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 2m

The sky becomes filled with a barrage of arrows, blotting out the celestial bodies with their mass before they come crashing down into their foes.

Attack up to (Marksmanship) foes in a single Zone with a dice roll. Your deal no Base Damage on this attack, but do deal +2 damage to any Group.

#### BURNING ESSENCE STRIKE

**Type:** Supplemental

**Cost:** 1m

The Solar infuses their weapon and/or projectile in the burning Soulfire of their golden anima, passing through the very soul of their target.

Spirits, such as ghosts, elementals, and gods have their Immaterial defense negated. As well, Creatures of Darkness suffer an additional (+Essence) damage from the attack.

#### BURNING MEIN

**Type:** Reflexive

**Cost:** 2a

The Solar gains momentum as the battle mounts. So long as they can see the battle is not fruitless, they can keep moving forward.

When damaging a foe that is not a Lesser Foe, regain (Physique) Health.

#### BULWARK STANCE

**Type:** Reflexive

**Cost:** 1m

You may reflexively defend anyone in your zone without taking an action.

Additionally, you may defend those in an adjacent Zone, reflexively moving towards them without an action. However, on your next turn, you lose an action.

#### DIAMOND-BODY MASTERY

**Type:** Reflexive

**Cost:** 1m

The Solar's body becomes resistant to the world around them. You may negate up to (Essence)x2 damage from Environmental effects. This includes any moderate incidental scenery damage, such as crashing through glass windows or falling five stories.

#### EAGLE-WING STYLE

**Type:** Supplemental; Scene

**Cost:** 1m

By using the barest of scenery, be it lampposts, delicate tree branches, or even coins the Solar carries with them to launch against, and may leap effortlessly through the air. So long as there is the most minimum of solid mass to propel themselves against, they may use it to keep leaping upwards.

#### FORCE-DELIVERING BLOW

**Type:** Supplemental

**Cost:** 1m

On a successful Brawl hit, immediately knock the target back up to one Zone. Against creatures of immense mass, such as those above an elephant, an additional (Strength + Brawl) vs. Block roll is required.

#### HEART OF THE CORONA

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 2m

Conjuring the deepest Intimacy, the Solar lashes out with a spike of Soulfire which cascades from enemy to enemy.

As a Strike, attack all enemies in the Zone with an Essence lower than your (Essence). They suffer 5+(Essence) damage. Creatures of Darkness hit by the Solar Spike suffer an extra 2+(Essence) damage.

#### INCREASING STRENGTH EXERCISE

**Type:** Simple; Scene

**Cost:** 1m

The Exalt may lift, carry, haul, or otherwise exert such feats of strength far beyond their mortal limits—performing duties deemed impossible such as hefting an entire caravan over their head or lifting a building off of its foundations in a singular piece.

If a roll is required, they are guaranteed a minimum of (Strength) successes on their roll.

#### IRON WHIRLWIND

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 2m

With a rush of wind and flashing steel, the Exalt sweeps across the battlefield and cuts down all of their enemies.

Make a Melee Strike against up to (Melee) targets in the same Zone. If their Defense is less than the Strike, deal (½, rounded up) of your damage to each individual.

#### OX-STUNNING BLOW

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 1m



Spend a Maneuver studying your foe. On your next successful Strike against that foe, immediately Stun them, forcing them to lose 1 of their next Actions and forcing them to make a successful Athletics check against 3 in order to move a Zone.

If your Brawl Strike would place the character below 5 Health, the target is knocked unconscious, and will remain so for several hours unless specifically roused.

### **PERFECT STRIKE**

**Type:** Supplemental

**Cost:** (1m per 2xDmg.)

For every mote spent, deal an extra 2x Damage on a Strike. You may add no more than (Essence + Melee) damage this way.

### **SLEDGEHAMMER STRIKE**

**Type:** Supplemental

**Cost:** 1m

The fists of the Exalt can tear down even the most stubborn of structures, pummeling it to oblivion.

Break through any non-magical or artifact barrier that is less thick than 2 meters. You may also gain +(2) dice on a “Break Scenery” Maneuver, and against any creatures made of earth, stone, or similar materials—such as Earth Elementals.

### **SOLAR CROSS-COUNTER**

**Type:** Reflexive

**Cost:** 2a

After taking damage from an opponent in their Zone, the Solar may reflexively lash out and deal the same amount of damage to the opponent, capped at 5 + (Essence) per attack. They may choose to lower their defenses to 0 for this purpose—purposefully getting hit.

### **SOLAR SPIKE**

**Type:** Supplemental

**Cost:** 2m

Conjuring the deepest Intimacy, the Solar lashes out with a spike of Soulfire which cascades from enemy to enemy.

Make an (Wits + Integrity) roll +(Essence) extra dice. All enemies in the Zone with an Essence lower than the result suffers 5+(Essence) damage, as the bolt of light shines through and pierces through all of them. Creatures of Darkness hit by the Solar Spike suffer an extra 2+(Essence) damage.

### **STUBBORN BOAR STANCE**

**Type:** Reflexive

**Cost:** 1m

The Solar stands as an indomitable barrier against all who would stand against them. Gain +(Essence) against any effects to knockback, pull, restrain, or otherwise physically alters the Exalt’s movement.

### **VISAGE OF FORCE**

**Type:** Reflexive

**Cost:** 1m

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 immediately add (3) extra Dice.

## Greater

### ACCURACY WITHOUT DISTANCE

**Type:** Supplemental

**Cost:** 2m

Distance means nothing to the Solar, fully able to target their quarry no matter how far they are.

When performing a ranged Attack, ignore any penalties caused by distance. This allows the Exalt to attack across any number of Zone boundaries. Without the use of other Powers, the quarry must still be perceived, and a clear shot still available.

### CANCEL THE APOCALYPSE

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 2a

On a successful Hit vs. Evasion, the Exalt strikes at the foe, stopping an ongoing Scene-effect the target has initiated, and preventing them restarting it the next Round.

This may also be used to halt a Sorcerer from completing a Spell.

### CUTTING CIRCLE OF DESTRUCTION

**Type:** Supplemental

**Cost:** 2a

The Solar's weapon careens through the air, striking target after target.

The Solar may target up to (2+Essence) enemies with their Maneuver or Strike, dealing full damage to each of them so long as each target is a valid target.

### HEAVENLY GUARDIAN DEFENSE

**Type:** Reflexive

**Cost:** 1a

To strike against the unassailable Solar is foolishness, as they can turn aside even the blasting of the hurricane winds.

Immediately increase all of your defenses against a single attack by 2.

### FIRE AND STONES STRIKE

**Type:** Reflexive

**Cost:** 2a

Burning Essence wraps around the weapon of the Solar, and sears directly into the target's Soul.

After successfully hitting on a Strike, increase the damage dealt by the (Ability) rating used on the attack. If a Full hit, add an additional (+Essence) damage.

### FIERY SOLAR CHAKRAM

**Type:** Supplemental

**Cost:** 2a

Gathering anima into a burning and crackling aura, their weapon is infused with Soulfire and is hurled at their enemy.

On a Decisive Attack, Gain (+2) successes on Accuracy and +2 damage. If the target is a Creature of Darkness, deal an additional (+Essence) damage.

### RADIANCE OF BLADES

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 3a

A thousand ephemeral weapons burst out of the Solar's Anima, hurling themselves outward in a burst of light.

Roll (Essence + Martial Ability). All enemies in the Zone with the Solar with an Evasion less than the roll are struck by the explosion of ephemeral steel, taking (5) damage, and becoming pinned by the spikes, unable to move until they spend a Maneuver to free themselves.

### WHISPERED PRAYERS OF RETRIBUTION

**Type:** Supplemental; Scene

**Cost:** 3a

Wrapping all of the emotions, horrors, and pain the Solar has seen into their weapon, they pierce it into their target and force them to experience it all in a flashing moment.

