

# FATED SEAS



Adventure Role-playing Game



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# CHAPTER 1: GAME CONCEPTS

Master fate and destiny and embark on a journey to find the greatest discovery in a land of mystery, opportunity and adventure. **Fated Seas** embraces elements of traditional role-playing games with the easy-to-learn mechanics of deck builder games to create an experience of flexibility, freedom of expression and player agency with a tight, easy-to-learn and fast-paced combat system.

All players begin with a custom deck of cards based on the various character creation choices for their character. Players have the opportunity to add cards to the deck after each milestone. Players are encouraged to tell their own stories by crafting a heroic destiny for their characters and guiding their fate throughout the experience.

## USING THIS BOOK

**Chapter 1** explains the fundamentals of the game and introduces players to the various mechanics, keywords and miscellaneous rules which for a foundation for the experience. This chapter also gives players an introduction to the game setting and some thematic similarities or influences to draw from when playing the game.

**Chapter 2** discusses the Character Creation process in depth and walks players through the entire process. Players will choose a Class & Species, develop their characters skills and attributes, determine their Origin by inventing a background story and finally determine their Destiny and Fate within the world. Last, but not least, the players will work together to determine the style or tone of game they wish to experience and choose a Guild that meshes well with their collective vision.

**Chapter 3** describes the various types of weapons, armor, gear and other equipment that exists in the game. It also gives a little bit of information on magical item types and their quality levels and meanings.

**Chapter 4** explains how Combat is structured in the game and the various rules involved within it.

**Chapter 5** describes advanced rules for longer term play, like player character Advancement rules, Crafting magic and mundane items, rules for Gathering Information and investigation and Talents.

**Chapter 6** describes the environments and locales you'll be playing in and who the major players are that you'll be interacting with as friend or foe.

**Chapter 7** is all about the monstrous creatures and fearsome foes players can encounter in their travels. For GM eyes only!

## HOW TO PLAY

**Fated Seas** is, like many that have come before it, a table-top role playing game in which players assume the roles of fantasy characters in a fictional world. A role playing game is a collaborative and interactive story telling experience in which one player takes on the role of a

story-teller or game master, while the other players take on roles as characters in the world. Players are responsible for acting out these roles within a narrative experience through a process of structured decision-making and a formal system of rules and guidelines. The game master is responsible for presenting the fictional setting, arbitrating the results of player character actions, and maintaining the narrative flow and structure.

## Game Dice

You are most likely familiar with the standard six-sided die (colloquially known as as a **d6**) from many classic board games you played while growing up, but there are many more types of dice that exist - one of the most famous being the **d20**, which is used in the grand-daddy of role-playing games, **Dungeons & Dragons**.

**Fated Seas** exclusively uses a twelve sided die, which henceforth shall be referred to as the **d12** die. You will need a minimum of two, but it doesn't hurt to have more on hand. You can find these kinds of dice at your Friendly Local Game Store (FLGS) or online at various specialized gaming websites.

When you need to roll dice while playing, the rules will tell you how many dice to roll, as well as what modifiers to add. For example, "2d12 + 3" means you roll two twelve-sided dice, add them together, and add 3 to the total.

### Rolling the Dice

While combat primarily revolves around playing combat cards from your hand and dice rolling for success, they are also used for determining character activation order in combat (also called **Initiative**), rolling for skill checks and resisting special types of damage. All of these situations use a basic dice roll of 2d12 plus a modifier of some type (attribute value or skill proficiency value).

#### 1. Roll the dice and add relevant modifier.

Roll a 2d12 and add the relevant modifier. This is typically the modifier derived from an Attribute or a Skill proficiency bonus. Most combat cards tell you which attribute modifier to add to the roll when playing the card.

#### 2. Apply any bonuses and/or penalties.

Some class features, another combat card, or particular situation as indicated by the Game Master may give a bonus or penalty to the dice roll result.

#### 3. Compare the total to a target number.

If the total equals or exceeds the target number, the card being played, skill check or resistance roll is a success. Otherwise, it's a failure. The GM is usually the one who determines target numbers, called a **Difficulty Value** and tells players whether their skill checks or resistance rolls succeed or fail.

## Exceptions to the Rule

This book contains rules that govern how the game plays, however if a specific rule on a card or elsewhere seems to contradict the basic rules, then the specific rule always wins.



# Round Down

If for any reasons you need to divide a number in the game, you should always round down to the nearest whole number.

# Combat Cards

All characters in the game use a deck of cards exclusively for battle against horrific foes and dangerous monsters. You will need the appropriate deck of cards for your class in order to play which can be printed or bought online at (website TBD).

# Card Types

Combat cards are generally categorized into one of three categories: **Attack**, **Power** and **Skill** cards. For the most part, using a card from your hand costs 1 Action to play during the character's turn. However, some cards can be played for free and are clearly indicated in the upper-left corner. Some rare cards have a *variable* action cost and have an **X** in the upper-left corner to indicate it.

Additionally, all cards have an **Energy** value located in the lower left corner which allows them to be played alongside the original card to *boost* the effect or provide a powerful bonus. Cards played this way are discarded, along with the original card.

- **Attack** cards are fairly straight-forward in usage. When you play one, you pick a target in range, then roll the dice (**2d12**) and add your attribute modifier (either **Grit**, **Intuition** or **Willpower**). If your dice roll total **equals to** or **exceeds** the target number displayed in the upper-right of the card, it's a hit! Resolve the effect against the target. This usually means dealing damage to the target, but the card could also bestow a variety of other negative or debilitating effects against it or it could provide a beneficial effect to your character.
- **Power** cards represent powerful abilities or effects that persist until the end of combat or are removed some other way. All characters may have a maximum of 1 Power card in play. If you wish to play another Power card, you must discard the previous one.
- **Skill** card effects vary widely, but most usually just give your character a buff or other beneficial effect and then are discarded. If the skill card has a target number and attribute displayed in the upper-right, follow the instructions list above under **Attack** cards.
- **Starter** cards are those that the player character's class starts with when making a new character. Other than this qualifier, it means nothing else, and is just there as a reminder to players which cards their character started with.
- **Persistent** cards are placed in front of the affected character until they are chosen to be discarded by the player (players cannot choose to discard a negative effecting card unless it is their own), are removed by other actions or are discarded at the end of combat.

# Elements of a Card



This **Bastion** class card is called **Watchful Strike**. If successfully played against an adjacent target (by rolling *equal to or exceeding 11* on a **Grit** roll), it deals damage based on the weapon equipped by the character and also allows the character to **Shift 1** square as part of the action.

This card is worth **1 Energy** if the player decided to use it to boost the effect of another card they just played.

- A Name & Card Type:** Each card has a unique name and card type. All cards are generally considered one of three types: either an **Attack**, a **Power**, or a **Skill**, but some special case ones exist as well and have their own rules.
- B Attribute Target Number:** This is the target number the player must exceed on a 2d12 Attribute roll when playing the card on a target. Some cards do not require a roll (generally beneficial effects or buffs).
- C Attack Type & Range:** The icon represents the type of attack (either *melee* or *ranged*) and the number is the distance in squares of the attack. A range of 1, for example, means a target adjacent to you.
- D Effect:** This text box describes what effect or effects occur when this card is successfully played. These effects vary from dealing damage to healing a target, or it might do something else dramatic, like stunning the target of the effect.
- E Energy Value:** If this card is played for it's Energy value, the number located in the bottom left corner is how much Energy the player gets when using it for this purpose.



## Gameplay Effect Key Words

- **Armor:** Armor cards do not stack. If you play another card with the Armor keyword, you need to decide which one to keep and discard the other.
- **Burn:** Burn functions differently depending on the creature (PC or NPC) it is inflicted upon.
  - Against Player Characters (PC):** Burn cards in your hand at the end of the turn will deal damage immediately and are then **Trashed**. **Protection** reduces the amount of damage taken, with the remainder being dealt to a character's Hit Points. If a player can remove the Burn card from their hand before the end of their turn, it will have no effect on them.
  - Against Non-Player Characters (NPC):** Each Burn effect inflicted on an NPC stacks together. For each stack of Burn on them, they take 2 damage per stack at the end of their turn and the Burn effect is removed.

*For example, if an NPC was inflicted by 3 Burn effects from player actions, the NPC would take 6 points of damage at the end of their turn (2 damage x 3 stacks = 6 damage).*
- **Elemental (Fire, Frost, Lightning, and Water)** card have varying effects depending on how they are used during your turn. Some combinations have powerful results. Below are some combinations, but use your imagination when coming up with others!
  - **Water** → **Lightning: Stun** the affected target
  - **Water** → **Frost: Stagger** the affected target
  - **Fire (Burn)** → **Water or Frost:** Remove any **Burn** effects on the target
- **Energy:** Energy is used to boost card actions in your deck or to add specialized effects them when the card is played. Energy is only used during combat and does not persist from round to round. Additionally, any unused Energy generated during your turn is lost at the end of your turn.
- **Exhaust:** Exhausting a card effectively removes it from the game until the end of combat. If you exhaust a card that was in your deck, return it to your deck at end of combat and reshuffle the deck.
- **Force:** Increases the damage of your next Attack card or Weapon Attack action by 2. Once the attack is resolved, the damage bonus is spent. Force negates the effects of Frailty and vice-versa. Force is removed at the end of your turn if it is not used.
- **Frailty:** Decreases the damage of your next Attack card or Weapon Attack action by 2. Frailty negates the effects of Force and vice-versa. Frailty is removed at the end of your turn (for example, if you can't or don't play an Attack card).
- **Impulsive:** Impulsive Cards are automatically **exhausted** if they are in your hand at the end of your turn (i.e. did not play them as part of your combat action).
- **Innate:** A card with this effect means that it starts in your Hand at the beginning of Combat. This card counts towards your **Hand limit** when drawing your initial set of cards at the beginning of a combat.
- **Keep:** You may keep this card in your **Hand** at the end of your turn. When drawing new cards, you are still limited to your hand size limit, so any cards kept count towards this.
- **Knockdown:** The target is knocked onto the ground and must spend **1 Action** or **1 Energy** to stand up. A knocked down character may not play cards on their turn (unless stated otherwise) and can only move at half their normal movement speed. Once they are standing back up, they are free to take the rest of their turn as normal (play cards, move, or other

actions).

- **Poison:** At the beginning of the turn, a poisoned creature takes damage equal to the Poison amount inflicted on them, then the amount decreases by 1. Poison deals damage directly to Hit Points, ignoring any Armor points the creature may have at the time.
- **Protection:** Reduces the amount of damage taken from enemy creature attacks and Attack cards. Each point of Protection reduces the amount of damage taken by 1. Card effects that grant bonuses to Protection are removed at the end of the combat round, unless otherwise stated (like Persistent cards or obviously, equipment that grants a Protection value).
- **Provoke:** Combat actions by NPCs or Attack cards played by player characters must target the creature that used the Provoke effect on them.
- **Pull:** You may move the target a specified number of squares towards you.
- **Pulse:** This is a type of area-of-effect that affects the specified targets (all creatures, enemies, allies, etc.) within an area that *pulses out* from the casters origin to the maximum range (usually from 1 to 3 squares). Pulses do not provoke attacks of opportunity.
- **Push:** You may move the target a specified number of squares away from you.
- **Recovery Points (RP):** Recovery Points are used during a short rest after combat to heal your character. Your character starts with a Recovery Point value of: **2 + Grit** Attribute value.
- **Reaction:** This card may be kept in your hand and used at any time during another character's action or turn. Some Reactions are only triggered in a specific situation or when a certain action is taken. Resolve the effects of the Reaction before proceeding with the rest of the triggering event or action.
- **Retaliate:** When dealt damage by an enemy attack, the attacker takes an amount of damage in return equal to the numeric value. Retaliate lasts until the start of your character's next turn.
- **Shift:** Allows you to move your character a specified number of squares as part of the card action. Shifting does not provoke attacks of opportunity by enemy combatants.
- **Stagger:** Causes a Player Character to discard a card from their hand at random. Staggering an NPC forces the creature to lose 1 Action on their next turn in combat (since they do not use cards in combat).
- **Stealth:** Stealth prevents enemies from detecting your presence unless they make an Observation check equal to or greater than your Prowl skill roll. Any time you use a card that provides Stealth, make a Prowl roll to indicate the difficulty value necessary to be able to detect you. Stealth is also removed when you play an Attack card in combat (Skills and Powers do not remove stealth).
- **Stun:** Prevents the target from taking a combat action on their turn unless they pay **1 Energy** to remove the status. Since most creatures don't have energy, this prevents them from attacking, but they can still move.
- **Trash:** To Trash a card means to remove it from the game completely. Most status effects, like **Burn** cards and **Wound** cards are trashed when removed or their effect expires.



# SETTING

**Fated Seas** takes place in a dying earth, fantasy world. Earth's surface is now an uninhabitable ruin from centuries of overpopulation, pollution, war and famine. In order to survive, those that live on this planet must do so by embracing a life reliant on, or more like *under*, the ocean. They developed technology to fully enclose themselves in enormous submersible spheres, or *deep cities*, to adapt to this new environment. These deep cities, also called Solitaries, draw power and nourishment from enormous solar generators that act like miniature suns. The residential, social and cultural centers of each city encircle these miniature suns in order to survive off the warmth and light that each one provides. These solar cores must be continually powered by a special fuel called phlogiston to ensure that they are never extinguished.

Many Solitaries in the world are orbited by other lesser submersibles called Flotsam. These vessels leech off the larger Solitary's resources, waste and solar energy. Flotsam are used by outcasts, pirates, hermits, and prisoners and many are considered dangerous, lawless vessels drifting aimlessly through the sea.

While land masses are present on the surface, the majority of the world is covered by vast oceans due to climate change and risen sea levels. An eternal twilight has settled above which has turned the islands and continents into windswept, barren ruins - unable to sustain life in the traditional sense. However, nature always has a way and many powerful and deadly creatures reside in these wastelands, making them difficult and hostile to explore by those living in the solitaries. Those that have done so successfully have returned with knowledge and riches unimaginable - but sometimes at an incredible cost.

Various other species besides humans exist in this fictional Earth setting, however the origins of their uplifting or existence has been lost to time. Suffice to say, each new species introduced to the world in this book have existed for centuries and have played a major part in the development or advances made over time.

While the majority of Earth's population lives within these submersible deep cities, rumor exists of a surface utopia, an enduring land of happiness and sustenance, isolated from the world. A mythological place called the "Dreamlands" and rumored to be the last remnants of an ancient race now only referred to as the Antediluvians, multiple factions arose within the deep cities seeking to discover it's location and claim the secrets within. All have different goals or aspirations: some just want to conquer and plunder it's riches, while others hope to find ancient knowledge to be hidden inside. Some believe the Antediluvians still exist in a utopian society within the Dreamlands and wish to join them. Others believe the Dreamlands exists beyond the corporeal realm and the only way to find it is by shattering dimensional time and space. The truth is that no one really knows what will be found inside or even if it truly exists, but for these groups, finding it would change the lives of everyone forever.

There are seven major Guilds competing to find the location of the Dreamlands. The players will collectively choose one of these guilds to belong to during character creation - each one with it's own benefits, goals and aspirations. As Guild Agents, the player characters will undertake various missions for their patron organization - surveying lost ruins, exploring the surface world and battling with ancient enemies claiming dominion over the surface. However, the ultimate goal is always to discover the location of the Dreamlands, find out how to get inside and claim whatever treasures lie within.

While the overall setting appears to be apocalyptic, it is actually intended to be "post-post apocalypse" - in essence, the world has recovered and moved on into this new state of existence. While aspects of this world could be considered "grimdark", the intention is to be more of an *alternate reality sci-fi* or *weird fantasy* setting, with some areas of the world highly-advanced and progressive societies, some areas inhabited by twisted nightmares and others wild and ripe for exploration. There might also be a dash of Lovecraftian horror sprinkled throughout. The players, of course, are free to take it whichever direction they desire. If they want a horror-centric game, go for it. If they'd rather have a game of high-adventure and exploration, feel free to do so. This all goes into the foundational pillars of the game, which are freedom of expression and accessibility.

## The Players

Each player portrays an agent from a group loyal to one of the Solitaries of the Australis Expanse. The duty of this group is to assist the goals of their patron solitary, undertake various missions with the ultimate goal to find and enter the Dreamlands. All players should be from the same Solitary, or if a player is from a different one, should have good reason why they have changed loyalty to the majority of the other players in the group.

## Touchstones

**From The Depths** is a blend of science-fiction and fantasy with the utmost goals of combining freedom of expression with a fluid and accessible combat system. Players are encouraged to bring new ideas to the game (both mechanically and through the narrative), to their characters and to the world. In order to help them relate to various aspects of the game, here are some examples from popular media that has influenced the development of it.

**BOOKS:** *The First Law* series by Joe Abercrombie, *Perdido Street Station* (and other Bas-lag novels) by China Miéville

**FILM & TELEVISION:** *Dark City* by Alex Proyas, *Snowpiercer* by Bong Joon-ho, *The Expanse* by James S.A. Corey

**GAMES:** *Bioshock* by Irrational Games, The *Dishonored* series by Arkane Studios, *Subnautica* by Unknown Worlds Entertainment, *Horizon: Zero Dawn* by Guerrilla Games

Finally, table-top role-playing games are about collaboration, having a good time and fulfilling a fantasy. If you want to use these rules to do something different, like set it in outer space or in another fantasy setting world that you love, go for it!



# CHAPTER 2: CHARACTER CREATION

Before you begin a life drifting aimlessly through the murky depths of the ocean, you must first create a character to call your own. Your character is a representation of your imagination, roleplaying concepts, and game statistics. You will choose a **class** (such as the brave and indomitable Bastion) and a **species** (such as the arcane and undying elder species, the Thanatae). Once those decisions have been made, you will create an **origin** for your character, inventing their personality, appearance, and backstory.

Once you have a character in mind, follow these steps in order, making decisions that reflect the character you want to play.

- 1. Select a Class
- 2. Select a Species
- 3. Select an Origin
- 4. Finish Starting Deck
- 5. Choose Your Destiny
- 6. Final Touches & Get Ready for Action
- 7. Select Guild Membership (As a Group)

## 1. Select a Class

Your character's class generally indicates their role in a group, what special abilities he or she brings to bear in combat, and the skills or talents he or she is most likely to employ when exploring the world, fighting enemies, or trying to sweet talk their way out of dangerous situations. For more detail on the character classes, please see the **Classes** section (pg. TBD)

Each class begins with a fixed selection of **5 class**-specific cards for their deck, a choice of a **Special Ability** and a choice of **3 skill** rank increases. Mark your selections on the character sheet by filling in the squares of the skills you have chosen.

Finally, choose your starting weapons, armor and other equipment and mark it on your character sheet.

## 2. Select a Species

Each species begins with a **species**-specific card that is added to your **class** deck, a choice of **2 skill** rank increases and a **species**-specific trait feature or ability.

Choose a species that fits the character concept or idea you have floating around in your mind. You can always change your decision later or make up your mind after you've chosen a starting class for your character.

The maximum starting skill rank (filled in boxes) of any character at the beginning of the game is 2. You may not choose the same class or species skill twice, but if one of your species choices is the same, you are permitted to add a class skill proficiency in the same skill as long as you don't go over the maximum starting skill rank of 2.

## 3. Select an Origin

How did your character grow up in the world? Are they from a wealthy noble family, a mercantile trade guild or did they grow up in the mean streets of the star cities? How does your character view the world from their upbringing and background? The origin of your character can influence their viewpoint heavily on the world and gives them interesting contacts and relationships, either friendly or hostile. Feel free to embellish and expand upon your origin or even come up with one of your own.

## 4. Finish Starting Deck

Now that you've made your **class**, **species** and **origin** selections, it's time to finish your starting deck. You are must choose up to 6 cards from your Class's **Advanced Deck** to add to your 5 card starting **class** deck.

When you're done with this step, you should have a starting deck of **12 cards (5 Starting Class Cards + 1 Species card + 6 Advanced Class cards)** which will be used for **Combat**.

## 5. Choose Your Destiny

As stewards of your character's goals and aspirations, you, the player, are responsible for coming up with three destiny goals that you wish for your character to achieve throughout the course of the game. You **do not** need to choose or decide all three goals right now, but coming up with at least one **immediate** goal for your character is vitally important.

See **pages 48-49** for more details on **Destiny and Fate** and to also get potential ideas or examples in regards to your character's goals. Ultimately, you are responsible for your character's actions, how they will achieve their goals and eventually fulfill their destiny.

It is the Game Master's obligation to assist players in reaching their character's goals by weaving their stories within the greater fabric of the experience.

## 6. Final Touches & Get Ready for Action

You now take the starting equipment for your class and **50 shekels**, which can be used to purchase any additional equipment or supplies you would like your character to have. Finally, calculate your character's starting stats, like **Hit Points**, **Attributes (Grit, Intuition & Willpower)**, **Movement Speed**, **Protection** and **Recoveries (RP)** as explained below.

