

# Plunder

A new school old school RPG 2024

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## Intro

Plunder is an attempt to create a blend between two RPG play styles:

- The old school, focused on exploration, pushing your luck, and resource management
- Modern D&D, emphasizing flavorful, balanced, and interesting character abilities, and unified mechanics.

It's intended to be compatible with adventures for Original D&D and its clones, such as old School Essentials, Labyrinth Lord, because there is just so much great content produced for these systems over the last 40 Years. But unlike these retro systems, I want to include more interesting player character options.

The reason it's called Plunder is that many of its parts are taken from blog posts or other systems. For instance, the magic system is copied almost wholesale from the Goblin Laws of Gaming (GLOG). However, Plunder is also a play ground for experimenting with new mechanics. Part of the incentive for creating the system was to shake up some long-standing conventions in D&D, like ability scores, Armor class, and dice roll resolution. See the features section for an overview of all these new mechanics.

Ultimately, though, the goal of Plunder is to have the mechanics fade

into the background, and for players to interact with the game world directly. The system is lightweight and oriented towards common-sense GM rulings over rules. Character stats are static numbers to roll against to speed up action resolution. Combat is intended to be a little less abstract to (hopefully) make it more engaging than the typical "I attack the orc again."

This works well with the old school play style - we only roll dice when there consequences for failure, and we assume that characters are generally good at adventuring tastes. Together with the fact that the GM never fudges rolls, and the fact that characters can get wounded or die easily, this means that each roll should be a point of tension - more of a last ditch resort of her other ways of solving a problem have been tried. Character abilities are intended as open-ended tools to help solve these problems. There might be some negotiation about the outcome. But instead of reaching for the rule book, the GM makes a call and the game moves forward.

In the end, we're all at the table to imagine our characters braving dangers and getting stronger while they pile up the loot. So this is my attempt to create a system that's minimalist, fast, but still packed with flavor.

## **Features**

## Roll-over dice

Every dice roll is resolved by rolling a d2o versus a pre-calculated target number. No modifiers - what You roll is what you get!

## Reimagined ability scores

Three of the six classic ability scores have been completely replaced -each ability score now has clear active uses and passive benefits. The new scores are defined in opposition to each other to promote character archetypes.

## Single-roll combat

A single d2o roll determines whether a combat action succeeds, how much damage is done, and even when in the round this occurs

## Phased combat, simultaneous turns combat

Turns are divided into phases, and everyone who acts in a phase rolls simultaneously. Rolls are resolved from highest to lowest, essentially acting as traditional individual initiative.

## Weapon choice matters

Your weapon determines how hard it is to score a hit on you. Additionally, every weapon has different properties, giving you. meaningful choices,

## **Active abilities**

Classes and kin only grant active abilities, not passive or conditional benefits you have to memorize.

## Wound effects

Simple wound system to give the game a more' visceral' feel.

## Easy inventory and item durability

A slot-based system makes it easy to track what your character is carrying

# Glossary

#### **Abilities**

Each Player Character has a score in each Ability, which determines their basic physical and mental capabilities.

#### Armor

Grants extra hit Points, and reduces the severity of Wounds.

## **Defense**

Determines how difficult it is to hit a target. Calculated from the character's Dexterity bonus and weapon bonus. All weapons give at least +1 Defense.

#### Exhaustion

A condition that determines your stamina. Takes up one inventory slot.

## Margin of Failure/Success

This is the amount by which you fail or succeed a d20 check. Most commonly used to determine attack damage.

For example, Geldan the ranger has an Instinct target of 9. He fires an arrow at a goblin equipped with a shield (+2 Defense), for a total Target Number of 11. He rolls a 15 on a d20. His margin of success is 15 - 11 = 4, so the attack does 4 damage.

## Notch

A measure of an item's durability. Each item can take up to three Notches. An item with no Notches is in perfect condition, while an item with three Notches is no longer usable.

## **Target Number**

This is a number from 1-20 which determines how likely you are to succeed on a task of average difficulty. To see if you succeed, roll a d20. If you roll equal to or higher than the target number, you succeed.

For example, Torbane the berserker has a Strength target of 14. To force open a stuck door, a task of average difficulty, he needs to roll 14 or higher on a d20.

#### Wound

A physical wound suffered by the character, which has a negative effect depending on hit location and severity. Each Wound takes up an inventory slot. Healing a Wound requires a long rest.

## **Character Creation**

There are four steps to creating a character:

- 1. Roll your ability targets
- 2. Choose your class
- 3. Choose your kin
- 4. Choose your origin

## 1. Ability targets

Innate abilities that define a character. Defined in opposition to each other at character creation. Characters are typically good at one or the other, but not both.

## 2. Class

Your chosen adventuring profession. Class determines Hit Points, Hit Dice, starting talents, and equipment.

## 3. Kin

Abilities or other boons passed down to by your ancestors.

## 4. Origin

Where you're from, and which languages you speak.

## **Ability Targets**

Abilities provide a quick description of your character's physical and mental characteristics. They are used to resolve most actions in the game that require dice rolls.

Each ability is a target that indicates how likely you are to succeed on a task of average difficulty.

An ability can range from 12 to 18. To resolve an ability check, roll a d20 and compare it to your ability. If it's equal or higher, you succeed. In other words, lower ability targets are better!

Additionally, abilities determine your saving throws and other important characteristics.

The abilities are grouped by categories, and defined in opposition to each other. Characters are typically good at one or the other, not both.

To determine your character's abilities, go through each category and do the following:

- 1. Pick a favored ability from the two
- 2. Roll 6d6
- 3. Assign the three lowest dice the favored ability
- 4. Assign the remaining dice to the other ability
- 5. Compare the rolls to the table below, and note the bonuses on your character sheet

| Dice roll | Ability |
|-----------|---------|
| 3         | 18      |
| 4-5       | 17      |
| 6-8       | 16      |
| 9-12      | 15      |
| 13-15     | 14      |
| 16-17     | 13      |
| 18        | 12      |

# Body

# Strength

Physical might, brawn, and constitution.

| Str | Save | Damage | Slots |
|-----|------|--------|-------|
| 18  | 14   | -3     | 7     |
| 17  | 13   | -2     | 8     |
| 16  | 12   | -1     | 9     |
| 15  | 11   | +0     | 10    |
| 14  | 10   | +1     | 11    |
| 13  | 9    | +2     | 12    |
| 12  | 8    | +3     | 13    |

## **Dexterity**

Precision, speed, and technique.

| Dex | Save | Melee | Defense |
|-----|------|-------|---------|
| 18  | 17   | 13    | -3      |
| 17  | 16   | 12    | -2      |
| 16  | 15   | 11    | -1      |
| 15  | 14   | 10    | +0      |
| 14  | 13   | 9     | +1      |
| 13  | 12   | 8     | +2      |
| 12  | 11   | 7     | +3      |

# Mind

## Intelligence

Logic, reasoning, and the arcane arts.

| Int | Save | Magic | Skills          |  |
|-----|------|-------|-----------------|--|
| 18  | 16   | 13    | Apprentice      |  |
|     |      |       | Language        |  |
|     |      |       | (native)        |  |
| 17  | 15   | 12    | Journeyman      |  |
|     |      |       | Language        |  |
|     |      |       | (native)        |  |
| 16  | 14   | 11    | Expert          |  |
|     |      |       | Language        |  |
|     |      |       | (native)        |  |
| 15  | 13   | 10    | Master          |  |
|     |      |       | Language        |  |
|     |      |       | (native)        |  |
| 14  | 12   | 9     | Journeyman      |  |
|     |      |       | Language (any), |  |
|     |      |       | +1 bonus        |  |
| 13  | 11   | 8     | Expert          |  |
|     |      |       | Language (any), |  |
|     |      |       | +2 bonus        |  |
| 12  | 10   | 7     | Master          |  |
|     |      |       | Language (any), |  |
|     |      |       | +3 bonus        |  |