On a successful Action (or strike) against the target's Defense, the target suffers through visions and the emotions imparted on them.

For the remainder of the Scene, the target must roll their (Wits + Integrity) vs. the higher of 3 or the Solar's (Essence) in order to take any action, or else become overwhelmed by the raw emotions.

Dawn Caste Solars can impose fear and intimidation even to emotionless beings, and Zenith can cause awe and grief.

# Capstone

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## SEARING SUNFIRE INTERDICTION

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 3a

The Solar focuses all their Wrath into a single Strike, and selects a target Zone.

A Strike of solid Soulfire crashes down at the targeted location, dealing  $5 + (\text{Essence}) \times 4$  damage to all foes within the Zone. They cannot defend or reduce the damage from this attack. For the remainder of the scene, the affected area becomes bathed in Soulfire Environmental Damage. (Essence) per Round.

## MOUNTAIN-CROSSING LEAP TECHNIQUE

**Type:** Supplemental

**Cost:** 5m

The anima of the Solar coils underneath them, reinforcing and empowering their leap.

In one single bound, the Solar may cross an entire city, rolling (Strength + Athletics) to grant accuracy to the landing target—6 being required for a pinpoint landing across a city.

If in combat, they may leap across all Zones with one movement.

## READY IN EIGHT DIRECTIONS STANCE

**Type:** Reflexive; Turn

**Cost:** 1a

Feeling the pulse of battle, the Solar becomes attuned to every motion on the field, ready to strike out of sheer instinct.

Against this and any attacks until the Solar's next turn, they may reflexively counterattack with a Strike without consuming an action—so long as they are attacking a valid target.

**Note:** To speed the counterattacks up, simply use the average of the Solar's Accuracy pool.

# ZENITH CASTE

## Lesser

### ATTENTIVE LISTENER'S EAR

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 1m

The Exalt brings a friendly and relaxing air with them, pushing others to more easily speak their mind—and spill their secrets.

On any attempt to prod someone for information, sift through a rambling story, or otherwise parse a spoken testimony, gain +3 dice.

### COMMAND-BREAKING STANCE

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 1m

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 actions to be lost as they reform.

### DIRECT ORDERS

**Type:** Simple; Scene

**Cost:** 2m

The Exalt may take charge of a group of allied Lesser Foes, directing their action, and granting them a moderate advantage on that action for the remainder of the scene. This boon cannot be stacked.

### FURY INCITING SPEECH

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 1m

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.

### HEART-COMPELLING METHOD

**Type:** Simple; Scene

**Cost:** 2m

Perform a Social roll vs. Resolve against a target. If successful, the Solar forces the target character to take an action—*any action*—that is in alignment with one of their Intimacies or Emotions.

### INNER EYE FOCUS

**Type:** Reflexive; Scene

**Cost:** 2m

The Exalt may perceive all around them, relying on other senses or heightening their own until impediments such as smoke, fog, and natural darkness mean nothing.

The Exalt may immediately ignore any disadvantage caused by natural visual impediments, and can see just as clearly in the middle of the night as they could in day.

## ORGANIZATION OF COMMAND

**Type:** Supplemental

**Cost:** 1m

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

## OX-BODY TECHNIQUE

**Type:** Permanent

Gain an additional +5 Health. This charm may be repurchased as a Greater and then Capstone Charm.

## PERIL-DEMANDING HASTE

**Type:** Supplemental

**Cost:** 1m

On successfully convincing a target to perform an Inconvenient task, the Solar immediately Instills an emotion of “impending peril.” The target will complete the task in half of the normal time, if at all physically possible.

## PROPHET OF SEVENTEEN CYCLES

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 2m

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 “Recall a Fact:” the declaration must be self-consistent with what has been shown to operate in this world.

The Player should describe how their character activates this complication.

## SUN KING RADIANCE

**Type:** Simple; Day

**Cost:** 2m

The Solar radiates their strength to others. Choose up to (Essence) x2 targets, and one of the Solar’s Intimacies. So long as the target is acting in accordance with the Intimacy, they may use the Resolve of the Solar instead of their own.

## TIRELESS BURDEN

**Type:** Permanent

Through sheer force of will, the Solar may keep their body healthy, hale, and moving past its natural limits. They may go without sleep for an entire week at no consequences (except perhaps to their mood.) They still regain health and Motes as if they had slept

After a week of no sleep, the Solar gains an Intimacy of “Desire to sleep,” and must sleep normally for at least three consecutive nights to remove this temporary Intimacy.

## TOXIN ACCLIMATION

**Type:** Reflexive; Scene

**Cost:** 1m

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.

## UNASSAILABLE GUARDIAN POSTURE

**Type:** Reflexive; Scene

**Cost:** (1m per Charge)

None commands the battlefield's presence as completely as the Solar's, and assailants must first break themselves upon that bulwark before others.

Select up to (Essence) charges, spending 1 mote per charge. For the remainder of the scene, so long as you are a valid target at the moment of a Strike, you may choose to force assailants to attack you instead of your charges.

## UNDERLING-PROMOTING TOUCH

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 5m

The Solar may uplifts a servant to act in their stead, designating their role as a ruler, guide, or other form of leadership to a group of people. While the target is acting in given role, and in accordance with the Solar's Intimacies, all who gaze on them will instinctively know they work on behalf of the Solar.

In addition, the target may use the Bureaucracy, Command, and/or Resolve of the Solar in place of their own while operating in their given capacity.

The Solar may only designate one target at a time for this effect. They may choose to rescind their blessing, or perform a 10 Res. Project to make this effect permanent, either of which would allow them to bless a new target.

## WORSHIPFUL LACKEY ACQUISITION

**Type:** Reflexive; Scene

**Cost:** 1m

The Solar's presence alone is enough to summon a group of sycophants from any place that has at least a village-sized population. These lackeys become enthralled by the Solar, and are willing to do nearly anything for them.

The Solar can use these impromptu worshipers to gain a Group Defense bonus (+2 Resolve), or may command to perform an Inconvenient task without a need for a roll.

The individuals of the group, while denizens of the area, rarely have any special access, knowledge, or social stature that would be useful to the Solar, aside from what is common knowledge among the populace.

## ACCORD OF THE UNBREAKABLE SPIRIT

**Type:** Simple; Week

**Cost:** 3m

Choose one of your Intimacies, and spend an hour leading a group of up to 10 people in meditation, prayer, or other such mind-cleansing activities. For the remainder of the week, the group will consider any Influence against the chosen Intimacy to be Unacceptable Influence.

Only one Intimacy may be reinforced at a time through this method.

## ASP BITES ITS TAIL

**Type:** Reflexive

**Cost:** 2m

Disparaging the Lawgiver, their name or their Intimacies is foolish at best. Whenever the Solar witnesses such an event, they may speak subtle words to all those who listen and making the accuser seem the fool.

Contest the social action with (+2) extra dice. If there are more successes than the aggressor's roll, the result of the intended action turns upon the aggressor instead. If they were trying to incriminate the Solar, they instead become incriminated.

This Charm automatically succeeds against targets with an Essence lower than the Solar's.

## COMMANDING WORDS

**Type:** Simple; Scene

**Cost:** 1a

Drawing from their divine rule, a Solar makes a quick command, from which all snap to attention and must obey.

The Solar targets a Mortal, or a Yu-Shan spirit of Essence less than the Solar. Any inconvenient task the Solar commands will be performed to the best of their abilities, without question nor needed roll. If the target is some other entity, or is against a hostile character combatant, the Solar must succeed on a Social roll vs. Resolve roll for this to take effect.

If a given task would run counter their intimacies, or the task is otherwise considered unacceptable influence, this charm automatically fails and the target is broken from the Solar's influence.