### Set Starting Hit Points

All characters begin the game with **20 Hit Points**. Some characters may start with more depending on other decisions they have made during character creation, but the base for all is 20.

### Calculate Starting Attributes (Grit, Intuition & Willpower)

Your character's starting attribute values are derived from your Class and Species skill selections (five). All skills in the game are linked to a relative attribute: either **Grit**, **Intuition** or **Willpower**. Attributes are used to play cards in combat and to also resist any negative effect or consequence in the game. The skill with highest value (either +2, +3, +4 or +5) in each category (or column) represents your character's **Grit**, **Intuition** or **Willpower** Resistance value respectively.

See page 34 for more information on skills and their relative attributes.

### Calculate Movement Speed



All characters have a base movement speed of 5 squares. This can be increased through some class Special Ability choices, by wearing Light armor or through various other uncommon means.

*For example, Abby is playing a **Metal Thief**. She decides that her character wears Light armor for the **+1 Movement Speed** increase but she also chooses the special ability **Fleet of Foot**, which gives her another **+1 Movement Speed** increase. Her character's starting **Movement Speed** value is 7, which was calculated as so: 5 (base) + 1 (armor) +1 (class special ability).*

**Calculate Protection**

Protection reduces the damage your character takes in combat by a flat amount equal to the amount of **Protection** your character's equipment and special abilities provide, if any. All characters have a starting **Protection** value of 0. Wearing heavy armor (**+1 Protection**), a Bastion's exoskeleton (**+2 Protection**), or wielding a shield (**+1 Protection**) in one hand will give your character a higher starting **Protection** value which are all added together to determine your character's total **Protection** value.

*For example, let's say you chose a **Bastion** for your class (which starts with their custom exoskeleton) and decided to equip him or her with a shield, your character's starting **Protection** would be **3**. This is calculated by adding the two protection values together, so **+2 Protection** from the exoskeleton and **+1 Protection** from the shield.*

**Calculate Recovery Points**

Recovery Points are used by your character to heal Hit Point damage sustained in combat. Each character begins the game with **2 Recovery Points** + their **Grit Resistance** value. **Recovery Points** are spent during resting actions after combat has ended. See pg. TBD for more details.

*For example, Ryan's character has 2 boxes of **Fitness** checked on his character sheet, which means he gets to add +3 to any **Fitness** skill check rolls. Since this is the highest skill in that column, his character has a **Grit Resistance** value of a **+3**. Therefore, his character's total **Recovery Points** are **5**, the base 2 plus the 3 from Grit.*

**7. Select Guild Membership (Group Decision)**

Working as agents for a powerful guild or organization, the player characters are all aligned with a common, unifying goal: discovering the location of a mythical paradise called the Dreamlands. A utopian landscape rumored to house the remnants of the great Antediluvian civilization, finding the Dreamlands and claiming it's secrets would change the lives for everyone forever. However, what the players discover and the outcome of that discovery, could vary dramatically depending on their guild choice.

The purpose in selecting a unifying guild is to give the players and their characters a common long-term objective, even if their day-to-day actions and aspirations differ, in the long run, they're all in this together.

Every guild has a theme and style to it that can change the tone or style of the game you're playing. Feel free to embrace these themes or to change them into something you're more familiar with or would like to fulfill.







CLASSES

Every player character in the world of **Fated Seas** is a daring adventurer with a diverse background, cause, or belief for who they are and what drives them. They live in a mysterious and shattered world rife with danger, intrigue, exploration and lost treasure. It's a land of high adventure, forgotten terrors and enigmatic ancient technology. It is up to each player to figure out how their character fits into this world and create one that allows them to express themselves to the best of their ability and desires.

All characters begin with **20 Hit Points** and have their own special abilities and skills which make them unique and capable for this world of high adventure. Maybe you want to play a brooding bounty hunter or perhaps a metal-armed fortune finder is more to your liking? Maybe you'd rather be a seeker of forgotten knowledge or a hulking metal-machine of mass destruction? In this section, you will be able to choose a character class that fits an idea in your mind or style of play.

There are six character classes to choose from in **Fated Seas** and each one provides its own choices, strengths, and weaknesses on how it fits within the scope of the game. Combined with your species selection from earlier, each class can play very differently depending on how you choose to build your character and the decisions you make.

	<b>ARTIFICER</b>	The Artificer uses powerful technological gadgets to tinker with the mechanical world around them. They are master alchemists, gadgeteers and mechanics.
	<b>BASTION</b>	Bastions wear cool suits of powered armor, talk tough and think they are invincible... and they might be right. They have the capability to dish out and receive massive amounts of damage.
	<b>EXECUTIONER</b>	As the agents of High Justice, Executioners are sent after the most dangerous criminals hiding out in the remote depths of a Solitary. They are highly-effective killers, but can suffer socially from their public reputation.
	<b>METAL THIEF</b>	Metal Thieves are treasure hunters, relic seekers and finders of lost fortunes. They are known for their fancy metallic limbs and the ability to procure almost anything if the price is right.
	<b>THEURGIST</b>	Theurgists study the mysteries of the deep ocean and form a symbiotic relationship with an ancient race of octopuses. This forgotten knowledge gives them insights and powers unheard of - sometimes at great cost.
	<b>WARDEN</b>	A Warden is a penitent jailer charged with preserving and protecting a phylactery imprisoning a dangerous spirit seeking redemption. They use the spirit in ways to help those in need.







## ARTIFICER

With skillful mastery of chemical and mechanical devices, Artificers use powerful and strange gadgets to tinker with the mechanical world around them. Artificers are master craftspeople, able to fashion all types of fancy gadgetry, alchemical devices and other tools of the mechanical trade. Many are driven by a thirst for knowledge and discovery and are brilliant inventors, mechanics or chemists.

### STARTING CARDS

**Agitator (1)**  
**Incendiary Shot (2)**  
**Corrosive Zap (2)**

### STARTING SKILLS (Choose 3)

**Knowledge**  
**Lore**  
**Medical**  
**Piloting**  
**Sciences**  
**Tinker**

## SPECIAL ABILITY (CHOOSE 1)

### Caustic Munitions

When you inflict the **Poison** or **Burn** status from one of your card abilities to a target, you add an additional card or effect of the same type.

### Full Metal Alchemist

You have come in possession of a special artificer suit which can be customized with a variety of options, abilities and adaptations over time. See **Class Features** for more details.

### Mad Bomber

The bombs you craft are highly explosive and you have precise skill when throwing them at your enemies. Add **+2** damage and ignore friendly characters for all area-of-effect attacks.

### Quack Doctor

Your medical skills are unconventional and highly questionable, but they are actually quite effective. You treat your patients with what would generally be considered “quack” medicine. When using the Medical skill, you may **re-roll** any amount of dice once per skill check attempt or can add **+2** to the amount of **Hit Points** restored.

### Right Tool for the Job

You have the uncanny ability to be carrying the correct tool, object or material needed for anything mechanical or electrical (within reason). Whether it's to repair a door or procure a rare crafting component, you just always seem to have one handy and nearby.

## CLASS FEATURES

### Crafting Wiz

When crafting any item, you gain a +2 skill bonus. You begin the game with all of the common blueprints for **Chemicals**, **Potions** and **Gadgets**. (See page 39 for item details).

### Artificer Suit (requires **Full Metal Alchemist** special ability)

You can install modifications into the suit which provides extra benefits to your character. You start with 1 modification at first level and every third level after allows you to add 1 additional modification to the suit. (3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> levels). Modifications:

- **Hermetic Respirator:** Allows the wearer to breathe underwater. Protects the user from noxious gases, odors and other environmental hazards.
- **Chemturiion Seals:** Reduces Poison damage taken by 1 and the Poison amount decreases twice as quickly.
- **Hydraulic Exoskeleton:** Increases **Load Value** by 2 and allows the wearer to lift heavy objects that they normally wouldn't be able to.
- **Pneumatic Tools:** Gain a +2 bonus to Tinker, Medical and Sciences skill check rolls if the task involves using such physical tools of the trade.
- **Tantalus Leather:** The wearer gains a +2 bonus to Prowl skill checks and can remove 1 Burn card from their Hand per turn.

Adding a modification to the suit costs increasing amount of silver coins and material resources. The first modification comes free with the suit, but the costs (both in shekels and materials) for the others are listed below:

Level	Cost	Material Requirements
3 <sup>rd</sup>	300 sk	Cyprian Oil, Ezmeric Dust
6 <sup>th</sup>	750 sk	Black Lead, Dephlogisticated Air, Volatile Alkali
9 <sup>th</sup>	1200 sk	Flowers of Zinc, Lapis Infernalis, Olefiant Air, Powder of Algoth

## STARTING EQUIPMENT

- Two simple weapons [**1 Load for one-handed, 2 Load for two-handed**]
- A simple shield (**+1 Protection**), or no shield (**+1 to Hand size**)
- A simple suit of **Light** armor (**+1 Movement**) or **Heavy** armor (**+1 Protection**). [**1 Load**]
- A simple set of mechanical tools. [**1 Load**]
- Laboratory equipment for potion and bomb-making. [**1 Load**]
- A set of common clothes and a work outfit. [**1 Load**]





## BASTION

Dedicating themselves to a variety of causes, organizations and military orders, Bastions are highly-trained soldiers able to stand toe-to-toe with any foe. Clad in massively-armored exoskeletons, they are trained to use everything, including their own bodies, as a weapon. While some protect the weak and others bring down ruin upon those around them, all Bastions work for the same thing: money and fame (or infamy).

### STARTING CARDS

1 Bulwark  
2 Watchful Strike  
2 Ironclad Shell

### STARTING SKILLS (Choose 3)

Fitness  
Medical  
Persuasion  
Piloting  
Survival  
Tinker

## SPECIAL ABILITY (CHOOSE 1)

### Bodyguard

You may protect one allied character located in a square adjacent to you. Any damage they take in combat is redirected to you as long as you stay adjacent to one another. There is no limit to how often you can use this ability.

### Feat of Strength

Once per game session, you can perform a feat of physical force that borders on the superhuman, such as lifting a train passenger car, or breaking down a bulkhead door.

### Fierce

Once per game session, you display a savage ferocity to either gain a damage bonus in your next combat action or gain a skill bonus to your next intimidating or coercive action. Add +2 damage to all Attacks until the end of combat or gain a +2 skill bonus to a coercive or intimidating skill action.

### Ironclad

Once per Combat, you can double your current **Protection** value until the end of your next turn.

### Primed

Once per turn, when playing a card, you can treat it as having been played with **1 Energy**. You can boost this **Energy** amount by playing other cards.

## CLASS FEATURES

### Power Armor Exoskeleton

Your most prized possession, this suit of armor might be a family heirloom, a gift from a wealthy benefactor or the prim-and-proper uniform of a mercenary soldier. Feel free to develop a history and story of your power armor - where it came from, how you acquired it and what events it has carried you or others through in the past.

This powered suit of armor provides you with the ability to lift and carry heavy loads, it allows you to breathe underwater (if you couldn't already do so) and also regulates temperature and uncomfortably hot or cool environments.

These suits are easy to maintain and are able to be customized based on the needs and desires of the owner.

### Stock Modifications

- **Integrated Cannon** - One arm on the suit is fitted with an integrated projectile cannon that can fire specialized shells (such as the **Ironclad Shell** card).
- **Water Breathing Apparatus** - allows the wearer to breathe underwater indefinitely (draws oxygen from water).
- **Temperature Control** - Regulates extreme temperatures (cold and heat), keeping the occupant nice and cozy.
- **Headlamp** - Acts as a directional light source for the user. Does not radiate like a lantern.

### Modification Customization

For those with coin to spend, your power armor can be customized with a variety of decorative, utility or combat-oriented modifications. Some modifications are costly or require rare materials that need to be found before they can be installed.

### Advanced Modifications (300 shekels each)

- **Nutrient Synthesis** - Filters the environment for organic particles which are then converted into a food paste. It tastes awful, but gets the job done.
- **Darklight Visor** - Provides vision in low or no light environments.
- **Posterior Storage Compartments** - Increases your Load capacity by 2.
- **Spiky Bits** - Pointed spikes adorn the armor, which adds a menacing look.
- **Magnetic Stabilizers** - Allows you to walk on metallic objects by magnetically attaching to the surface. Is not as effective on the surface due to gravitational elements.

## STARTING EQUIPMENT

- Two simple weapons [1 Load for one-handed, 2 Load for two-handed]
- A simple shield (+1 Protection), or no shield (+1 to Hand size)
- Exoskeleton chassis (provides 2 Protection) [2 Load]
- Simple mechanical tools for tuning up & fixing armor. [1 Load]
- A set of common clothes and a set of fancy clothes. [1 Load]
- A worn metal container of your favorite beverage. [0 Load]





## EXECUTIONER

Executioners officially inflict capital punishment, also known as high justice, as ordered by the legal authority of the star cities. While Wardens are used to track and capture criminals, it is the executioners duty to execute the sentence. Executioners do not kill indiscriminately - but their work takes them to dangerous places, which in turn has made them fearsome warriors. Executioners are seen as a "damned" people and suffer social isolation, but they are paid well and are usually well-off financially.

STARTING CARDS	1 Premeditation 2 Initiating Strike 2 Hunter's Stride
	Fitness Knowledge Medical Observation Piloting Survival
STARTING SKILLS (Choose 3)	

### SPECIAL ABILITY (CHOOSE 1)

#### Battle Ready

At the start of combat, immediately gain **2 Energy**. This energy can be used to boost card plays during your turn, but are lost if not used by the end of your turn.

#### Defiance of Death

Gain **+1 Grit** and **+1 Willpower**. Once per combat, you may shrug off a blow that would put you into a **Downed** state and regain half of your maximum **Hit Points**.

#### Martial Prowess

You are considered a master-of-arms and an expert combatant. You do not need to spend an **action** in combat to play a **Stance** card and may switch freely between them once per turn.

#### Renowned

You have a stellar reputation and are known to be one of the best of your trade. You gain a +2 skill bonus to any appropriate skill when it pertains to the finding and apprehension of your target. Additionally, once the warrant has been executed on the target, you are paid double the amount in monetary compensation when completed. Finally, you begin each combat with an additional card in your hand due to your significant experience and renown.

#### Vigorous

Recover **5 Hit Points** at the end of your combat turn.

## CLASS FEATURES

### Stances

You are proficient in a variety of martial art forms, weapon skills and advanced combat techniques that allow you to rapidly adapt to any combat situation. You have access to Stance cards which grant you special abilities which can be used during your turn. These cards are kept separate from your main deck and can be used any time during your turn by using one of your **Actions** in combat, or can be played for free, if you chose the **Martial Prowess Special Class Ability**.

### League of High Justice

As an officially recognized member of the League of High Justice, you have the ability to acquire bounties for wanted criminals offered by various government agencies, mercantile or military organizations and noble families. Vigilante justice is typically frowned upon in the civilized world, but your membership gives you certain liberties and privileges while searching for dangerous and wanted criminals. You can use this to your advantage while on official business - such as procuring food and lodging from others or by interrogating known associates of the criminal (again, normally discouraged in a civilized society).

### STARTING EQUIPMENT

- Two simple weapons [**1 Load for one-handed, 2 Load for two-handed**]
- A simple shield (**+1 Protection**), or no shield (**+1 to Hand size**)
- A simple suit of **Light** armor (**+1 Movement**) or **Heavy** armor (**1 Protection**). [**1 Load**]
- A barbed net for ensnaring dangerous foes. [**1 Load**]
- A set of common clothes. [**1 Load**]
- A warrant for a dangerous outlaw or criminal. [**0 Load**]
- A **League of High Justice** document, badge or other type of identification. [**0 Load**]





## METAL THIEF

Known for their striking metal limbs (usually either their left or right arm depending on preference), this organization of mercenaries-for-hire are renowned for their ability to track down and find any person or recover any object... if the price is right. Metal Thieves have access to baroque technological abilities and skills bordering on magic (called nethertech by those that use it) - much of it centered around the usage of their metal limb.

STARTING CARDS	Backstab (1) Flanking Strike (2) Eclipsing Throw (2)
	Fitness Deception Observation Persuasion Prowl Tinker
STARTING SKILLS (Choose 3)	

### SPECIAL ABILITY (CHOOSE 1)

#### Bigger on the Inside

The **dimensional storage** of your nethertech limb is larger than normal, which increases your **Load Maximum** by 2. The starting **Load** capacity value for most characters is 10.

#### Fleet of Foot

Your base movement speed is increased by 1. The base movement speed for most characters is 5.

#### Infiltrator

Before combat begins, you may take a free **Move** action and be affected by the **Stealth** keyword. Make a **Prowl** skill roll to indicate how difficult it is for enemies to spot you with **Observation**.

#### Nethersense

You can precisely sense creatures through walls, floors and ceilings (less than 20 squares) or you can get a general sense of living creatures located at distance, within line-of-sight and no farther than a mile away.

#### Uncanny Dodge

Gain a **+2** bonus to **Intuition** when making a **Resistance** roll. Additionally, once per combat encounter, you may dodge an attack and take no damage.

## CLASS FEATURES

### Nethertech Limb

Nethertechnology is the fusion of arcane ability and metallurgical principles forged in the pressurized depths of the ocean. Once a limb has been fashioned, it melds into the flesh and bone of current one, turning it into something of staggering articulation, power and versatility.

When creating your character, choose a limb to replace with its nethertech variation. Your choice of arm or leg will determine what sort of benefits or abilities you gain with it. In either case, the nethertech limb always provides a few standard benefits to your character, as indicated below.

#### Dimensional Storage (3 Load maximum)

You can store a variety of items inside the limb as long as the combined Load value of the items is not more than 3. These items are not physically stored in the limb, but in a pocket plane of existence. They can be summoned in an instant, appearing straight into your hands.

#### Nigh Indestructible

Your limb is virtually indestructible which allows you to use it for certain creative purposes or situations, like holding a heavy door open or grabbing an important item which has fallen in an acid bath.

#### Grappling Hook (Arm Only)

You can use your nethertech arm as a grappling hook, attaching it to various surfaces, which allows you to ascend or descend quickly. The arm is attached to your body through an ectoplasmic strand of energy, which provides the force and lift required to climb up or down quickly.

#### Enhanced Mobility (Leg Only)

Your leg allows you to move expediently and efficient across all surfaces. You can essentially run along the sides of walls or leap incredible distances using the power of this limb. You can also make an incredibly powerful kick with the leg, which could be used for bashing open doors or other purposes.

### STARTING EQUIPMENT

- Two simple weapons [1 Load for one-handed, 2 Load for two-handed]
- A simple shield (+1 Protection), or no shield (+1 to Hand size)
- Nethertech limb (arm or leg) [0 Load]
- A simple suit of **Light** armor (+1 Movement) or **Heavy** armor (+1 Protection). [1 Load]
- Darklight Mask or Goggles - allows the wearer to see in no or low-light environments. [1 Load]
- A shadowy, hooded cloak [1 Load]
- Climbing gear [1 Load]





# THEURGIST

Theurgists are dedicated to the study and understanding of the abyssal depths of the ocean. At a certain point in their career, these studious individuals meld minds with their explorer companions - a species of intelligent octopuses that can survive the deepest, darkest reaches of the ocean.

STARTING CARDS	Befuddle (1) Flash Bolt (2) Energizing Zap (2)
	Knowledge Lore Medical Observation Persuasion Sciences
STARTING SKILLS (Choose 3)	

## SPECIAL ABILITY (CHOOSE 1)

### Echoing Incantation

Once during a combat encounter, you may choose two creatures anywhere on the battlefield (you must have line-of-sight to both of them) and deal the same damage to both of them from all Attack cards played this turn.

### Quantum Mechanic

Time moves slower for you, allowing you to take more actions during combat. You begin each turn with **4 Actions** instead of **3** in a combat.

### Release the Kraken

Your octopus companion will fight in battle with you (see **Class Features** for the creature's statistics). You share a **Hit Point** pool with your octopus - any time either of you takes damage, you split that damage in half between both creatures. Once per combat encounter, you can switch locations with your octopus companion (within 10 squares).

### Unfathomable Truth

You know the truth about a subject that would drive a normal person mad. You can use this knowledge in a variety of ways, but one of the most common, if not questionable uses, is to project this truth into the minds of others through the telepathic will of your octopus companion. This truth can have a multitude of effects on the target (fear, anger, sadness), and you can try to influence it by making a **Willpower** resistance roll against a difficulty value (DV) indicated by the GM.

## Waterborne

The bond with your octopus companion has granted you the ability to swim proficiently (with a movement speed equal to your land speed) and to breath underwater indefinitely.

## CLASS FEATURES

### Octopus Companion

Your octopus companion is a unique individual with its own personality, desires and perspectives. You can telepathically communicate with him or her as long as you are within line-of-sight of each other and not at too great of a distance. They can levitate while out of water and breath oxygen through their skin which allows them to stay out of water for days (or weeks with a saltwater dip every now and then). This octopus species can no longer expel ink as a defense mechanism, but their formidable intelligence and tool use offsets such deficiencies.