## Instinct

Perception, composure, and aim.

| Ins | Save | Ranged | Surprise |
|-----|------|--------|----------|
| 18  | 15   | 13     | 17       |
| 17  | 14   | 12     | 16       |
| 16  | 13   | 11     | 15       |
| 15  | 12   | 10     | 14       |
| 14  | 11   | 9      | 13       |
| 13  | 10   | 8      | 12       |

| 1 |    |   |   |    |
|---|----|---|---|----|
|   | 12 | 9 | 7 | 11 |

# Soul

# Courage

Inspiration, leadership, and steadfastness.

| Cou | Save | Max       | Loyalty |
|-----|------|-----------|---------|
|     |      | retainers |         |
| 18  | 15   | 1         | 4       |
| 17  | 14   | 2         | 5       |
| 16  | 13   | 3         | 6       |
| 15  | 12   | 4         | 7       |
| 14  | 11   | 5         | 8       |
| 13  | 10   | 6         | 9       |
| 12  | 9    | 7         | 10      |

# Cunning

Stealth, trickery, and charm.

| Cun | Save | NPC      | 18 |
|-----|------|----------|----|
|     |      | Reaction | s  |
| 15  | -3   | 17       | 14 |
| -2  | 16   | 13       | -1 |
| 15  | 12   | +0       | 14 |
| 11  | +1   | 13       | 10 |
| +2  | 12   | 9        | +3 |

## Berserker

Fierce warriors from the mountains who take on the strengths of beasts. Folk from the lowlands are scared of their bloodthirsty practices, but know that one who crosses a berserker is not likely to keep their head for long.

## **Class Features**

Hit Dice: d8 Armor: None

Weapons: All axes, swords, and

spears, unarmed

#### **Skills**

Apprentice Survival

## **Equipment**

You start with the following equipment:

• Three weapons of your choice

# **Signature Talent: Berserkergang**

You can work yourself into a rage, during which no Stabs or Slashes from iron, nor fire, will hurt you. The rage lasts until all fighting has stopped. Then, you gain a level of exhaustion.

At 5th level, you can attack twice in a turn when using this ability.

## **Talents**

When you gain a new Talent, choose one from this list:

#### Beastskin

Using the skin of a beast you or your party has slain, you can perform a ritual at a bonfire to imbue yourself with one characteristic of that beast, as long as you're wearing its skin (typically as a cloak). The beast must be your size or larger, but it can't have more HD than you.

Every time you rest while wearing this cloak, the spirit of the beast begins to take over. Roll a HD. On a 3 or less, lose it, and gain this condition:

#### One with the beast

This condition stacks. For each one you have, gain another effect from this list:

- 1. You can't and don't want to take off the beast pelt
- 2. You crave the taste of blood and raw meat, and can't eat anything else
- 3. Lose the ability to speak
- 4. Become the beast

## Eat anything

Steel yourself, and you can eat anything, up to twice your size, without any harm. If what you eat is actually nutritious, you gain a bonus HD, next to your regular HD. Once you've used this ability, you can't use it again until you've taken a long rest.

#### Axe vaulter

You can use a longaxe or spear to launch yourself twice as far or high as normal, and use axes instead of climbing gear. If you fall on an enemy while using this ability, you can transfer all falling damage to them.

## Evil eye

Channel your fury into a curse that either renders the target's weapons blunt and brittle (they take 1 Notch and can't deal wounds), or intimidates them (they have to roll Morale). For each target, roll a HD. On a 3 or less, you lose the HD. The effect lasts as long as you concentrate on it.

#### Blót

Sacrifice any number of living creatures in the name of a specific purpose. You may invite any number of people to the ritual, but each person must be drenched in blood over the course of the ritual. For each HD sacrificed in this way, a blood drink can be prepared. Drinking this grants an automatic success on the next action if contributes directly towards achieving the purpose. You can make one drink per participant in the ritual. A blót can only be performed once every new moon.

## Paragon

Many foes can give a man but one death.

Some warriors never join a warband or swear fealty to a jarl. Instead, they roam the lands seeking justice and glory, heroes without a cause. These warriors are called paragons.

## **Class Features**

Hit Dice per level: d8

**Armor:** All armor

**Weapons:** All melee weapons

## **Equipment**

You start with the following equipment:

- Scale armor
- Two weapons of your choice and a shield

## Signature Talent: Battle Cry

In combat, you may perform a Battle Cry instead of a melee attack. A Battle Cry is any action where you fearlessly lead and assist your friends, and you may improvise uses for it. Examples:

- **Taunt**. A target adjacent to you gets disadvantage on actions other than attacking you until your next turn. If the margin of success is 10+, the taunt lasts for the rest of the fight.
- **Distract**. Create an opening for your ally to escape an enemy's reach. Roll against the target's

Defense. The ally can add the result to their Dexterity roll to get away from Melee range.

Starting on level 5, you can use a Battle Cry as a bonus action.

## **Talents**

When you gain a new Talent, choose one from this list:

#### Natural leader

After your party has accomplished a heroic deed, you may make an appeal in the nearest town, asking for volunteers to join your adventures. Roll Courage.

| Margin of | Result            |
|-----------|-------------------|
| success   |                   |
| 2 - 4     | Gain a non-       |
|           | fighting retainer |
| 5 - 10    | Gain a fighting   |
|           | follower, level 1 |
| 10+       | Gain result's     |
|           | worth of          |
|           | retainers, 50%    |
|           | non-fighting and  |
|           | 50% fighting      |

## Tough it

When you use this ability, you can ignore the effect of a Wound until the next rest. Then, you gain a level of exhaustion.

## Lead the charge

If you move and attack an enemy on your turn, you may Rally as a bonus action. Anyone affected by this Rally can ignore one condition until the end of combat (once per combat).

#### **Oathbind**

If you publicly swear an oath to complete a quest, you will be bound to it. While you are bound, when you make a dice roll that will directly help complete the quest, you may instead decide the result of the roll. Once you've used this ability to decide a roll, you can't do so again until you've seen the light of a new day.

#### Marshal

Muster your followers when they're out of the fight. Roll Courage against their Morale score. Starting at the highest score, return that follower to the fight if your roll is higher, then subtract their score from your result before comparing it to the next follower.

## **Pyromancer**

Through the darkness of future past, the magician longs to see. One chants out between two worlds: **Fire walk with me.** 

When the lands were under the Great Frost, the pyromancers kept fire alive and brought light and warmth to desperate townships. Now, with their order no longer crucial, they are outcasts, mercenaries - or worse.

#### **Class Features**

Hit Dice: d6

Magic Dice per level: 1

**Armor:** Leather

**Weapons:** Axe, dagger, hand axe,

short spear, spear, sword

Magic items: Fire-related wands and

staves

## **Equipment**

You start with the following equipment:

- Censer (protects fire from wind and rain)
- · Leather armor
- A weapon of your choice

## Signature Talent: Shape Fire

You can hold fire in your hands and make it grow or shrink. You can also spread the fire through you to another object or creature. Items that normally don't catch fire remain on fire as long as you concentrate on the spell. The fire deals 1 MD damage every round at the start of their turn,

and any wounds dealt with a fiery object also grant a Burn Wound. The fire doesn't hurt you.

Maximum size of the fire:

1d: Embers 2d: Campfire 3d: Bonfire

4d: Dragon's breath

## **Talents**

When you gain a new Talent, choose one from this list. All these abilities are Spells.

#### Throw fire

Any fire you hold with Shape Fire can be thrown to Near. When used as an attack, add (sum) damage on hit.