## FEAR-BANISHING AURA

**Type:** Reflexive; Scene

**Cost:** 2m

Allies need only look to the Solar to steady their nerves and keep their wits together. Immediately banish fear, panic, and other similar emotions from all allies that can perceive the Solar, and force any future attempts to fail for the remainder of the scene.

This Charm does not protect against the Dawn Caste's Anima Power.

## INQUISITOR'S UNFAILING NOTICE

**Type:** Permanent

The Solar is instinctively and subconsciously aware of any actions of thievery or Stealth performed by those in their presence who are below the Solar's (Essence). The exact target, circumstances, nor direction is not disclosed, simply the fact that it is happening.

The Storyteller should only inform the Player of significant moments of such events, otherwise only answering when asked.

## IRRESISTIBLE QUESTIONING TECHNIQUE

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 2m

The Solar's unquestioning gaze will make even the most unwilling talk. Ask a specific question, and make an Awareness Roll against the target's Resolve. If successful, the target must answer and speak the truth to that particular question.

## MAJESTIC RADIANT PRESENCE

**Type:** Reflexive

**Cost:** 2m

None may speak before the Lawgiver's voice has been heard.

Interrupt a target before or during a social action, such as speaking, performing, using Social Influence, or walking up to a podium. The Solar may immediately take their own social action, forcing the target to wait until the Solar is done.

Any who observes this interruption with an (Essence) less than the Solar's own will develop a temporary negative Intimacy of "disdain" towards the target. This may also affect the target themselves.

## RESPECT-COMMANDING ATTITUDE

**Type:** Supplemental; Scene

**Cost:** 2a

Once a Solar has begun a speech, performance, or other social action, those listening become unable to interrupt—no matter how long the Solar draws out their speech. Even their enemies must pause at the force of conviction the Solar, unable to take direct action against the Solar while in their monologue, unless they are directly acted against.

This charm only affects those with (Essence) less than 3, or the Solar's own (whichever is greater).

## PROPHET-UPLIFTING EVOCATION

**Type:** Permanent

You may now perform Projects to grant the Rank 4 [Endowment](#) Merit to those with significant ties to the character, granting them access to Universal Charms.

## SACROSANCT SOUL RETRIBUTION

**Type:** Reflexive

**Cost:** 4m

To deny, alter, or twist the mind or body of the Solar is to invite divine retribution.

Against any actions to charm, beguile, or otherwise twist the mind, soul, or body, the Solar instead turns the action back to its originator, who must resist the attempt as though they were the original target or be subject to its affects instead.

The Solar may do this reflexively, and without conscious knowledge an attack has happened.

## WORSHIPER'S ZEAL

**Type:** Simple: Scene

**Cost:** 4a

Their Anima Banner unfurls itself from the soul of the Solar, and bursts into the sky in a brilliant display, showing all that their Sun King has returned.

Those in the presence of the Solar that they designate—allies, worshipers, innocents—gain +4 dice on all actions they perform for the Scene, so long as it does not run counter to what the Solar desires.



# TWILIGHT CASTE

## Lesser

### ABSENCE OF THOUGHT

**Type:** Simple; (Day+)

**Cost:** 2m

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.

### ANCIENT TONGUE UNDERSTANDING

**Type:** Permanent

The Solar's words are law, and all who inhabit the Spirit world instinctively understand it as such. No barrier of language, spiritual upheaval, or mental capacity will restrict a Spirit, Ghost, Elemental, Demon, or other such creature will restrict the understanding of the Solar's words. In addition, the Solar will always be able to recognize basic reactions to such commands for what they are before the Spirit has a chance to react.

### BANISHMENT OF PAIN

**Type:** Simple; Scene

**Cost:** 1m

Upon touching a target, the Exalt is able to calm and ease the physical pain they are under. While it does not cure the underlying cause, it allows the target to focus without mental clarity, or even escape from being bedridden for a time.

### CRACK-MENDING EYE

**Type:** Permanent

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).

### CRAFTY OBSERVATION METHOD

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 2m

Examining undisturbed physical evidence, the Exalt is able to reconstruct what happened to bring that object to its present condition.

You may read an entire tome in a blink of an eye, mentally break down a crime scene upon entering, or discern the reason for a character to be here. You may either ask the Storyteller for this information, or Recall a Fact about the Scene yourself. This may only be used once per Scene.

### CRAFTSMAN NEEDS NO TOOLS

**Type:** Supplemental; Scene

**Cost:** 1m

The Exalt always has the proper tools at their hands—and if they don't they can fashion the next best thing from whatever lies around.

Except for the most specialized, massive, or otherwise obscure implements, the Exalt will always have the proper tool at their beck and call—ranging from the humble lever to a delicate lockpick.

While working with these perfect and ideal tools, the Exalt halves the time needed to operate complex machinery or perform their task.

### CONCEPT-FORMING THOUGHT

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 1m

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 tomes, need to be transcribed over a course of a night.

Whoever reads this document will be able to perform—correctly – the steps required of them without a roll or chance of failure. (Whether the *choose to* or are *physically or spiritually able to* is a different question. This does not allow mortals to perform Sorcery, for example.)

### DEFTLY APPLIED TOOLS

**Type:** Supplemental

**Cost:** 1m

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.

### DISCERNING CRAFTSMANSHIP

**Type:** Simple; Story

**Cost:** 2m

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.

### DURABILITY-ENHANCING TECHNIQUE

**Type:** Simple; Scene

**Cost:** 2m

The Solar may reinforce an object—no more than (Essence)x5 meters in its largest dimension—and make it nigh unbreakable and resistant to changing effects, such as from the Wyld.

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

A Scale 1 Project may be performed to make this enhancement permanent.

## **ENLIGHTENED TOUCH INSIGHT**

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 1m

By touching or analyzing an object for a moment, the Solar can surmise its recent history and its usage.

The Solar reconstructs the scene in their mind, effectively gaining a vision of what happened surrounding the object in moments of great emotion and action.

## **ESSENCE-LENDING METHOD**

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** (1m per 1m or 1a per 1a)

Knowing the flows of essence within all beings, the Solar may choose to give of themselves so that others may prosper.

Transfer Essence from the Solar to another character, 1mote given per 1 mote received, or 1 anima per 1anima received. The target may not refuse this gift. Any extra motes above their maximum limit is kept, but only until the end of the Scene.

## **GIVING OF THE SELF**

**Type:** Reflexive

**Cost:** (1 Health)

So long as you are able to touch another, you may sacrifice your own Health to gift it to another, no more than (Essence)x5 per turn.

## **INSPECTION OF FLAW**

**Type:** Reflexive

**Cost:** 2m

Once per Session, the Player may Recall a Fact about a target object or institution that may be exploited to the character’s advantage immediately and without a roll. (This may be used to “correct” a failed roll.)

## **HARMONIOUS ACADEMIC METHODOLOGY**

**Type:** Simple; Month

**Cost:** 2m

Bless a mortal individual, organization, or such group, the Solar may grant insight into their own knowledge and methodologies in a way that resonates in their minds. Up to (Essence) groups may be blessed at a time.

Choose one of the character’s Abilities, and the target’s tasks in that specialty will run smoother and be completed faster than otherwise. If they must roll, they gain +4 dice, capped at 12 dice.

## **MARK OF THE MAKER**

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 1m

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.

## **ORDER-AFFIRMING BLOW**

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 2m

The Solar knows the effects of the Wyld, Underworld, and other such places that might try to forcibly change the targets.

So long as the effects have occurred within the last week, and not deeply ingrained into the soul of the subject, the Solar may immediately banish the changes.

In addition, they may undertake Medicine Projects to undo long-term changes and mutations.

## **SAGACIOUS READING OF INTENT**

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 2m

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 make a contested (Lore) vs. (Subterfuge) roll.

## **STRANGE TONGUE COMMUNICATION**

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 1m

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, but does not include any subtleties of language, or allow subterfuge.