Unless you took the **Release the Kraken** special ability, the combat statistics for your octopus companion are not important.

As you increase in levels, the statistics for your octopus companion also increase in a tiered system.

### Kraken Companion Statistics (Tier I/II/III)

**SIZE:** Small (1 square)

**HIT POINTS:** 10/15/30

**INITIATIVE:** As Theurgist's Value

**MOVEMENT SPEED:** 4/4/5 squares

**ACTIONS:** 2

**SPECIAL DEFENSE:** **Camouflage** (the octopus is always considered to have **Stealth** with a **Prowl** score of 14)

### AT-WILL ACTION

- **Venomous Tendrils:** Target one adjacent creature. **Push** or **Pull** them 1 square and inflict **3/4/5 Poison** on them.

### ENCOUNTER ACTION

- **Luminous Barrage:** Target **one/two/three** creature(s) within 5 squares and **Stagger** them.

TIER	THEURGIST LEVEL
I	1-4
II	5-7
III	8-10

## STARTING EQUIPMENT

- Two simple weapons [**1 Load for one-handed, 2 Load for two-handed**]
- A simple shield (**+1 Protection**), or no shield (**+1 to Hand size**)
- A thick-bound tome. [**1 Load**]
- A simple suit of **Light** armor (**+1 Movement**) or **Heavy** armor (**1 Protection**). [**1 Load**]
- Tool chest of various measuring devices, sample collection tools, and waterproof materials. [**1 Load**]
- A robe or set of common clothes. [**1 Load**]





# WARDEN

The sworn duty of a Warden is to safeguard a powerful relic which imprisons a spirit seeking redemption. Rumored to originate from a binary city in the southern oceans, Wardens are assigned a phylactery for guardianship and sent off into the world to help the spirit reach redemption. Many that join are former criminals themselves, but others may have fallen on hard times and join as an act of desperation. Some join the order because they just believe it is a noble cause worth pursuing.

STARTING CARDS	Shivers (1) Wraith Strike (2) Horrrify (2)
	Deception Lore Persuasion Prowl Sciences Survival
STARTING SKILLS (Choose 3)	

## SPECIAL ABILITY (CHOOSE 1)

### Harvester of Souls

The spirit of your phylactery must collect the essence of defeated enemies, which allows you to gain various bonuses in combat. When a creature is slain in combat, place an essence token in their square or an adjacent one. If you start, end or move thru a square with an essence token in it, collect the token. You may spend any amount of essence tokens during your turn to recover **5 Hit Points**, gain **1 Action**, or to **Shift 5** squares.

### Sharpshooter

Your ranged attack cards have their **range** and **damage** increased by 1.

### Spectral Zeal

Begin each combat with an additional **2 Actions**. (You would start with 5 instead of 3 on the first round of combat).

### Witch Sight

Once per combat encounter, you may ignore **cover**, **line-of-sight**, or **Stealth** when playing cards on your turn.

### Wraithtongue

Once per game session, you may summon the spirit of the recently departed to speak with them. This ability has a cost - either physically, spiritually or some other as determined by the GM or player at the time. No one else sees the spirit and only you may freely converse with it.

# CLASS FEATURES

## Spirit Bearer

The phylactery that you carry bears the spirit of a notorious criminal, ghost or demon intent upon atoning for their misdeeds, seeking vengeance against someone that wronged them or protecting others from terrifying creatures dwelling in the darkness. What they were in their past life is up to you - but it is your duty to assist this spirit in fulfilling its duty.

Choose the type of spirit that resides in your phylactery. This decision represents the goals and ideals the spirit seeks to serve and will influence how your character might interact with others in the world.

**Avenging Spirit:** This spirit seeks only to punish those who have committed a grievous sin. Perhaps they seek to find the creature responsible for killing them when they were alive. Along the way, they are compelled to help others achieve vengeance against those that have wronged them.

**Nightwatch Spirit:** These spirits seek to protect the living from the malevolent creatures lurking just out of sight in the spirit realm. Ever vigilant in spotting the influence of demons, ghosts and other malignant creatures, these spirits are driven to expose and eradicate them all.

**Spirit of Redemption:** This spirit seek atonement for their previous actions in life by aiding others in need. They might wish to help someone recover stolen property or hunt down a demon prowling the city streets or perhaps they wish to help rescue a loved one from a gang of thugs. Whatever the case, these spirits dedicate themselves to serving society and the less fortunate.

You can communicate with the spirit telepathically as long as the phylactery is within your reach. As part of the bargain you have made with the spirit, it can be called upon to provide miracles or other feats of arcane power to assist someone in need.

You can use the spirit to see echoes of recent events or sense things that are hidden nearby. You can ask the spirit to move small items nearby for you. You can use the spirit to “hear” a subject’s thoughts and feelings. None of these actions should be used frivolously and unless the request directly benefits someone in need, the spirit can ask a favor of the warden in return.

## STARTING EQUIPMENT

- Two simple weapons [1 Load for one-handed, 2 Load for two-handed]
- A simple shield (+1 Protection), or no shield (+1 to Hand size)
- The phylactery, gem or other type of ritual item housing the spirit of a criminal, demon or ghost. [1 Load]
- A simple suit of **Light** armor (+1 Movement) or **Heavy** armor (1 Protection). [1 Load]
- A set of common or fancy clothes. [1 Load]



# SPECIES



## Argos

Defiant of all authority, bold and untamed, Argos recall the fierce nature that is dormant in most people. Treacherous and tender, they thirst after the good things in life -- adventure, love and the pursuit of happiness. Their inherent stubbornness gives them a natural resistance to poison and other noxious effects.

**Appearance:** The term Argos represents a wide and diverse range of humanoid, animal-like species. Some look more canine in appearance and others more feline. They range in appearance from fearsome, feral or monstrous to affable, regal or charming. It's generally up to the player to determine exactly which animal species they wish their character to be most similar to, their character's demeanor, attitude and appearance. Be creative!

**Social Structures:** Argos are typically born and raised in large, tight-knit families and communities. They are social creatures, although fiercely independent. This tends to make them ornery or rowdy in speech and action

- but for the most part, they act this way just to have a bit of fun. An Argos that doesn't like someone will make it loud and clear.

**Names:** Antis, Anubishan, Carlisle, Demetrius, Floyd, Finn, Kantor, Lourd, Iskander, Nicodemus, Stanley, Weisser, Zucapio

**Family Names:** Abys, Aquitaine, Bobtail, Calhoun, Chislehurst, Devonreux, Marquesan, Nebelung, Oglethorne, Ragamuffin, Rastreador, Tweedwater

## Special Ability

**Tenacious:** Reduce poison damage twice as quickly as other characters. Gain a +2 bonus to **Grit** resistance rolls against poison, venom and other noxious sources.

## Starting Skills

Choose 2 Skills: **Fitness, Medical, Piloting** or **Prowl**  
*For each skill chosen, fill in the box, or mark it with an 'x' or check mark.*

## Add Species Card

Add a **Bravado** species card to your Class Deck.

# Carabus

Carabus are a race of humanoid bipeds with an insect-like head and shoulders (spider, beetle or dragonfly are most common). Curious and inquisitive, these species are known for their adaptability, enabling them to tread further and farther than any other species. Many are filled with a sense of wanderlust and combined with their natural abilities, they make excellent explorers, physicians and spies.

**Appearance:** Carabus are generally broken down into three different sub-species, with varying levels of difference in their cultural and societal beliefs and structures. To outsiders, these differences are hard to discern, aside from the physical characteristics of the Carabus, which are wildly distinctive and unique. Some carabus decorate their body with piercings and body paints to reflect their personality or identity within their colonies. Others take a more modest or stoic approach in their appearance - believing in the whole more than the individual.

**Social Structures:** Carabus are a eusocial society, which means males and females alike take responsibility for at least one duty in their societies. This means having cooperative brood care (including brood care of offspring from other individuals and a division of labor into reproductive and non-reproductive groups. This division of labor creates specialized behavioral groups within the society which are then broken down into castes.

**Names:** Aeshni, Akhenaten, Chepri, Hesperus, Hypatia, Mazon, Montaña, Surya, Tollan, Talloc

**Family Names:** Bakusui, Longhorn, Optera, Perdita, Solnhofen, Silverwork, Tennyson

## Special Abilities

- Amphibious:** You can breathe underwater and on land.
- Pathfinder:** You always know which direction is north and the number of hours left before the next sunrise or sunset. You can accurately recall anything you have seen or heard within the past month. Once each game session, you may re-roll any skill checks involving **Piloting, Observation** or **Survival**.

## Starting Skills

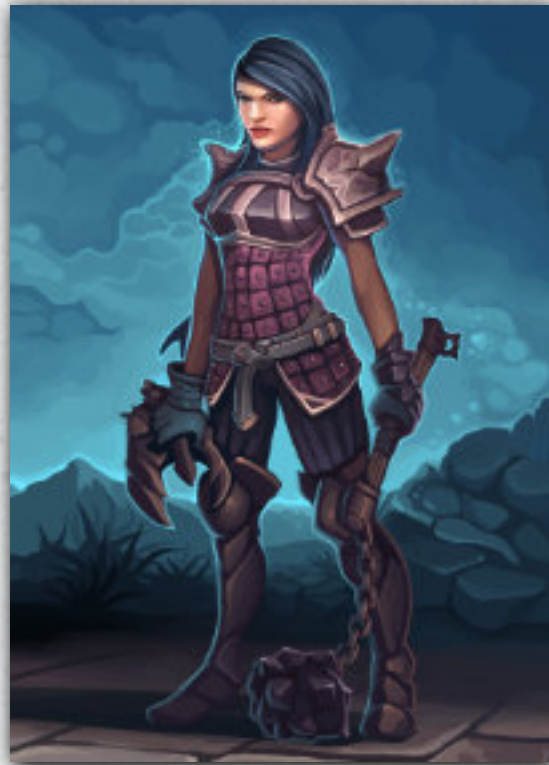
Choose 2 Skills: **Observation, Piloting, Prowl** or **Survival**  
*For each skill chosen, fill in the box, or mark it with an 'x' or check mark.*

## Add Species Card

Add an **Acid Lob** species card to your Class Deck.







## Human

Humans are the most ambitious species found throughout the depths of the ocean. They have widely varying tastes, morals, and customs in the places they dwell. Humans are known to be adaptable opportunists, and they stay alert to changing political and social dynamics in order to capitalize on any opportunities that may present itself.

**Appearance:** Humans, like in real life, are a physically diverse species. Skin color, hair, height, weight all vary considerably among them. In general, any culture present in the modern day is encouraged to be used as a basis for the look, attitude, and outlook of your character.

**Social Structures:** Humans do not have an overarching society that applies to all of them, as their upbringing, culture, and political connections or religious beliefs tend to have more of an impact on their lives as a whole. Some may fluidly exist within various societies or groups, never feeling at home in any of them and some may dedicate their lives solely to one cause, belief or doctrine.

**Names:** Angelica, Atticus, Chadwick, Eli, Flint, Garm, Hazel, Hippolyta, Isolde, Josephina, Lemuel, Lilikai, Máedóc, Montrose, Ronan, Ta-Nehisi, Ulysses

**Family Names:** Alcorn, Baumberger, Cromwell, Denali, Dulwich, Gladstone, Latimer, Mehta, Pimentel, Stephenson, Witherell, Ximénez

## Special Ability

**Opportunist:** Once per encounter (combat or social situation), a human character may choose to add a +2 bonus to any skill check or combat result. You can do this before or after the dice roll.

## Starting Skills

Choose 2 Skills: **Fitness**, **Deception**, **Knowledge** or **Persuasion**

*For each skill chosen, fill in the box, or mark it with an 'x' or check mark.*

## Add Species Card

Add a **Cunning** species card to your Class Deck.





## Remade

The remade are free-willed automatons given life from an unknown energy source, and has infused them with sentience. They are a hive-mind and can freely communicate with one another through this connection. Sustained through thermoelectric energy, these automatons 'remake' themselves in order to fulfill specific duties and purposes according to the needs of the Solitary.

**Appearance:** Remade are extremely diverse looking from one another and can easily modify their torso, limbs or even head if they so desire. They can use this freedom to literally make themselves fit into society more easily depending on their occupation. Some remade might be a hodgepodge of mismatched metallic components and proud of their unique look much like a modern day punk-rocker might be proud of their two-foot mohawk. Some might rigidly cultivate an appearance of perfect symmetry. It all really depends on the Collective they are part of and how much of an importance on their life it has.

**Social Structures:** All Remade belong to a Collective, short for Collective Intelligence, which is a shared intelligence that emerges from the collaborative efforts of many individuals and is used in consensus decision making. Remade Collectives all exist "in their heads", for lack of a better term and generally speaking, they do not have a physical location where they meet, since all Remade of a Collective can communicate with each other immediately and at will.

**Names:** Not all Remade have a name. Some prefer a number or nomenclature instead and others use an alias or nickname based around their occupation or interests. Some examples: 4U70M471C, BitsNBobs (*could be a merchant*), Chinwag (*speaks too much*), KnowsYerOnions (*a scholar*), PopYourClogs (*perhaps a killer-for-hire*), Spanner (*perhaps a mechanic*), V0LT (*most likely an hydroelectrician*).

**Family Names:** As they do not have a biological family name, most Remade either use the name of their Collective or no surname at all.

## Special Abilities

**Metallic Body:** You cannot be healed in a traditional sense (use **Tinker** instead of the **Medical** skill), but you do not need to eat or drink to survive. Since you are not alive, you can enter a state of low-powered torpor, which grants you a +1 bonus to **Prowl** if you are in a dark or obscured area.

**Hive Mind Communication:** You can communicate to other Remade using a form of telepathy. Each collective has their own dialect, but this usually does not limit the ability to communicate to one another.

## Starting Skills

Choose 2 Skills: **Knowledge**, **Medical**, **Sciences** or **Tinker**

For each skill chosen, fill in the box, or mark it with an 'x' or check mark.

## Add Species Card

Add a **Transmutation** species card to your Class Deck.







## Sirin

Sirin are flightless, bipedal avian creatures known for their intellect, engineering and tinkering abilities. An orderly and spiritual species, all sirin have an unmatched force of will which allows them to “read” the emotions and thoughts of an individual just by watching their body language. This gives them huge advantages to negotiation, persuasion and other such social skills.

**Appearance:** As primarily an avian species, most Sirin have the features of crows, eagles, vultures and even an occasional owl. Feel free to choose an avian you’re most fond of when coming up with the look, mannerisms and attitude of your character. Sirin are generally feathered, bipedal creatures with three-fingers and an opposable thumb. Most have talons instead of feet and toes. Many have wings - but most are vestigial and are not capable of flight.

**Social Structures:** Sirin culture revolves around the veneration of the dead, including one’s ancestors. Sirin believe that their ancestors have a continued existence, and may possess the ability to influence the fortune of the living. Some groups venerate their direct, familial ancestors while others venerate saints as intercessors to the gods. The goal of ancestor worship is to ensure their continued well-being and positive disposition towards the living, and to sometimes ask for favors or special assistance.

**Names:** Astarte, Corvus, Flayr, Hayatum, Poe, Sama’tat, Toci, Vanya

**Family Names:** A Sirin’s surname is almost more important than their first name as it represents the history, achievements and legacy of their family.

## Special Ability

**Haruspex:** You have extraordinary instincts that guide your feelings pertaining to situations in the very near future. Your character starts with 3 fate points (instead of 1) which can be used in the following ways (in addition to the normal uses of Fate Points):

- Whenever you make a skill check or a resistance roll, you can spend one fate point to roll an additional d12. You can choose to spend one of your fate points after you roll the dice, but before the outcome is determined. You choose which of the d12 dice is used for the skill check or resistance roll.
- You may also spend one fate point when drawing a card from your deck. If you don’t like that card, you may bury it at the bottom of the deck and draw a new card.

## Starting Skills

Choose 2 Skills: **Deception, Lore, Persuasion** or **Tinker**

*For each skill chosen, fill in the box, or mark it with an ‘x’ or check mark.*

## Add Species Card

Add a **Keening** species card to your Class Deck.



## Thanatae



After a magical calamity of their own creation was unleashed upon them, thanatae became an elder species of magically transformed, energy-infused skeletal beings. Thanatae do not need to eat, drink or breathe, but instead must draw nourishment from solar energy, like the sunlight from a solar core found in all the solitaires drifting through the ocean. Due to their calamitous history, all thanatae have some sorcerous ability and a great understanding of all things magical in the world.

**Appearance:** All bones and spiritual energy, a thanatae radiates an intense aura of arcane energy. Some have taken to decorating their bones in interesting fashion - through inscription, piercings or other adornments. All thanatae have glowing eyes, which change in color depending on the mood or attitude of the individual. Since they lack vocal chords, thanatae speech radiates outward from their body almost metallicly, as if they are trapped in an iron jar. Their eyes sometimes flash while “speaking” - generally when they are excited about something.

**Social Structures:** Since the destruction of their own ancient surface civilization, most thanatae are wanderers and lead a solitary existence. While some have formed new organizations within the Star Cities, many choose to remain by themselves. Thanatae are a dying species as they cannot reproduce and while they are essentially immortal in the aspect of age, some do eventually die through misfortune or acts of incredible destruction.

**Names:** Anviticus, Chrysanthé, Democritus, Eshtar, Inanya, Kelestor, Malistice, Tiamat, Vorax

**Family Names:** Many do not remember their surname or choose not to use it as anymore as it is considered meaningless by most of their species since they no longer have a culture, society or family to speak of. Many Thanatae come up with an interesting title for themselves to either increase their reputation or to stand apart from others like them.

## Special Ability

**Solar Powered:** You do not need to eat, drink or breathe oxygen to survive, but must draw nourishment from solar energy. You need to absorb at least 4 hours of solar energy per day or begins to suffer the effects of starvation.

## Choose Starting Skills

Choose 2 Skills: **Knowledge, Lore, Observation** or **Sciences**

*For each skill chosen, fill in the box, or mark it with an 'x' or check mark.*

## Add Species Card

Add a **Skullfire** species card to your Class Deck.





# SKILLS & ATTRIBUTES

All characters are created with a variety of natural abilities, technical aptitudes, and general or specialized knowledge. These skills help define your character’s profession, background or general interests in the world.

All skills start at 0, Unskilled, and can be increased by up to four (4) ranks, to Master rank. The first rank of a skill adds a +2 bonus to any skill checks rolls and from there it increases by 1 for each rank thereafter (so +3, +4 and +5 at four ranks).

Players are free to choose any which skill they wish to use to overcome an obstacle by describing what their character does. Skills that are poorly suited to the situation may be less effective, more difficult to succeed with or may put the character into a more dangerous situation, but they can still be attempted.

## Attributes & Resistances

All skills in the game are linked to a relative attribute, either **Grit**, **Intuition** or **Willpower**. Attributes are used to resist any negative effect or consequence in the game - when you don’t like the effect or outcome of a situation, you can make a **Resistance** roll to negate or reduce the effect. The skills and their linking attributes is illustrated below:

Grit	Intuition	Willpower
Fitness	Medical	Deception
Lore	Piloting	Knowledge
Prowl	Tinker	Persuasion
Survival	Observation	Sciences

## Skill Checks

A skill check is sometimes required to test your character’s innate ability, training or knowledge in order to overcome a challenge. The Game Master will ask for a skill check when your character desires to take an action that has a chance of failure.

In order to make a skill check, roll 2d12 and add the relevant skill rank modifier. Apply any bonuses and penalties as indicated by the situation or your GM, and compare the total to the **Difficulty Value**. If the total equals or exceeds the **DV**, the skill check is considered a success. Otherwise, the skill check is considered a failure, which means your character makes no progress toward the objective or makes some progress with conditions as determined by the GM.

### Difficulty Values (DV):

For every skill check, the GM decides the difficulty of the task, represented by a **Difficulty Value (DV)**. The more difficult a task, the higher its **Difficulty Value**.

The chart on the right shows some sample difficulties and their numeric target values. The GM is free to adjust these numbers up or down based on the perceived difficulty or situational advantage (or disadvantage) the player characters might have.

Task Difficulty	DV
Trivial	5
Easy	7
Medium	11
Hard	16
Complicated	21
Herculean	28

## Skill Descriptions

**Fitness:** Fitness represents your character’s ability to run, climb, jump or swim in challenging or protracted situations. It is also used for acrobatic stunts or to ensure stability and balance while in a precarious situation.

**Deception:** Deception is the skill used for lying or otherwise manipulating people through dishonest actions or words. It also determines if you can convincingly hide the truth, either verbally or through your actions.

**Knowledge:** This skill is a broad representation of a character’s general ability to recall historical facts, geographical points of interest, family histories, and other forms of facts and trivia about the mundane world. This skill may give a superficial understanding of other skills like mechanics, lore and science, however it does not allow the player to use this skill in place of them.