Range: Near (1d), Short (2d), Medium (3d), Long (4d)

## **Engulf**

You can engulf yourself in flames, burning everything in Melee distance around you. The fire doesn't hurt you. Roll once against all creatures in Melee range. Treat their Defense as 10, but add any shield bonuses. Add (sum) damage on hits.

#### Visions in flame

Duration: concentration up to (sum) hours

Peering through a fire, you can sense all other fires within range. You can see through any of these fires as if you were standing in it, but you become blind to anything you don't see in the fire. For each additional MD spent, add another sense, or speak through the fire.

#### **Ancient flame**

Cast upon ashes to determine what they were before they were burnt. You can see what happened in the (sum) rounds before the object caught fire. (dice) determines how old the ashes can be:

1d: a day 2d: a week 3d: a year 4d: a decade

#### Unburn

Duration: concentration up to (sum) minutes

Cause a burnt item up to (dice) size to become whole again in (dice) rounds. Target will burn again once you stop concentrating.

1d: Tiny 2d: Small 3d: Large 4d: Huge

## Ranger

Part of a loose confederation of warriors who keep the forces of darkness at bay, rangers are nevertheless often mistrusted by villagers. They are often said to be in league with witches and beasts.

#### **Class Features**

Hit Dice: d6

**Armor:** Leather, chain

**Weapons:** All axes, swords, spears, quarterstaff, shield, unarmed, all

bows, sling

#### **Skills**

Apprentice Survival

• Master Language (any)

## **Equipment**

You start with the following equipment:

- A bow and arrows
- Leather or chain armor
- Two weapons of your choice

## Signature Talent: Marksman

You can find the weak spot of any creature or object. If you spend one round aiming, the next hit will cause a Wound as if it was a critical hit. You can choose the Wound location. If you hit an object and it could conceivably be destroyed by an arrow, it breaks.

At level 5, you can ignore armor when you use this Talent.

#### **Talents**

When you gain a new Talent, choose one from this list:

#### **Beastmaster**

You understand what an animal wants or fears. If you are able to help the animal with either of these things, you can make an Instinct check, with the animal's HD added as difficulty. On success, the animal becomes your loyal companion, as long as you treat it well. You can command it on a bonus action. You can only have one such companion at a time.

At level 5, you can have any number of companions with total HD up to your HD.

#### The Seven Secrets of Herblore

Craft useful ointments from herbs found in nature. When you are in one of these locations, you know where to look for these herbs, using Survival. Gain a number of uses of each herb equal to the margin of success. The GM may add a difficulty modifier if growth is sparse in the area.

| Herb       | Location         |
|------------|------------------|
| Wolvesbane | Mountaintop,     |
|            | cliffs           |
| Mirrorroot | Over stalagmites |
|            | and under        |
|            | stalactites      |

| Blood moss      | Sinkholes,       |
|-----------------|------------------|
|                 | predator lairs   |
| Belladonna      | Waterfalls,      |
|                 | underground      |
|                 | streams          |
| Hemlock         | Graveyards       |
| Ramson (garlic) | Forest clearings |
| Corpsebloom     | Sarcophagi,      |
|                 | long-dead        |
|                 | corpses          |
| King's foil     | Forest clearings |

These herbs can be combined to create these ointments:

| Ointment   | Effect      | Herbs       |  |
|------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| Poultice   | Grants      | Blood       |  |
|            | auto        | Moss,       |  |
|            | success on  | Belladonna, |  |
|            | one         | King's foil |  |
|            | Recovery    |             |  |
|            | roll        |             |  |
| Antidote   | Remove 1    | Wolvesbane  |  |
|            | Poisoned    | or any      |  |
|            | condition   | venom,      |  |
|            |             | garlic,     |  |
|            |             | mirrorroot  |  |
| Deaththief | Remove 1    | Mirrorroot, |  |
|            | disease     | garlic,     |  |
|            |             | corpsebloom |  |
| Alleviate  | Ignore a    | King's      |  |
| Curse      | curse until | Foil,       |  |
|            | midnight    | Hemlock     |  |
| Poison     | Grants 1    | Wolvesbane/ |  |
|            | Poisoned    | any         |  |
|            | condition   | venom,      |  |
|            |             | Blood       |  |
|            |             |             |  |

|         |              |                      | ı |
|---------|--------------|----------------------|---|
|         |              | Moss,                |   |
|         |              | Hemlock              |   |
| Sleep   | Target       | Belladonna,          |   |
|         | sleeps 1d8   | Corpsebloo           | n |
|         | hours        | King's Foil          |   |
| Confuse | Target is    | Hemlock,             |   |
|         | lost in      | Wolvesbane           | , |
|         | hallucinatio | n <b>B</b> elladonna |   |
|         | Each         |                      |   |
|         | round, roll  |                      |   |
|         | 1d6, on 1    |                      |   |
|         | will attack  |                      |   |
|         | own          |                      |   |
|         | friends, on  |                      |   |
|         | 6 will       |                      |   |
|         | attack       |                      |   |
|         | party        |                      |   |
|         | members      |                      |   |

#### Vanish

While standing still in dense foliage or shadows, you can choose to become invisible until you move again.

#### **Beast scent**

Sharpening your scent, you can sense the direction of a type of beast you choose within a day's travel. If you have an item that has been in touch with a particular beast, you can smell that individual. The scent lasts as long you concentrate on it. When you use it, roll a HD. On a 3 or less, you lose the HD.

## Eyes of the wild

While holding something from an animal's body (e.g. a tuft of hair, a

claw, a feather), you can focus your inner eye and see through the animal's eyes. Your own eyes roll to the back of your skull, and your body remains in place. While doing this, you can command the creature to move to a spot in sight or to stand still. Each time you do so, the item withers, taking a Notch. At 3 Notches, it rots completely, and your senses return to your body.

## Swashbuckler

Death is not an uncommon sight in the great city states of the Screaming Sea. Often, it's at the hands of swashbucklers - fearless, dashing duelists, always looking to prove themselves in a fight.

## Class Features

Hit Dice: d6

**Armor:** Leather, chain

**Weapons:** All swords, quarterstaff, improvised weapons, unarmed

## Starting skills

Apprentice Legerdemain

## Equipment

You start with the following equipment:

- Leather armor
- A sword or a quarterstaff

# **Signature Talent: The Art of Fencing**

You're trained in swift and elegant fighting. As part of an attack, you can perform a maneuver as part of your attack. You can attempt any plausible maneuver you can think of.

Examples:

- **Disarm**. Make your opponent's weapon fly out of their hand to near.
- **Trip**. Cause your opponent to go prone.
- **Feint**. Make your opponent think you're attacking somewhere else,

giving you advantage on your next attack.

## **Talents**

When you gain a new Talent, choose one from this list:

## **Scorpion stance**

When you use this ability, add +5 to your Defense until the end of your next turn. If someone attacks you before then and misses, you strike them in a riposte and they take damage equal to the margin of error.

#### **Panache**

When the group is declaring actions, you may use this ability to declare that you go first. Roll your Hit Dice and add the number to the first roll you make. If you roll a 1 on the Hit Dice, the check fails regardless of the total result.

## **Uncanny acrobatics**

Jump twice as far as normal, or do an acrobatic stunt like swing from a chandelier, slide down a bannister, or land on your feet on uneven ground, without rolling a check. When you use this ability, roll a HD. On a 1, lose the HD.

## Improvisational genius

You are proficient in using any object as a weapon. Objects you can carry in one hand count as having Finesse. The first time you use this ability in an encounter, the enemy is considered surprised.

#### **Notorious**

Pick a nickname and a calling sign representing you (like a letter carved on a wall, an outrageous outfit, or a certain flower). By leaving behind a calling sign or otherwise associating your nickname with the scene of a heroic deed, you gain a point of notoriety with that location.

When returning, at the start of any encounter, you may dramatically reveal the symbol, and everyone will instantly know who you are. You may then reduce any target by the notoriety number in that location, until you roll a 1.