## **TIRELESS HEALER**

**Type:** Supplemental

**Cost:** (1m+)

The Solar increase any Medicine Action or Charm one population scale for each mote spent, up to City.

## **TRUTH-RENDERING GAZE**

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 1m

Roll (Insight + Lore) against a target’s Resolve. On a success, learn insight on the nature of a creature, such as its typical attack patterns, to migration patterns. Following the same rules as “Read Intentions,” the Player asks a specific question that the Storyteller must answer truthfully.

## **UNCANNY PERCEPTION TECHNIQUE**

**Type:** Permanent

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 a contested (Awareness) vs. (Stealth) roll combat this.

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.

## WALKING AMONGST DEATH

**Type:** Simple; Scene  
**Cost:** (1m per target)

You concoct some sort of remedy or potion to give to targets, specifying specific instructions that contains one flaw—they must hold onto a branch of herbs, breath through a mask, or drink a sip of a tonic every 5 minutes, for example.

For the remainder of the Scene, so long as your targets adhere to your rules, you cannot be afflicted by a specified toxin, disease, or parasite.

## WOUND-MENDING CARE

**Type:** Simple  
**Cost:** 2m

Touching the target, you may immediately heal them for 5 Health.

On rolls to treat the sick and injured, this may be used to increase a Medicine roll by +3 dice.

## GHOST-EATING TECHNIQUE

**Type:** Simple  
**Cost:** 1m

Spirits of all types, from ghosts to elementals to demons to Gods, are simply patterns of Essence at the end of the day—patterns that can be disrupted if you know what strands to pull.

You may make an (Intelligence + Occult + Essence) Roll against spirits, dealing (Int + Essence) [Int/2] damage against them on a hit. This may be done even against dematerialized spirits, forcing them to materialize, if the Solar knows the location of the spirit.

If a Spirit is slain with this attack, the Solar may choose to completely disperse their Essence, permanently killing them. They may also undertake a Project to reform or change the Spirit to their will.

## DISRUPT THE FLOW

**Type:** Reflexive  
**Cost:** 3a

Essence flows through all things, and those skilled in its flows knows exactly where to inject a poisonous disruption of their own anima.

Once per Story, immediately disrupt a supernatural effect as it is about to take effect—be it a Charm, Sorcery, Technique, artifact evocation, or other source of power.

## IMPURITY-HAMMERING BLOW

**Type:** Simple  
**Cost:** 2m

By infusing their methods with their own burning anima, the Solar can quickly purify any mundane, raw material into pure versions of its type.

On gaining Resources in the form of raw, impure materials, the Solar may double its normal Resource value. The Solar may not convert more than their own body weight in a single day.

## LEGENDARY SCHOLAR'S CURRICULUM

**Type:** Reflexive; Scene  
**Cost:** 2m

The Solar may impart wisdom and knowledge to those around them, ensuring they have all the tools at their disposal.

For the remainder of the scene, you impart wisdom to your fellows and may reflexively add +2 Dice to any rolls an ally makes using a Utility Ability chosen on activation of this charm. This may explicitly stack with any other bonuses.

Additionally, once per Story, you may instruct a Group of non-player characters in any Ability that you have at least 3 dots in. Over the course of a night of instruction, their skill in that ability will be set to 3. (6 base dice for Quick Characters.) This cannot grant access to Supernatural Abilities such as Occult, but may train those who already have the initial spark.

## MARVELOUS MACHINERY

**Type:** Simple; Scene

**Cost:** 3a

The Solar imbues a statue, complex machinery, or even inert ancient working with their very Essence—so long as it is not currently bound to a hostile entity. For the Scene the Solar may control this imbued object as though it were an extension of their body.

Hostile entities may attempt to wrest control from the object by performing a contested Craft Roll.

## MASTER PLAN REVELATION

**Type:** Reflexive

**Cost:** 2a

Once per story, the Player may declare their character predicted a certain event, and accordingly planned for it. and accordingly planned for a certain event, and have somehow twisted it to their own benefit. Evidence provided turns out to be a planted fake; eyewitnesses have already been successfully bribed.

This charm represents the Solar's mastermind-level planning and cunning—essentially revealing hidden information to the Players themselves. As such, it can not actually change anything that has been firmly established, but it can complicate or muddy the veracity of those "facts."

## TIMELY PROTOTYPE

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 2a

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 4 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 +2 Res, which may only be used only for Craft Projects.

## WILL-SHATTERING RIDDLE

**Type:** Simple; Scene

**Cost:** 2a

The Solar Poses a terrible Paradox to the target, forcing them to be involved and distracted solving it.

Roll a contested (Int. + Lore). If the target fails, they suffer from being distracted, consumed by trying to solve the puzzle. They lose (3) dice from any awareness rolls, and must make a (Int + Lore) roll each round until the beat the Solar's roll to take an action. In combat, they may only make one action per round.

Only one character may be subjected to this per Scene. Neither mindless characters, nor characters of Intelligence 1 can be affected by this spell.

## EPHEMERAL INDUCTION

**Type:** Permanent

From the very Essence of the World, the Solar can pull a new Spirit into the world—unbound by any Celestial Bureaucracy nor Element.

Once per Story, the Solar may undertake a 5-Scale Project for free to shape a new Spirit. They may make more by undertaking additional Projects at full cost.

The Solar has full control when shaping their new Ally, detailing out its Intimacies and mentality. As well, they choose 3 Supernatural Abilities for the Spirit to be attuned to.

This new spirit will naturally be an Ally of the Solar for at least a Season, starting at Essence 3 and rapidly climbing as it is certain to be under the tutelage of its creator. However, once created, this new life has inviolable free will, and cannot be reshaped unwillingly by the Solar.

A Fae, Demon, God, or Elemental may choose to be reformed by this charm, though to do so would be to give absolute trust to the Solar.

## WYLD-SHAPING TECHNIQUE

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 6a

The Solar imposes their will upon the Wyld, and the endless chaos must conform.

Once a Story, the Solar may shape a portion of the Wyld into a form of their choosing, forcibly stabilizing it for foreseeable future. This acts as a free Project, whose scope is controlled by the amount and intensity of Wyld being channeled.

The Solar may raise a grand temple of a Manse in but a moment, or pull a fully-formed artifact out of pure chaos. They are only restricted in the fact that what they form must obey the physical laws of Creation, and that they cannot create nor restore life, except to simple plants and animals.

# NIGHT CASTE

## Lesser

### BURNING CORONA

**Type:** Reflexive; (Scene)

**Cost:** 1a

The Solar flares a glimpse of their anima at just the right moment, temporarily blinding their opponent as they attack them, raising their Evasion by (Essence)

If the target is of (Essence) less than the Solar, the target becomes blinded for the remainder of the Scene.

### EASILY-OVERLOOKED PRESENCE

**Type:** Simple; Scene

**Cost:** 2m

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.

### FALSE PURSUIT

**Type:** Simple; Scene

**Cost:** 2m

On a successful (Charisma + Deception) roll against the Resolve 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.

### FLASHING QUILL ATEMI

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 1m

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.

### FEATHER FOOT STYLE

**Type:** Reflexive; Scene

**Cost:** 1m

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. As well, 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, they need not worry about any sort of fall damage from leaps or heights they could reach in this way.

### FLASHING ANTICIPATION

**Type:** Reflexive

**Cost:** 1m

You strike before the opponent can gather their thoughts. You may interrupt the natural turn order, taking your turn before a different character has a chance to act. However, this will cause you to take 1 action instead of 2.

### FLAWLESSLY IMPENETRABLE DISGUISE

**Type:** Simple; Day

**Cost:** 2m

Through clever trickery, the Solar manages to craft a disguise that appears to break physical limitations, such as appearing shorter, gaining extreme mutations such as functional extra pairs of arms, or gain a voice that could not come from their body.

While impressive and fooling to all inspection—even detailed—it is still just well-crafted trickery.

