



Primordial Waters

a game by
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1 Introduction

Primordial waters is a generic, light, and abstract role playing rule set with a focus on keeping the game balanced while maintaining an even probability distribution and promoting creative story telling. It leans towards a cinematic play style.

1.1 Goals

- Rules light
- Flexible
- World agnostic
- Consistent probability distribution
- Easy game preparation
- Little bookkeeping during the game

1.2 Inspirations

This game did not come from nothing. Many other games had an impact on its creation. Some of the most impactful ones are the following.:

This game's systems for aspects and movement were heavily inspired from the Fate Core system. Karma was originally inspired by Fate Core's Fate Points, but EZD6 had the better name for the concept. The distribution of attributes into categories was inspired by the AERA RPG. The fate die to create unexpected events was inspired by the One Page Solo RPG Engine. The optional rule "Only Players Roll" is taken from the Cypher System. The turn order was taken from Tides of Ambition.

1.3 How to use the game

First rule of Gaming: Have fun. If the rules hinder you from having fun then screw the rules.

Second rule of Gaming: When in doubt use common sense. The rules will never be perfect. If something is illogical when using the rules or if no rule exists for the situation then feel free to find your own.

Third rule of Gaming: Use the aspects value as a guideline and be creative with what it could mean. Does a flame wall having a value of 4 mean that it has a difficulty of 4 to jump over it or does it attack anyone jumping over with 4 dice? Do what fits your story.

1.4 Conventions

Dice shorthand: $3d6$ means rolling three six sided dice and summing up the results. $1d_02$ means rolling 1 dice whose sides go from 0 to 2 (three sides in total). $2 \times d_08$ means rolling a dice whose sides go from 0 to 8 and multiplying the result by 2.

Aspects: Aspects are highlighted like this **example aspect 3**. The tailing number indicates the value of the aspect. If an aspect has an additional number in square brackets (**example aspect 2[4]**), this denotes the resistance of the aspect.

Quick Reference: All core rules can be found in Quick Reference blocks at the beginning of their respective sections. Everything else are just explanations and extensions of these rules.

2 Rules

2.1 Dice Mechanics

Quick Reference:

The dice points (DP) are calculated from the attributes and aspects. They are used to buy the dice you roll for a check.

- A die is worth exactly its average result in DP
 - $1dN$ is worth $\frac{N+1}{2}$ dice points
 - $1d_0N$ is worth $\frac{N}{2}$ dice points
- It is possible for costs to contain a fraction of a DP.
- A constant N are worth N dice points (generally you should limit this to $\frac{1}{4}$ of the dice points). Fractions of a point are possible.
- Any dice multiplied by a factor F is worth the price of a single die multiplied by this factor F

You can decide for each check individually what dice to roll, It is still advisable to always use the same dice if possible.

To keep all possible results evenly distributed you should favor to roll just a single die, that has as at least 6 sides. Since many 10 sided dice go from 0 to 9 (d_09) they are a good default (cost 4.5 DP). Pick higher factors ($F \times d_09$) if you have significantly more DP available. Dont be afraid of the fractional DP costs.

There are multiple ways to simulate d_0N dice. To simulate a ...

- d_02 : take a $d6$ and count 1,2 as 0; 3,4 as 1; and 5,6 as 2.

- d_02 : roll a fudge die (also known as fate die). Count the empty sides as 0, count the "-" as 1 and "+" as 2. (essentially counting the number of lines.)
- d_08 : roll a $d10$ (most actually go from 0 to 9). Reroll the die if you roll a 9.
- d_0N with $N \leq 12$: Take a deck of cards. Count the queen as 0, ace as 1, numbers as they are, joker as 11, and king as 12. Discard any cards you dont need.

Sometimes it makes no sense to roll dice, but we want a constant value. Then we can take the average. This means instead of rolling dice we just take the dice points as if it were the result of a roll. This is fair since it is also the average result of a roll.

Dice	Cost (DP)
$d3$	2
$d4$	2.5
$d6$	3.5
$d8$	4.5
$d10$	5.5
$d12$	6.5
$d20$	10.5
d_02	1
d_08	4
d_09	4.5
d_012	6

2.2 Attributes

Quick Reference:

There are the 8 attributes Strength, Dexterity, Will, Intellect, Empathy, Charisma, Gear, and Finances. Each attribute gets a whole number value.

Attributes describe a characters potential. The higher the value the greater things a character can achieve. There are the following 8 Attributes belonging to the 4 categories.

Category	Attribute	Description
Physical	Strength	strength and hardiness
	Dexterity	agility, speed, precision
Mental	Will	perseverance, attention
	Intellect	intelligence, knowledge
Social	Empathy	understanding people
	Charisma	interacting with people
Resources	Gear	Gear you have prepared
	Finances	Money and investments

The attributes value is the basis for the dice points one has available for checks.

2.3 Aspects

Quick Reference:

Aspects have a descriptive name and a whole number value called its aspect points (AP).

- **Create:** Make a check. The resulting AP are the AP of the new aspect.
- **Use:** Add the AP of the aspect to the check. Any AP can only be used once per round.
- **Multiple Targets:** To create an aspect that effects an area or multiple targets half the AP.
- **Duration:** By default an aspect can be used once. To make it apply every round until the duration is over, half the AP.
- **Acting:** Aspects can perform actions on their own. For this use the AP as the dice points.
- **Remove:** To remove an aspect you need to make a check. Reduce the AP of the aspect by the AP of the check.
- **Resistance:** Aspects can resist being removed. To reduce the AP of the check for removal by 1 for each resistance point. A point of resistance costs 1 AP.

Aspects are a combination of a descriptors and a value. When invoked the aspects value is added or subtracted from the dice points for checks. An aspect is always bound to something. Be it a player, a NPC, an object or even a zone. Be creative with aspects. Try to bind their effects to the value and they should stay balanced enough.

