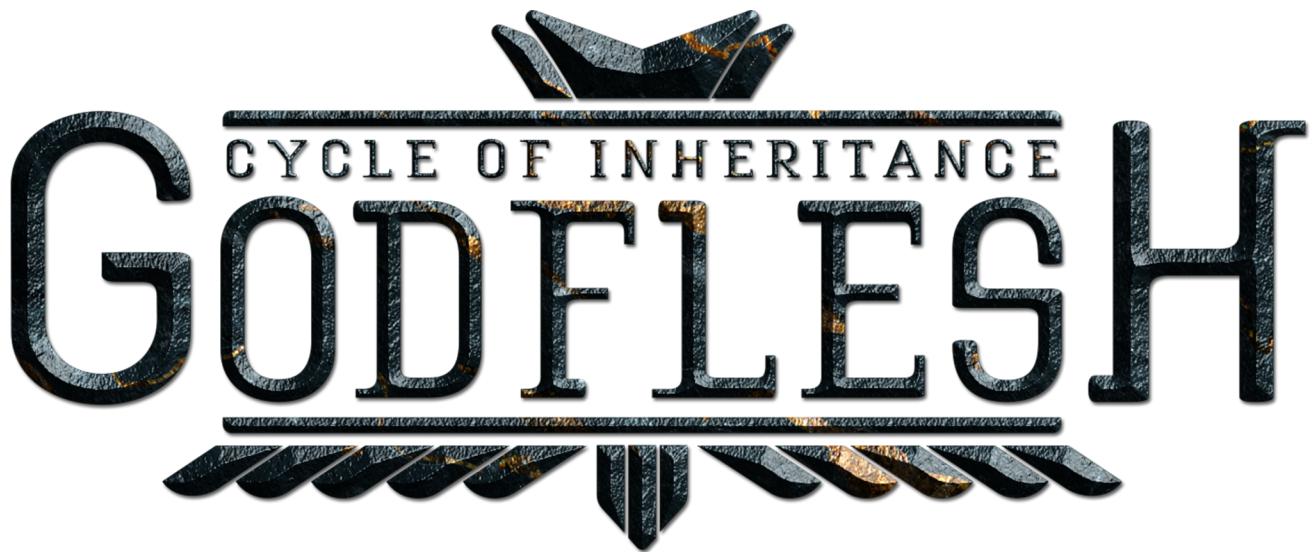




A TABLETOP GAME OF DIVINE DECAY  
AND DARING EXPEDITIONS



THE CHRYSALIS  
QUICKSTART

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The Apocalypse Engine is used courtesy of Vincent Baker and Lumpley Games (<http://lumpley.com>).

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Godflesh: Cycle of Inheritance is a game in development by Zero Prep Games, a worker-owned cooperative.

# THE PUBLIC PLAYTEST

Welcome to the Chrysalis Quickstart for **GODFLESH: CYCLE OF INHERITANCE**, a tabletop roleplaying game where divine power reshapes reality. In this world, mortals ascend to godhood, Ordered Domains stand against chaotic Wildlands, and adventurers seek potent relics from fallen divinities.

## ABOUT THIS PLAYTEST

**GODFLESH: CYCLE OF INHERITANCE** remains in active development. This Chrysalis Quickstart represents a snapshot of our creative process, offering enough material to begin your journey while certain elements continue to evolve based on your feedback.

Within these pages, you'll find:

- Essential rules for character creation and gameplay
- Character playbooks representing unique archetypes
- Core moves for exploration, combat, and recovery
- Setting information to ground your adventures
- A starter scenario to introduce your group to this world

## HOW YOUR FEEDBACK SHAPES THE GAME

Your experiences with **GODFLESH: CYCLE OF INHERITANCE** will directly influence its final form. As you venture through divine Domains and brave the untamed Wildlands, we want to hear what captivates you, what challenges you, and what elements you wish to see expanded.

When sharing feedback, please focus on:

- Game balance and pacing, particularly regarding moves and advancement
- Rule clarity and concept explanation
- Your group's engagement with the setting and themes
- Memorable story moments that emerged during play
- Instances where mechanics didn't align with the intended experience

Join our Discord server at <https://zeroprep.io/discord> to provide feedback. Our development team actively engages with playtesters there, answering questions and gathering insights that will shape the game's development.