### GENIUS PALATE SUMMATION

**Type:** Reflexive

**Cost:** 1m

The emotions and intentions of an individual bleed through to their craftsmanship. Upon eating, imbibing, or otherwise interacting with food or drink prepared or handled by an individual, make a Read Intentions Action against them.

### GRACEFUL CRANE STANCE

**Type:** Reflexive; Scene

**Cost:** 1m

The Exalt has perfected balance, and suffers no penalties from rough or unsteady terrain. They may effortlessly walk across things far too narrow or weak to normally support them.

### IRRESISTIBLE QUESTIONING TECHNIQUE

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 2m

Through either compassion or terror, the Exalt is able to force words out of even the most stubborn of witnesses.

As a question and immediately roll Investigation vs. Resolve. If successful, the target will reveal one useful fact related to a question—either by spilling it directly through words, or indirectly through something such as a subtle glance. If the target has no useful information to give, that fact is relayed instead.

### LIVING PULSE PERCEPTION

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 2m

The Exalt expands their soul into the world around them, feeling the flows of Essence around them.

Make an Awareness roll. All character in the Scene with a (Stealth) lower than the roll have their presence briefly acknowledged. Creatures that are not part of Creation—such as Demons, Fae, and those whom have purposefully cut themselves off, gain +2 against this sense.

## **LIGHTNING-HAND SLEIGHT**

**Type:** Reflexive

**Cost:** 1m

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 a hand. This alteration will not be noticed for at least (Essence) hours, or until the time when it is directly inspected.

## **LIVING OFF THE LAND**

**Type:** Permanent

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. While nourishing, the sustenance is not guaranteed to be palatable.

## **LOCK-OPENING TOUCH**

**Type:** Reflexive

**Cost:** 1m

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

## **MAGPIE'S INVISIBLE TALON**

**Type:** Supplemental

**Cost:** 1m

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

## **MIMICRY OF FORM**

**Type:** Simple; Week

**Cost:** 2m

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 (3) additional dice to do so.

## **MIST ON WATER**

**Type:** Supplemental

**Cost:** 1m

With a swift motion, the Solar disrupts the chakras necessary for thought and sound, rendering the target partially paralyzed and importantly—unable to make sound.

With either a successful touch or hit, force the target to lose their next action, and become silenced for the next (Essence)x15 minutes.

If used in a Combat or Encounter, this silence lasts (Essence) Rounds instead.

## **PROOF EATING PALM**

**Type:** Supplemental

**Cost:** 1m

The Solar disappears an object from plain sight, its resting place known only to the Solar themselves. So long as the Solar is able to get their hands on the object, and it is no larger than their torso, the object is simply *gone* for at least 15 minutes.

They must successfully beat a contested Stealth vs Awareness roll against creatures with (Essence) more than the Solar.

## **SENSORY ACUITY PRANA**

**Type:** Reflexive; Scene

**Cost:** 1m

The senses of the Solar become sharpened to levels beyond what a mere mortal can reach—able to differentiate between individual voices three buildings down, or tasting the slightest variation in flavors in food (as would be present with the most subtle of poisons.)

On all active Awareness rolls, gain 2 dice, and rolls are now allowed for what would be considered impossible before.

Prolonged use of this charm is often considered painful and overwhelming, even to the mighty Chosen.

## **SHADOW-CROSSING LEAP**

**Type:** Reflexive

**Cost:** 2a

The Solar 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.

## **SOUND AND SCENT BANISHING ATTITUDE**

**Type:** Reflexive; Scene

**Cost:** 3m

The Solar focuses their attempts at stealth onto a specific, non-visual sense, completely eliminating it from the equation. Their footsteps may become silent, or their scent hidden from tracking dogs. Only one sense may be banished at a time.

## **SPLITTING THE ARROW**

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 1m

The Exalt spends a Maneuver calling a target. Their next Strike against the target hits with unerring accuracy and lethality, finding the smallest chink of armor and exploiting it.

You may target Evasion on this attack, instead of DV.

## **STATUE SPIRIT STILLNESS**

**Type:** Reflexive; Scene

**Cost:** 1m



The Solar may remain as completely stationary as long as necessary. They show no outward signs of movement, not even breathing.

When stationary, they can not be detected by casual Awareness, and they gain +4 dice against contested Stealth.

## SUNLIGHT BLEEDING AWAY

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 1a

Take a Stealth Maneuver action vs. a Target's (Wits + Awareness). On success, you disappear from their sight and become unseen until your next Action.

Multiple targets may be chosen at the same time, but doing so causes a Moderate Disadvantage.

## SURPRISE ANTICIPATION METHOD

**Type:** Permanent

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.

## WATCHFUL JUSTICIAR'S EYE

**Type:** Simple; Scene

**Cost:** 2m

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.

The Storyteller must inform the character of any suspicious movements, or disappearances of characters in the scene.

## WISE ARROW

**Type:** Supplemental

**Cost:** 1m

With perfect control, the Exalt lets loose a bolt of a perfect arc to strike their target.

The Exalt may target creatures through the smallest of cracks, over impossibly high barriers, or even through slits between a door. So long as a single, uninterrupted arch exists to the target, they are a valid enemy, and derive no benefit from cover.

## A WILL IS A WAY

**Type:** Permanent

Even if the way forward seems to be impossible, the Solar will find a path to their destination. Once per Story, the Player declares that they and their companions will arrive at the specified place, no matter the obstruction, and the Storyteller must open a path for them to follow.

## EYE OF THE UNCONQUERED SUN

**Type:** Simple; Scene

**Cost:** 3a

For a Moment, the Caste Mark of the Solar flares up for all to see and becomes a focal lens for the Inner eye, revealing all to the Lawgiver. For that brief moment, all characters in the scene can be sensed, giving a snapshot of their current position, and movement.

As well, roll a (Wits + Awareness). All characters in the scene with (Essence) less or equal to the roll are valid targets for any future perception during the scene, regardless of obstacles such as hiding behind walls.

## GUARDIAN FOG APPROACH

**Type:** Simple; Scene

**Cost:** 2m

Touch up to (Essence) companions, bringing them into the shadows with you. You may make a Steal roll for the entire group.

## IMMUNITY TO EVERYTHING TECHNIQUE

**Type:** Permanent

Once a Solar has been exposed to a toxin, poison, or illness—and survived—they never need worry about suffering ill effects from it again. So long as they have imbued a dose that would

The Solar may deliberately choose to lower their defenses for such recreational substances like alcohol.

## ONE EXTRA STEP

**Type:** Supplemental

**Cost:** 2a

There are hidden ways to any place, and the Solar may identify and pursue them immediately with none of their fellows the wiser.

Once per Scene, the Exalt may reach a Position or Target they can observe, and which is not completely impossible to reach.

## PERFECT MIRROR

**Type:** Simple; Day

**Cost:** 3m

Choose a target that the Solar has studied for at least a few hours, and then become a perfect replica. All mannerisms and characteristics of the target are replicated, and a surface level of knowledge and abilities the target knows—enough to fool all but the most intimate of acquaintances.

Even supernatural effects—such as a Anima flare, is emulated with Essence-based illusions.

## PHANTOM RIDER'S RETREAT

**Type:** Simple; Scene

**Cost:** 2m

The Solar leads their party to safety. So long as their mode of transportation does not halt movement, their pursuers will be unable to catch them.

The Solar cannot rest while the effects of this charm are active, nor regain motes.

## THE MARK OF JUDGMENT

**Type:** Simple; Scene

**Cost:** 2a

The Solar marks a specific target they can perceive, burning their target's soul into their mind.

For the remainder of the scene, the target's location will be known to the Solar, no matter their distance nor intervening environmental factors.

## UNEXPECTED ASSAILANT

**Type:** Reflexive

**Cost:** 1m

The fleeting shadows hide the Sun until the time the Sun is ready to grace the land with his presence.