**Lore:** This skill measures your ability to recall information about magical traditions, strange artifacts, eldritch symbols, and fantastical creatures that dwell in this world and between others. Additionally, this skill covers myths and shared stories that are commonly accepted by the general populace, but can’t be proven with science. Lost continents, horrific monsters, and a host of other interesting ideas are covered by Lore.

**Medical:** This skill represents the training and capability to treat life-threatening injuries inflicted upon biological lifeforms as well as heal cuts and bruises. This skill is cannot be used on a Remade character (see **Tinker**). This skill allows a character to take the following actions or provides other benefits:

- You may treat an injured or **Wounded** character. By taking an action and using the proper tools, you can restore up to 6 hit points or can remove 1 Wound card from the character’s deck. This can be done once per resting opportunity. (See **Resting** in the Combat rules).
- Stabilize a character that has fallen in battle. With a successful roll against **DV 10**, the character is healed for 10 + Recovery Point amount and can stand up and rejoin the battle on their next turn.
- The ability to treat a poison falls under the Medicine skill as well. By taking an action, you may reduce the amount of poison damage inflicted on another player (or yourself) by 3.

**Observation:** The Observation skill allows you spot, hear, or otherwise detect the presence of something hidden or concealed. It represents a general awareness of the surroundings, how keen your senses are or represents a general intuitive sense of things being out of the ordinary. You can also focus your observation skills to scrutinize details or interpret evidence or objects



of interest.

**Persuasion:** Persuasion represents the art of gently commanding or swaying people to provide help or assistance without using hard lies. Persuasion is used to determine the proper etiquette for a situation or to make cordial requests when acting in good faith.

**Piloting:** Piloting represents the character's aptitude in operating and performing maneuvers for a variety of submersible vehicles. It also represents their ability to command larger vessels (like steering the course of a propelled flotsam vessel) which are not directly controlled by one operator but requires the coordination of a large group of pilots and engineers. It allows the character to read charts and maps and to effectively plot a course for any vehicle they are aboard. With a successful skill check, the character can determine which way is north and if they are on a moving vessel, can determine their heading and speed in a rough sense. Finally this skill also covers familiarity with the ocean's trading routes and the types of craft and commerce most common along those routes.

**Prowl:** This skill represents the character's ability to hide and move silently while in the presence of an enemy or creature they do not wish to be detected by. This skill also allows the character to conceal themselves or others with the proper time and resources (properly camouflaging a tent, for example). This is typically a contest between the character's Prowl skill roll against the opposing creature's Perception. Environmental effects can modify the result of either skill depending on the situation, time of day, light source, concealing elements or other reasons based on player or GM reasoning.

**Sciences:** This specialized skill represents a character's knowledge of practical scientific concepts, operations, theories and experiments related to biology, chemistry and physics. It allows a character to analyze chemical and biological components, perform a variety of experiments, utilize alchemy for various purposes and research advanced scientific principles and theories.

**Survival:** The Survival skill represents the techniques that a person may use in order to sustain life in any type of natural or built environment. These techniques are meant to provide basic necessities for life which include food, water, and shelter. This skill enables the tracking of animals and supports proper knowledge and interactions with animals and plants to promote the sustaining of life over a period of time. Finally, the mind and its processes are critical to survival and this skill passively represents the character's will to live in a life-and-death situation.

**Tinker:** The skill is used to construct, modify, or repair mechanical objects like machinery, automatons, or submersible vehicles. It can also be used for nefarious purposes - to weaken or sabotage a mechanical device in order to cause a malfunction or outright failure. Tinkering also represents a character's understanding of the complex power sources (steam, solar, hydro) and mechanical systems that are integrated all throughout civilization. Finally, the Tinker skill is used to repair damage or injuries made to Remade characters. See the Medical skill for details and actions, applying the same rules and effects but just using this skill instead for the rolls.

# ORIGIN

Origins represent a character's history, background, experience or profession. It is intentionally broad in description to allow for players to flesh out the details in regard to the type of character they wish to play in the game.

At a baseline, all **Origins** give player characters the ability to recognize important people, organizations, signs and symbols of the society in which they grew up in. Many also give them additional knowledge skills, abilities or a contact as indicated below. When creating your character, choose **one** of these **Features**.

Finally, when choosing an origin, choose a detail about it that fits the description of your character. For example, if you chose an Academic origin, you might write *Researcher, College of Mathemagics* or if you chose a Military background, you might write *Tristanian Royal Marine*.

## Academic

You spent your time growing up in the academic world as an alchemist, professor, researcher, apprentice, other science-oriented vocation. You listened to the greatest experts on the subjects that interest you, spent hours poring over manuscripts and tomes absorbing their knowledge or displayed an uncanny aptitude for a certain subject of interest.

### Feature: Focused Education

Selecting this feature allows you to choose one skill from the following, either **Lore**, **Medical** or **Sciences** and increase it by 1 rank. This increase can allow you to start with the skill higher than the normal skill rank limit of 2 (to a maximum of 3).

### Feature: Skilled Researcher

When you attempt to **gather information** about a subject related to the world of academia, you know where to find it, who to talk to regarding it or how to determine the best course of action in obtaining the information. This information usually comes from a library, museum, university, or a sage or other learned person or creature, but some information might be hidden away in ancient ruins or lost to history.

## Law

You were born into a family of law bringers (Executioner parentage) or trained in a vocation to serve law and order. You might have been a judge, bailiff, sheriff, prosecutor or any other specialized profession in law.

### Feature: Know People

You have a close contact in law enforcement that can aid you in various ways. They can help you with finding information, give you inside information or leads in regards to an investigation, perhaps even cover for any questionable actions you might take in your adventuring life.

Knowing people also means that you are good with reading their subtle body-language while conversing with them and have an innate knack for sensing if someone is being dishonest or noticing deceptive behavior. This grants you a +1 **Observation** skill bonus



when observing and interacting with any sentient creature.

**Feature: Bureaucratic Nightmare**

You have encyclopedic knowledge regarding the laws, policies, procedures and administrations of various governmental authorities, trade guilds and other bureaucracies necessary to “keep the deep cities turning”. While often a tedious and menial process, this expertise grants you various benefits when dealing with guild officials, governmental agencies, or officers of the law. You gain a +1 skill bonus to **Knowledge** and **Persuasion** skill checks when dealing with a subject or person related to these kinds of bureaucratic matters.

Additionally, when attempting to **gather information** about a subject within this domain, you gain a significant bonus to either the time or monetary expense required to achieve your goals.

## Military

You were a professional soldier, whether as a bodyguard for a noble family, a faceless conscript in a Solitary’s Marine Corps, or a secret agent in the service of a wealthy mercantile trade union. When you choose this origin, discuss with the GM or invent which military organization you were a part of, how far through its ranks you progressed, and what kind of experiences you had during your military career.

**Feature: Military Rank**

Your previous experience as a soldier has granted you with a military rank. Current soldiers of your former military organization still recognize your authority and influence, and they defer to you if they are of a lower rank. You may use your rank to exert influence over other soldiers or to requisition simple equipment or supplies. Finally, you can usually gain entry to friendly bases of operation or military structures, depending on your rank.

**Feature: Covert Agent**

You spent time as part of a specialized, covert military force and have developed special skills and training for the various operations you took part of. This could have left a sour taste in your mouth - perhaps your organization was responsible for clandestine operations that you did not agree with? Perhaps you left the special forces group after years of loyal service and still maintain those connections and training. Or maybe you never left and are still available to them as a sleeper agent or are still on active duty. It’s up to you to determine which special forces group, how secret they are and what exactly you did during that time.

Select a specialized training role from the list below and choose one of the two specialized skills with which to increase by **1 rank** (just like your Class and Species skill choices). This increase can allow you to start with the skill higher than the normal skill rank limit of 2 (to a maximum of 3).

- **Infiltrator** - **Prowl** or **Survival**
- **Saboteur** - **Fitness** or **Tinker**
- **Spy** - **Deception** or **Observation**

## Noble

You were born into a noble family from one of the prominent Solitaries and your family wields significant political influence. You might be living the life of luxury, such as a dilettante or perhaps you come from a family caught up in Guild politics and the machinations within. Or maybe you come from a merchant or military family that has just been elevated to nobility through wealth or action. Come up with a history or background for your family and figure out how your character fits in to it.

Determine an appropriate title and how much authority that title carries. Unless your family has a presence on more than one Solitary, you will find that the benefits of such may not be as readily available when away from your home city. Once you’ve determined your noble title and the details regarding it, you should also spend time coming up with the details of your family and their influence on your character.

**Feature: Privilege**

Thanks to your heritage, most people are inclined to think the best of you. High society welcomes you, and people assume you have the right to be wherever you are. Commoners will do their best to be accommodating and avoid your displeasure, and others in this social circle treat you equally. Your privilege allows you to do or say things that could get other people into trouble. You can use this privilege to request an audience with a guild leader, noble ruler or other important people.

You have the service of three retainers loyal to your family. Your retainers are commoners who can perform mundane tasks for you, but they will not fight for you, will not follow you into clearly dangerous locations, and will leave if they are frequently endangered or abused. They also will generally not leave your noble family’s home city unless there is good reason for them to do so.

**Feature: Inheritor**

You have inherited something of great value - not a business, parcel of land or wealth, but an important object that has been entrusted to your care. Maybe this object has come to you directly from a family member, by right of birth, or perhaps it was left to you by someone else important in your life - like a mentor, or teacher or close friend.

**Choose an item that your character inherited from the following list or come up with your own:** *a letter, a document, or map; a trinket; a piece of jewelry; a mysterious gadget; a fancy or ancient weapon; a suit of armor or nethertech limb (perhaps if you’re a Bastion, this is the armor you wear or if you’re a Metal Thief, this is the cybernetic arm you use); an arcane tome; an archaic blueprint; a written story, song or poem.*

Determine some details regarding your inherited item. Why is it so important? What’s its history? Does it provide you with some form of advantage or bonus? You may prefer that the GM invent these details as part of the game, allowing you to learn more about your inheritance as your character does.



# Trade

You grew up as a merchant, mechanic, engineer, factory worker, kelpmonger or some other type of tradesperson. Countless hours have been spent honing your craft, inventing fantastic devices, or learning how to refine fuel for the solar cores that power the solitaires and various other underwater vehicles. When selecting this background, choose a trade that your character is focused on: **Chemist, Engineer, Mechanic, Kelpmonger, Shopkeeper, Smith, Trader** or something of your own choosing.

## Feature: *Artisan*

Choosing this feature increases your character’s **Tinker** skill by 1 rank. This increase can allow you to start higher than the normal limit of 2, to a maximum of 3. When crafting any item (see **Crafting** on pg. **TBD**), you get one automatic boost of your choice, in addition to the option of spending shekels to increase the quantity of items (if a consumable) or in adding a special ability (if a piece of equipment).

## Feature: *Guild Membership*

You are a respected member of one of your home city’s guilds and can rely on special benefits that your membership provides. You have access to a guild workshop (if you’re a craftsman) or trade hall (if you’re a merchant) with the machines, tools and resources necessary to practice your trade. Your fellow guild members will provide you with lodging and food if necessary. This workshop also provides various contacts throughout the trade unions and can be used to procure **rare materials** for crafting. Finally, you can also use the workshop as supplemental income during your time between adventures.

You are required to pay dues to maintain your guild membership - a modest sum of 5 crowns per month is all that is needed to preserve the privileges and benefits the guild provides.

# Underworld

You grew up alone and poor on the mean streets of the solitaires. With no one to provide for you, you had to scrounge and salvage to survive. You learned how to protect yourself from other less scrupulous individuals. You’ve slept on rooftops, in alleyways and other inhospitable places. You’ve survived against all odds and come out wiser and stronger than most would know or believe.

## Feature: *Streetwise*

Selecting this feature allows you to choose one skill from the following, either **Deception, Prowl** or **Survival** and increase it by 1 rank. This increase can allow you to start with the skill higher than the normal skill rank limit of 2 (to a maximum of 3).

Your upbringing in the unsavory elements of society also grants your character the ability to speak a slang language to those with underworld ties. This language allows you to converse openly without drawing attention to yourself or others.

## Feature: *Silver Tongue*

Your oratory skills are particularly eloquent, artful, seductive, or persuasive. You have the ability to talk in a very pleasing and polite way to make people do what you want. This

gives you a +2 skill bonus to **Persuasion** or **Deception** in conversations with any sentient creature that understands you. You can also use your silver tongue in negotiations or bartering with others to ensure you get the best deal possible.

# Custom Origin

Feel free to work with your GM to create your own **Origin** or **Origin Feature** if none of the current ones resonate with you.



DESTINY AND FATE

In *Fated Seas*, each character’s destiny lies fully in each player’s hands. As stewards of their goals and aspirations, the player is responsible for their character’s actions and how they will achieve their goals. They are also responsible for determining the outcome of fulfilling their character’s destiny. It is the Game Masters obligation to assist players in reaching the goals of their characters and to weave those stories within the greater fabric of the experience.

**Destiny** is most commonly known the power or agency that determines the course of events. It is the manifestation of the Will to Live, which is both living fate and choice overrunning fate. A more modern philosophical view, called Determinism, is that all events are determined completely by previously existing causes. It can be defined as the notion that all intents or actions are causally determined by the culmination of an agent's existing circumstances. Essentially, everything that happens is determined by things that have already happened.

**Fate**, or fortune, represents the balance of power in the world and how it affects each person in their actions. Fate, also known as “Lady Luck” or “The Fates”, are about the closest thing to a belief system as life on the ocean requires not only fortitude and perseverance, but also a lot of luck in order to survive and thrive. All denizens of the world believe in Fate a little bit - but some put a lot more faith in it than others. Regardless, everyone can tempt or bargain with Fate in regards to the outcome of a choice or situation, but most often this action has a cost.

DESTINY

Whether you believe in destiny or not, every character has *something* (even if it’s their own actions) influencing their future.

Write down three aspirations or goals you have for your character, and what your character wants to achieve over the course of the campaign. This should have two parts. First is the goal that your character wants to attain. Second is a sense of the outcome or complication that might ensue once the goal is achieved—for good or for ill.

One of your destiny goals should be an *immediate* goal, one should be a *long term* goal, and one should be a goal that *concludes* your character arc at the end of the campaign. You don’t have to decide on all three goals at the start. You can choose your immediate goal now and think about the other two while you get a feel for the tone of the campaign.

While these goals help your character stay motivated, they also help the Game Master create interesting stories that directly relate to your character. Your three destiny goals help the GM shape the campaign by determining what challenges or rewards to put in your path.

Each time you complete a destiny goal, your character gains a mechanical benefit, special item or powerful ability as a reward. Work with your Game Master to devise something appropriate.

You can roll 2d12 on the Destiny table for a random goal or pick one that suits your desires or whims. If the goal isn’t a perfect fit for your character, you can tweak it, roll again to find one that works better or just invent your own!

Destiny Goals

Roll	Destiny
2	I will discover the truth about my heritage and embrace the secrets revealed to me. Doing so will change my world view dramatically.
3	I will steal the treasure (“legitimate salvage”) from a Founders Lodge expedition. That wealth will make me happy, but it will also draw the attention of many unsavory characters.
4	I will witness a horrible injustice, root out and hunt down the evil-doers and become a Hand of Vengeance. Do the ends justify the means?
5	I will discover an ancient artifact and become famous, but doing so will awaken a long slumbering evil.
6	I will anger a powerful entity and it will hunt me in retribution. As it does so, others will suffer and I will pay the price.
7	I will explore a location of profound significance and this discovery will set societal events in motion beyond my control.
8	I will discover a secret fanatically guarded by the <i>Merrow Kingdoms</i> . This knowledge will open my mind to a terrifying truth.
9	I will meet an ancient mythical creature and live to tell the tale. This will attract the unwanted attention of a powerful foe.
10	I will slay the creature that killed my parents or other close family member(s). After its defeat, I may question my purpose in life.
11	I will accidentally destroy something important to me and try to hide the evidence. Another person will suffer for it.
12	My actions will lead to the death of a popular and powerful individual. I will know exactly who killed them, but no one will believe me.
13	I will discover the truth surrounding the identity of <i>Dread Pirate Roberts</i> and become the next one.
14	I will befriend a creature from the deep and travel throughout the ocean with it. Others will envy me for the bond I have with this creature.
15	I will become a champion of the people and restore peace and order to a strife-ridden region. Doing so will change the political landscape in a profound way.
16	I will journey to the edges of the earth and find an artifact with the power of affecting great change. I will become a target for many who desire its power.
17	I will join a monastic order in <i>Erebus Vault</i> and learn the power of “wonder-working”. Mastering this ability will come at a great cost.
18	I will become the head of a prestigious university in <i>Luxadjinn</i> , but will make a mortal enemy in the process.
19	I will bargain for power with an ancient spirit, but doing so will attract the attention of the <i>Somber Chalice</i> .



20	I will meet the <b><i>Hammerhead</i></b> of <b>Covenshark</b> without knowing who they are. This moment of uncertainty will reveal a new path in life.
21	I will destroy a powerful artifact to save the lives of others, but doing so will have unimaginable consequences.
22	I will intentionally (or unintentionally) unseat one of the <b><i>Bright Queens</i></b> of <b>Tristania</b> . This will cause the political structure to shift dramatically in some way.
23	I will harness the power of Miasma and destroy something that cannot be replaced or restored, all done for a noble cause.
24	I will become the heir to a powerful individual, corporation or organization and change the dynamics of local power profoundly.

For the Game Master

If you are the GM of your group, consider how long you want the campaign to run. Each player will eventually create three Destiny goals for their characters, all of which need to be achieved by the end of the campaign. If you take the number of game sessions you anticipate your campaign lasting and divide it by the number of goals laid down by all your players, you'll have the average number of sessions it should take for one player to complete one goal.

If it feels like the characters are completing their goals too quickly, remember that it's more interesting for players to achieve their goals rapidly rather than if they have to slog through a story that has nothing to do with them. Find a pacing that works for you and your group of players.

Rewarding Destiny Goals

Each time a character completes one of their three destiny goals, they gain some kind of reward. This reward or outcome might have been previously determined by the player and GM during character creation (or perhaps later in the campaign). Additionally, the GM has, at their discretion, the ability to add additional consequences or outcomes as part of the resolution to the goal, if something supremely interesting or profound resulted.

TBD: Reward Ideas

FATE

Fate allows the players to mold or influence situations, actions and outcomes in order to manipulate or better fit the vision they have for their characters according to their **Destiny**. All players begin each game session with **1 Fate Point**, which can be used for a variety of purposes to influence or change the outcome of their character's actions. When a player uses a Fate point, that Fate point is then given to the GM, who can conversely use it for their own purpose in order to hinder or provide complications (i.e. 'conflict') for your character. A transferred Fate point, by either GM or players, cannot be used to influence the originating action until that action is resolved.

Using Fate In Game

Players can use their Fate Points for a variety of purposes - in social encounters, during exploration, investigation and especially during combat. Unless otherwise stated, a player can only spend their Fate Points during their turn, but spending a Fate Point does not take an Action. Players can sometimes use Fate Points to interrupt or react to another player's or GM's action.

NON-COMBAT USES

- Compel a character (PC or NPC) to take an action or behavior (within reason).
- Change the disposition of an NPC to be more or less friendly.
- Re-roll any any amount of dice after making a skill check.
- Retroactively add +2 to a dice roll.
- Miscellaneous Use: if the player can make a good reason why they should be able to use a Fate Point, they can make a case for it to the other players/GM.

COMBAT USES

Fate plays a big part in determining what your character can do in combat based on the options provided by the cards dealt to your character. This is called your Hand of Fate. While you cannot control Fate, you can bargain with it through the use of Fate Points to gain a powerful advantage or ability.

- At any time during the combat, you can spend Fate Point to do the following:
- Discard and Draw cards as many cards as you want
- Re-roll any dice
- Gain 1 Action

SPENT FATE POINTS

Regardless of when a Fate Point is spent, it is given to the GM, who can then use it for a variety of purposes (in and out of combat).

- Force a player to re-roll the dice
- Compel a character to take some action or behavior
- Dodge or negate a powerful Attack from a player

The GM then returns the Fate Point to the players, who can then determine who among them gets it. This is one of the only ways a player can acquire more than 1 Fate Point this way (aside from *Sirin* characters, who all start with 3 Fate Points).



## THE SEVEN GREAT GUILDS

Once all players have finished creating their characters by choosing a **Class**, their **Species** and **Origin**, and determining their character's **Destiny**, they need to work together in selecting one of the seven Great Guilds they work for in the city of Tristania.

All guilds have different goals and methods for searching for, and claiming the secrets within the Dreamlands. Ultimately, this decision can determine the style and tone of game the players want to experience.

Each Guild is detailed more thoroughly in **Chapter 7: Tristania (page 80)**, but a brief summary of each is below, with examples of how each one might change the tone or style of the game, depending on the players wishes.