Creating an Aspect An aspect can be created at any time by the GM. It can also be created by any player, NPC or even object. To create an aspect all but the GM need to make a check. The aspect points (AP) from this check can be used to create an aspect. Increasing or decreasing an aspects value by 1 costs 1 AP (aspect point). The description of the aspect can be decided freely.

*Arthur the mage wants to inflame the grass around him to channel the enemies into a one on one battle with his Companions. The GM likes this idea and creates the aspect **Dry Grass 1** that Arthur can use. Arthur decides to cast his spell, succeeds with 3 AP, and creates the aspect **Wall of Fire 3**. Now any enemy has to either go around the wall or get burned. If an enemy tries to jump through, they have to roll on it against the fires 3 dice. If the fire succeeds they get burned.*

Using Aspects Whenever it makes narrative sense, an aspect can be used (also called invoked). When used an aspect adds its value to the number of points that can be used for a check. It is also possible to call out an aspect to be used to hinder a check. Then the value is subtracted from the points instead. An aspect can both be used for actions and reactions but never at the same time. If you use aspects in a contest make sure that aspects are not used more than once per round by a character or their points are distributed over different actions.

Multiple Targets or Area Aspects An aspect can affect a zone or multiple individual targets. To create such an aspect costs double the AP (aspect points). Exceptions may be made by the GM.

Enduring Aspects An aspect can be over within a round or it can last longer. Normally aspects last for a round or until invoked once. If your aspect should last longer and potentially apply each round it should cost double the AP (aspect points). Exceptions may be made by the GM. In general it can be said, that an aspect lasts as long as it makes sense.

Acting Aspects Sometimes an aspect should perform actions on its own. Each round they can act like any other player or NPC. They use their value for their actions.

Poison Cloud 2: Each round it tries to use 2 dice to poison any inside. Since it impacts a zone it can do this for everyone inside the zone every round.

Resistant Aspects An aspect can have resistance to being removed. The resistance is subtracted from any attempt to remove this aspect. Each point of resistance costs 1 AP. Be creative when invoking a resistant aspect. For example armor could be implemented as an aspect with resistance.

A heavy door blocks the way. The GM creates the aspect Fortified Door 5[2]. This means the aspect has a value of 5 with a resistance of 2. The players try to break through with pure strength. On their first try they get 4 AP. 2 get absorbed by the doors resistance and the rest weakens the door. The doors aspect is now Fortified Door 3[2]. On their second try the players get 6 AP and break through. If the players had decided to pick the lock the GM may had ignored the resistance value.

Character Aspects Aspects can also be bound to a character and be bought with CP (character points). If an aspect is mostly negative in nature it may give you CP instead. Character aspects can be invoked by the GM to make the character do something.

Damage Aspects are also used to represent damage a character or object has taken. If a character is unable to act in a scene because too many aspects hinder him, it is a good idea to narrate them out of the scene. It is also a good time to create a fitting negative character aspect representing this loss (like lost an arm or fear of water or hateful of orcs).

Converting Aspects Sometimes it may be usefull to change one or more aspects into another. In those cases just create a new aspects for an equivalent number of AP as all the aspects you remove for it. A good example for this is replacing a more abstract combat damage at the end of a fight, with a more permanent and more interesting long term damage.

During a fist fight against the goblin chief the glorious knight has taken 7 damage. After he lost the fight this gets converted into the more enduring aspect wounded pride 3.

2.4 Checks

Quick Reference:

Add points of attribute and aspects to get the dice points. Roll one or multiple dice that are equivalent to the dice points in value. The result of the roll are the aspect points (AP) of the check.

- **Difficulty:** Some aspects hinder a check. For them consider the AP to be negative instead.
- **Collaboration:** Add either the dice points for the checks or the AP of all checks made together.
- **Risky:** Roll an additional *d6*. If it shows a 6 then use the result of the check to create a negative aspect instead.
- **Take Time:** Make multiple checks and add the AP.

Checks are rolled when the outcome of an action is not certain. Each check is bound to an attribute.

Add the points in the relevant attribute and all applicable aspects together. These are your dice points. You get the result of the roll in aspect points (AP) to create or change an Aspect.

If the aspect points are zero or negative the check fails.

If the aspect points are not a whole number, then you can round the result just before creating the aspect.

Difficulty The checks difficulty is the sum of all aspects that are to be overcome or created. This means that a door having the difficulty 3 to be opened is the same thing as the door having the aspect **Closed 3** on it. If an obstacle can not be partially overcome you can give it a resistant aspect.

*The player tries to pick a door lock. The GM decides that he can not partially pick a lock and thus chip away at the door. So he gives it the aspect **closed 1[5]**. This means that the player needs at least 6 AP to open it and has to do it with one check.*

Collaborative checks Everyone rolls individually and then sum together all AP. Alternatively you can also sum up the DP and make a single roll.

Risky checks Roll the same dice you rolled for the check again. If these show a higher value then it comes to a bad outcome. The original check dice (not those for the risk check) are used to create a negative aspect.

The chance of something bad happening is quite high (around 50%) unless you reduce the risk. If this is too risky for your game then you can require two risk rolls instead. Something bad only happens if both risk rolls are higher (around 30%).

Before the check a player can reduce or heighten the risk. To do this reduce the risk rolls by a number. After comparing them to the check roll the check roll is reduced by the same number, down to a minimum of 0. Note that you reduce the result of the dice roll, not the AP for the check.

Taking Time Sometimes a check is too difficult to achieve something within 1 check. Then it may be possible to do multiple checks over a longer time to accumulate the points needed. However, you must decide beforehand how many checks you want to take. The AP of all checks are accumulated after considering the difficulty. The GM has a veto right and can limit the amount of checks.

Limited Aspects To prevent players from stacking up aspects endlessly it may be good to limit the amount of points one can use. The dice points should be limited to double the sum of the relevant attribute and all used aspect points from character inherent aspects. Feel free to disregard this rule however if it does not fit well with the story.