Gain an additional +2 dice, on top of the natural advantage gained, whenever performing something radically unexpected to the target. This ranges from attacking from the shadows, to surprising someone as they turn across to the alleyway, to even more abstract concepts of surprise such as flustering someone with a strange turn of conversation.

## FALSE IMAGE FEINT

**Type:** Reflexive

**Cost:** 5m

The Solar is always prepared, and knows how deception can change the entire path of a battle.

After damage has been calculated and finalized, the Player may reveal that the Solar had used their anima to create a false image that had been struck—along with any object the Solar had placed to heighten the deception.

The Player then declares where the Solar actually is—up to one Zone away. This often will not be obvious to combatants on the field.

## INEVITABLE MACHINATIONS

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 5a

It is not simply the great power of the Solar Exalted that others fear so much, but their great cunning. To challenge one of the Solar Exalted is to have inevitably lost, as they come prepared with the winning hand.

Once per Story, reveal how the Solar already has what they want out of a Scene—so long as the goal is to take an object, procure information, or kill/trap/or otherwise contain a person or group.

When activating this charm, describe how the Solar planned ahead, and how only now its effects are activating—for example, they may have poisoned the target earlier and only now are its effects being felt. Or perhaps they already have the great artifact that they were searching for, and have simply been distracting the guardian of it while it was secreted away to a safe spot. Or perhaps a Sorcerous circle is about to activate, banishing the great demon back into Malfeas.

Whatever it is, the Solar has *already won*—quite a while ago—and what is happening is theater to distract or inconvenience the antagonist.

Opponents with (Essence) less than the Solar's must immediately *Cheat Death* to avoid the worst effects of what the Solar has planned for them. Those of equal to or greater cannot be *directly* harmed by this Charm, but can certainly be inconvenienced.

This Charm is limited in that it can only be used to solve a problem in the *immediate* future—for example, you cannot simply start a Story and use this charm to finish it. Only when the goal is in sight—such as before the final battle—may this charm be used to solve the Story. As well, it cannot be used to “solve” two Stories in a row.

# ECLIPSE CASTE

## Lesser

### DANCE OF FLASHING SWORDS

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 1m

After the fact, the Exalt can explain away that a particularly egregious action—a fight, explosion, or similar altercation—as a spontaneous act of street performance. Most will accept this at face value, but gain a Moderate Advantage to convince others.

### DEFT OFFICIAL’S WAY

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 1m

After observing a group or organization in motion, the Solar may easily pick out who would be receptive to a specified social activity, such as socializing, intimidation, or bribery.

### DISCRETIONARY GESTURE

**Type:** Reflexive

**Cost:** 1m

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 disrupt influence against one of their compatriots, using their own Guile in place of their Ally’s.

### EFFECTIVE COUNTERARGUMENT

**Type:** Reflexive; Scene

**Cost:** 1a

Once per scene, the Exalt may interrupt an other’s action to cajole, sway, or otherwise persuade a target, rolling their own 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, inverting the intent.

### EXCELLENT FRIEND APPROACH

**Type:** Permanent

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, and they gain +2 dice on their first Social roll against a target.

### FOUL AIR OF ARGUMENT TECHNIQUE

**Type:** Simple; (Essence) Weeks

**Cost:** 2m

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

## FRIENDSHIP WITH ANIMALS

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 1m

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.

## FURY-INCITING SPEECH

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 2a

Once a mob has been formed with emotions of rage, fury, or likewise, the Solar can direct them as though they were an extension of their own morals.

The Player directs the mob to outlet their anger. For every 3 successes on a Social roll, the Solar can direct the mob to take a distinct action related to their anger, be it to burn a Guild Hall, capture a Magistrate, or storm the docks.

## HARDSHIP-SURVIVING SPIRIT

**Type:** Permanent

The fluctuations of heat and cold do not bother the Exalt, regardless of outfit. They will find the environment comfortable and suffer no penalties to rolls caused by the heat or cold save for the harshest of blizzards or the overwhelming presence of a volcano.

## IRRESISTIBLE DIVERSION

**Type:** Simple; Scene

**Cost:** 2m

The performer can command attention to themselves, making sure that they and only they are noticed by onlookers. Characters with less (Essence) than the Exalt cannot turn their eyes away from the performance until it is finished, and others can be entranced by a successful Performance vs. Resolve roll.

## IRRESISTIBLE SALESMAN SPIRIT

**Type:** Simple; Day

**Cost:** 2m

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.

## MASTERY OF SMALL MANNERS

**Type:** Reflexive; Scene

**Cost:** 3m

The Exalt may quickly understand and emulate local mannerisms and customs, ensuring that they blend into the society around them.

All interactions with a Character in the first Scene they are introduced will see a +2 to all Socialize rolls, until the Solar fails a roll against the target or actively performs a faux pas in their presence. As well, they suffer no ill effects from being an outsider, quickly acclimating to and understanding new customs with but a simple glance.

### **MIND-WIPING GAZE**

**Type:** Reflexive; Scene

**Cost:** 3m

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 Subterfuge vs. Resolve 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. This may only be done once per scene.

### **PHANTOM SCENERY**

**Type:** Supplemental; Scene

**Cost:** 1m

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 structured performance, this illusion does not arouse suspicion of the Exalt's nature—people will be primed to believe this is just stage magic. In other circumstances, the Exalt must use a contested (Performance) vs. (Awareness) roll to disguise this as a mundane effect.

### **SEMANTIC ARGUMENT TECHNIQUE**

**Type:** Simple; Scene

**Cost:** 2m

The Solars are known as Lawgivers, and such knowledge is intrinsic to their very nature. During arguments involving law, procedure, or other methodology, they gain +3 dice.

Once per Story the Solar may Recall Fact by revealing an arcane or forgotten law without needing a roll.

### **SOMETIMES HORSES FLY**

**Type:** Reflexive

**Cost:** 1m

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.

### **SOUL-FIRING PERFORMANCE**

**Type:** Supplemental

**Cost:** 1m

A performance can speak directly to each individual, as though it were a one on one conversation. With a Performance Roll, ignore any Resolve bonus from being in a Group.

### **SPEED THE WHEELS**

**Type:** Simple; Month

**Cost:** 2m

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.

### **SPIRIT-TIED COMPANION**

**Type:** Permanent

On purchasing this charm, specify an animal, lesser spirit, or other creature with whom to form a willing bond with. This creature becomes unbreakable loyal to the Exalt, to the point of becoming an extension of the self.

The Exalt may treat their companion as an unquestioning [Ally](#) (3). They may also peer through their senses if separated, though at a -2 dice penalty.

### **SPURIOUS OWNERSHIP**

**Type:** Simple; Scene

**Cost:** 2a

With the force of certainty and their unconsciously regal presence, whatever the Solar speaks claims ownership of is instinctively believed.

With a successful Social Roll vs. target's Resolve, the target will believe that a claimed object, structure, or even specific idea belongs to the Solar for the remainder of the scene. This belief may remain unless directly challenged.

If they have knowledge or direct evidence to the contrary, they instead gain a temporary Intimacy of doubt towards their own known evidence, but remain convinced of its true ownership.

### **TESTING THE WATERS**

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 2m

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 an opposed Bureaucracy 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.

### **UNKNOWABLE VISAGE**

**Type:** Permanent

Through vast experience, the deft Politician knows exactly how to disarm and dismiss probing questions.

Immediately gain +1 Guile, up to 5. This charm may be refunded if it no longer grants a benefit.

## WISE COUNSEL

**Type:** Simple; Day  
**Cost:** 2m

Advise up to (Essence) characters on a specific social action, such as specific etiquette, methodologies to charm, or ways to speak around a subject successfully. For the remainder of the day, the target characters may use the Solar's social score in place of their own whenever performing that action.