## **Thief**

In the city states, the guilds ensure that their profession is tightly controlled, lest the powers that be crack down too hard. But many thieves choose the life of the road, seeking the hidden treasures of the world.

## **Class Features**

**Hit Dice:** d4 **Armor:** Leather

**Weapons:** Dagger, hand axe, unarmed, short bow, sling

#### **Skills**

- Apprentice Burglary
- Apprentice Legerdemain

## **Equipment**

You start with the following equipment:

- Leather armor
- Two daggers or a sword and a dagger
- Lockpicks
- Toolkit

# **Signature Talent: Cunning Action**

You can Feint, Dash, or perform a Dirty Trick as a bonus action. Dirty Tricks are "dishonorable" maneuvers performed in combat. To use a Dirty Trick, roll Cunning. Depending on the dirty trick you choose, the enemy's Defense may not apply. You can improvise any plausible trick you can think of.

## **Examples:**

- **Throw sand**: Blind opponent until the end of their next round.
- Low blow: Opponent is Dazed until the end of their next round.

Starting at level 5, you can perform a cunning action as a bonus action.

#### **Talents**

When you gain a new Talent, choose one from this list:

#### Sneak attack

When you hit a target with an attack and you have advantage, you can choose to not apply the attack's damage to the target, and instead apply a Wound to the target, rolling on the Wound table for the hit location you choose.

#### Wall climb

Climb regular walls without making a check, and climb impossible walls with a check.

## **Use Magic Device**

You can use an action and roll a Cunning check to try to use any magic device, ignoring requirements such as class, level, or alignment.

## Great escape

You can automatically escape from something that is restraining you and that you could plausibly escape from. This includes grapples, lynchings, and awkward social situations, but not sealed coffins. You can't use this

ability again until you have acquired some treasure.

## **Impersonate**

If you have listened to someone's voice for a few minutes, you can use this ability to impersonate their voice and mannerisms perfectly until your next long rest.

## Wizard

When the empires of old fell to the Frost, their great works of magic were extinguished, just as their cities were ground to dust by the ice. But there are those who seek to revive these arcane practices, and who will stop at nothing to achieve it. These folk are called wizards.

## **Class Features**

Hit Dice: d4

Magic Dice per level: 1

**Armor:** None

Weapons: Quarterstaff, sword Magic items: Scrolls, staves, and

wands

#### **Skills**

• Apprentice Arcana

• Apprentice Lore

## **Equipment**

You start with the following equipment:

- A quarterstaff or a sword
- An arcane focus

## Signature Talent: Telekinesis

Levitate or throw an object or creature.

Range: Short (1d), Medium (2d), Long (3d), Extreme (4d); Target: (dice); Duration: Instant or concentration.

When used as an attack, adds (sum) damage on a hit.

Maximum object sizes:

1d: A rock that can be held in one hand, any non-Heavy inventory item2d: Heavy inventory items, a chest3d: A humanoid 4d: A horse, a cart

## **Talents**

When you gain a new talent, choose one from this list:

## Lumotheurgy

Manipulate light or darkness.

Range: Melee (1d), Short (2d), Medium (3d), Long (4d); Target: A single point in range; Duration: Concentration

Fill the area around the selected point with light or darkness. Darkness is always inky black, but the strength of the light depends on the amount of MD.

1-2d: Bright at the source, but with a dim aura 3-4d: The area is bathed in daylight

#### **Transmutation**

Transfer an aspect of a creature or an object to another. For instance, turn a sword into a twig, give a human the gills of a fish for underwater breathing, or turn yourself into a dragon. Using this spell requires holding the creature part or object the aspect is transferred from, which will whither and pulverize in the process.

Range: Melee; Target: A single object or creature; Duration: (sum) rounds

The types of targets are limited by the amount of MD invested:

1d: A non-heavy inanimate object 2d: Heavy inanimate object 3d: Part of a humanoid-sized creature 4d: A whole humanoid-sized creature

## Metamagic

Once per short rest, you can twist a spell as you cast it, changing some of its aspects, using one of the following options:

- **Subtle spell.** Cast a spell without the verbal and somatic components
- Improvise focus. Channel your energy through an object, allowing it to act as an arcane focus. The object must be made from precious metals, gemstone, or glass. It shatters and is pulverized on use
- Quicken spell. Cast the spell as a bonus action
- Extend spell. Double the spell's range.

## Ritual spellcasting

Using salt or chalk, you can draw a magic circle on the ground. Anything inside this circle will count as a target of the next spell you cast. The circle is consumed when the spell ends.

## Kin

## Human

Many credit the survival of the humans during their Great Frost to their adaptability. While the dwarves retreated to their mountains and the elves escaped to the deep forests, humans maintained a scrappy existence in the ghosts of old townships.

#### Versatile

You may use this ability to roll a skill check as if you had the Apprentice rank in that skill. If you fail, you can't use this ability again until you have completed a long rest.

## Halfling

Small, nimble, excellent traveling companions.

Halfling characters are Small-sized.

#### A nose for delicacies

You have a naturally sensitive sense of taste, and an eye for good ingredients. When using this ability, you are considered proficient when searching for ingredients for a Good Meal, and any Good Meal you cook grants an extra Hit Dice on a long rest. Once you you this ability, you can't use it until you've had a regular meal again.

## **Dwarf**

Short, stout, with a knack for treasure.

#### Goldscent

If you close your eyes and concentrate, you can smell the sweet, honeyde w aroma of gold, silver, and other treasure nearby.

Additionally, you can roughly estimate the value of any piece of treasure.

## Elf

Tall, graceful, children of the moon.

#### Wane

You and any party members inside the reach of the character's arms blend into their surroundings, becoming indistinguishable as long as they stand still.

Once this ability has been used, it can't be used again until you gaze upon the moon for the first time in a day.

## Skin-changer

Also called changelings, skinwalkers, or feybairn, skin-changers are believed to be fey spirits left in place of stolen children. As such, they are usually ostracized from their communities.

They appear mostly human, but have wizened features coupled with parchment-like skin and dark eyes.

A mirror will reveal a skin-changer's true fey form, which appears to humanoids as a twisted, grotesque version of their own kind.

# **Horrifying Visage**

Once per long rest, a skin-changer may reveal its true form, forcing all humanoids to see it to roll a Morale check.

# Origin

Placeholder

## **Inventory**

Characters can carry a certain amount of items based on their Strength. If they go over this limit, they can no longer move. The more they carry, the slower they move, as indicated next to their character sheet.

## Significant items

Only significant items are counted towards encumbrance. Generally, an item that can be carried in one hand takes up one slot, while items that require two hands to carry take up two slots. Big or heavy items may take up three or more slots, as decided by the GM.

## **Equipped items**

Items that you are holding, or have somewhere readily available on your person. These can be freely retrieved in combat. Equipped items also include armor. Heavy armor takes up two slots.

#### Packed items

Items that you carry in your pack. These take an action to retrieve in combat.

#### **Treasure**

Any amount of coins over 100 count as one item for each 100 coins.

## **Expedition resources**

Items that are useful for the entire party are considered expedition

resources. If one character is carrying the item, there is enough for the entire group to use.

Examples: Food, water, torches, oil lantern, camping gear, dry firewood.

## **Notches**

When an expendable item is used, or an item is damaged, it gains a Notch. When an item receives three Notches, it is depleted or destroyed. Notches can be cleared for 10% of the original cost per dot.

- Weapons and armor: Weapons gain Notches on Fumbles (rolling a natural 1 on use). Armors gain Notches when protecting from Wounds.
- **Ammunition:** After a fight, roll a d6. On 4-6, mark a Notch on the ammunition.
- Expedition resources: Mark a Notch after usage.
- Other gear: If used in a way that could break or deplete it, the GM may ask you to mark a Notch.