### The Archon

#### ***"The Fire In Our Throats"***

If you want to harness the infinite wealth and power of the Antediluvians, choose the Archon as your patron agency.

Selecting this guild represents an unscrupulous style of play that focuses on a group of power-hungry individuals wishing to either dominate or subjugate the world by finding artifacts or locations of great power and exploiting them for their own desires. This could end up focusing the game in any of the different styles of play - heavy on combat, exploration or political situations. If the players want to be "bad guys" or play in a *morally gray* environment, the Archon might be a good choice.

### Duskbreakers

#### ***"Reign of Light"***

If you want to play a group of righteous warriors on a crusade to claim ancient relics of power in order to triumph over evil, choose the Duskbreakers as your patron agency. Structured as a paramilitary order, all members start at the bottom as Watchmen, but eventually grow into valuable specialized roles within the order.

Selecting this guild focuses the game more heavily on combat - tracking down ancient enemies, reclaiming artifacts of power and using them to smite evil wherever it hides. This style of game could be played as a "heroes against the darkness" style of game.

### Eternal Pact

#### ***"Calculating Infinity"***

If you want to play as members of a secretive, mystical order obsessed with changing the past, present and future, choose the Eternal Pact as your patron agency. While viewed as no more than a cult by outsiders, members of this group refer to themselves as Adherents.

Selecting this guild represents a more balanced experience of combat, exploration and social experiences with an added twist of "unfathomable truths". If you are a fan of esoteric magic, forbidden knowledge and horrifying monsters that could turn your characters into gibbering madmen, this choice could facilitate that style of game.

### Founders Lodge

#### ***"Fortune and Glory"***

If you want to play a group of treasure hunters intent upon discovering the location of ancient

riches and acquiring vast wealth, choose the Founders Lodge as your patron agency.

Selecting this guild focuses the game style more on dungeon delving and exploration with a fair amount of combat, because most treasures are not left unguarded. It also facilitates a *morally gray* environment to play within, as "legitimate" salvage may not always be the case.

### Lodestar Hall

#### ***"Eyes Always Open"***

If you want to play a group of intrepid explorers or seekers of knowledge, pick Lodestar Hall as your patron agency.

Selecting this guild focuses the experience primarily around exploration and combat, as those of Lodestar Hall are not only the keepers and protectors of knowledge but also voracious seekers of it.

The game could be a political game of espionage or intrigue (perhaps Lodestar Hall has been infiltrated and some of their secret documents have gone missing?). Perhaps the game is more about the players needing to travel to recently discovered antediluvian ruins to retrieve tablets of ancient knowledge? Many options lie in a game involving this group and their desire to discover the location of the Dreamlands and decipher the secrets within.

### The Solitaire

#### ***"Unfettered Soul"***

If you are obsessed with living in a Utopian society where freedom is key and all your earthly desires are provided for, choose the Solitaire as your patron agency.

Selecting this guild represents a more free-form, sandbox style of play. If you are less interested in the scavenger hunt aspect of the game and want something completely different or open-ended, you could all choose the Solitaire as your guild. This provides players the opportunity to tell their own stories or facilitates the GM running a game which deviates from anything standard or within the scope of the other guilds. This decision could also represent a "Choose Your Own Adventure" or "Monster of the Week" styled game as well.

### Unwound Coil

#### ***"Harness the Vanishing Point"***

If you want to play a group obsessed with escaping the physical realm and embracing the freedom of space and time, choose the Unwound Coil as your patron agency. Members of this group are known as Excarnates.

Selecting this guild represents a more balanced experience of combat, exploration and social experiences. The exploration side of the game could be developed into something metaphysical and far out in terms of subject matter and where the game goes long term. A game about traveling into other dimensions and different time periods would fit within the scope of the Unwound Coil and their desire to seek the Dreamlands in space and time.



Your character begins the game with functional weapons, armor and other pieces of equipment that make them effective but do not provide any other appreciable benefit. You decide how your character gained their starting equipment. Perhaps your character purchased this gear as they grew up. Perhaps they inherited it. Maybe their starting gear was given to them as part of their military service? Or maybe they stole it all just to survive? Or maybe a combination of all these things?

Weapons, armor, clothes, tools and other items can have varying quality levels depending on the skill of the person that crafted the item. Other items, like potions, do not vary in effect based on their quality level and instead will simply create multiples of the item when successfully crafted with a high enough roll. For all intents & purposes, your character’s starting gear is all considered to be of a **simple** quality level.

Quality Levels

Simple

This is the default quality level for all equipment in the game. While simple pieces of equipment are effective and get the job done, they do not give any appreciable benefit to the character. They are easy to craft by those with the appropriate skill and tools.

Masterwork

A masterwork item typically gives a +1 bonus to a skill, resistance, some other statistic or dice roll. Masterwork items require a considerable amount of skill and material components to craft.

Imbued

Imbued items are extremely difficult to craft, requiring vast amounts of material components and high-level of magical knowledge and mechanical skill. Imbued items provide a special ability, effect or bonus listed on them and are represented by a card that will be given to your character when found or created. Imbued item cards are not added to your deck, but are instead placed on the table somewhere near your character sheet.

Artifact

Artifacts cannot be crafted and are only found in the world’s ruins, lost continents or other dangerous and forgotten places. Artifacts are considered magic items, ancient technology, or archaic relics and are all represented by a card that will be given to your character when found. As with imbued items, artifact cards are not added to your deck, and are instead placed on the table somewhere near your character sheet. They are generally unique and provide special effects or abilities not easily found or duplicated elsewhere.

Armor & Weapons

NAME	COST (shekels)	LOAD
Suit of armor (light or heavy)	20	1
Shield (buckler, kite, round)	10	1
One-handed melee weapon	12	1
Two-handed melee weapon	22	2
One-handed ranged weapon	15	1
Two-handed ranged weapon	25	2

Armor Rules & Descriptions

**Suit of armor:** Armor worn by various people around the world range from thick plated suits to light, flexible pieces of leather or hide. In general, all pieces of armor can be broken down into two distinct types, **light** or **heavy**.

**Light armor:** Wearing light armor (or wearing no armor) increases a character’s **Movement Speed** by 1. Padded cloth, leather, hides & studded leather armor are all examples of light armor.

**Heavy armor:** Wearing heavy armor increases a character’s **Protection** value by 1. Brigandine, chain mail, and platemail are all examples of heavy armor.

**Shield:** Shields are held in one hand and are used to intercept or block attacks. Shields may or may not be strapped to the wrist or forearm. Shields vary greatly in size and shape, ranging from large panels that protect the user’s whole body (like a tower shield) to small models (like a buckler). Shields increase the user’s **Protection** value by 1.

**Free Hand:** If your character has one hand free, your **Hand Size** limit is increased by 1. For most characters, this allows them to have 6 cards in their hands instead of the default 5.

Armor Stats

NAME	STAT BONUS	MASTERWORK BONUS
Light Armor	+1 Movement	Add +1 to <b>Intuition Resistance</b>
Heavy Armor	+1 Protection	Add +1 to <b>Grit Resistance</b>
Shield (buckler, kite, round)	+1 Protection	Add +1 to <b>Willpower Resistance</b>



Weapon Rules & Descriptions

Every weapon equipped by the player’s character gives them a card which can be played as an action to allow their character (see **Chapter 4: Combat** on page 46) to attack an enemy within the specified range. This action is called a **Weapon Attack** and can be taken during your combat turn as one of your actions. Simple and Masterwork weapons only deal damage when used with this action, but Imbued and Artifact weapons have other powers or abilities which can be used while also taking this action or in other ways as listed on the card.

**Melee weapon (1-handed):** One handed melee weapons are diverse in usage and capabilities. They can be daggers, longswords, handaxes, maces, clubs, sabers or other types of blunt, slashing or piercing weapons.

**Grants Action: STRIKE**

**Melee weapon (2-handed):** Two handed melee weapons are battle-axes, greatswords, spears, warhammers, pole-arms or some other type of large weapon providing distance and reach to the wielder.

**Grants Action: STRIKE**

**Ranged weapon (1-handed):** One handed ranged weapons are conventional pistols, hand crossbows or some other nimble and quick firing projectile weapon.

**Grants Action: SHOOT**

**Ranged weapon (2-handed):** Two handed ranged weapons are conventional rifles, crossbows and bows. They are large and unwieldy, but can deal tremendous damage. They are usually slow to reload.

**Grants Action: SHOOT**

**Thrown weapon:** These weapons are designed to be thrown at a target, usually at short range. Examples of these weapons are javelins, daggers, throwing axes, darts and even rocks in the right hands.

**Grants Action: THROW**

**Ancient weapon:** These weapons require either specialized training, are rare weapons of war from the calamity or are wielded by fringe societies and cultures. Some examples are monofilament swords, harpoon launchers, chain weapons, and energy weapons (like plasma or laser).

**Allows Action: Depends on the weapon type**

Weapon Stats

NAME	STATS	MASTERWORK BONUS
One-handed melee weapon	5 damage	Add +1 damage to <b>Melee Attack</b> cards
Two-handed melee weapon	7 damage	Cards with a range of 1 ( <b>Melee</b> ) are considered to have <b>Range 2</b>
One-handed ranged weapon	4 damage	Add +1 damage to <b>Range 5</b> attack cards
Two-handed ranged weapon	4 damage	Add +1 damage to <b>Range 10</b> attack cards
Thrown weapon	4 damage Does not provoke	Increase range and damage by 1
Ancient weapon	6 damage	Add <b>Stagger</b> to <b>Range 10</b> attack cards.

Crafting Armor and Weapons

In order to craft armor or a weapon, the character must first buy the material components, which equals half the cost value of the item, then make a skill check using the **Tinker** skill against the listed **Difficulty Value (DV)**.

Quality Levels	Crafting Skill	DV
Simple	Tinker	11
Masterwork	Tinker	21

Bombs & Explosives

NAME	COST (shekels)	LOAD	CRAFTING SKILL(S) & DV
Black Lotus Bomb	7	1	Lore: 15 and Sciences: 15
Convulsion Bomb	20	1	Sciences: 15 and Tinker: 15
Inferno Grenade	25	1	Sciences: 15 and Tinker: 15
Jackhammer Grenade	20	1	Tinker: 20
Pixie Dust Bomb	20	1	Lore: 15 and Sciences: 15

Rules and Descriptions for Bombs & Explosives

Bombs can be thrown or dropped as an action in combat. Most can be set up with a timed delay or triggered through another device, with the proper skill in Tinker.

**Black Lotus Bomb:** This bomb, when detonated, releases a cloud of poisonous gas that spreads into a 3 square radius area. A unprotected creature that ends their turn in a square with the gas takes 6 Poison damage. Various pieces of equipment, like a respirator protect one from the harmful fumes. Some species, like Remade and Thanatae are also unaffected, as they do not need to breathe to survive.

**Convulsion Bomb:** This bomb, when detonated, explodes into an electro-magnetic shock wave in a 5 square radius area. This bomb wreaks havoc on mechanical and electronic devices, instantly disabling them until they are repaired by someone using the Tinker skill (usually a DV 10 skill check). Some species, like Remade, are **Stunned** by the explosion if they fail a **Willpower Resistance** check against a **DV** of 15.



**Inferno Grenade:** This is a smaller explosive that can be easily thrown. When detonated, it releases a conflagration of fire into the air in a 3 square radius area. This explosion causes 10 damage to all creatures and objects in the area of effect and also adds **2 Burn** cards to any Player Character’s deck or causes a non-player character to **Burn** until they take an action to remove it.

**Jackhammer Grenade:** This explosive detonates into a 3 square radius area and releases small armor-piercing shards shredding all targets in the area of effect . Those within the area of the explosion take **10 damage**, ignoring up to **3** points of **Protection**.

**Pixie Dust Bomb:** This bomb detonates into a fine sparkling dust filling a 3 square radius area. The dust persists for 3 rounds and those within the area or those that start their turn or enter into an affected square are **Staggered** and cannot become invisible or use the **Stealth** skill.

Chemicals and Elixirs

NAME	COST (shekels)	LOAD	CRAFTING SKILL & DV
Alchemist’s Fire	200	0	Sciences: 21
Curative Elixir	120	0	Medical: 15
Healing Elixir	150	0	Medical: 15
Mudskipper Elixir	100	0	Sciences: 10
Piranha Solution	50	0	Sciences: 15
Quicksilver Elixir	120	0	Sciences: 15
Somberbog Oil	150	0	Sciences: 15
Steelhull Elixir	150	0	Sciences: 15
Thunderbolt Elixir	250	0	Sciences: 21
Wahoo Elixir	120	0	Sciences: 15

Chemical and Elixir Descriptions

An **Elixir** differ from a potion in that they need to be consumed slowly to allow for full effect. However, the boons they provide are generally powerful and longer lasting.

**Alchemist’s Fire:** An oily, smoky substance that explodes violently when thrown or dropped. The oil sticks to whatever surface it’s thrown upon, which makes it difficult and painful to extinguish. When a character is affected by Alchemist’s Fire, add three **Burn** cards to the character’s deck. Non-player characters suffer the Burn status until they are able to take an action to remove it.

**Curative Elixir:** This elixir, when consumed, nullifies the effects from noxious chemicals and ingested poisons immediately.

**Healing Elixir:** When consumed, the user immediately regains **10 Hit Points**.

**Mudskipper Elixir:** Consuming this elixir allows the user to breath underwater for up to 4 hours.

**Piranha Solution:** Considered to be a “universal solvent”, this fluid immediately counters and nullifies the effects of other liquids & chemicals.

**Quicksilver Elixir:** When consumed, the user gains a **+1 Movement Speed** bonus for 5 rounds in combat or for 1 minute (out of combat).

**Somberbog Oil:** This grayish-brown oil permanently binds objects together quickly. It can only be dissolved by alcahest.

**Steelhull Elixir:** When consumed, the user immediately gains **10 Armor** which lasts for 4 hours.

**Thunderbolt Elixir:** When consumed, the user immediately increases their maximum Energy value by 1 (to a maximum of 5). This effect lasts for 4 hours.

**Wahoo Elixir:** When consumed, the user can swim incredibly quickly while underwater. Your movement speed is equal to your terrestrial speed.

Crafting Chemicals & Elixirs

In order to craft chemicals, elixirs and other alchemical substances, the character must first buy the material components, which equals half the cost value of the item, then make an appropriate skill check against the listed **Difficulty Value (DV)**. They also will need access to specialized equipment and space for this intricate and sometimes dangerous work.

Since these items don’t fluctuate in quality (you’re either successful or not), successfully making the skill check against the target **difficulty value** yields the creation of 1 item. However, if the character rolls exceedingly well, they will generate bonus items depending on how well they rolled over the target **DV**.

- Skill check roll was **5 or greater than** the target **DV** = Craft 1 additional item
- Skill check roll was **10 or greater than** the target **DV** = Craft 2 additional items
- Skill check roll was **15 or greater than** the target **DV** = Craft 3 additional items



Gadgets

NAME	EFFECT	COST (shekels)	LOAD	CRAFTING SKILL(S) & DV
Darklight Goggles/Mask	Allows the user to see in low or no light situations. Should not be worn in normal or well lit areas or risk blindness.	400	1	Tinker: 21 Sciences: 21
Fathometer	An echo sounding device used to determine relative depth of a submersible. Useful for underwater navigation, especially when paired with a Gyrocompass.	175		Tinker: 15 Sciences: 15
Gyrocompass	Allows the user to determine rough position geographically. Useful for navigation under the water. Much more useful when combined with a Fathometer.	150	1	Tinker: 15 Sciences: 15
Skeleton Key	This gadget, when given enough time, will automatically pick the lock of any mechanical door (those that use a regular key).	300	1	Tinker: 21 (2 rolls)
Timepiece	Allows the user to precisely determine the time-of-day based on a 24 hour clock.	1000	0	Tinker: 15 (3 rolls)
Voltaic Cell	Can be used to generate an electrical charge, which then plugs into various devices to provide electricity. Provides power for up to 4 hours.	500	1	Sciences: 21
Wristbow	This small gadget is easily concealed and counts as a hand crossbow, but can also be used to fire a grappling hook or for other uses.	600	1	Tinker: 21

Crafting a Gadget

In order to craft a gadget, the character must first buy the material components, which equals half the cost value of the item, then make an appropriate skill check against the listed **Difficulty Value (DV)**. Some gadgets require multiple rolls to successfully craft. They will either have the multiple skills listed or will state in parentheses how many rolls are required to be successful (example: 2 rolls).

Gear

NAME	COST (shekels)	LOAD	CRAFTING SKILL(S) & DV
Arcane Implements	7	1	Lore: 15 and Sciences: 15
Backpack	15	-3	Tinker :15
Bedroll	5	1	Tinker: 10
Climbing Gear	12	1	Tinker: 15 (3 rolls)
Clothes, common	2	1	Knowledge: 10
Clothes, fancy	5	1	Knowledge: 21
Clothes, work	2	1	Knowledge: 6
Crowbar	6	1	Tinker: 10
Journal	10	0	Lore: 10
Lantern	8	1	Tinker: 15
Medical Bag	15	1	Medical: 15 (3 rolls)
Shovel	4	1	Tinker: 10
Tinkering Tools	12	1	Tinker: 15 (3 rolls)



# CHAPTER 4: COMBAT

It is inevitable that you will eventually encounter a creature or foe that you won't be able to talk your way out of a fight with. In those cases, you are thrust into combat! This is where you will use the 15 card deck you built during character creation. Before the combat begins and at the end of your character's turn, you must draw 5 cards from your deck and put them into your hand. These cards will be used as part of the actions you can take during your turn.

Combat in the game is designed to be played on a standard square grid mat. All ranges and distances in combat are referred to by squares or indicate an area-of-effect as a square radius. While it can be assumed that each square equals an standardized amount of distance, like 5 feet, this number it isn't as important as it is in other games to simplify the amount of math required to play. While it's not necessary to play on a table or with a battle-mat, combat is a more engaging experience with miniatures and a sweet-looking hand drawn battlefield (at a minimum).

## COMBAT ROUND - STEP-BY-STEP

### 1. ESTABLISH THE SCENE

The GM and players should determine if any characters on either side are **surprised**, have **advantage** or **disadvantage** at the beginning of the battle. All characters and NPCs should be placed on the battlefield in their starting position (unless some NPCs are hidden from the players due to line-of-sight or stealth abilities). This step is important primarily for the first round of combat, as things can change dramatically and quickly between rounds. Feel free to adjust or expound upon this at the beginning of each round if necessary.

### 2. DETERMINE INITIATIVE

At the beginning of combat, you roll 2d12 and add your skill bonus for one of two skills (whichever is highest): either **Fitness** or **Observation**. A higher number is considered "faster" than a lower number and thus will go earlier in the combat round (before lower numbers). NPCs (friendly, neutral or enemy) do not roll Initiative and just use the value indicated in their statistics.

### 3. TAKE TURNS

All characters refresh to 3 actions at the beginning of their turn. These actions are used for a variety of purposes: to move their character, play cards from their hand, use weapon attacks or to focus on gaining a powerful ability, maneuvering to a better position or taking a moment to heal their wounds.

The players are able to take the following actions with their characters during their turn in any order they choose.

**Standard Actions:**

- **Focus:** You can spend an Action to gain one of the following effects:
  - **Draw** a card, recover **5 HP** or **Shift 2 squares**
- **Move:** You may move a number of squares on the board equal to your movement speed (the default movement speed for most characters is 5).

- **Play:** You may play a card from your hand and resolve the effect on the target or targets specified. You do not need to play all your cards at once - you may wish to intersperse them between another action, like a **Move** action. Some card effects allow you to spend **Energy** in order to boost the effects of the card being played or to gain some kind of bonus. **Energy** is spent by discarding another card from your hand and using it for the Energy value located in the lower-left corner of the card.
- **Weapon Attack:** You may take the action of one of your equipped weapon **Attack** cards to target an enemy in range, dealing the damage listed to the target. You may only take this action once per turn, but the card is not discarded - instead it is rotated to indicate it has been used during this round.

**Free Actions:** Some actions, like drinking a potion, drawing a weapon, giving an item to another, picking up something off the ground are considered free. You can take up to 2 free actions a turn. Additionally, using a **Fate Point** is considered a Free Action, but does not count as one of the free actions you are permitted to take during your turn.

**Reactions:** Some actions or cards allow you to take a reaction to something that just happened in the combat. When this happens, resolve the effects of the reaction first before proceeding with the rest of the action that provoked it. Additionally, you are allowed to use a Fate Point in reaction to an unfavorable outcome or critical moment where you really want your character to succeed.

**End of Turn:** At the end of your turn, you have the option of discarding 1 card before drawing cards from your deck up to your Hand size limit (usually 5 for most characters). If your character is afflicted by any cards with effects that trigger on turn's end (either in your Hand or placed in front of you) resolve those effects during this phase (sometimes getting rid of the card in the process).