Multiple Checks Sometimes the players fail to pass an obstacle with just one check. If the players have a new idea on how they might overcome the challenge then you can allow them another check. The new idea may add the checks AP to the previous attempt or replace them, depending on the narrative.

The player has to climb up a cliff. The cliff has the aspect sheer rock face 6[2] At first he tries to just climb. He rolls a 3 on his check. This does not suffice and because of the 2 resistance of the aspect he has only overcome 1 of the 6 AP, he needs. This is harder than expected and considering that he has already climbed some of the distance a failure

may end in a fall. He pulls out some wedges from his pack and starts to use them to create some better holds. For this the GM allows a new check, which he gets 7 AP from. With those he just barely climbs the rest of the distance.

Take the average In some situations it may be good idea not to roll any dice at all. In those cases you can just assume that the average result was rolled. This means that you get the dice points in AP out of the check.

2.5 Contest

Quick Reference:

Each participant can make one or more checks each round.

- Action: A check to create an aspect
- Reaction: A check to prevent an aspect from being created.
- Turn Order: Groups act together. If a groups surprises the other or has significantly fewer members they go first. Characters can act on their turn or at any later time in the round. When in doubt the players or the stronger go first.
- Multiple (re)actions: Total number of points (dice points) gained from the attributes is the largest attribute value of all used in the checks. From each attribute (and aspect) you can use at most its value in points.

The prototypical contest is combat, but the same rules can be used any scenario where multiple parties act in opposition to each other. Be it a diplomatic debate or the hostile takeover of a company.

A contest is divided into rounds. Each participant in the contest can make one or more checks each round. When it is a participants turn or on any later point in the round they can perform an action.

Actions An action is a check that tries to create an aspect. Any kind of aspect can be created, based on what fits the scene. You can try to gain an advantageous position, or start a big fire.

The default aspect created in combat is **damage**. Damage is an enduring aspect thus costing 2 AP per level of the aspect. After combat **damage** gets converted to one or more fitting negative aspects like **broken leg** or **battered and bruised**. If a character has more **damage** than he has points in an applicable attribute

and character aspects combined then he is considered incapacitated for the rest of combat. This may mean that he is unconscious, writhing in pain or just to demoralised to fight.

Alternatively the aspect can be **stress** as a non enduring alternative to damage. **Stress** only holds for 1 round but cost only 1 AP per level of the aspect. It can be invoked to hinder the victims action. Note that you can only use any point of this aspect once in the round.

Reactions Whenever someone takes an action and has rolled his dice anyone else can immediately try to perform a reaction to prevent it. A reaction does not by its nature create an aspect. If you announce this before the action is rolled you can take the average on a reaction. You have to announce the number of dice invested. The AP from the reaction are then subtracted from the AP of the action to lessen its effect.

Turn Order

- All characters of a group act together. The specific order within a group can be decided freely.
- If a group surprises the others then they go first.
- If a group has significantly fewer members, then they go first.
- If all else fails determine the order randomly.

A character can act on his turn or at any later time in the round. If two characters wait for each other none of them can act.

Multiple (re)actions Each round you can take multiple actions and reactions. The total number of points gained from the attributes is the largest attribute value of the checks. From each attribute you can use at most its value in DP in total. Each Aspect can only be used once per round or their AP (aspect points) have to be distributed to the (re)actions.

Acting together When acting together all values are combined and a single combined check is made or alternatively everyone rolls seperately and only the AP are combined. To act together all have to act at the same time in the turn order, so effectively at the earliest when the slowest has his turn.

2.6 Traits

Quick Reference:

Traits allow characters to break rules in some way. Some checks that can only be performed because of a trait make those checks risky. Traits can be bought for character points.

Traits are distinguishing things about the character that allow him to break a rule of the world or the game in some way. For example with the Trait Night Vision you can just see in the dark. No rolls required. Some traits (like all magic) should come with a risk, meaning all checks that can only be made with this trait are risky checks. Traits can be bought for character points, this is possible both at character creation and later in the game. See the chapter List of Traits for examples.

2.7 Karma

Quick Reference:

Each player can have up to 3 karma. They can be used at any point in time to repeat a single die roll (not just your own) or to add an interesting aspect to a scene. The GM has veto rights. Karma can be recovered by a characters aspect or trait being used against them or by objectively failing in a scene or as a reward for good role play, anything that brings joy to all players and the GM.

2.8 Character Creation

Quick Reference:

Distribute 150 CP on your Attributes, Aspects and Traits.

Use the rules under equipment to limit your starting gear.

Character Advancement: You may reward your players with CP (character points) for reaching milestones in the story or simply surviving the session.

- An attribute point costs 6 CP.
- An Aspect point typically costs 6 CP but can vary based on how specific they are.
- A Trait typically costs 15 CP but can vary widely. Negative traits can

even have a negative price.

A typical player character will have:

- all attributes with value 2 on average
- 3 aspects with value 2
- 1 trait

2.9 Movement and Range

Quick Reference:

Sometimes it is useful to draw maps and define distances. In a contest split the area into roughly 3-5 zones. A character can move from one zone to another each round. If one can act at a range, like for example when shooting a bow, one can act 1-2 zones far. During the round a character is moving he can be considered to be in both zones at once.

2.10 Items and Equipment

Quick Reference:

The RV of an item is the sum of all attached aspects AP. For multiple use items, remember that enduring aspects cost double the AP.

- Equipment: Have gear with RV of up to the gear attribute in value. Have as much as you can carry or keep at home.
- Buying: Make a finances check and have the RV+1 in AP. On success get the item and a negative aspect Expences RV+1 on your finances for some time.
- Crafting: Resources must be expended, worth RV-1. Make a check and have the RV in AP.
- Gathering: Make a check against the RV.

Items are in essence just a named things with one or more attached aspects. The sum of the AP of all aspects on an item is its resource value (RV). For most items their aspects are obvious and dont need to be mentioned specifically. For example if you use a sword with RV 4, then you can just assume that it has an aspect aiding in a fight for 2 points (because enduring aspects cost double). Some items may be enduring, they can be used multiple times. Other items are a one use item like a first aid kit.