## **Exhaustion**

Each level of exhaustion you gain takes up a pack slot.

#### Movement rates

A character can carry a certain amount of items before they are encumbered, as indicated on their character sheets. An unencumbered character can move 120 feet in a turn, or 40 feet in combat. Getting encumbered means reducing this speed to the level indicated on the character sheet.

# **Equipment**

Plunder uses a silver standard. All prices listed below are in silver pieces (sp).

1 gp = 10 sp or 50cp

1 sp = 5 cp

# **Prices**

| Name                  | Cost | Description         |
|-----------------------|------|---------------------|
| 10 foot pole          | 1    |                     |
| Small sack            | 1    |                     |
| Waterskin             | 1    |                     |
| Torches               | 1    | Bundle of three     |
| Bottle of wine        | 1    |                     |
| 50 feet of rope       | 1    |                     |
| Sling                 | 1    |                     |
| Quarterstaff          | 2    |                     |
| Iron spikes (12)      | 2    |                     |
| Large sack            | 2    |                     |
| Oil                   | 2    | Expedition resource |
| Bandages              | 2    | Expedition resource |
| Dagger                | 3    |                     |
| Handaxe               | 3    |                     |
| Stakes (3) and mallet | 3    |                     |
| Spear                 | 4    |                     |
| Silver-tipped arrow   | 5    |                     |
| Leather backpack      | 5    |                     |
| Garlic, bud           | 5    |                     |
| Axe                   | 7    |                     |
| Sword                 | 10   |                     |
| Shield                | 10   |                     |
| Quiver of 20 arrows   | 10   |                     |
| Case with 20 bolts    | 10   |                     |
| Lantern               | 10   |                     |
| Wolvesbane, bunch     | 10   |                     |
| Belladonna, bunch     | 10   |                     |
| Rations               | 10   | Expedition resource |
| Saddle bags           | 10   |                     |

| Longaxe              | 12    |  |
|----------------------|-------|--|
| Longsword            | 15    |  |
| Leather armor        | 15    |  |
| Silver mirror, small | 15    |  |
| Steel mirror         | 25    |  |
| Shortbow             | 25    |  |
| Mule                 | 25    |  |
| Saddle               | 25    |  |
| Chain armor          | 30    |  |
| Draft horse          | 30    |  |
| Longbow              | 40    |  |
| Light horse          | 40    |  |
| Raft                 | 40    |  |
| Scale armor          | 50    |  |
| Cart                 | 100   |  |
| Small boat           | 100   |  |
| Barding              | 150   |  |
| Warhorse             | 200   |  |
| Wagon                | 200   |  |
| Small merchant ship  | 5000  |  |
| Small galley         | 10000 |  |
| Large merchant ship  | 20000 |  |
| Large galley         | 30000 |  |
| Crowbar              | 15    | Grants advantage on opening doors              |
| Ear trumpet          | 50    | Grants advantage on listening at doors         |
| Lockpicks            | 100   | Required to pick locks                         |
| Toolkit              | 50    | Contains scissors, pliers, a small file, and a |
|                      |       | small mirror mounted on a 1-foot long handle.  |

# Weapons

| Name    | Defense | Properties Attacks        |  |
|---------|---------|---------------------------|--|
| Axe     | +2      | Gruesome, Slash           |  |
|         |         | Versatile                 |  |
| Dagger  | +2      | Light, Thrown Slash, Stab |  |
| Handaxe | +1      | Gruesome, Light, Slash    |  |
|         |         | Thrown                    |  |

| Longaxe      | +3 | Gruesome, Reach, Slash |             |
|--------------|----|------------------------|-------------|
|              |    | Two-handed             |             |
| Longsword    | +5 | Versatile              | Slash, Stab |
| Mace         | +2 | Armor crushing         | Slam        |
| Quarterstaff | +4 | Two-handed             | Slam        |
| Short spear  | +4 | Thrown                 | Stab        |
| Spear        | +6 | Reach, Versatile       | Stab        |
| Sword        | +4 | Light                  | Slash, Stab |
| Shield       | +1 | Bull Rush              | Slam        |
| Club         | +1 |                        | Slam        |

# Ranged Weapons

| Name    | Defense | Properties  | Range          | Attacks |
|---------|---------|-------------|----------------|---------|
| Bow     | +0      | Two-handed  | 5-50 /         | Shoot   |
|         |         |             | 51-100 /       |         |
|         |         |             | 101-150        |         |
| Longbow | +0      | Heavy, Two- | 5-70 /         | Shoot   |
|         |         | handed      | 71-140/141-210 |         |
| Sling   | +0      |             | 5-40 /         |         |
|         |         |             | 41-80 /81-160  |         |

# Weapon properties

| Name       | Description  |  |
|------------|--|--|
| Versatile  | This weapon can be used with one or two hands. When        |  |
|            | you wield it with two hands, roll a d6 together with your  |  |
|            | attack. If you hit, you may use the highest of the dice or |  |
|            | the margin of success.                                     |  |
| Two-handed | This weapon can be used with one or two hands. When        |  |
|            | you wield it with two hands, roll a d10 together with your |  |
|            | attack. If you hit, you may use the highest of the dice or |  |
|            | the margin of success.                                     |  |
| Gruesome   | Wounds caused by critical hits with this weapon are not    |  |
|            | removed at the end of next round.                          |  |
| Thrown     | You can throw this weapon to make a ranged attack (range   |  |
|            | 1-20 / 21-40 / 41-60). Use Instinct for this attack.       |  |

| Light          | This weapon can be used without disadvantage while       |  |
|----------------|--|--|
|                | grappling.   |  |
| Reach          | You can attack with this weapon from 10 feet away. If an |  |
|                | opponent tries to move into Melee range with you, they   |  |
|                | have to make a Dexterity with your Defense added as      |  |
|                | difficulty. If they fail, they take damage equal to the  |  |
|                | margin of failure.                                       |  |
| Bull Rush      | When you Shove a creature in combat, roll a d4 and add   |  |
|                | the result to your roll.                                 |  |
| Armor Crushing | This weapon does +3 damage vs. heavy armor and +1 vs     |  |
|                | medium armor on a hit.                                   |  |
| Heavy          | This item takes two slots.                               |  |

| Name  | Description  |
|-------|--|
| Slash | When you score a Wound with this weapon, roll twice on the Wound   |
|       | table and apply both wounds.                                       |
| Stab  | If your opponent is Prone and unarmed or Grappling, you can        |
|       | attempt to Stab through gaps in their armor. Make the attack with  |
|       | disadvantage. If it hits, ignore your opponent's Wound protection. |
| Slam  | If the Wound would grant the Bleeding condition, it instead grants |
|       | the Dazed condition.   |
| Shoot |  |

#### Armor

Wearing armor has two benefits:

- 1. Increasing your Hit Points
- 2. Decreasing the Severity of Wounds

#### Armor is HP

Each armor gives you a fixed amount of HP per level. The heavier the armor, the more HP.

#### **Protection from Wounds**

Armor also provides protection against Wounds. When you would suffer a Wound, subtract the number for your armor type from the damage total before looking up the Wound result. If the number is negative, you don't suffer a Wound.

| Leather | Wound      | HP / Level | Slots |
|---------|------------|------------|-------|
|         | Protection |            |       |
| Leather | 3          | +1         | 1     |
| Chain   | 5          | +2         | 1     |
| Scale   | 8          | +4         | 2     |

## **Optional: Armor sets**

Only a complete set of armor grants the HP bonus. However, individual pieces grant crit protection where they are worn (such as a helmet protecting the head).

# **Town services**

| Name                     | Cost |
|--------------------------|------|
| A day's stay at an inn   | 1    |
| A week's stay at an inn  | 6    |
| A month's stay at an inn | 20   |
| Burial                   | 50   |
| A bath                   | 1    |

## **Progression**

When you create your character, you gain the Class Features, Proficiencies, Equipment, and Signature Ability listed on your chosen class.