## WOE CAPTURING WEB

**Type:** Permanent

The Solar may monitor up to (Essence) different political circles, organizations, or groups. They will become immediately aware of any large-scale actions to disrupt, curse, or otherwise hinder the group in their main goal. They will understand the basic nature of the disruption and epicenter, but no more than that.

The choice of selected targets may be altered between Stories.

## Greater

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## HEART-ECLIPSING SHROUD

**Type:** Simple; Scene  
**Cost:** 2m

The Solar takes on a perfected persona, with its own intimacies, deeply-held beliefs, intentions, and past. Any methods to divine purpose, Read Intentions, or otherwise probe the Solar will reveal the Persona instead-making a nearly foolproof disguise.

However, the Solar must reinforce this persona through their actions during the scene—including being influenced by their false Intimacies. Slips in the persona, as well as contradictory facts of the past that cannot be changed being revealed (such as records indicating there is no person with this name), may crack the person and cause it to fall apart on a successful roll against the Solar's Resolve. Once done, the person cannot be re-entered for the remainder of the day.

## MEMORY-REWEAVING DISCIPLINE

**Type:** Simple; Day  
**Cost:** 2a

With absolute certainty, the Solar rejects a known reality of the target and replaces it with their own.

Any with (Essence) less than the Solar's will not question the new stated reality—they will believe that there is a new guard rotation scheduled, or that the Solar is bringing prisoners into a cell, or that an extra invitation was indeed sent to the Solar.

Against others, the Solar may make a social roll against Resolve with an extra (Essence) dice on their efforts to convince them.

The Storyteller may grant targets extra resistance based on the outlandishness or improbability of the narrative spoken: +2 if the story is certainly false, +4 if running counter to all known facts of the world.

## SOUL-SNARING CONTRACT

**Type:** Simple  
**Cost:** 3a

Using byzantine words, endless caveats, and simple persuasive will, the Solar can manage to bind a target to a completely unfair contract, ranging from selling sand to desert dwellers, to letting a man walk free for a promise of a bond.

So long as the Solar upholds their end of the bargain, the target will remain under the contract for at least a Month.

Any target with (Essence) less than the Solar's does not get to resist this effect. Against others, the Solar must successfully convince the target to sign the contract, which is a "Perform Serious Task" action.

## TABOO-INFLECTING DIATRIBE

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 2a

The Solar may dictate a specific, simple law or ideal into an organization that they are occupy a role of high leadership or respected association. “Do not steal from company coffers” or “express perfect candor with clients” are examples of such laws. (“Do not steal” would be too generic.)

This law becomes sacrosanct to the organization, and shortly a core ideal. While there will certainly be individuals in the organization who break this law, they become exceedingly rare.

This charm may uphold up to (Essence) different Laws. Stopping the charm does not necessarily remove the core tenet, if it has found root in the organization.

## TWISTED MEANING

**Type:** Simple; Scene

**Cost:** 2a

With but a few well placed words, the Solar can turn the words of their enemies against themselves.

On a successful Social roll against a target’s Resolve, the Solar chooses a particular intimacy, topic of discussion, or idea the target espouses, and then poisons it with the Solar’s own words.

For the remainder of the scene anytime the target speaks, acts, or otherwise tries to communicate the poisoned concept, it will always be expressed or interpreted as the Solar dictated: such as true belief becoming mocking disdain.

## VENOMOUS RUMORS TECHNIQUE

**Type:** Simple; Day

**Cost:** 3a

With a firm, knowing word, invent a lie about a topic, person, or group, rolling (Cunning + Subterfuge). The lie is then set free among the populous, and any with a Resolve less than the number of Successes automatically believes this rumor and spreads it to those they know.

This vicious rumor will quickly spread to an entire city, where it will remain in the public’s consciousness for at least a day, often longer.

## WISE-EYED COURTIER METHOD

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 2m

On entering the room, the Lawgiver may make a Read Intentions action against all in the room. Roll one (Insight + Awareness) roll. Any in the room with a Guile less than the roll is subject to their intentions being read.

The Storyteller should surmise many of the attitudes and postures of the characters in the room, but allow the Player to ask a question of one or two important characters.

## KNOWING THE SOUL’S PRICE

**Type:** Simple

**Cost:** 4a

With but a glance, the Solar pierces the soul of a person, analyzing, dissecting, and appraising it. They will be able to reveal even the most hidden and innermost secrets and desires.

On perceiving a target, you may discover their most useful secret or desire. Additionally, roll Subterfuge vs. Resolve. On success, you gain knowledge to what lengths the character will go to either keep their secret, or fulfill the desire, and gain a hunch on where to get started on such a task.

## CUP BOILS OVER

**Type:** Simple; Week

**Cost:** 4m

In a fiery, rambunctious oration, missive, or even performance, the Solar shatters the morality of an organization, group of people, or specific individual with such force that all around them cannot help but feel disgust and outrage at the target—often leading to riots at the very least.

All who observe the Solar in their fiery passion must make an Integrity Roll vs. the Solar’s Essence. If they fail, they become incited against the specific ideas the Player dictates. For the remainder of the week, they will take active action to suppress the heretical idea, and any who agree with it. Only the Solar themselves may calm down the fury of the riot they will inevitably produce.

Written or otherwise recorded reproductions of this diatribe will begin to lose effectiveness, decreasing the difficulty of the roll by 1 for each time Scale. As well, creatures without emotion or feelings are immune to this charm.

# EXIGENTS

## ONE THOUSAND GODS

Creation is host to thousands upon thousands of Gods, elementals, spirits, creatures of power, and even demons who may decide to uplift their chosen mortal to be their champion—though doing so is often at great cost to themselves.

Not all of these are “pure” Exalts: some are simply gifted temporary power, some will find their power comes from external sources, and some aren’t even mortals at all, but creatures from outside of Creation. There are even cases where a spirit has fused with a mortal, bringing out a new being altogether.

Whatever their source, and in spite of their precise taxonomy, Creation deems these all as the “Exigent Exalted”—the Exalted of the “little gods”.

Though, simply because they are Chosen by those that history skips over, does not make them any less powerful than their peers.

### CREATING AN EXIGENT

Each Exigent is a unique creation, and so there is little binding one Exigent to another. Rather, each will need to be **Custom made**.

The option does exist to craft an Exigent from the ground up, and there are those experienced crafters may find joy in doing so. However, that is not needed.

Exigents should be created by looking at what already exists, and mixing, matching, and reflavoring to create that which is personal to the character.

#### **Step 1: Decide who your Benefactor is**

You should have a clear picture in mind of what the creator of your Exalt is—and what their power sets are. Are they the God of Luck? An elemental that has merged with your spirit? Or perhaps they are a creature of power from beyond the farthest reaches of Creation?

Whatever it is, all of your powers will be focused through this light, and you should reflavor what you choose to match.

#### **Step 2: Choose your Character Creation bonus**

Choose **one** character creation bonus from the following:

- Gain 5 dots of Abilities
- Gain 3 dots of Attributes
- Gain 2 dots of Attributes, and 2 Abilities.
- Gain 1 Lesser Power
- Gain 3 dots of Merits.
- Permanently Gain 2 Motes to your pool.

#### **Step 3: Pick Anima Abilities**

Then, you may choose (or create) **any 2** Caste Anima Abilities, from any Exaltation and/or caste. They do not have to match. For example, you can choose one from the Solar Night, and another from the Lunar Changing Moon.

#### **Step 4: Pick Charm Sets**

Choose (or create) **3** charm sets, and gain any associated Supernatural Ability if there is one.

For example, if you are creating “Rip Tide”, the Chosen of the evermoving and dangerous waters, you would choose the charm sets of *Dawn (Solar)*, *Water (Dragon-Blooded)*, and *Shapeshifting (Lunar)*. You would gain access to the supernatural abilities of Water and Shapeshifting.

#### **Focused Choices**

You may have noticed that Exigents don’t have as wide a breadth as other Exalts—they have fewer charm sets to choose from, and not as many character creation bonuses as others.