RV	Description	Example
0	Free	a stick
2	Cheap	simple clothes, basic tools
4	Affordable	regular car, apartment
6	Costly	regular house
8	Expensive	sports car, designer clothes
10	Very Expensive	small airplane
12	Luxurious	private jet

2.10.1 Equipment

Characters can have gear with an individual value of up to the attribute Gear in RV on them. They must be able to carry all that gear on them or if it is part of their household it must fit in their normally furnished home. Apply reason as necessary.

When out adventuring characters have all the gear that they have written down. Additionally they can be allowed to make a Gear check against the RV of what they would like to have in the moment to see if they do. The check is risky and if they fail they get the negative aspect **Packed the wrong stuff** until the end of the mission or until they resupply.

2.10.2 Buying

Characters can buy new items with a Finances check. It works just like crafting an aspect with the resource value (RV) plus one, in aspect points (AP). If you succeed in buying the item then you take a negative aspect on your finances for some time. The GM does not have to let you retry on a fail. If you use items with aspects to do this like the **Treasure** you found during your last adventure you may lose them if you succeed on the check.

2.10.3 Crafting

Characters can also build their own items. For that they need the appropriate tools and resources. The resources may be bought and have a RV of the item to be build minus 1. To build the item the character needs to make a check and achieve at least the items RV in AP. If that fails the resources might be lost, depending on what they are.

2.10.4 Gathering

Resources can be gathered with a check and their RV as difficulty.

3 Optional Rules

3.1 Magic

Magic gives a huge narrative flexibility to explain aspects. To balance this out any checks made using magic should be risky checks.

Depending on the setting, a trait might be necessary to cast magic or even a specific kind of magic.

With this, magic can still become quite powerful, since one can create several aspects and combine them for bigger spells. For example a mage might make special conjuration candles, draw a pentagram with magic symbols and then use those two aspect to assist in his conjuration spell.

It is up to the individual games setting to define how magic works. By themselves the rules above give a very soft magic system, but by defining how magic works in your world, you can make it a hard magic system.

Some technology can be handled just like magic as well. For example in a cyber-punk setting a hacker may be handled just like a mage in a fantasy setting.

3.2 Less precise Attributes

Instead of using the attributes as listed you can use only the categories (Physical, Mental, Social, Resources). Learning a level in one of the categories costs double of what a level in an attribute would cost. For GMs it might even be useful to combine all attributes into a single value called the capability (CB) for some NPCs. In this case the costs are 8 times that of what a level in an attribute would cost.

3.3 No Abstraction for Wealth

To remove the resources category from the attributes just raise the price of learning a level of the other attributes by $\frac{1}{3}$ (from 6 to 8). The costs for goods and services depend on the setting.

3.4 Retroactive Actions

The GM may allow players retroactively having performed some action. For example having placed a trap beforehand. To balance this any check on such an action should be a risky check.

3.5 Quicker Battles

Instead of differentiating between attacking and blocking you can speed up combat by handling it all as generic combat. If someone initiates combat with his action, others may react with combat in return. Whoever wins the contest makes the difference as a damaging aspect.

3.6 Only Players Roll

If you like you can generally let only players roll the dice. Everyone else will take the average result. This means that in combat only players will roll to hit or roll to block.

3.7 Unexpected Results

Assuming you play with a set of cards. Add the two jokers to the deck. If a joker is drawn then draw again and resolve the check normally. Afterwards, if the joker was red create an aspect worth the difficulty of the check in AP to the characters disadvantage. If the joker was black create an advantageous aspect instead. The new aspect does not have to be related to the check. If a complication has appeared in the scene already you may ignore a joker (GMs choice).

A negative aspect during a mountaineering expedition may be that heavy rain starts to pour down.

A positive aspect during a fight against goblins may be that you decapitate the goblin in an intimidating display. Not only does the goblin die but the display also weakens the goblins resolve. Likely they will try to flee after seeing this.

4 Advice

4.1 Gameplay Notes

Since aspects can appear, disappear and change frequently during play, it is good to write them down and show them to your players. For this I suggest to use post-it notes. This has the nice effect that you can give your players something physical that represents the advantages they created or can use.

4.2 Player Character Creation

When creating a character you may adhere these guidelines:

- No attribute above 6
- No attribute below 2
- Have 1 aspect describing what you want to be good at
- Have 1 aspect describing how you make your living
- Have 1 aspect describing what you like to do as a hobby
- Formulate your traits and aspects such that they can be interpreted as a vulnerability
- Have at least 1 trait

Break these guidelines as you like.

4.3 Non-Player-Character Creation

Often you don't need highly specific attributes. Use less precise attributes unless you really need more precision.

- Define competency value (or attributes)
- Have at least 1 aspect that describes a strength (for combat encounters)
- Have at least 1 aspect that describes a weakness (for combat encounters)
- Have at least 1 aspect that describes a desire (for social encounters)
- Have at least 1 aspect that describes a vice (for social encounters)

If you keep the positive and negative aspects balanced, then the math for the CP is only about the competency value, which is roughly 50 CP per point.

4.4 Encounter Design

The challenge value (CV) is a number serving as a quick reference for how hard aspects to overcome should be or how strong enemies should be. When creating aspects that the players must overcome use the CV as the AP (aspect points). Then creating enemies that the players must fight set their Competence or attribute to the CV.

- For static challenges, the players CP divided by 25 is a good challenge value.
- For group challenges, the sum of all players CP divided by 25 is a good challenge value.
- For contests match the enemies total CP with that of the players.
- Let your players become creative and create aspects to help them better their odds.
- Try to give any noteworthy opponent an advantageous and a disadvantageous aspect. Give the players a chance to find out about those.