### 4. END OF ROUND

Once all participants of the battle have taken a turn, the round ends. Repeat Step 3 until the combat is over. Any cards that were rotated after being used are readied by rotating them back to a vertical position.

## SPECIAL RULES

### ADVANTAGE and DISADVANTAGE

**Advantages** and **Disadvantages** can be gained both in combat or in social situations. Some combat situations, like **Surprise** can grant a character or group of characters **Advantage** at the beginning of the combat. Advantage during a social situation can be granted to a player from intimidating someone, pure persuasion, having information valuable to the person they are interacting with, plain ol' bribery, or other methods & ideas that players come up with during play. It's up to the GM to determine if the players would have either during a session based on a variety of factors.

**ADVANTAGE:** A character that gains **advantage** can immediately use it to gain one of these effects:

1. Roll an additional d12 as part of the attack action or skill challenge and take the highest two dice as the result.



2. Can replace cards from their **Hand**, putting the cards they want to get rid of in their **Discard** pile and drawing one new card for each.
3. Can **Shift 2** squares immediately or during their combat turn.
4. Can add a +2 bonus to their next played card that deals damage or healing.

**DISADVANTAGE:** A character that has **disadvantage** is affected by a penalty either determined by the GM or negotiated by players with the GM. If the player can make a sufficient case for a different penalty to affect them, the GM can allow it - especially if it allows fun role-playing or a crazy combat situation.

1. Roll an additional d12 as part of the attack action or skill challenge and take the lowest two dice as the result.
2. At the beginning of combat, the disadvantaged character must Discard one card from their Hand.
3. The character might have a -2 penalty to a skill check.
4. The character is not permitted to take any Shift actions during their combat turn.

## COVER

There are two types of cover in the game - **partial** and **full**. **Partial** cover is either an object that partially obscures their whole body, like foliage and branches, a low wall or a large piece of furniture. **Full** cover is something that completely obscures the character - like a metal wall, a piece of machinery or a heavy steel door.

**Partial Cover:** Provides a temporary **Protection** amount of 1 for as long as the character is obscured by it.

**Full Cover:** Provides a temporary **Protection** amount of 2 for as long as the character is obscured by it.

The **Protection** gained from either types of cover stacks with any other amount the character may already have. A character only gains this **protection** amount if they end their combat turn next to a cover providing object.

### Destroying Cover

If the cover item takes enough damage equal to 5 times it's Protection (**5 for Partial, 10 for Full**) amount, the cover item is considered destroyed or ruined beyond usefulness and no longer provides cover to any characters.

## DEATH

When a non-player character (NPC) is defeated in battle, they are assumed to be killed by their foes (either the player characters or other non-player characters). If players want to knock out or disable an opponent without killing them, they need to let the GM know this before they make their next attack. It is assumed the players assault the enemy to the point of unconsciousness, but do not make any killing blows.

Player Characters can also be killed, but it's a more difficult process for enemies to accomplish. When a character's hit points reaches 0, they go into what is called a **Downed** state. They can only take a **Shift 1** action during their turn. They are not permitted to play any cards and do not draw any new cards, unless a card in their hand states otherwise. A downed player can still be attacked and damaged by enemies and their abilities. If the downed

character takes enough damage equal to over ½ their maximum hit points, then they are slain. This is called a character's **Death Threshold** and is the only way for a player character to die.

**Example:** *Tony's character, Mortimer has a maximum Hit Point value of 20. His Death Threshold value is half of that, rounded down, so 12 HP.*

## Reviving a Downed Character

Any other player can revive a **Downed** character by moving adjacent to them and discarding 3 cards from their **Hand**. The downed character stands up immediately and regains **one-third** of their maximum **Hit Points**.

Cards that restore or recover **Hit Points** will not revive a downed character, but can be used on a player character after they have been revived.

## DIFFICULT TERRAIN

Many combat locations have terrain features or objects that interfere with movement of the combatants in unexpected or difficult ways. A square that is considered difficult terrain counts as two squares for the purposes of calculating movement. Pieces of furniture, bits of destroyed equipment or rubble and shallow, murky water are all examples of difficult terrain.

## OPPORTUNITY ATTACKS

Combat is a quick, messy and deadly affair. Moving haphazardly or without regard is sometimes necessary, but for the most part, characters need to be mindful or suffer the consequences for hasty or careless movement.

If a character starts their turn next to or moves into a square adjacent to an enemy, they are considered **engaged** with that enemy. Moving out of a square next to an engaged enemy provokes an **Opportunity Attack**, which deals the indicated damage for an NPC or a player's equipped **melee** or **thrown** weapon damage.

The safest and most common way to move away from an engaged enemy is by using an action that allows you to **Shift**. **Pushing** and **Pulling** a creature does not provoke an **Opportunity Attack**, regardless of who does the **Push** or **Pull** action.

## SURPRISE

Some situations in a combat may give one side or the other the element of surprise. If a character or side is considered to have surprised their enemies, they are considered to have **Advantage** at the start of the combat and gain the benefits as indicated above.

## END OF COMBAT

Combat ends when one side is victorious over the other - either by reducing the Hit Points of all characters on one side to 0, or by one side conceding, surrendering or fleeing the battlefield. Combat can also end through other methods or events as dictated by the GM.

## RESTING

There are two ways for the characters to rest and recuperate after a long, hard day of adventuring or a brutal battering in combat - a **short rest** and a **long rest**.



SHORT REST

A short rest is a period of time where the player characters relax, eat food and drink, tend to wounds, meditate or perform some other activity that represents them recovering some of their lost **Hit Points** from previous encounters or the perils of adventure.

All characters have **Recovery Points** which can be used during a short rest to restore lost hit points. **Recovery Points** are calculated by taking a character's **Grit** modifier number and **adding 2** to it. Each player can recover up to **half** of their character's **maximum Hit Points** per **Recovery Point** spent this way. They can also use **Recovery Points** to remove a **Wound** card from their deck at a one-for-one basis. Recovery points only recharge when the player characters take a long rest, which is explained below.

Example:

*Jacqueline's character Flayr has a Grit of +2. She adds 2 to that, which gives her 4 Recovery Points. After a tough battle, she decides to take a short rest. Her character has 5 hit points remaining from her 25 hit point maximum, so she decides to use 2 Recovery Points to return her character's hit points to full.*

LONG REST

A long rest is a period of time where the party has made a camp or is staying overnight in a place of shelter - like a stronghold, inn, tavern or other safe and secure location. A long rest typically represents between 6 to 8 hours of time - long enough for each character to sleep, gain nourishment and tend to the needs of their body and minds.

Each player character regains lost **Hit Points** after a long rest, restoring themselves to their **maximum Hit Point** value. They can also remove up to **2 Wound** cards from their deck. Finally, they regain any spent **Recovery Points** they may have used earlier in the adventure.

CHAPTER 5: ADDITIONAL RULES

CHARACTER ADVANCEMENT

How characters increase in level is generally up to the desires and whims of all the players. Do they want their characters to rise meteorically or progress more slowly and methodically? **Fated Seas** uses a milestone system based around sessions or adventures completed rather than an experience point based system.

The normal pace of leveling is generally on a 1:1 basis, where one adventure equals one level increase, but some adventures that are longer or shorter could speed up or slow down the leveling process. It also depends on what all the players want their overall experience to be like - and it could also vary throughout the campaign. Maybe you level up through the first few levels quickly but then the leveling up process slows down a bit to allow for a richer campaign experience. Again, it all depends on what kind of experience the players want.

At every level after the 1st, increase your character's maximum **Hit Points** by **2**. Additionally, you may **add** or **remove 2 cards** to or from your character's **Deck**, although you must always have a minimum of 12 cards in your deck.

Additionally, each character gets the following additions, choices or bonuses as indicated in the chart below:

Level	Unlock or Benefit
1	Class <b>Special Ability</b> , Starting <b>Skill</b> choices
2	Select <b>1 Talent</b> , Gain <b>3 Skill Points</b>
3	Gain <b>1 Class Special Ability</b>
4	Select <b>1 Talent</b> , Gain <b>3 Skill Points</b>
5	Increase <b>Actions</b> by 1, Increase Hand Size by 1
6	Select <b>1 Talent</b> , Gain <b>3 Skill Points</b>
7	Gain <b>1 Class Special Ability</b>
8	Select <b>1 Talent</b> , Gain <b>3 Skill Points</b>
9	Increase <b>Actions</b> by 1, Increase Hand Size by 1
10	Gain <b>1 Class Special Ability</b>



# CRAFTING

In between adventures or game sessions, characters can craft items or equipment if they have access to the required materials and tools. This includes constructing weapons, fashioning armor and making or modifying gadgets, potions or other items.

The character must know the blueprint for the item they wish to craft. Some items, like common gadgets or equipment, may have blueprints that you might already know or are easy to find. Ask the GM if you already know it, can acquire it (purchase from a merchant or gained through a social contact), or if it requires something more specific gain access to it.

Designing a unique or complex item will require you to create a blueprint for it from scratch, which is described below.

## CRAFTING FROM A BLUEPRINT

In order to craft a item you have a blueprint for, you will need to make a **Tinker** skill roll to determine the quality level of the item you produce. The base quality level is equal to your **Tinker** skill rank, modified by the result of the roll.

The GM sets a minimum Difficulty Value (DV) that must be achieved to craft the item, based on the difficulty of the blueprint, player character skill or other factors. Generally, this requires one roll to determine success or failure, but some more complex items may take up to three skill rolls.

You may spend **shekels** to increase the result of your roll at a 5-to-1 basis (5 shekels for +1 to the roll), but must spend the money before making the dice roll (paying for materials, tools, etc.).

Failure on the dice roll (or any of the dice rolls in a multi-stage item) either means you fail to craft the item or the item quality level is 1 or more levels less than what you desired.

## DESIGNING A BLUEPRINT

Designing a blueprint is a long-term project and requires a minimum number of skill checks with an appropriate skill (like **Tinker**, **Sciences**, or **Medical**) or **gather information** rolls to invent the design or formula for the item. This can only be done in the time between your character’s adventures.

Designing a blueprint requires between **six** to **nine** successes depending on the complexity or utility of the item. How much downtime the player characters have between adventures will dictate how many rolls can be made. On average a character can make one dice roll per day, but it is up to GM if more or less rolls can be made depending on the perceived complexity or difficulty of the item.

The player and the GM discuss the details of the invention to define what it will do in play and what is required to craft it. The player records these answers in their notes for future reference.

Once you’ve invented a formula or design, you can craft it in-between game sessions or adventures. No one else can craft this invention unless they learn your design as a long-term

project. If you acquire a formula or design invented by someone else, you may study it as a long-term project (though it should be much shorter than inventing it yourself). Common devices don’t require special blueprints to learn. Anyone may attempt to craft them by using commonly available instructions.

# ENCUMBRANCE

**Fated Seas** doesn’t use a numeric weight system for inventory management. Instead is uses an abstract number ranging from 1 to 10 to indicate how overburdened a character might be. The goal of this system is to keep it abstract enough that it only requires very simple arithmetic to track and account for.

All characters have a maximum **Load** value of 10, but there are ways to increase your **Load** value through talents, special abilities or other cards. Almost all items and equipment in the game have a **Load** cost. Carrying more than your **Load** value maximum has the following negative effects and are cumulative.

- **Load value > maximum:** Reduce your movement speed by 1.
- **Load value >= 2 over maximum:** You are permanently considered having **Frailty**.
- **Load value >= 4 over maximum:** Reduce your movement speed to a maximum of 1 and you may not use cards or abilities to move any further.

# GATHERING INFORMATION

Role-playing games are set in unique fictional worlds and it would be unreasonable to expect any player (even the GM!) to know everything about it. An important element to these types of games is the players abilities to create and flesh out details to help fill in the gaps regarding almost any subject - be it geographical, historical, political, social or cultural items of importance. This is a shared responsibility among all players, not just the GM, and can lead to some fun, creative and engaging moments in the game. Players that come up with these details tend to be invested into the experience and are more likely to remember key details for the GM.

When a player wants to know something specific about the world, their character can **gather information** about it. The GM will typically ask you how your character would like to gather the information or if they might already know it due to their origin, species or class selections. If the information would be considered common knowledge, the GM will simply answer your question or might allow you to come up with the pertinent details. If gaining access to the information is a complex or challenging task, the GM may require the player to make a skill roll, setting an appropriate DV depending on how difficult gaining that information would be. The GM may dictate which skill to use, but the player can make a case for a specific skill they’d like to use if they so desire.

**Gathering information** can take quite a bit of time, but if the situation allows for it, a player can always try again later if they don’t get sufficient information the first try. Some information gathering scenarios may require a character to maneuver themselves into a specific position before they can do so. For example, a character may want to watch the patrol routes the local constables are taking and need to be on higher ground to do so. This would most likely be an **Observation** skill check, but **Fitness** or some other skill could potentially be used as well if a player makes a strong case for it.



# RESEARCH & INVESTIGATION

Some information gathering scenarios are too complex to answer with a single skill roll. Difficult research on a technical skill or science, searching for a local crime boss's hideout, or gaining access to detailed schematics of a local bureaucratic structure could all be considered complex tasks that require much more time and effort to be successful in.

To complete one of these tasks requires between **three** to **five** successes depending on the complexity, difficulty or danger inherent to the information and can only be attempted in-between adventures. How much downtime the characters have between adventures will dictate how many rolls can be made. On average a character can make one dice roll per day, but it is up to GM if more or less rolls can be made depending on the perceived complexity or difficulty of the information being sought.

# TALENTS

Talents give characters new abilities, special actions or a passive bonus to a particular skill or resistance. They represent extraordinary training, experience, and abilities beyond what a class, species or origin provides.

Every even-numbered level gives your character the ability to choose one talent. Unless the talent's description says otherwise, you can take each talent only once.

**Blade Dancer:** Once during your turn in combat, you may **Shift 2** squares for free.

**Bruiser:** When using a Move action, you can use a bonus action to **Push** a target creature 1 square. If you move at least 2 squares in a straight line immediately before taking this bonus action, you gain a +2 damage bonus to the next card played or can **Push** the target 1 additional square and **Shift 1** square as a follow-up.

**Duelist:** You gain both bonuses that would be afforded from your offhand equipment (*i.e using a shield vs. having one hand free*). Essentially, you have **+1 Protection** and your **Hand Size** is increased by 1.

**Encyclopedic Knowledge:** You have an incredible memory for details and know quite a bit about a variety of subjects. Increase your **Knowledge** skill by 1.

**Entwined Fate:** Your fate is entwined with another character in your party. You share a fate point with that person - when you spend it, you give it to that player. When that player spends the fate point, it goes back to you. You start each session with the fate point regardless of where it ended up in previous sessions.

**First to Fight:** Add 3 to your **Initiative** roll at the beginning of combat.

**Foresight:** You may discard any amount of cards from your **Hand** at the beginning of a combat and draw new ones to replace them.

**Full-Blood:** You may add an additional species card (identical to your species) to your Deck.

**Half-Blood:** You may add a card from a different species to your Deck.

**Inspirational:** You are an inspiring presence to others and they look to you to get them through tough situations. When an ally needs to make any **Resistance** check, you may add a +2 to their result. You may provide this boon 3 times per day.

**Intestinal Fortitude: (No Thanatae or Remade)** You can eat things most would find disgusting or that most would not gain nourishment from. If you eat rotten food or drink dirty water, you must make a **Grit Resistance** roll against a DV (difficulty value) of 12. If you succeed, the food or water does not make you sick. Additionally, ingested poison values are reduced by 3 (so if you decided to eat a mysterious mushroom that ended up being poisonous and you are supposed to take 5 poison damage from it, you'd take only 2 damage instead).

**Iron Will:** Add 2 to **Willpower** resistance rolls.

**Mule:** Add 2 to your maximum **Load** value.

**Natural Athlete:** You may re-roll one die when making an **Fitness** skill check.

**Occultist:** You have studied ancient and exotic civilizations, which allows you to use the **Lore** skill in situations involving antediluvian magic and rituals. Increase **Lore** skill checks by 2 when in situations involving them.

**Powerful:** You may have two **Persistent Power** cards in play at the same time.

**Tough as Nails:** Add 2 to **Grit** resistance rolls.

**Sixth Sense:** Add 2 to **Intuition** resistance rolls.

**Swift:** Increase your **Movement Speed** by 1.

**Vigorous:** Increase your maximum **Hit Points** by 5.

**Vigilant:** As long as you are not surprised, you may **Shift 5** squares at the beginning of a combat encounter.



# CHAPTER 6: A BRAVE NEW WORLD

## The 'Post Post-Apocalypse'

**Fated Seas** takes place in a fictional Earth, thousands of years in the future. The “apocalypse” is long forgotten and very little evidence remains of what caused it or the outcome. Those that live in this world today have no memory of the previous civilizations (i.e. us in present day), only that many areas of the world are considered inhospitable ruins of ancient civilizations. Much like we study the ancient Greek or Egyptian civilizations today, the people of this world also view the 21<sup>st</sup> century civilizations in the same way.

This section of the book mostly covers a small geographical region of the world called the *Australis Expanse*, which is present day Antarctica.

### Climate and Geography

Sometime in the calamitous past, a great war raged. In that firestorm, vast rings of debris were created which now orbit the earth in a dazzling array of light and reflection, but also imprisoning all that live on the planet. The outcome of such a calamity spelled doom for the survivors of the world and changed the dynamic of life on the planet forever.

Combined with climate change, global warming and the ocean sea-level rising, what was once the large continent of Antarctica is now a mountainous island wasteland and cinder-slagged marsh. While the center of the *Australis Expanse* is covered in a vast, cold arctic wasteland, the coastal areas are scrub, polar forests and the petrified remains of the ancient survivors of the calamity.

Despite this area of the world now being considered a temperate zone, the light of the sun is perpetually shrouded by vast dust clouds and the rings of debris in the upper-atmosphere. This traps in the heat, making temperatures at the surface consistently dry and warm at both poles and unbearably hot along the equator. Gritty ash-fall is a frequent occurrence, as are windstorms and massive dust clouds. While visiting the surface is certainly possible, most do not do so for an extended time without proper protective gear (goggles, respirators & protective clothes at a minimum).

Many natural landmarks and unnatural features are found in this area of the world, and while most have never been explored by those in the solitaries, much abounds in rumor and speculation about what treasures await in such places.

### Deep Cities

No governments or political systems exist in the world which are capable of governing of multiple cities or to claim dominion over vast territory. Due to their inherent self-sufficiency, most deep cities, or *solitaries* are self-governed and are considered individual city-states. The styles of government, societal, cultural and economic structures vary greatly among each one based on a multitude of reasons, each one unique in their own way.

### Physical Characteristics

Solitaries are enormous submersibles the size of a small city or town. Fully enclosed and

spherical in shape, they have thick metallic hulls allowing them to withstand the pressures of the deep ocean. All solitaries are arranged with their interiors centralized around a miniaturized fusion device called a solar core. Those that live in each solitary rely upon the light of the solar core to survive. It provides warmth, light and a near limitless source of energy to all within.

While all solitaries are generally structured in a similar physical arrangement of solar core in the center surrounded by city structures, many solitaries have wildly varied architecture and layouts based on the societal or cultural needs of its people or the desires of its governing body.

The largest solitaries in the world boast of populations over tens-of-thousands, while the smallest have populations only in the hundreds. Despite the size differences, all solitaries are designed to be self-sufficient and capable of surviving on their own for years, if not centuries.

### The Solar Core

A critical component to the workings of a solar core is a specialized fuel called phlogiston. Primarily a bio-fuel created through alchemical processes, phlogiston is a powerful, clean and efficient resource. It is created from two primary components: organic biomass from kelp and algae and the calx (powdery metallic oxide) of various precious metals and other minerals.

The solar core is considered the most important structure in every solitary. While each solitary may have drastically different governments, social structures or cultures, they all have one thing in common - their need for phlogiston. Running out of phlogiston would mean certain death in the darkened depths of the ocean, therefore all solitaries put the harvesting and refinement of phlogiston as one of their highest priorities. This provides a staggering amount of jobs and occupations for many of its denizens and is one of the driving economic forces within each one.

### On the Surface

The landmasses of the surface are all generally viewed as inhospitable wastelands. Only a small fraction of these areas have been explored due to a multitude of dangers - hostile creatures, extreme weather, treacherous environments and the all too present danger of the miasma (toxic environments causing sickness and death, for those staying in one too long).

Anyone planning on visiting a surface locale would do well to plan ahead for the journey or else risk meeting an untimely fate.

### Terrestrial Environments & Features

As life in a solitary is meant to be self-sustaining, not much is known about the land masses situated in the vicinity of each solitary as it floats through the ocean. Only recently have some intrepid individuals ventured out into this terrestrial wasteland seeking knowledge, fame and fortune. What they've discovered is a treasure trove of foundational knowledge regarding terrain features, dangerous flora and fauna, hazardous miasma zones, and ruined structures of old. While maps are scarce, some can be found if you talk to the right people or put coins in the right hands.