As you adventure, you will gain Experience Points (XP). Once you've reached the XP level in the chart below, you gain a level.

## Leveling up

When you level up, you may choose to continue with the same class, or select another class. In either case, the table below tells you what you gain at that level.

| Level | XP     | Target | Feature     |
|-------|--------|--------|-------------|
| 1     | 0      | 0      | Talent      |
| 2     | 2000   | 0      | Talent      |
| 3     | 4000   | 0      | Skill       |
|       |        |        | advancement |
| 4     | 8000   | -2     | Target      |
|       |        |        | reductions  |
| 5     | 16000  | -2     | Talent      |
| 6     | 32000  | -2     | Skill       |
|       |        |        | advancement |
| 7     | 64000  | -5     | Target      |
|       |        |        | reductions  |
| 8     | 120000 | -5     | Talent      |
| 9     | 240000 | -5     | Skill       |
|       |        |        | advancement |
| 10    | 360000 | -7     | Capstone    |
|       |        |        | Talent      |

## **Talent**

Choose a Talent from your class.

If you have levels in more than one class, you can select any Talent from either class, including Signature Talents. You can never have more Talents from a class than you have levels in that class, however.

## Skill advancement

When you gain a skill advancement, you can choose to advance a skill you have up one rank, or gain the Apprentice rank in a skill you don't have.

Characters with high Intelligence gain bonus skill advancements, as shown in the Ability targets table.

#### Weapon and armor proficiency

Instead of choosing a new skill, you may learn to use a new weapon or armor type. Learning to use chain armor requires knowing how to use leather armor, and learning scale armor requires knowing how to use chain armor.

## **Target reductions**

Reduce your Attack and Saving Throw targets by the number in the Target column.

## Treasure and XP

Each SP of treasure brought back to town is worth 1 XP.

XP is divided equally between all members of the party, including retainers. Retainers suffer a -50% penalty to the XP they receive, however, since they are merely following orders.

## XP from combat

Defeating monsters also grants the party XP, as listed in their stat block.

## Fallen comrades

Bringing back the body of a fallen comrade and giving them a proper burial grants XP equal to 20% of their XP total.

## What is treasure?

Gems, jewelry, gold, and finely crafted objects all count as treasure, and XP is awarded according to their value in SP, divided equally between party members.

Magic items, being their own reward, don't grant XP.

I shall not today attempt further to define the kinds of material I understand to be embraced within that shorthand description, and perhaps I could never succeed in intelligibly doing so. But *I know it when I see it.* 

Associate Justice Potter Stewart

In Plunder, XP is gained by plundering loot and bringing back to safety. There are also some XP awarded for defeating enemies, but treasure is the main source of XP. Combat may not always be the best course of action!

## **Combat**

## Combat sequence

Combat is divided into rounds. Each round has six phases. Each combatant can move once and perform one action per round.

- 1. Declare spells
- 2. Monster morale
- 3. Movement
- 4. Ranged attacks
- 5. Spells
- 6. Melee and miscellaneous

#### Movement

Anyone moving out of melee needs to take a Dexterity check modified by the target's Defense, or take damage equal to the margin of failure. If there is conflict of who will reach a space first, the player needs to succeed on a Dexterity check to be first.

#### Simultaneous actions

In each phase, everyone who wants to act declares their action. Then, they roll a d20 for their action. Sort the rolls from highest to lowest, and resolve them in that order. Actions by combatants early in the round can invalidate actions of combatants who act later. It's not possible to redeclare actions.

For example: Regdar the fighter is fighting an orc. The orc wants to shove Regdar away, while Regdar is trying to hit the orc with his sword. Regdar rolls 15, while the orc rolls 18.

The orc goes first, and pushes Regdar out of melee range. Regdar is now out of melee range, so his attack now misses despite rolling successfully.

## Advantage and disadvantage

If an action by an earlier combatant confers advantage or disadvantage on a later roll, that combatant rolls a second d20 when their action is being resolved, and uses that result.

## Attacking

When you attack someone, the target number is your relevant attack target plus the enemy's Defense. If the roll is equal or higher than the target, it's a hit.

Damage is equal to the margin of success, plus any modifiers. A successful attack always does at least 1 damage, even if a modifier would bring it below 1.

Some weapons have properties that grant different damage calculations.

Also, some creatures have attacks that are determined by a damage dice instead of this calculation.

#### Melee attacks

In melee combat, the target's Defense is determined by the weapons they have equipped plus their Dexterity modifier or other special modifiers. Typically, longer and well-balanced weapons have higher Defense.

When you score a hit in melee, add your melee damage bonus, which is based on your Strength.

Melee attacks are made using Dexterity. Damage is modified by Strength.

### Ranged attacks

When you make a ranged attack, your enemy's Defense is their Dexterity modifier or any other evasion modifier they have.

Additionally, each ranged weapon has a range modifier, noted in the weapon description. Apply this modifier to the enemy's Defense.

- Short range: -1
- Medium range: +0
- Long range: +1
- Beyond long range: Attack not possible

Damage is equal to the margin of success.

Ranged attacks are made using Instinct.

### Spell attacks

When casting a spell in combat, use the same rules as ranged attacks.

Spell attacks are made using Intelligence.

# Hit locations and attack type

When attacking, the attacker specifies what type of attack they want to

make, and where the attack is made: head, torso, right or left arm, right or left leg.

Making the same kind of attack twice in a row grants disadvantage on that attack roll.

Do not repeat the tactics which have gained you one victory, but let your methods be regulated by the infinite variety of circumstances.

Sun Tzu, the Art of War

#### **Critical Hits**

If the attacker rolls a natural 20, the attack is always a hit. Additionally, the target receives a Wound that lasts until the end of their next turn, and their armor is damaged and takes one Notch. Roll on the Wound Table for the hit location to determine the Wound's nature.

#### **Fumbles**

A natural 1 on an attack roll is a miss regardless of the target's Defense and results in a mishap. This means that they slam their weapon into a nearby obstacle, overextend their bow, or overcharge their arcane focus. The item is damaged and takes one Notch.

### Hit Points and Wounds

Hit Points are a measure of your stamina and ability to avoid getting seriously injured.

Any damage that reduces you to 0 Hit Points will give you a Wound. Look

up the damage on the Wound Table to determine its nature.

Each Wound takes up one Inventory slot. If all your inventory slots are filled up with Wounds or Exhaustion, you're dead.

#### **Instant Death**

If a character would gain a Wound and the damage is equal to their maximum HP, they instead die instantly.

#### How to kill a monster

A monster or NPC can have a number of Wounds equivalent to half their Hit Dice, rounded down. If they suffer any more Wounds, they die instantly.

### Opportunity attacks

Certain actions expose you to opportunity attacks from enemies in melee range from you. To avoid such an attack, roll Dexterity and add the enemy's Defense. Failure means you get hit, damage equals to the margin of failure. These actions include:

- Moving out of melee range
- Getting up when prone
- Picking up an item from the ground

### **Common actions**

### Dodge

Until the start of your next turn, any sttack roll made against you has disadvantage if you can see the attacker.

#### **Feint**

Trick opponent into lowering their weapon, allowing the next attack against them to ignore their Defense. To determine success, roll against Cunning and add the target's Defense.

### Grapple

Grab your opponent. Roll Strength and add the target's Defense. Failure means you get hit, damage equals 10 minus your result. If you succeed, you and your opponent gains the Grappling condition. You may move with your opponent. On their next turn, your opponent may roll Strength to break free.

### Rally

Inspire your party by taking the lead. While moving towards the enemy, roll Courage plus the highest number of HD among the enemies. Restore a number of Hit Points among members of your party equal to the margin of success, starting with the party member with the lowest HP.