4.5 How To: Stealth as a Group

Only roll the checks for the players and take the average for everyone else. Compare the sneaking of each from the one group to the perception of each from the other group. If any perception is higher than any of the sneaking values then they get spotted. Often times the characters in the group help each other. Let them distribute some points within the group after they rolled their checks. This represents something like the best scout sneaking ahead and finding the best route for the others, or distracting a guard such that the more obvious members of the group can pass unnoticed.

4.6 How To: Taunting

Let the player make a check to create the **taunted by ..** aspect. This may be opposed by the other party. If the aspect is created then it hinders any attack on someone else. It may also impact other actions. It may be a smart choice to make the **taunted by ..** aspect enduring and affecting the whole group.

4.7 How To: Mind Control

Mind control is similar to taunting. Create an aspect like **Mind Controlled by ...**. Any actions that would conflict with this aspect are hindered by it (for example attacking the controller). If the mind control is stronger than the victims will then it will generally follow orders. The victim may try to break free each round. For this it makes a will check to remove the **Mind Controlled by** aspect.

*Marty the mage casts his mind control spell on an orc bandit with the words "Fight for me". Marty has 9 AP from his check, while the orc has only 3 to defend against this. This means that Marty can create the aspect with 6 AP. Since he wanted an enduring aspect he creates **Fight for Marty 3**, The orc has only 3 Will, so he starts attacking his compatriots.*

4.8 How To: Healing

Healing is just reducing a negative aspect. Whether this is possible, and by what means is up to the GM. Instead of removing the aspect immediately, i would strongly suggest to instead make the aspect time out faster. In most cases think about the timeframes in terms of the flow of the story.

- Round: Until just after the next round of combat or action is going to be performed.
- Scene: Until the next scene begins
- Mission: Until the current objective is achieved or failed
- Campaign: Until the next big change in the story.

A Soldier got hit in a firefight and is now bleeding 2. If untreated this aspect would regularly roll with 2 dice points to harm the soldier. The medic rolls to perform first aid and gets a result of 3. He aspect gets changed into dressed bullet wound 2. Now it does not thread to harm the soldier any more, but it still hinders him. It would heal in about 4-6 Months on its own. The soldier gets brought to a hospital where the wound is treated properly. It heals after 3 Weeks.

The party had a hard fight against the cultists. One got punched, he will recover by the next scene. Another got hit with a sword. He will recover by the end of the current mission (once they are done with the cultists secret temple). The last got cut with the demonic ritual dagger. His wound is unearthly and would only heal by the end of the kampaighn. The group decides to seek out the help of the solarian church. With their help the demonic presense gets purged and the wound turned into a regular cut, which heals by the end of the current mission.

4.9 How To: Stopping Movement

If one character wants to move and someone else tries to hinder them, then both parties have to exert effort. This means both have to make a check. The results are compared. If the stopper has more then the movement is stopped, where appropriate. If the mover succeeds then the movement is not stopped. Sometimes it may be better to grant partial success to the stopper. In this case the distance that the mover moved is reduced accoring to how much AP both parties have compared to each other.

4.10 How To: Fall Damage

Assuming your characters are humans then falling creates damage. Per 2.5m of height you get a damaging aspect worth 1 AP from falling. Characters can block this with an appropriate check. Remember that enduring aspects (including damage from falling) cost double the AP. For chracters that are particularly small

*A burglar jumps from rooftop to rooftop to escape the guards. One of the casms is to wide though and he plumets onto the street 7.5m (3 AP) below. He makes a check with his dexterity to mitigate this fall. On this check he gets 2. Thus he gets only 1 AP worth of damage. The GM decides that he has a **sprained ancle 1** for the rest of the scene.*

4.11 How To: Bribe

To Bribe someone you need to give them more than they can normally comfortably afford. This means you need at least their finances value in RV to bribe them.

4.12 How To: Secret Checks

To hide the result of a check you may change which side rolls the dice.

A PC wants to know if the NPC just lied to them. Instead of letting the player roll with their 9DP against the lies 7AP, you can roll for the lie 7DP and compare them against the players 9AP. The player never has to see what was rolled.

5 Lists

None of the following lists is exhaustive. They should be taken as examples. You are invited to design your own with your group.

5.1 List of Traits

The number in the parenthesis is the cost in CP for the trait. Take this list as a starting point for your game. Feel free to diverge from it were you see fit.

Friend of Nature (15): You can talk to the forces of nature and have a chance to convince them to help you. This can be asking, a bird what he has seen, letting yourself be concealed by a bush or calling a wild bear to aid you in combat.

Illusionist (15): You are adapt at creating illusions. The bigger and more complex they get the harder this is.

Speedster (30): You have incredible speed. Others see only a blur when you sprint past them. This often gives you an advantage on dexterity checks, so you can reroll them once per round. You can move double the distance per round.

Medium (15): You can commune with ghosts and spirits. You have no control over them, but you can gain their attention.

Night-vision (15): You can see in darkness as if it were light.

Sleepless (15): You don't need sleep. This means you have a lot more time in a day, but you still need to rest from too much physical or mental exertion.

Flight (35): You can fly. Be it with wings or otherwise. Your speed in flight is no different from your speed on land.

Tinkerer (15): You can build wondrous mechanical marvels. From clocks up to steam powered automatons.

Hacker (15): You are not only proficient in computer science but you can even achieve movie worthy feats like stopping another car with only your laptop during a car chase. Tools not included.

Plot Armor (15): Each scene you can disregard one new aspect or one change in an aspect representing damage.

Short Weapon Fighting (10): You can not get disadvantage because your weapons are too short compared to your opponent.

Unarmed vs. Armed (10): You can fight against armed opponents even when you have no weapon without disadvantage.

Alchemist (15): You can brew potions, salves and other things which create wondrous effects.

Shape Shifter (15): You can alter the physical form of either yourself or that of others.

Seer (15): You have to ability to see glimpses of future, past and present. Both at your current position and over great distances.

Amphibious (15): You can live both underwater and on land.

Telepathic link to undead servants (15): You can telepathically give orders or even see through the eyes of the undead creatures you raised.

