

"Rhek Chaosgrinder" © Wizards of the Coast, by Jeremy Jarvis. Accessed at the Book of Exalted Deeds Art Gallery <u>here</u>

[Speaking of imperialist pachyderms... the rhek appeared once and only once, in the 3.5 *Book of Exalted Deeds*. That book has an... unfortunate idea of what goodness means, so the line that the rhek enforce harmony through violence does not inspire me to keep their given alignment of LG. Also unusual is the choice to illustrate the leveled specimen instead of the baseline, which wears heavy armor and carries weapons. The miniature card of the rhek is thus the only place art for the default rhek appears.]

Rhek

CR 5 LN Monstrous Humanoid

This grey skinned humanoid has the blunt feet of a rhinoceros, and a single horn growing from its forehead. It is clad in heavy armor, and carries a keen polearm.

The rhek are a species of planar immigrants, having traveled from their home planet to Axis in order to more fully embrace law. They enforce harmony and order through violence. Rhek are found as guards, watchmen and police in both the Eternal City and in its enclaves and embassies on other planes. They are meticulous and orderly in their behavior, and expect the same from others.

Rhek despise chaos in all its forms, but are not immediately violent towards chaotic individuals. As long as these creatures keep their heads down and mind their business, the rhek will tolerate them, although they may keep a close watch. Once any threat to social stability erupts, however, the rhek spring into action. Rank and file rhek fight with polearms and wear heavy armor, but their elite agents often train in unarmed and unarmored combat. These monks, called chaosgrinders by the rhek, are held in high esteem by even axiomites and inevitables, and may be found assisting them on missions.

Rhek CR 5 XP 1,600

LN Medium monstrous humanoid (extraplanar)

Init +0; Senses darkvision 60 ft., detect chaos, Perception +12

Defense

AC 21, touch 10, flat-footed 21 (+4 natural, +7 armor)

hp 47 (5d10+20)

Fort +5, Ref +4, Will +6

Immune bleed

Defensive Abilities instant stability

Offense

Speed 20 ft. (30 ft. unarmored)

Melee masterwork halberd +10 (1d10+6), gore +4 (1d8+2) or gore +9 (1d8+6)

Ranged sling +5 (1d4+4)

Special Attacks powerful charge (gore, 2d8+6), smite chaos (2/day, +2 atk and AC/+5 dmg)

Spell-like Abilities CL 5th, concentration +7

Constant—detect chaos

1/day—order's wrath (DC 16)

Statistics

Str 19, Dex 10, Con 19, Int 11, Wis 14, Cha 14

Base Atk +5; **CMB** +9 (+11 bull rush); **CMD** 19 (21 vs. bull rush)

Feats Alertness, Improved Bull Rush, Power Attack

Skills Climb +6, Intimidate +10, Perception +12, Sense Motive +9

Languages Celestial, Common

Ecology

Environment any plains or urban (Axis)

Organization solitary, pair, regiment (3-24 plus 1 4th level chaosgrinder) or battalion (25-48 plus 1-4 4th level chaosgrinders and 1 8th level commander)

Treasure standard (masterwork banded mail, masterwork halberd, sling with 10 bullets, other treasure)

Special Abilities

Instant Stability (Ex) A rhek is immune to bleed damage, and automatically stabilizes when reduced to -1 or fewer hit points.

Smite Chaos (Su) A rhek can smite chaotic targets. This functions as the smite evil ability of a paladin with a level equal to the rhek's Hit Dice, except that it functions against chaotic creatures. A dragon with a chaotic alignment, an outsider with the chaos subtype and fey take double the bonus damage from the first successful attack the rhek makes against them.