This is simply because they are custom creations—and therefore their choices will be tailor-made to a specific character and idea, so there is nothing chosen that isn’t immediately used.

The other Exalted have to be far more general in their selection, and so there will often be some bonuses and selections given to characters that they will never use.

#### **Step 5: Choose Excellency**

The last mechanical step when creating an Exigent type character (before actual character creation), is to create or choose an Excellency—that power which represents a character pushing past their normal limits, but at great mental strain.



## CREATING AN EXCELLENCY

When choosing or creating an Excellency, truly consider the thematic of this power, as it is your most general, fallback ability. In particular, consider the balance between consistency and power peaks.

The most consistent Excellency—the baseline—is “**Add +2 successes to your roll**” with no qualifiers. This is a perfectly fine Excellency for balanced, consistent powerset. To add more, you will have to add limitations, according the concept of your Exaltation. Take the following thought processes for existing Exalts:

- **Solars** are known to excel at whatever they put their mind to. They are *consistently* good at doing so, and so add a straight number of successes with no need for rolling. However, they are left to the wind when attempting something they have not dedicated their life to—and so use their Ability score. They easily, consistently can get +5 to their roll, but at the cost of not being able to apply it to things they aren’t already good at.
- **Lunars** are generalists, using primal powers (represented as Attributes) to their advantage. Their Excellency is always there for them should they choose to use it. However, their powers are far more mercurial than others, and so are represented as dice (typically 4-5 dice, or 2-2.5 successes on average). They can continue to push more and more, at the cost of more stress.
- **Infernals** seek not to make themselves better, but to destroy that which is in the way. Instead of adding dice, they decrease the difficulty by destroying it. It has a similar mechanical effect as adding straight dice, but does come to the disadvantage that they can *never* excel at what they want to do. They therefore cannot gain Anima using the Excellency, nor ever change a pure failure (0 successes) into a success no matter how hard they try.

# STORYTELLING

HOW DO I RUN THIS GAME?

# ANTAGONISTS

## QUICK CHARACTERS

The following is a table to help create characters on the fly, as needed for the campaign. These should be considered base value statistics, and do not include any bonuses from, say, armor and weapons.

Values with (X\Y) show the (**High\Low**) values. You should have an idea which defense should be higher or lower.

- DV: Soak and Evasion
- MDV: Guile and Resolve
- Dice: High end dice pool / Low end Dice pool

Mortals (High Low)						
	DV	Dmg.	Hp	MDV	Acc	Dice
Child	1\1	0	5	1\1	2	3-2
Weak	2\1	0	8	1\1	5	4-2
Normal	3\1	2	10	2\1	7	5-3
Heroic	4\2	3	15	3\2	8	6-5

Wild Creature						
	DV	Dmg.	Hp.	MDV	Acc	Dice
Weak	2\1	1	8	1\1	5	4-2
Normal	3\2	3	15	2\1	7	5-3
Tough	4\2	4	20	3\2	8	6-4
Heroic	5\3	5	25	5\2	10	8-6
Legend	8\4	7	35	7\3	12	10-8

Exalt / Minor God / Demon						
Ess	Def. 1	Dmg.	Hp	MDV	Acc.	Dice
1	2\1	3	20	2\1	9	9-5
2	3\2	5	25	3\2	10	10-6
3	4\3	6	35	3\2	11	11-7
4	5\3	7	40	4\3	12	12-8
5	6\4	8	45	5\3	14	14-10
6	6\5	9	50	5\3	15	15-11

## QUICK POWERS

The following powers are quick ways to bring an antagonist to life without the need for a full character sheet—almost all of the antagonists you have will probably be made this way.

These powers are not for player use, as they are intended to be as flexible as possible for the situation. These *represent* the various charms, martial arts, etc. of the system while letting you decide on the restriction level.

These should be used *on top* of base-level mechanics, such as Maneuvers or

### SPECIALTY

Choose something that the character is specialized in, and then add +2 dice/+1 defense to any rolls made in that specialty.

### QUICK REFLEXES

You strike before the opponent can gather their thoughts. You may interrupt the natural turn order, taking your turn before a different character has a chance to act. However, this will cause you to take 1 action instead of 2.

### FEROCIOUS BITE

Spend a Maneuver focusing an attack. On the next Strike, deal an extra (+4) damage.

### TARGET DEFENSE

Spend a Maneuver preparing an attack. You must make this clear—be it setting up explosives, knocking an arrow at a target, etc. On the *next* attack, bypass a defense, targeting Soak, Evasion, MDV, or some other (Att+Abi)/2 combination, treating that as the targets DV on your next Strike.

It is suggested you pair this with Ferocious Bite, spending two Maneuvers and then Striking.

### CLOAK IN SHADOWS

Perform an action to disappear from the senses of the group. You may perform a contested roll—if you fail, you only partially disappear. Weak versions can only stay in the shadows for a turn, and get revealed if they take an action. Advanced versions allow indefinite actions and time in the cloaked shadows.

This can take the form of a spirit dematerializing, animals hiding in the underbrush, or people disappearing into a crowd.

## MAKING INTERESTING COMBAT

“Hard” combat is completely easy to make—dial up the numbers, attack the weakest character first with overwhelming attacks, and throw lots of creatures at the Party.

Don’t do that. At least, not all of them at once. Interesting Combat is more about making a puzzle for the Players to solve, rather than just a stat block to overcome.

### HIGHLIGHT PLAYER STRENGTHS

If a Player Character chooses a lot of groups-killers, combats should tend to have a lot of Groups to kill. If they have high defenses, there should be slow, powerful attacks. If they are all ranged, there should be a variety of Zones for them to dance around through.

When Players buy charms and customize their characters, they are *telling* you what they think is interesting and is cool to experience, so *give them what they want*. This isn’t to mean that *every* combat should 100% match exactly what they have on their character sheet, as that is swinging far too much in the other way, but most combats should have about 80% of it dedicated to how awesome the Player Characters are.

(Then, when the overwhelming fight or situation they aren’t prepared for shows up, the impact is heightened.)

### HAVE A MENTAL THREAT LIST

The more highly armored and battle-hardened a Player Character is, the more likely they are to be attacked – at least until another character shows they are a bigger threat by a massive attack.

You, as the Storyteller, may know that it is combat-optimal to go after the weakest character first, but your NPC’s don’t. Plus, that doesn’t highlight the Player’s strengths, as stated above.

The exception to this would be recurring antagonists—who learn after fights—or antagonists who are supposed to be supernaturally aware of tactics. But remember, this only works and has impact if these are the *exceptions*, rather than the stander.

### TELEGRAPH ACTIONS

Whenever antagonists take an action, you should make sure your Players know what is happening, and what the mechanics are. While it is a nice to wrap the actions in a narrative description, that is simply bonus points.

“The swordsman rushes in, light glinting off his hammer as he raises it to the sky, bringing it down into you with a crushing force” is immersive and good, but “The swordsman uses a Maneuver to activate Ferocious Bite, and then Strikes you” is *also perfectly fine*. Don’t get trapped in trying to come up with clever descriptions for every single move.

### USE AND DESCRIBE TERRAIN

One of the fastest ways to get a combat scene ingrained into a Player’s mind is to describe the scenery—whether there are twisting caverns, bustling merchant streets, or an oppressively tangled forest, and how the antagonists interact with them. There need not be any mechanical effect, but describing how an archer sits on the boughs of an ancient tree lining up a shot is far more interactive than not.

## USE A MIXTURE OF FOES

It’s best to have a mixture of weak, medium, and strong foes in a single battle—your Players will naturally sort themselves to attack (and be attacked) the weak and strong foes.

As well, the Players have an advantage of numbers of Actions—something one large creature will not be able to overcome easily. Having small creatures around to harass and force the Player Characters to use their actions on helps make the large creature take its actions.