5.2 List of NPCs

The following are examples of NPCs and monsters. They are all created using the rules for Character Creation.

Average Citizen (96CP)	
Competency	2
Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None	Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None

Goblin (75CP)			
Physical	Mental	Social	Resources
2	1	1	1
Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None	Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Night Vision		

Ratling (54CP)			
Physical	Mental	Social	Resources
1	1	1	1
Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strength in Numbers 1	Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• None		

Wolf (78CP)			
Physical	Mental	Social	Resources
3	1	2	0
Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endless endurance 1 Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 			

Guard (108CP)			
Physical	Mental	Social	Resources
3	2	2	2
Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 			

Dark Mage (237CP)			
Physical	Mental	Social	Resources
2	7	3	5
Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Necromancer 3 Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telepathic link to undead servants 			

Ogre (192CP)							
Physical		Mental		Social		Resources	
Str.	Dex.	Will	Int.	Emp.	Cha.	Gear	Fin.
15	7	5	1	1	1	1	1
Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 							

Zombie (75CP)			
Physical	Mental	Social	Resources
2	1	1	1
Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infectious bite 			

Bandit (108CP)			
Physical	Mental	Social	Resources
3	2	2	2
Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 			

Combat Drone (105CP)			
Physical	Mental	Social	Resources
3	1	1	1
Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shooting 3 Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Night-vision 			

Orc Veteran (171CP)			
Physical	Mental	Social	Resources
5	3	2	2
Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reckless and Bold 2 Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Night-vision 			

Orc Warrior (105CP)			
Physical	Mental	Social	Resources
3	2	1	1
Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reckless and Bold 1 Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Night-vision 			

Giant Spider (117CP)							
Physical		Mental		Social		Resources	
Str.	Dex.	Will	Int.	Emp.	Cha.	Gear	Fin.
2	4	2	2	1	1	2	1
Aspects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spider Webs 2 Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Night-vision 							

6 Game-play Examples

6.1 Character Builds

Anna the Alchemist						(261CP)	
Physical		Mental		Social		Resources	
Str.	Dex.	Will	Int.	Emp.	Cha.	Gear	Fin.
3	3	4	6	4	3	6	6

Traits:

- Magical Alchemy

Aspects:

- Third daughter of an Aristocratic Family 2
- Proud member of the Alchemists Guild of Mistwater 3
- Hobby Horse Rider and Trainer 1

Bob the Barbarian						(234CP)	
Physical		Mental		Social		Resources	
Str.	Dex.	Will	Int.	Emp.	Cha.	Gear	Fin.
6	5	4	3	2	4	2	2

Traits:

- Cold Resistance
- Plot Armor: Can prevent getting a damaging aspect up to one time per scene.

Aspects:

- Member of the isolated Nomads of the eastern steppes 2
- Best Fighter of his tribe and wrestling champion 3
- Gambler 1

Carl the Cleric						(213CP)	
Physical		Mental		Social		Resources	
Str.	Dex.	Will	Int.	Emp.	Cha.	Gear	Fin.
3	2	3	2	4	4	3	3
<div> <div>Traits:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imbued with the power of the sungod Sol </div> <div> <div>Aspects:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ordaned servant of the sungod Sol 4 Kindhearted beacon of hope 3 Likes to play the lire 2 </div>							

Generic Citizen		(96CP)
Competency	2	
<div>Traits:<ul style="list-style-type: none">None</div> <div>Aspects:<ul style="list-style-type: none">None</div>		

Shapeshifting Druid						(278CP)	
Physical		Mental		Social		Resources	
Str.	Dex.	Will	Int.	Emp.	Cha.	Gear	Fin.
4	4	5	3	3	4	3	2
<div> <div>Traits:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> druidic magic Magical alchemy Shapeshifting Seer </div> <div> <div>Aspects:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shapeshifting Druid 4 Protector of the Ancient Grove 3 Knowledgeable in the alchemy of the gifts of nature 2 </div>							

Space Pirate						(252CP)	
Physical		Mental		Social		Resources	
Str.	Dex.	Will	Int.	Emp.	Cha.	Gear	Fin.
3	3	4	5	3	4	3	4
<div> <div>Traits:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bionic Eye with super zoom level and infrared vision. Bionic Leg </div> <div> <div>Aspects:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has lived in space all his life 2 If the captain ordered it, it has to be done 2 Space engineer 1 Gambler 2 Really good with the needle 1 </div>							

Cody the Cowboy			(174CP)
Physical	Mental	Social	Resources
2	2	2	2
<div>Traits:<ul style="list-style-type: none">None</div> <div>Aspects:<ul style="list-style-type: none">True frontiersman 2Gambler 1Horse Whisperer 2</div>			

6.2 Example: Ambushed by Goblins

GM is the Game Master Mathew controlling the 4 goblin bandits (P: 2, M; 1, S: 1, Life of Banditry 1)

A is the player Anna with her character Amy (P: 3,M: 6,S: 4, Proud member of the Alchemists)

B is the player Ben with his character Boris (P: 6,M: 4,S: 3, Best Fighter of his tribe and Member of the isolated Nomads of the eastern steppes 2)

GM: As you walk along the forest trail please roll for perception with your will. (against the goblins ambush 8)

- A rolls 4 DP => 4
- B rolls 6 DP => 10

GM: You notice a shuffling in the bushes before you reach the choke-point. You exchange a quick look with one another and know that bandits must be here. Ben you even get a glimpse of a goblin.

B: I try to intimidate the goblins in order to prevent them from attacking us. I step forward as if there was nothing there and say to Amy "Remember the

Wivern we killed last week. Turns out it ate one of the royal knights. What total weaklings they must have been. I mean we ripped that lizards fucking head off without breaking a sweat."

GM: roll for intimidation with charisma, you can use your barbarian aspect for it. The story sounds very much like what a barbarian would do.

- B rolls $6 \text{ DP} = 2$
- GM rolls $3 \text{ DP} = 5$

GM: They block with their empathy. Sorry Ben, the goblins are not convinced. They jump out of the bushes.