### Antediluvian Ruins



The only thing remaining from the Age of the Antediluvians are the tall, metallic husks of their grandest structures. Very little of interest is found on the surface - much of it lost to the ashes of the apocalypse or looted in ages past. However, hidden in the depths are a multitude of secret chambers and passages. Some of these underground “vaults” or “shelters” were used by the Antediluvians to survive the calamity. Others were used as repositories of artwork, relics and other treasures. And some were used by those with devastating weapons of war and the will to dominate those less fortunate. Known Antediluvian ruins of the Australis Expanse are Anderbey, Drake Passage, Dronning, Good Hope, and Sheolvarg, but countless others surely exist among it’s rugged coastline and treacherous interior.

### The Barrens & The Boiling Sea

As one ventures north from the Australis Expanse, one will notice that the temperature begins to increase dramatically. Due to the heat-trapping properties of the planet, the equatorial to tropical bands are excessively hot, with temperatures consistently reaching over 150-degrees Fahrenheit (65-degrees Celsius). The landmasses in this region are collectively referred to as “The Barrens” and the oceans are known as “The Boiling Sea”. Not much is known about this area of the world, as surviving in the extreme temperature and environment is incredibly difficult.

### Ghost Marshes

At first glance, ghost marshes resembles a scrubby plain covered with short grasses, however a closer look reveals a bizarre and almost unearthly landscape. Small strands of dead and stunted trees grow where the land protrudes above the water table. Additionally, pools of water stained dark red are scattered about, making traversing the marsh treacherous. This grassland appearance invites the unwary to walk on it, but even the most solid marsh is spongy and waterlogged. Traveling through the marsh is a strange and dangerous experience for the unwary and those unaccustomed to such a journey. Almost always at night, lights appear in the atmosphere without an obvious cause. Some view these lights as a portent of death, while others believe that these lights are said to be the spirits buried with treasured goods and other riches.

### Luminous Forests

Luminous forests are rare, but generally exist in the most remote or extreme fringes of the environment. They are all characterized by the production and emission of light from the local flora, fauna and nearby bodies of water. Some sources of this ‘bioluminescence’ originate from phosphorescent algae, but not all sources are the same. As one of the few natural areas for creatures to thrive, these forests typically sustain a wide diversity of life within. Wild and alien to those that now live almost exclusively under the waves, luminous forests are incredibly dangerous for those unprepared, but present an opportunity for dramatic discoveries hidden within.

### Miasma Zones

There are areas of the world where the air, water and the earth is utterly toxic and poisons those within it. Spending time within such areas causes all sorts of maladies - usually starting with nausea & sickness, eventually leading to internal bleeding & burning skin and then ultimately, death. One of the biggest dangers of a miasma zone is that they can exist almost anywhere and spotting the signs of a miasma zone is difficult for those without specialized equipment or experience. Unfortunately, many miasma zones are discovered accidentally - as one spends too much time within it, they start to notice symptoms of illness in themselves or

their party. Other signs of a miasma zone can be seen in the flora and fauna of the region. Oddly-shaped or colored plants can be a sign of miasma in the air. Animals with strange mutations, like a third eye, are also a clear sign of miasma. Without the proper protective gear, most miasma zones are to be avoided at all costs.

### Petrified Forests

The calamitous past, while highly destructive, also had a wide range of strange and bewildering effects on some environments in the world. One such effect was that of petrification - the literal replacement of organic molecules with minerals. How such a stark transformation occurred so rapidly is lost to history, but what remains are areas characterized by densely-packed rocky spires which look like trees. These regions are notoriously difficult to explore due to the rough, unstable terrain, inclement weather (flash flooding being most common) and lack of resources. Very little survives within this environment and although some ‘petrified forests’ provide a roosting spot for avian creatures, none of them live here permanently.

### Stygian Mountains

Most mountain ranges in the world are typically brown, windswept, sterile spires of rock and stone. Volcanic in structure, Stygian mountains, are known by their deeply saturated, blueish-black coloration, for the vast, dark pine trees that ring the foothills, and the bright red glow of the active volcanoes at their heights. At their lower altitudes, the pine groves protect and facilitate a rich biodiversity - from the mundane mushroom, to apex predators, like the sabertooth wulver. Stygian forests are dark, foreboding places, full of titanic creatures battling for survival. Those that venture here are typically big game hunters seeking an epic trophy, fortune-finders searching for a mythical fortune, or explorers and scientists eager to study the throng of life.

## In the Depths

As almost all civilized folk live beneath the waves in the solitaires, the features under the sea are just as important as on the surface continents. While most species are unable to inherently breath underwater, many devices, tools or magical abilities exist to facilitate it. The real danger of exploring the depths is that of pressure.

For the most part, the solitaires floating through the oceans stay within a certain depth, typically in the **open-water** zone (0 to 400 meters) or the upper edge of the **deep-water** zone (400-1000 meters). At these depths, the immense pressure felt on a humanoid body is unbearable. Exploring outside the safety of the solitaires is impossibly dangerous without access to the proper equipment. Traveling outside a solitary requires smaller submersibles capable of withstanding the immense pressures of the deep ocean.

Another danger with leaving the safety of the solitaires is that of the Merrow Kingdoms. Thought to just be folk tales or mythological creatures, the merrow are an ancient race of aquatic creatures that have lived in the depths of the oceans for thousands of years. Generally considered xenophobic, they fiercely protect their kingdoms from the surface civilizations. As long as the citizens of the solitaires do not venture into their domains, they are generally left alone. However, that does not mean the merrow do not send out raiding parties to acquire the things they need or want, which sometimes means a violent encounter in an environment entirely unsuitable to terrestrial folk.

### Undersea Environments



While some characteristics of the underwater environment are universal, the various ecosystems that exist under the sea are dependent on local factors such as depth, topography, temperature and tidal influence.

Due to the self-sufficiency of the solitaires and the dangers undersea, much of the depths have not been mapped or explored. A generally agreed upon policy among the solitaires is that they all stay within an specific area of the ocean, which ensures that each one has access to ample resources in order to survive and without having to compete against each other.

### **Coral Reefs**

Sometimes called the 'rainforests of the sea', coral reef zones form some of the most diverse ecosystems. While most are commonly found at shallow depths in tropical waters, deep water and cold water coral reefs exist as well.

Coral reef zones provide ecologically complex and varied marine habitats supporting a wide range of other organisms. The biodiversity of all coral reefs is unsurpassed by any other region under the sea and almost any type of sea creature can be found living here or surviving off of the ecosystem.

### **Kelp Forests**

Kelp grows in "underwater forests" which covers a large part of the world's temperate and polar coastlines. As kelp grows primarily in shallow oceans and are known for their high growth rate, kelp forests are considered highly productive and dynamic ecosystems.

A diverse array of sea life uses kelp forests for protection or food. Various fish and invertebrates, such as shrimp, crustaceans, bristle worms (such as the Cankerworm), sea stars and snails are commonly found here. Many marine animals can also be found, such as giant seals, otters and other such megafauna.

A major source of sustenance for the denizens of the *deep cities*, kelpmongers routinely farm the forests that surround them or those which they pass by (for those solitaires on the move).

### **Hydrothermal Vents**

Hydrothermal vents are fissures on the seafloor from which geothermally heated water discharges. They are commonly found near volcanically active places and are generally surrounded by rocks and mineral ore deposits (such as iron, gold, nickel and copper) useful for metallurgical and alchemical purposes.

A vast ecosystem exists in and around hydrothermal vents. Especially in the deep sea areas, biological communities around them depends on nutrients found in the dusty chemical deposits and fluids in which they live. Tubeworms, eel fish, octopuses, predatory snails and eyeless shrimp can all be found in these areas.

Hydrothermal zones are considered very dangerous areas due to the extreme heat, toxic gases, and lack of visibility. Venturing into these zones requires specialized gear, such as the *Mantis Exosuit*, specifically designed for underwater mining, construction and demolition.

### **Sand Dunes**

In open-water areas devoid of other ecologically-rich characteristics, there are only the rocks and sandy dunes. These areas provide very little in terms of material resources, food or other items of value. The ocean floor is in a constant state of flux as the sand dunes drift to the tides

and currents. Dune ecosystems are extremely difficult places for plants to survive and the creatures most found in these regions are either migratory or predatory hunters constantly on the move, like sharks.

### **Seagrass Meadows**

Seagrass meadows are underwater ecosystems formed by marine plants (mostly grasses) found in shallow coastal waters and in the brackish waters of estuaries. Seagrass meadows are sometimes called 'prairies of the sea' and have diverse and productive ecosystems equal to that of coral reefs.

Seagrasses are found in shallow seas on the continental shelf of all continents. They are generally safe places used by society to hunt and fish as many herbivorous species use the seagrasses for protection or as a food source.

### **Seamounts**

A seamount is a large geologic formation that rises from the ocean floor but does not reach the water's surface. They are typically formed from extinct volcanoes, but some may still be active, which drastically changes the environment and ecology in the nearby area. Because of their abundance, seamounts are one of the most common marine ecosystems in the world. Due to their elevated position in the water and their interaction with currents, seamounts attract plankton, corals, fish, and marine mammals alike.

### **Volcanic Caves**

Sea caves may be formed in volcanic rocks, although some are created through erosion by the wave action of the sea. Volcanic caves are characterized by large, arching structures and walls of hardened lava with occasional steaming lava streams. Most cave systems under the ocean are unstable from the constant erosive pressure and thus are extremely dangerous to traverse.



## THE AUSTRALIS EXPANSE





# Landmarks of the Australis Expanse

## Aether Vortex

A vast swirling vortex of light and darkness hovers vertically throughout the area, penetrating into the depths of the ocean and extending thousands of meters in the sky. Most steer clear of the Aether Vortex when traversing the waters nearby, as the dangers of the swirling vortex threaten to tear all vessels to shreds. Many speculate that the origins of the vortex are linked to the disappearance of solitary that used to float in the same area and that it was created by some horrible calamity with it's solar core. No one has been crazy or foolish enough to try to enter the vortex to find out.

## Alabaster Spire

A tall, pale and featureless spire rises out of a perpetually shrouded isle off the coast of Australis. Those that have ventured to the isle return speaking of murderous ghosts inhabiting it, and vow never to return.

## Devil Horns Isle

Known for its distinct horn-shaped peaks along the northern tip of the island, an ruined Ulvengard outpost is one of its only other notable features. Originally created as a military outpost for the Duskbreakers, it was quickly discovered, raided and destroyed in one cycle by a powerful Verdulac force that seemed to emerge from the shadows around them. Those that survived vow to return one day and reclaim what was lost.

## Dyer Lake

High upon a plateau in Australis lies a freshwater lake emanating a perpetual orange glow. The source of the light comes from the abundance of phosphorescent algae living within the nutrient-rich water. The forest surrounding the lake radiates, as the cones on the trees themselves emit the same orange glow from decades surviving off the waters of the lake. This whole region feels primordial and otherworldly and provides a small ecosystem for some creatures to live within.

## Swamp of Vostok

On the eastern edges of Australis lies the fetid and vast swamp of Vostok. Very few creatures can survive within the barren swamp. If anything, unliving creatures such as wendigo or preta haunt the swamp, most likely the unfortunate victims of its terrible environment.

## The Bloated Fen & Coast

Shallow waters and muddy marshland encompass this wide stretch of land on the southern edge of the continent. Crabs, crocodilians, and other amphibious creatures live in and under the water in this ecosystem. The fen is also known for frequent "ghost lights", although whether they are malicious spirits and ghosts or just natural phenomena like bioluminescence is yet to be determined.

## Tyrannical Steppes

Named for the gigantic reptilian predators that roam these blackened, rocky hills, the steppes are a dangerous place for most creatures to tread. Prowled by creatures that have adapted to the darkness, these evolutionary ancestors to crocodiles and are more akin to dinosaurs like

the Tyrannosaurus Rex or Allosaurus. With frequent incursions into the forests surrounding Dyer Lake in search of food, very few places on the continent are out of reach of these predators.



# Other Solitaries of the Australis Expanse

## Covenshark

### The City of Vagabonds

Considered a rowdy and oft-times dangerous solitary, Covenshark is a haven for scavengers, thieves and those of less-reputable, fringe occupations. Ruled by a Collective Intelligence calling themselves the ‘Hammerhead’, this governing body of Remade maintains a sometimes illogical sense of order and balance in the solitary, but generally freely allows those to come and go and do as they please. Covenshark is orbited by numerous flotsam of ill-repute owned by pirates, mercenaries and other various scum of the world.



## Erebus Vault

### The Wonderwork

Erebus Vault is a large solitary located near the Alabaster Strand off the coast of Australis. Equipped with a solar core too small for it’s size, barely any light reaches the extant of it’s hull, giving the feeling of eternal darkness surrounding those living within. The solitary is governed by a monastic order dedicated to mastering the arts of thaumaturgy or “wonderworking”. What deity or otherworldly being grants them this power is too difficult to explain and only understood by those in the upper echelons of the monastic order. It’s not a question of “who” or “what” but more of “when”.

Not many other people live in Erebus Vault besides the monks - those that do are either ancestrally related and have lived there for centuries or are new petitioners to the order. Any goods and services they provide are most likely created out of boredom rather than necessity as the primary focus is always on supporting the thaumaturgical arts of the monks, which require very little aside from food, water and clothing.



## Harkness

### The Eclipsed

Harkness is actually two small *deep cities* orbiting around each other, which is colloquially referred to as a *binary* (rather than a solitary). Physically connected to each other by numerous tunnels and passageways, the pair revolve around a common center of mass. Each solitary is governed independently from one another but work together systematically to support those living in both cities. Harkness is not known for anything special in terms of trade goods or services, and is extremely self-sufficient due to its remote location in the ocean.

As the only one of its kind in the southern oceans, Harkness is rumored to be the headquarters of the **Somber Chalice**, and the home of the Wardens. Many of those seeking to join the organization venture here, but most only find a duality of slow-paced undersea life with a sleepy and laid-back citizenry. The truth of Harkness is more shocking than most would believe, but few discover its secret.



## Hollow Rig

### The Unbroken Port

The remnants of two small solitaries that have collided into one another, Hollow Rig is less spherical and more oblong in shape after being forcibly welded together to create a



mismatched metallic monster-city. The denizens of the previous two solitaries have intermingled into one society and are viewed by outsiders as ruggedly individualistic, scrappy and resourceful. Some of the most brilliant engineers in history were born and bred in Hollow Rig’s depths.

Hollow Rig is “ruled” by a monarchy with very little real power. As more of a figurehead for the people, the King and Queen represent the outward interests of the people and leave the actual governing of the city to the establishment of local worker-based organizations, calling themselves unions or syndicates.

A labyrinthine network of tunnels and chambers, Hollow Rig is difficult for outsiders to navigate and many who come to visit hire guides to get around safely and efficiently. While mostly civilized and safe, some areas of Hollow Rig are considered ‘wild’ and house all manner of dangerous creatures to hunt or harbor nefarious individuals eager to prey on those lost in the depths.

## Luxadjinn

### The Keeper of Secrets

Home to a coven of ancient thanatae (some say the eldest of their species), Luxadjinn is known for its research institutions, arcane academies and universities dedicated to science and technology. A largely insular and cerebral society, Luxadjinn floats lazily through the waters off the tip of the Drake Passage (present day South America), and makes an excellent base of operations to those eager to explore the mainland. Others come seeking the freedom to conduct various experiments or research in topics questionable in other locations.

Luxadjinn is a direct democracy with all policies being determined by the will of the people. It is organized around a General Council formed of all voting-age members and has the power to create legally-binding decisions through referendums.

The solitary is known for its striking architecture and advanced integration of various technological wonders. The phlogiston used to fuel the solar core is treated through a chemical process granting it incredible efficiency and potency, but also allows for changing the color seasonally as per the desires of the citizens.



## Ulvengard

### The City of Dawn

The Ulvengard is a small solitary located on the eastern shore of Australis and floats along the length of the continent in a roughly two-week time-span. While many solitaries tend to float through the ocean in a circular route, Ulvengard runs a line along the coast, ever vigilant against the dual threats of the Merrow kingdom to the east and the Verdulac domain to the west. A largely militaristic society, the citizens of Ulvengard refer to themselves as Duskbreakers. Ruled by a Council of Paladins, Ulvengard is considered safe and orderly, if not a bit strict in their judicial structure. But in their mind, it’s all for the greater good, considering the threats found so closely nearby.



## Wraith Crest

### The Silver Crown





# CHAPTER 7: TRISTANIA



This chapter covers in detail one of the most powerful solitaires in the Australis Expanse, Tristania. Called the **Jewel of the Expanse**, it is the wealthiest solitary (most likely in the world) and is home to large trade corporations, enigmatic politicians and ancient lorekeepers and historians. While not all of the Guilds tasked with discovering the Dreamlands are headquartered here, they all have a presence due to the prominence of the city and it's relationship to the others in the region. As a primarily mercantile nation, it avoids alliances that might entail military, political, or direct economic action and has been neutral for centuries.

## Government

Tristania is a medium sized Solitary of around 600,000 citizens and is ruled by the Bright Queens - an oligarchical government comprised of secret appointees from the major mercantile unions, political organizations and other special interest guilds. Each guild or organization nominates a representative to the Bright Council, who then make decisions democratically on all things important to the function and governance of the Solitary. While it has generally been a council of eleven distinct groups for the majority of it's existence, the number of guilds and organizations in the Bright Council have ebbed and flowed over the decades as new ones spring up in place of old ones.

If a guild or organization wants representation on the Bright Council, they need to make a case for why to the Council itself, which then deliberates privately on the matter before voting on it to determine the outcome. Organizations need to fulfill specific criteria to get a seat on the council - either they fulfill an important need for Tristania, represent the needs of an important but marginalized group, or are supported by a significant portion of the population or population group and therefore need to be recognized.

## Currency and Trade

Tristania is a tiered Solitary - architecturally, socially and politically - the wealthiest live in higher tiers of the city and literally look down upon those of lower fortune. A wholly capitalist society, wealth is spread among many industries and professions and represents a diverse slice of the population - all looking to make their way to the top.

As the primary trading hub in the region due to its policy of neutrality, mercantile needs and desires, Tristania welcomes all trade vessels within its walls. A robust government run port authority called the **Port Consortium** exists to handle the vast amount of vessels arriving and departing daily.

Metallic coins are the dominant form of currency, as paper materials are not as durable in the wet and salty environments of the deep cities. The dominant coin used by almost all nations and societies is called a **Shekel (sk)**. While many deep cities have other forms of currency - the standard means of buying and selling goods and services is treated ubiquitously in shekels. Because of copper's value as a conductor of electricity and in the creation of many electrical components, it is not used for coinage anywhere in the world.

Tristania's other forms of currency (and their exchanges) used by it's inhabitants on a daily



basis are:

- **Crown (cr)** (crafted from steel): 10 Shekels equal 1 Crown
- **Mark (mk)** (crafted from iron): 10 Marks equal 1 Shekel
- **Shell (sh)** (crafted from tin): 10 Shells equal 1 Mark

## The Bright Council

The identity of each council member representative is secret and only known by each organization’s members. However, much speculation exists about who the representatives from the various Great Guilds and Organizations are and is a topic of discussion and amusement by the general populace of Tristania and its visitors.

Visually, all council members wear matching robes and gloves to conceal their physical features. Additionally, all of them wear mirrored glass masks and thematically designed crowns crafted to show which organization or guild they represent on the Council. While they are generally referred to as “Queens”, many guilds and organizations address their representative by different titles based on the values, traditions or desires of the guild or organization.

## Current Members of the Bright Council

Not every guild organization is represented on the Bright Council. This is for various reasons - be it considered a conflict of interests (like the **Tristanian Royal Marines**), the organization does not originate from Tristania (like the **Eternal Pact** and **Unwound Coil**) or the organization does not wish to take part in Council matters (like **The Solitaire**).

1. **The Archon** - Archon Prime
2. **Boilermaster Union** - Queen
3. **The Captains League** - Director
4. **Duskbreakers** - General
5. **Founders Lodge** - Regent
6. **Guild of Deep Divers** - Queen
7. **Lodestar Hall** - Magistrate
8. **Kelpmonger Cooperative** - Queen
9. **Port Consortium** - Director
10. **Steelmettler Combine** - Queen
11. **Thermo-Electric Trade Union** - Queen
- X. **Tristanian Royal Marines\***

Director-General Xakhennon (public, non-voting member)

## The Seven Great Guilds

### THE ARCHON

*“The Fire In Our Throats”*

The Archon believe that the Antediluvians were weak and ineffectual during their reign and that whatever remains of their society exists only now to be conquered and plundered. All members of this order believe that “might makes right” and it is by their will alone that humanity will be

saved by the liberation of the secrets of the Dreamlands. This conviction attracts all manner of individuals from all walks of life and occupations. They organize themselves into divisions - each with different goals and objectives, all run from the top by the Cabal of Thirteen - the original Archon members still alive to this day. How some of them have managed to do so is a mystery and one that will not so easily be solved.