#### Shove

Shove your opponent. Roll Strength and add your opponent's Defense. Failure means you get hit, damage equals 10 minus your result. If you succeed, you can shove your opponent Prone, or away from you a number of feet equal to the margin of success.

# **Bonus actions**

Bonus actions are performed right before your melee atttack.

# Wounds

# **Wound Severity**

The effects on this table stack.

For example, if you would take 8 damage, you gain the Bleeding Out condition and a Wound.

| Damage | Effect                    |
|--------|---------------------------|
| 1-3    | Gain the Bleeding Out     |
|        | condition.                |
| 4-9    | The attacker rolls on the |
|        | Wound table. Gain that    |
|        | Wound.                    |
| 10+    | Gain the Unconscious      |
|        | condition.                |

### **Table: Head Wounds**

| Roll | Location | Condition     |
|------|----------|---------------|
| 1    | Temple   | Dazed         |
| 2    | Ear      | Ear Disabled  |
| 3    | Nose     | Nose Disabled |
| 4    | Jaw      | Jaw Disabled  |
| 5    | Eyes     | Blinded       |
| 6    | Skull    | Stunned       |

# **Table: Torso Wounds**

| Roll | Location | Condition     |
|------|----------|---------------|
| 1    | Chest    | Dazed         |
| 2    | Chest    | Dazed         |
| 3    | Guts     | Poisoned      |
| 4    | Guts     | Poisoned      |
| 5    | Lungs    | Incapacitated |
| 6    | Plexus   | Stunned       |

### **Table: Arm Wounds**

| Roll | Location | Condition    |
|------|----------|--------------|
| 1    | Hand     | Arm Disabled |
|      |          | (Hand)       |
| 2    | Wrist    | Arm Disabled |
|      |          | (Wrist)      |
| 3    | Forearm  | Arm Disabled |
|      |          | (Forearm)    |
| 4    | Elbow    | Arm Disabled |
|      |          | (Elbow)      |
| 5    | Biceps   | Arm Disabled |
|      |          | (Biceps)     |
| 6    | Shoulder | Arm Disabled |
|      |          | (Shoulder)   |

# **Table: Leg Wounds**

| Roll | Location | Condition           |
|------|----------|---------------------|
| 1    | Foot     | Leg Disabled (Foot) |
| 2    | Ankle    | Leg Disabled        |
|      |          | (Ankle)             |
| 3    | Shin     | Leg Disabled (Shin) |
| 4    | Knee     | Leg Disabled (Knee) |
| 5    | Thigh    | Leg Disabled        |
|      |          | (Thigh)             |
| 6    | Hip      | Leg Disabled (Hip)  |

# **Spellcasting**

All abilities that use Magic Dice count as spellcasting. Unless the description states otherwise, casting a spell requires a verbal, a somatic component, and an arcane focus.

This means the caster has to loudly utter the arcane incantations, and resolutely mimic the spell's effect with the arcane focus.

An arcane focus is typically a crystal attached to the end of a quarterstaff, but can also take other forms, like a wand or an orb, but it has to be held in at least one hand when casting spells.

### **Magic Dice**

You get Magic Dice based on your level as a caster. You cast a spell by choosing how many dice you want to invest in it. On a roll of 3 or less, the Magic Dice is spent, but on a roll of 4 or more the they come back immediately. Spent Magic Dice can be regained by spending Hit Dice during a short or long rest, or fully regained after a full rest.

If the spell requires an attack roll, add the MD sum after a hit is confirmed.

### **Cantrips**

When you are out of Magic Dice, you can cast your spells as cantrips. Use a 1d4 as the Magic Dice. On a roll of 2 or less, you gain a level of exhaustion.

### Concentration

Automatically breaks on being hit.

### Burden

Each spell you know takes up an inventory slot.

### Scrolls and spell books

In order to use a spell from a scroll, you need to understand the language it's written in. Additionally, you need to absorb the magic into your mind before you can use it. This takes a turn, and you need to roll a Magic Dice. On a roll of 1-3, you lose the dice. If you don't have any Magic Dice, you instead gain a level of exhaustion.

The same applies to each spell in a spell book. Once you have absorbed a spell in this way, you may cast the spell by expending one Magic Dice. If the spell has a spell level, use one Magic Dice level.

### Arcane spells

These are written down in arcane runes, often using idiosyncratic cyphers that take time and effort to decode.

### Divine spells

Usually written in Common, or the language of the mystic who committed the spell to paper.

[!info] Design notes In OSE, you have to cast the *read magic* spell to be able to read a scroll or a spell book. This is

essentially a spell tax to be able to use a given scroll, balancing out the new spell with an expenditure of a precious resource. This balance is maintained here by requiring the use of a Magic Dice.

Also in OSE, only divine spell casters can use divine spells. However, the scrolls are written in Common. Since divine spellcasting is not really a thing in Plunder, it makes sense to allow anyone who can read the language a shot at understanding a spell. However, if you don't have Magic Dice, it can quickly become taxing to try and use magic.

# **Dungeon adventuring**

Time in the dungeon is divided into turns, which are roughly 10 minutes long. Each turn follows this sequence:

- 1. Wandering monsters
- 2. The party describes their actions
- 3. Actions are resolved and their results described by the GM
- 4. End of turn. The GM updates time records, and the players update any information on their sheets, such as the status of torches, items, and spells

#### Doors

Most doors in the dungeon will be closed, and possibly stuck or locked.

#### Stuck doors

Forcing a stuck door requires a successful Strength check.

Failing to open a stuck door removes any chance of surprising monsters on the other side.

#### Locked doors

Opening a locked door requires a successful Burglary check.

### Listening at doors

Hearing sounds beyond a door requires a successful Instinct check. Only one attempt may be made by the party. Some monsters may not make any sound.

#### Secret doors

Characters may search a 10x10 foot area secret doors. If they're searching

in the right place, they can make an Intelligence check to find the door.

### **Movement**

The character's movement speed in the dungeon assumes that they are moving carefully, exploring, and mapping. When moving through familiar areas, they may move three times faster.

### Resting

Every six turns, the party has to spend a turn to rest, or suffer a -1 penalty to all combat rolls.

### **Traps**

There are two kinds of traps:

- Room traps
- Treasure traps

Characters have a 2-in-6 chance of triggering a trap when they take an action that could trigger it.

# Searching for traps

Room traps can be found with a successful Intellect check. Treasure traps require a successful Burglary skill.

### Wandering monsters

The GM rolls for wandering monsters every second dungeon turn. The chance is usually 1-in-6. Monsters are 2d6x10 feet away. Roll a d8 to decide the direction, where 1 is north, 2 is north east, 3 is east, etc.

# Saving throws

Some attacks or magical effects call for a saving throw. These represent the last-ditch effort to avoid harm.

There are six saving throws, one for each ability. The GM chooses the most appropriate save for the situation. When using OSR-compatible modules, the existing saves are covered:

| Name         | Description              |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| Strength     | Resist death rays and    |
|              | poison                   |
| Dexterity    | Dodge out of the way     |
|              | of breath attacks and    |
|              | wands                    |
| Instinct     | Resist paralysis and     |
|              | petrification            |
| Intelligence | Avoid the effects of     |
|              | spells, rods, and staves |
| Courage      | Ignore any fear-         |
|              | related effects          |
| Cunning      | See through illusions    |

## Rolling saving throws

The target number for each saving throw is listed on the character's sheet.

Succeeding on a saving throw against damage halves the damage taken.

Saves against poison are usually fatal. If an attack with poison also deals damage, a successful saving throw vs. poison does not reduce the damage.