A: Can i have prepared a smoke bomb?

GM: Ok, make a retroactive check for your alchemy.

- A rolls $9 \text{ DP} = 6$

A: It should cover an area with smoke.

GM: Sounds good. As i said the goblins jump out of the bushes and attack, still thinking that you don't expect them. Lets start the turn order. Anna, Ben you go first.

A: I throw the bomb at them. I use 1 DP and the smoke bomb 3. I want it to cover a zone.

- A rolls $4 \text{ DP} = 5 \Rightarrow$ the smoke aspect has strength $5/2 = 2$

GM: The goblins dont expect this and dont try to defend. I will add covered in smoke 2 to them.

B: I attack with my axe. I use 3 of my strength dice and my fighting aspect.

- B rolls $6d = 0$

GM: During the attack you step partially into the smoke and miss them. The goblins attack. They rolled 5 please defend ben.

- GM rolls $9d-2d = 7d = 5$

A: I want to assist in bens defense.

- A rolls $2d = 3$
- B rolls $6d-2d = 4d = 3$

GM: Together you manage to defend with 6 against 5. Next round. It is your turn.

B: I attack

- B rolls $4d + 3 = 9$
- GM rolls $7d = 4$

GM: You kill two of them outright.

A: I attack the remaining one.

- A rolls $3d = 1$

GM: After this. He will try to flee.

A: "Let him run"

GM: The goblin runs away and soon the smoke dissipates and the street is silent once more.

6.3 Example: The Ambush

The players are preparing an ambush on a patrol. The GM describes the scene

GM: You know that the patrol is going to pass through this area, using the small forrest path. It is barely wide enough for a single cart and shallow ruts in the road indicate that the path is only used ocasionaly. The underbrush is thick in some parts, but there are also stretches of dark pine forrest. Because of the recent rains there are mud puddles everywhere.

He creates some aspects

- shallow ruts 1
- narrow path 1
- thick underbrush 1
- dark shadows under the pines 1
- muddy ground 1

The players will prepare the ambush. For this they can make as many checks to create aspects as they have time to do.

R: As a ranger i am good in nature and will select the best spot for the ambush. It should be especially narrow such that they can not maneuver well. The ground should be muddy and i want particularly dark shadows to cover us, but not the enemy.

GM: So no shallow ruts and no thick underbrush?

R: The ruts are fine, but i dont want us to be hindered by the underbrush.

GM: Yes, that is possible. You can use the dark shadows and muddy ground to prepare the spot. Make the intelect check.

R: I have 3 from my attribute and 3 from being a ranger. [rolls $1d_08 + 2 = 6 + 2$ on the check] I have 8AP. I would like the aspect to last the entire scene [AP / 2] and apply to all of us [AP / 2].

He writes the aspect on a postit and places it on the table

- Well prepared Ambush 2

The GM takes the unused aspects back of the table. What is left are

- shallow ruts 1
- narrow path 1
- dark shadows under the pines 1
- muddy ground 1

A: As an Alchemist i would like to prepare a fire bomb at the spot of the ambush. As we establishes last time i should have all the ingredients.

GM: With the muddy ground it will be hard to ignite the bomb.

A: Fine. I can still do it. 4 from my intellect and 3 from being an alchemist.

GM: Dont forget to hide the thing.

T: As a reformed thief i will help him with that. 2 from intellect and 3 from thievery [rolls $1d_08 + 1 = 6$].

A: [rolls $2d_8 - 1 = 2 * 7 - 1 = 13$] Oh, that is going to hurt. I want all of them to be affected [AP / 2].

The players create the aspects

- Fire bomb 6
- Well hidden 6

As they see the numbers fitting so well they replace the aspects with

- Well hidden fire bomb 6

D: My druidic circle specialises in turning into a bear for fighting. So i will shape shift and lie in wait. 4 will and 2 druidry plus 1 from my speciality in shape shifting [rolls $2d_0 - 1 = 2 - 1 = 1$]. That is not going to be convincing.

GM: You dont quite turn into a bear. Instead you become much more hary and a bit stronger.

D: Can i at least hide?

GM: No need. We will roll that check collectively later.

The druid gets the aspect

- Bear'ish form 1

The preparations are done, and the GM narates how the patrol comes down the road.

GM: Lets see if they can spot you. Is a collective check okay for all of you?

All: Yes

A: I have only 3 points, but 2 more from the well prepared ambush makes 5 in total.

T: 6 from me.

D: I can contribute 5. Does my fur help with hiding?

GM: yes, it helps.

D: Then 6 from me as well.

R: I contribute 7. That makes 24 in total. [rolls $6d_08 = 24$]

GM: That makes 6 on average. The 5 soldiers have 4 each so they are surprised 2 ($6 - 4 = 2$) by your attack. You are still unnoticed as they reach the trap.

The GM creates the aspect

- Surprised 2

GM: Let the combat scene begin.

A: Kaboom

GM: Indeed. The bomb explodes. Lets see if any one notices [rolls $1d_08 - 1$ each with the results 3,2,7,7,6 and compares this to the bomb being hidden]. Just two

notice the smell of sulphur and try to evade [rolls $1d_08 - 3$ for both with results 2,1 and compares this to the bomb damage]. They all take a lot of damage. Three of them go down immediately. Two try to stand up.

R: I shoot one of them [rolls $1d_08 + 3 = 10$].

T: And i the other [rolls $1d_08 + 1 = 4$]

GM: They are both dead. Congratulations it all worked perfectly. Lets hope the others did not hear the explosion.

All: Oh no.

7 Solo Rules

In case you want to play alone, you can use the following tools.

7.1 Scene

Roll on the Scene type table to find out what kind of scene it is.

For at least 3 descriptors roll on the descriptor table. If you have consecutive scenes then i advise to roll only 1 new descriptor and remove only the first of the previous scene. This will make your encounters more connected to one another.