A group of player characters Archons in this game represents one small division among a vast hierarchy of others. Their goals range from the acquisition of knowledge, exploring dangerous locales, or clearing enemy forces from points of interest for further study and accrual.

### Notable Individuals

#### Cassia Thracion

*Female Argos*

While her outward persona is a wise and soft-spoken elderly argos woman, Cassia Thracion is in reality a shrewd, insightful and clever member of the Archon. She regularly speaks publicly in regards to preserving liberty, free markets and self-ownership within Tristania. As one of the eldest members of the Cabal of Thirteen, it is rumored that she also dons the mantle of the Archon Prime for the Bright Council.

#### Professor Sebastian Hellebore

*Male Human*

A notable professor of chemical engineering, Sebastian Hellebore is a tall, lanky and pot-bellied nebbish of around 50 years of age. He oversees a number of academic programs and private research projects at the Erasmus University of Technology. A generally quiet and reserved individual, he always seems to be deeply focused on some new kind of research or project.

#### Cinereas Olvadoi

*Female Sirin*

Originally from Hollow Rig, this female sirin of a vaguely horned owl appearance is known as a cold and calculating agent of the Archon. As the established leader of her division, she runs an agency of individuals tasked with the monitoring and surveillance of various threats to the interests of the Archon. Most recently, she’s led incursions into the Verdulac Domain on the mainland, but has not been able to get far due to the widespread miasma zones within.

### DUSKBREAKERS

*“Reign of Light”*

The idea of danger in the darkness persists to this day, both in the murky depths of the ocean and the twilight haze of the surface world. Horrific creatures lurk in the shadowy regions, always waiting for the right opportunity to take what they want, which more often or not, is your life. The Duskbreakers exist to combat these creatures, hold them at bay and to strike back at where they hide. A paramilitary order, the Duskbreakers are organized in ranks specific to their particular role within the organization. Newcomers all start as Watchmen, but after years of experience and training, are given a more specialized role and title within the organization.

A group of Duskbreakers are called a Cohort and each member of the group have specific titles based on their role or capabilities. Cohorts have no permanent commander or leader; the most experienced member usually leads in combat situations, however this could change based on



the specifics of the situation or combat strategy. The various ranks are: Augur, Phalanx, Praetorian, Proxy and Venator. All are considered equal to one another to facilitate flexibility and fluidity when it comes to enacting orders or taking action.

Augurs are scouts, map-makers and spies for the organization. They research places where ancient relics of power could be hidden and lead expeditions to these places. Some are also sent incognito to far-off places to keep tabs on emerging threats or other dangers.

Phalanx are front-line combatants and are responsible for recruiting, training and maintaining the combat readiness of the organization.

Praetorians are vigilant guardians of people, places or objects of value. This rank is generally a temporary rank for when the need arises - otherwise, most Praetorians fulfill the duties and obligations of another rank, usually as a Phalanx or Venator.

Proxies are ambassadors, lawyers and administrators for times when the cohort is deployed to faraway lands or cities.

Venator are monster hunters and expert trackers. Complimented by the skills of the Augurs, these two are frequently sent on initial expeditions together.

**Notable Individuals**

**Commander Ellis Tychomane**

*Female Human*

Known as a brilliant tactician and skillful combatant on the battlefield as well as having a keen eye for details and logistics, Ellis has been leading the Duskbreakers of Tristania for over 15 years. She's brave, intelligent, trustworthy and matter-of-fact in her dealings with others. Ellis was raised as a boy, but quickly discovered that she identified as female and transitioned in her youth. She'll well regarded by those in her charge and takes pride in her work.

**Venator Abumazar Magnus Ghazali**

*Male Carabus*

A short, stout carabus with a jet-black exoskeleton and stag beetle appearance, Venator Ghazali is known in the Duskbreakers as 'The Scrapper' because he prefers to go toe-to-toe with the creatures he hunts. Most Venators engage at range due to the dangers of close, personal combat, but Ghazali relishes getting up close and personal with his prey. Gentle and convivial, Ghazali spends much of his free time tending his personal garden when not on a hunt. His yin to the yang of being a fearless hunter.

**Proxy '5P13L3R'**

*Remade*

A matter-of-fact and practical ambassador from Ulvengard, this stately decorated Remade was unceremoniously gifted its name for its adherence to speaking bluntly and precisely regarding the topic at hand. Rigid in thinking and to the letter of the law, "Spieler" is amazingly good at its job, but who knows what its really thinking deep within the Collective Intelligence. "Spieler" tends to be the first person an outsider meets when they come to Duskbreaker Hold in Tristania. While maybe not the most personable, you can rest assured that your business will be taken care of promptly and efficiently.

**ETERNAL PACT**

***"Calculating Infinity"***

The Eternal Pact are a secretive, mystical order obsessed with changing the past, present and future. While viewed as no more than a cult by outsiders, members of this group refer to themselves as Adherents and practice the art of "wonderworking" or thaumaturgy. As a communal magical art, only the highest ranking members, known as Conductors, are actually capable of producing wonders capable of dramatic change or outcomes. Most can only achieve minor temporal changes even with the aid of their peers.

Thaumaturgy is ritual magic requiring the communion between a choir of casters, each one channeling their collective power into the group in order to create temporal effects of mostly minor, but sometimes great, effect. This process is incredibly taxing and fatigues all involved once the ritual is completed.

While the sect of the Eternal Pact in Tristania originates from Erebus Vault, it is a splintered off one that does not follow the accords, treatises and goals of it's predecessors. This group is far more interested in discovering the secrets of the Dreamlands and are highly convinced that the ***Final Wonder*** will be found within it's walls or domain.

**Notable Individuals**

**Conductor Eva Darkstar**

*Female Thanatae*

The only member with the rank of Conductor in the Tristianian branch of the Eternal Pact, Eva Darkstar is rumored to be over 500 years old and immensely powerful. As the only one capable of leading the choir in the art of thaumaturgy, she rarely performs public feats of wonder out of concern of attracting too much attention to the guild. Instead, she focuses on building a strong reputation in the community and training and empowering new recruits.

**Voice Filbert Buttercup**

*Male Argos*

With features reminiscent of a German shepherd, Filbert is a gregarious and optimistic argos of around 30 years of age. Filbert is well on his way to becoming the next Conductor of the Tristianian branch of the Eternal Pact and focuses his efforts routinely in such endeavors. He balances this practice by also aiding the Eternal Pacts many Adherents in their search for the location of the **Dreamlands** and obtaining the secrets of the ***Final Wonder***. As such, he is considered the most knowledgeable regarding such things and is highly sought after for his extensive experience and repository of knowledge.

**Voice Surya Servius**

*Female Carabus*

Surya Servius is a studious spitfire, and has unexpectedly proven to also be an expert expedition leader, leading and scouting out important locations related to the Eternal Pact cause. A public recluse for most of her life, Surya is both a gifted researcher and dedicated historian. Recently focused on uncovering the mysteries of the forbidding and cursed Alabaster Strand, Surya actively seeks allies and adventurers willing to venture onto the enigmatic isle in hopes of exploring the tower and recovering any information and relics for further study.

**The Art of Thaumaturgy**



Colloquially referred to by most people as “wonderworking”, thaumaturgy is an arcane, scientific procedure performed by a group of individuals called a Choir. Most choirs are made up of a dozen individuals, all led by the choir master called a Conductor. By channeling the energies of repeated magical formula, true acts of wonder, or miracles, can be performed by the Conductor. What constitutes a miraculous effect and the cost of such a wonder is highly variable depending on a number of esoteric factors which must be properly calculated and analyzed by members of the choir before performing the act of thaumaturgy. This usually requires a large amount of material resource and time researching and planning the communal magical act. Failure to do so means at best, the thaumaturgical wonder fizzles out with no effect. At, worst, the catastrophic failure causes a complete meltdown of the communal minds, ravaging the body and soul into a drooling, dim-witted husk of life. Strangely enough, this outcome even affects Remade - cutting them off from the Collective Intelligence they are all part of - and into a state of pure isolation and terror. Many do not recover from such mental anguish.

**FOUNDERS LODGE**

**“Fortune and Glory”**

Members of the Founders Lodge are treasure hunters intent upon discovering sites of interest and retrieving or acquiring the riches and artifacts within. Created by a wealthy aristocratic group with the belief that it is their duty and obligation to find and excavate these treasures for the good of society, this guild operates as two distinct groups - the Vanguard and the Antiquarians. The primary task of the Vanguards are to seek out new sources of information regarding ancients ruins, wrecks, crypts or other surface installations. Once they’ve sufficiently scouted the location for possible threats, dangers and valuables, they return and send in an Antiquarian expedition, which laboriously excavates the site and retrieves everything else of value.

Player characters of this group are most likely part of the Vanguard as that is where the *real* action and excitement occurs. While being part of the Antiquarian division may sound more interesting, in reality the duties of the archaeologists are rather mundane, time-consuming and require back-breaking work. The Antiquarians dwarfs the Vanguard in terms of size, but most are considered unskilled laborers and engineers, without the fortitude, skill or conviction to be part of the Vanguard. The most prestigious individuals have always been the Vanguard as they are the ones to first discover a location, delve deep within and return with artifacts never before seen.

**Notable Individuals**

**Head Archaeologist Lacephon Stroud**

*Male Sirin*

Fiercely nationalistic and proud of his heritage, Lacephon Stroud believes that everything he and the Founders Lodge accomplish is for the betterment of the people of Tristania. The fortunes acquired, by any means necessary, enriches each and every one’s lives and guides the city towards progress, stability and growth. Whether or not this is true is subject to debate as while it’s clear that the Founders Lodge gets the best spoils first, very little seems to trickle down to the rest of the people Tristania. Despite this, Lacephon perceives himself as a little bit of a liberator and a little bit of a saint as his conviction to the cause of the Founders Lodge is unwavering.

**Precursor Kestrel Vortaghast**

*Gender Neutral Thanatae*

Kestrel is the oldest and only original member of the Founders Lodge and functions in the role of historian, loremaster and archivist. Calm and imposing, Kestrel walks the hall of the Lodge with a keen eye on the planning and execution of up-and-coming expeditions. Always eager to impart their knowledge upon those willing to listen, Kestrel feels that in order to uncover the secrets of the future, one must always remember the past.

**Josephine Armison, Vanguard Captain**

*Female Human*

Josephine is a master scout and pathfinder, using her skills to discern and reveal traces of long lost civilizations and signs of ancient relics. She is known for having a powerful will and a tactician’s mind. While it seems that her attention is scattered among a dozen points at any given time, her ability to read patterns and calculate the hidden nature of her surroundings impresses all that have been fortunate enough to go on an expedition with her.

**LODESTAR HALL**

**“Eyes Always Open”**

Structured more as a university or academy, Lodestar Hall is an architecturally striking - and highly secure - structure found in the Collegiate Ward of Tristania. Called the *Erudite Fortress* by the locals, the building is difficult to visit without a permit and well-guarded from intrusion by those not of the order. While the organization maintains smaller outposts among the other solitaires and even the occasional terrestrial outpost, this one is the home and sanctuary for insatiable seekers of knowledge, the rugged, intrepid explorers and fearless technophiles pushing the limits of science, technology the acquisition of knowledge.

This repository of knowledge has given the Lodestar Hall the reputation as knowledge-brokers and the keepers of sensitive documents (everything from private legal documents to dangerous or heretical manuscripts are allowed to be stored here). If you need to learn everything about anything, you go to Lodestar Hall and pay them for that information. While most topics of information are easily bought from Lodestar Hall, anything regarding the Dreamlands, is absolutely off-limits to non-members. That doesn’t stop people from trying to get their hands on it, many through unscrupulous or criminal means.

**Notable Individuals**

**Archivist “Big Data”: Value, Veracity and Volume**

*Remade Collective Intelligence*

These three Remade form a singular Collective Intelligence and are responsible for maintaining the vast collection of art, artifacts, objects, documents, and other historically relevant items of Lodestar Hall. Virtually identical in appearance, only those most familiar with all of them can usually differentiate between the three; their names are a bit of a hint on the style of answer you’ll receive for your question or inquiry. When not cataloging Lodestar Hall’s collection, each member of the Big Data Collective spends time educating and training petitioners on the history, responsibility and bureaucracy of Lodestar Hall.

**Curator Joyce Hazel Hawke**

*Female Human*

A young prodigy of Lodestar Hall, Joyce is a fiercely intelligent and independent girl in her teenage years. A little bit of a daydreamer but with an impeccable attention to detail, Joyce is



responsible for the care and research of Lodestar Hall’s collection. She is also known as being the best at assessing the authenticity and significance of items related to the Antediluvians and the Dreamlands. Obsessed with the ancient civilization, Joyce has visions of riding fantastic mythological creatures in the pristine grassy meadows of the Dreamlands someday. In her eyes, every discovery related to the Antediluvians paints a storybook picture of what the ancients were like and how they lived and she dreams of one day being able to witness it herself.

**Chief Engineer Bigby Bronzepaw**

*Male Argos*

As the chief engineer of Lodestar Hall, this scruffy-looking argos of Scottish Terrier resemblance is responsible for the development and maintenance of various technological wonders that the research and development division employs. He also oversees research projects focused on determining how ancient devices or artifacts function and if they can be reverse-engineered or applied beneficially towards the goals of Lodestar Hall and ultimately, the people of Tristania. Bigby is known in the political world as a vocal opponent critical of the Founders Lodge and believes that their methods and actions are largely immoral, self-centered and illegal.

**THE SOLITAIRE**

**“Unfettered Soul”**

Stark individuality is the nature of existence for the Solitaire. No one leads them and they have no base-of-operations or organizational assets to speak of. While outsiders view them as little more than just gangs, clubs or cults, all self-declared Solitaire follow what might be called “social-anarchism” by today’s standards. They oppose private ownership as the means of production, seeing it as a source of inequality and instead advocate ownership through collective ownership. Solitaire groups come with both peaceful and insurrectionist tendencies, which is why they are sometimes viewed negatively within society.

A unique quality exists amongst all who identify with the Solitaire which is the subconscious or involuntary desire to seek out Agartha - Shangri-La, The Promised Land, Zion - all just different names for what most consider the Dreamlands. The Solitaire believe this land is a utopia where they can live freely again under the sun’s shining, golden rays, where all their bodily needs are sustained and where they will find spiritual enlightenment.

**Notable Individuals**

**Anthem Olympia**

*Female Carabus*

A well known activist and musician, Anthem is the founder of the **Oblique Square**, a societal movement aimed at dismantling the systemic issues of class discrimination (or classism) within Tristania. While progressive in many ways, a gulf exists between the less fortunate and those in the upper echelons of Tristianian society. Her beliefs are that those of higher status do not generally mix with lower-status people and therefore are able to control their activities by influencing laws and social standards, thereby furthering the divide between the people of Tristania. This is the crux of Anthem’s cause and are the bonds that she strives to unshackle society from. This mindset has led her to believe that true independence and opportunity lies somewhere else out in the world, untouched and pristine, but until she finds it, she will bend Tristania to her will.

**Toland Firehawk**

*Male Thanatae*

No one knows how old Toland truly is, nor when he founded the society known only as the **Baroque Initiative**. Rumor is that his ancestors were actual Antediluvians and that he is privy to their long, lost knowledge. Some believe that he might even be an Antediluvian himself, fallen to the same fate as the rest of the Thanatae of the world. Only Toland himself knows the truth but as a noted recluse, Toland is rarely seen in public.

**Lancelot Hernández**

*Non-Binary Human*

Lone wanderer, deaf. Uses sign language to converse

**UNWOUND COIL**

**“Harness the Vanishing Point”**

The Intronauts of the Unwound Coil seek only to escape the limitations of the physical realm and depart for space between time and dimensions (some call it ‘astral space’, but there are many other names for it). There, they believe, is the one true location of the Dreamlands. Unfortunately, how to make that journey has yet to be discovered or discerned. Whether or not the universe is even structured in such a way is not clearly proven.

None of this stops the Unwound Coil from their calling and they have spent centuries studying various rituals, technology, magical sites and other mysteries in the hopes of finding out the answer to life, death and secrets of the multiverse. While the Somber Chalice may have some insight into life after death or secrets beyond the material realm, anything they have gleaned over the years is closely guarded and only known by the upper echelons of that order. Needless to say, members of the Unwound Coil are highly interested in gaining access to their secrets and will pay handsomely for it.

The Unwound Coil does not have an official organizational base nor overall leadership group - all are structured in localized cells with little correspondence between them. The largest known cells dwell in these cities but more certainly exist: Harkness, Luxadjinn, and Tristania.

**Notable Individuals**

Members of the Unwound Coil prefer to keep low profiles, but the few that are publicly known or make their membership aware to the public are described here.

**TBD**

*Male Human*

tbd

**TBD**

*Female Argos*

Tbd

**TBD**

*Female Sirin*

tbd



# Organizations of Tristania

Various trade unions, societies, agencies and military organizations exist within Tristania and represent the diverse careers and occupations of those that live here. The majority of them have representation on the Bright Council, but those that do not will be indicated below in their descriptions.

## Baroque Initiative

TBD

## Boilermaster Union

Refining saltwater from the ocean is absolutely vital for ensuring that the people of Tristania have access to fresh water, salt and other important minerals. The Boilermaster Union represents those with occupations integral to the collection, refinement, distribution and management of Tristania’s water supplies. Their council representative is rumored to be a tall sirin with gray and white feathers wearing a featureless gray mask & crown adorned with metallic baubles and dangling gems.

## The Captains League

The Captains League is an organization which represents the interests of ship captains that call Tristania their home port. The group is considered fairly informal and is organized more like a club of like-minded individuals. They get together monthly to exchange stories, tall tales and engage in other acts of revelry before usually heading out back to sea. Their representative to the Bright Council is a short, stocky individual that speaks in a loud, slightly accented, masculine voice. The thin crown that this representative wears is made of dark metal with shiny green hues.

## Erasmus University of Technology

TBD

## Guild of Deep Divers

Working in the depths of the ocean is incredibly hazardous, expensive and difficult. This organization ensures that the engineers, mechanics, welders (and other vocations) have continued access to proper safety equipment, lodging and supplies. They are also responsible for ensuring that guild members follow proper protocols, laws and procedural standards as recommended by the guild’s organizational leadership group. Their representative to the Council is a diminutive individual wearing a pale, weathered robe and a decorative crown shaped like a divers bell.

## Kelpmonger Cooperative

The reliance upon kelp farmers for a variety of purposes (food source, medicine, phlogiston refining, etc.) is incredibly high for all solitaires, not just Tristania. Therefore, the Kelpmonger Cooperative is a large and well organized group existing to ensure that their issues are addressed by the council and that any threats or problems that arise are immediately dealt with - as anything that threatens their ability to cultivate and harvest the kelp would have dire consequences to the well-being of Tristania. Their representative to the council is rumored to be a thanatae, based on the sound of her voice, which sounds deep and hollow. She perpetually wears an ornate metal crown of azure hues, even while out in public.

## Oblique Square

TBD

## Port Consortium of Tristania

As trade plays a huge part in the daily lives and operation of Tristania, the Port Consortium is responsible for handling the day-to-day affairs of the wharves and cargo bays surrounding Tristania. In addition, they are responsible for hiring and managing the labor, processing and handling the goods and related services for the ports. As an important agency for the governing and functioning of Tristania, the Port Consortium is an independent and financially stable organization. Their representative to the council is a rotund individual who speaks in a haughty tone, hollow voice. Their crown has stylized, cresting waves etched on the surface.

## Steelmettler Combine

A labor union for the steelworkers, silversmiths and various other metallurgists, the Steelmettler Combine ensure that laborers are treated well and have access to fair lodging, health care and other necessities. Their Bright Council representative is rumored to be a tall and lanky individual who speaks in a soft, husky voice. They wear an enormous silver crown adorned with curved, ornamental horns.

## Solar Core Conservation Committee

This organization is primarily an oversight board and does not have a seat on the Bright Council. The solar core is the most important device of any solitary. This group is made-up of volunteers or appointees from the other guilds and organizations of Tristania to ensure that all issues, problems or ideas are accounted for in ensuring the smooth operation of Tristania’s solar core.

## Thermo-Electric Trade Union

This trade union represents the interests of electricians, hydraulic engineers and other professions involved in the distribution, collection and expansion of electrical systems within Tristania. Their Council representative is a soft-spoken, but fast-speaking individual with a thin build and wiry arms. They wear a featureless copper crown etched with ornate scripting.

## Tristanian Royal Marines

As the primary military and security force for the people of Tristania, the TRM are led by a Director-General appointed by the Bright Council. As the only publicly known member of the Council, they are sometimes viewed as the voice and face of it, even though they have no legislative power. While the Director-General is generally present for council matters, they do not have a vote and are only there to give advice in military or security matters. The Director-General reports directly to all Bright Council members to ensure that no one can utilize the military exclusively for their own gain or interests.