# Rest and healing

Resources such as HP, HD, MD, and class abilities are replenished when characters rest. In Plunder, rest is divided into three categories:

#### Short rest

A short breather between other activities, taking around 10 minutes. Replenishes abilities that refresh on a short rest, and allows players to spend Hit Dice to regain Hit Points. If a character has 0 HP, they regain 1 HP at the end of the short rest, and can spend Hit Dice to regain HP or attempt a recovery roll.

### Long rest

Taking half a day to eat, rest, and sleep. After completing a long rest, players regain a number of Hit Dice equal to half their level. They can then spend this Hit Dice, and any Hit Dice left over from before resting. This Hit Dice can be used to regain Hit Points, Magic Dice, remove exhaustion, or attempt a recovery roll.

Each item or circumstance that can provide comfort during a long rest provides a bonus HD. Examples: A good hot meal, good drink, camping gear, a campfire when it's cold out, a good book to read, and inspiring story told around the campfire.

Similarly, each circumstance that gives discomfort gives a 1 HD penalty. Examples: Sleeping on rocks, lack of food, freezing, being exposed to rain.

Bonuses and penalties cancel each other out.

Characters can only gain the benefit of a long rest once a day.

### Full rest

The party retreats to safety, resting for a week. Recovery rolls are rolled with advantage.

### Recovery

Recovery rolls are required to heal a Wound. They represent binding and cleaning the wound. To attempt a recovery roll, roll a Hit Dice and compare the number to the Severity of the Wound. If it meets or exceeds it, the recovery was successful. Otherwise, recovery fails. If it was attempted on a short rest, recovery can't be attempted again until a long rest, and if attempted on a long rest, can't be tried again until a full rest. A failed recovery roll on a full rest means the Wound is permanent.

### **Conditions**

- Bleeding out: A character who is Bleeding out gains 1 level of exhaustion every round unless pressure is applied to the wound. Remove by applying a bandage.
- **Prone**: Melee attackers have advantage, ranged attackers have disadvantage against a prone creature. Prone creatures also have disadvantage on attacks. Getting up takes a move action. When getting up, roll a Dexterity check and add the highest Defense of adjacent opponents. Failure means taking damage equal to the margin of failure.
- Ear disabled: You have disadvantage on any checks that rely on hearing.
- Nose disabled: You are unable to smell.
- **Jaw disabled**: You are unable to speak discernably, though you can yell.
- **Grappling:** A creature with this condition can't use their Defense bonus, can't take move actions, and have disadvantage on weapon attacks.
- **Dazed:** Attacks against you have advantage.

#### Disabled

• **Limb disabled**: The affected limb can't be used directly, for example to swing a sword. The character has disadvantage on any activity that

- would normally be supported by the limb, for example climbing a rope.
- Arm disabled (part): When you gain this condition, any item held with this arm is flung 10 feet away. The arm can't be used directly, for example to swing a sword. You have disadvantage on any activity that would normally be supported by the part of the arm listed in parentheses, for example climbing a rope.
- Leg disabled (part): When you gain this condition, you also gain the Prone condition. Your speed is halved. The leg can't be used directly, for example to kick, and you have disadvantage on any activity that would normally be supported by the part of the arm listed in parentheses, for example evading an enemy.

### **Monsters**

Defense (DF) Armor (AR) HD Attack Target (AT) Movement (MV) Str, Dex, Int, Ins, Cou, Cun Morale (AL) Alignment (AL) XP Number appearing (NA) Treasure Type (TT)

### **Ability Targets**

Monsters use Ability Targets for ability checks and saving throws. They don't gain the other penalties and bonuses a player character would.

### **Attacks**

Humanoid monsters will have their weapons listed, which have the same properties as those used by PCs.

Monster attacks may have a damage listed. In that case, roll that dice alongside the attack roll and use that number instead of the margin of success on a hit.

### **Conversion from OSE**

- 1. Take the monster's Ascending
  Armor Class and divide the
  number between Defense and
  Armor, as it makes sense from the
  monster's description
- 2. Add the armor bonus for each level of HD
- 3. Take the ascending attack bonus and subtract it from 10 to get the Attack Target
- 4. Replace saves with Ability Targets, adjusting the numbers as it makes sense for the monster. Higher HD

- monsters should have reduced Targets, roughly 1 per HD
- 5. Use the remaining statistics and descriptions as they are

#### Goblin

DF +1, AR 1, HD 1d8+1, AT 10, dagger or handaxe, MV 90ft, Str 15, Dex 14, Int 17, Ins 15, Cou 17, Cun 13, ML 7, AL C, XP 10, NA 2d4 (6d10), TT R (C)

### Acolyte

DF +3, AR 4, HD 1d8+4, AT 10, mace + shield, MV 90ft, Str 15, Dex 15, Int 14, Ins, 15, Cou 14, Cun 16 ML 7, AL Any, XP 10, NA 1d8 (1d20), TT U

#### **Bandit**

DF +2, AR 1, HD 1d8+1, AT 10, dagger, MV 90ft, Str 15, Dex 14, Int 15, Ins 15, Cou 17, Cun 14, ML 8, AL N, XP 10, NA 1d8 (3d10), TT U (A)

### **Brigand**

#### **Footman**

DF +2, AR 1, HD 1d8+1, AT 10, handaxe + shield or shortbow, MV 120ft.

### Cavalry

DF +3, AR 2, HD 1d8+2, AT 10, axe + shield, MV 120ft

#### Leader

DF +5, AR 4, HD 2d8+4, AT 10, short spear + shield, MV 120ft,

Str 12, Dex 15, Int 16, Ins 14, Cou 14, Cun 15, ML 8, AL C, XP 10, NA 0 (1d4x10), TT A

#### **Giant Rat**

DF +2 AR 0, HD 1d4, AT 10, bite 1d3 + disease, MV 120ft, Str 16, Dex 14, Int 20, Ins 14, Cou 20, Cun 13 ML 8, AL N, XP 5, NA 3d6 (3d10), TT C

#### Orc

DF +2, AR 1, HD 1d8+1, AT 10, axe or club and shield, MV 120ft, Str 13, Dex 16, Int 17, Ins 15, Cou 18, Cun 15 ML 6 (8 with leader), AL C, XP 10 (leader 10, chieftain 75), NA 2d4 (1d6x10), TT D

#### Skeleton

DF +2, AR 0, HD 1d8, AT 10, axe or handaxe/club and shield, MV 60ft, Str 15, Dex 15, Int 20, Ins 17, Cou 20, Cun 20 ML 12, AL CC, XP 10, NA 3d4 (3d10), TT None

#### Fire Beetle

DF +2 AR 2, HD 1d8+2, AT 9, bite, MV 120ft Str 13, Dex 16, Int 20, Ins 15, Cou 20, Cun 19 ML 7, AL N, XP 15, NA 1d8 (2d6), TT None

#### Ogre

DF +3, AR +1, HD 4d8+5, AT +4, club +1 dmg, MV 90ft Str 10, Dex 16, Int 18, Ins 15, Cou 15, Cun 18 ML 10, AL C, XP 125, NA 1d6 (2d6), TT C + 1000gp

#### **Bear**

DF +3, AR 0, HD 4d8, AT +3, 2x claw (1d3) + bite, MV 120ft Str 12, Dex 15, Int 20, Ins 13, Cou 18, Cun 15 ML 7, AL N, XP 75, NA 1d4 (1d4), TT U

#### **Basilisk**

DF +2, AR 3, HD 6d8+18, AT +6, bite + petrification + gaze (petrification), MV 60ft Str 10, Dex 14, Int 18, Ins 14, Cou 18, Cun 15 ML 9, AL N, XP 950, NA 1d6 (1d6), TT F

#### **Gelatinous Cube**

DF 0, AR 0, HD 4d8, AT +3 touch + paralysis, MV 60ft, Str 18, Dex 18, In 20, Ins 18, Cou 20, Cun 15 ML 12, AL N, XP 125, NA 1 (0), TT V