Lead questions for Scenes:

- Who/What?
- Does What?
- To whom?
- In what manner?

Lead questions for NPCs:

- Personality?
- Desires?
- Has Vice?
- Has Virtue?

Determine the scenes challenge rating.

- Start with your players $CP \cdot \frac{3}{100}$.
- For a successfull scene increase the challenge rating by 1
- For a failed scene decrease the challenge rating by 3

This will result in a natural ebb and flow for the story which favors the players being able to succeed. If you want a harder experience change the factors by which you change the challenge rating. The challenge rating is the default difficulty for environmental challenges and the default total competency of all enemies in combat encounters.

Add aspects to the scene or anything in it, based on the descriptors.

7.2 Descriptors

Ask your question and roll as often on the descriptor table as you need to get a good idea. Feel free to disregard meaning that dont work for you. The descriptor table is based on the Toki Pona language. The second column provides you with the applicable toki pona word and gives you a short form to write it down.

7.3 Tables

Yes / No Questions

1	Very No
2-4	No
5-6	Abiguous
7-9	Yes
10	Very yes

Ammount

1	Very Little
2-4	Less
5-6	Expected
7-9	More
10	Very Much

Scene Type

1-4	As Expected
5-6	Environmental
7-8	Social
9-10	Combat

Description

00	akesi	reptile, amphibian
01	ala	no, not, zero, nothing
02	alasa	to hunt, forage, seek, try to, attempt
03	ale	all, abundant, bountiful, plentiful, life
04	anpa	dependent, under, floor, low, bottom
05	ante	different, altered, changed, other
06	awen	enduring, protected, safe, waiting
07	esun	market, shop, fair, bazaar, deal
08	ijo	thing, phenomenon, object, matter
09	ike	bad, negative, irrelevant, complicated
10	ilo	tool, implement, machine, device
11	insa	centre, content, inside, internal organ
12	jaki	disgusting, obscene, sickly, toxic, unclean
13	jan	human being, person, somebody
14	jelo	yellow, yellowish
15	jo	to have, carry, contain, hold
16	kala	fish, marine animal, sea creature
17	kalama	to produce a sound, recite, utter aloud
18	kama	coming, future, summoned, to become
19	kasi	plant, vegetation: herb, leaf
20	kepeken	to use, with, by means of
21	kili	fruit, vegetable, mushroom
22	kiwen	hard object, metal, rock, stone
23	ko	clay, semi-solid, paste, powder
24	kon	air, breath, essence, spirit
25	kule	colorful, pigmented, painted
26	kulupu	community, company, group, nation
27	kute	ear, to hear, listen, obey
28	lape	sleeping, resting
29	laso	blue, green
30	lawa	head, mind, to control, direct, guide, own
31	len	cloth, clothing, fabric, textile, cover
32	lete	cold, cool, uncooked, raw
33	lili	little, small, short, few, a bit, young
34	linja	cord, hair, rope, thread, line, connection
35	lipu	flat object, book, paper, record, website
36	loje	red, reddish
37	lon	located at, real, true, existing, affirmative
38	luka	arm, hand, five, touch/feel, interact
39	lukin	eye, see, examine, read, seek, try to
40	lupa	door, hole, orifice, window
41	ma	earth, outdoors, world, territory, soil
42	mama	ancestor, creator, caretaker, sustainer
43	mani	money, cash, savings, wealth
44	moku	to eat, drink, consume, ingest
45	moli	dead, dying
46	monsi	back, behind, rear
47	mu	animal noise, non-speech vocalization
48	mun	moon, night sky object, star, glow
49	musi	artistic, entertaining, playful, recreation

50	mute	many, a lot, more, much, quantity
51	nasa	unusual, strange: silly: drunk, intoxicated
52	nasin	way, custom, doctrine, method, path, road
53	nen	bump, button, hill, mountain, nose
54	nimi	name, word
55	noka	foot, leg, bottom, lower part
56	olin	love, respect, show affection to
57	open	begin, start, open, turn on
58	pakala	botched, broken, damaged, harmed
59	pali	do, take action on, build, prepare
60	palisa	long hard thing, branch, rod, stick
61	pan	cereal, grain, barley, bread, pasta
62	pana	give, send, emit, provide, put, release
63	pilin	heart, feeling, emotion
64	pimeja	black, dark, unlit
65	pini	ago, completed, ended, finished, past
66	pipi	bug, insect, ant, spider
67	poka	hip, side, next to, nearby, beside
68	poki	container, bag, bowl, cupboard, vessel
69	pona	good, positive, useful, friendly, simple
70	sama	same, similar, sibling, peer, fellow, as, like
71	seli	fire, chemical reaction, heat source
72	selo	outer form, outer layer, bark, skin, boundary
73	sevi	area above, awe, divine, supernatural
74	sijelo	body, physical state, torso
75	sike	ball, circle, cycle, sphere, wheel
76	sin	new, fresh: additional, another, extra
77	sinpin	face, foremost, front, wall
78	sitelen	image, picture, symbol, mark, writing
79	sona	know, be skilled in, be wise about
80	soweli	animal, beast, land mammal
81	suli	big, heavy, large, long, important, adult
82	suno	sun, light, radiance, shine, light source
83	supa	horizontal surface, bed, table
84	suwi	sweet, fragrant: cute, innocent, adorable
85	tawa	going to, toward, for, moving, going to
86	telo	water, liquid, fluid, wet substance, beverages
87	tenpo	time, duration, moment, period, situation
88	toki	communicate, say, speak, talk, think
89	tomo	indoor space, building, home, house, room
90	tu	two, separate, cut
91	unpa	have sexual relations with
92	uta	mouth, lips, oral cavity, jaw
93	utala	battle, challenge, struggle against
94	walo	white, whitish, light-coloured, pale
95	wan	unique, united: one
96	waso	bird, flying creature, winged animal
97	wawa	strong, confident, energetic, intense
98	weka	absent, away, ignored
99	wile	must, need, require, should, want, wish