For regular updates on our progress, follow us on Bluesky at <https://bsky.app/profile/zeroprep.io>. While our website offers general information, Discord serves as your primary channel for contributing to the game's evolution.

## CORE GAMEPLAY EXPERIENCE

**GODFLESH: CYCLE OF INHERITANCE** builds upon the foundation of *Powered by the Apocalypse* games while introducing unique mechanics that support its distinct setting and themes. For a deeper dive into our influences and design philosophy, see the Overview section at the beginning of this quickstart.

The game uses a move-based system driven by narrative positioning and dice rolls. When your character faces uncertainty or risk, you'll roll two six-sided dice and add an attribute modifier. Results of 10+ indicate strong success, 7-9 yield partial success with complications, and 6 or below introduce unexpected twists determined by the Godmaker (GM).

Your adventures will emphasize:

- Exploring both Ordered Domains and dangerous Wildlands
- Collecting valuable materials and powerful relics
- Growing your character through experience and divine transformation
- Navigating complex factional relationships
- Facing the temptation of consuming Godflesh for power – at great risk

This world operates under unique taboos that shape society – spoken knowledge prevails where writing is forbidden by divine law, and communities sustain themselves through plant-based nourishment where consuming certain substances risks unleashing primal hungers.

## SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT

If you enjoy your experience with the Chrysalis Quickstart, consider supporting **GODFLESH: CYCLE OF INHERITANCE**'s continued development:

- Share your playtest experiences through videos, streams, actual plays, or social media (with clear indication this is playtest material). We actively encourage actual play recordings that showcase your adventures in this world.
- Join our Discord community at <https://zeroprep.io/discord>
- Support us directly through our Ko-Fi page at <https://ko-fi.com/zeroprep> by tipping or becoming a member
- Download digital materials on a "pay what you want" basis from our Itch.io page at <https://zeroprep.itch.io>

The complete version of Godflesh: Cycle of Inheritance will feature expanded character options, a comprehensive bestiary, detailed regional guides, and complete rules for character transformation and divine ascension.

Thank you for joining us in shaping this world of fallen gods and daring adventurers.  
Gather your band, choose your treasures wisely, and venture into the Wildlands –  
where every scar tells a story, and even mortals may grasp at divinity.

# OVERVIEW

**GODFLESH** is a tabletop roleplaying game where you take on the role of a daring adventurer. You'll explore a world reshaped by ascended deities, venturing into untamed wilds beyond their reach. Your goal is to unearth relics of lost civilizations, including the most prized treasure: Godflesh. These are the putrid husks of fallen gods, potent ingredients coveted for crafting, magic, and alchemy. Are you ready to face the dangers and claim your piece of godhood's legacy?

## THE SETTING

**GODFLESH** takes place in a world forever altered by the rise and fall of deities. Eons ago, a massive entity known as They That Are All ruled supreme. Humanity flourished under its divine protection until Orisin the Corrupter, fueled by stolen "Godflesh," unleashed the insatiable Hunger upon humankind. This event triggered a Cycle of Inheritance, where mortals ascend to godhood, only to eventually fall, leaving behind their decaying flesh.

Divines now rule over carved-out Domains, offering varying degrees of control, protection, or manipulation over humanity. However, the Wildlands sprawl between these Domains, a chaotic landscape teeming with mutated creatures, erratic weather, and uncontrolled magic fueled by the remains of fallen gods. The Hunger, a constant threat emanating from this decay, drives animals to monstrous mutations and fuels their hunger for divinity. This is where brave, or perhaps foolish, adventurers come in. Drawn by the allure of power and riches, they venture into the Wildlands to harvest Godflesh, risking being consumed by the very entity they seek to exploit.

## THE CALL TO ADVENTURE

As a seasoned adventurer, you've braved the perilous Wildlands, chasing rumors of fame and fortune. This world is locked in a constant struggle between powerful entities who may seek to manipulate you for their own gain. Who will you serve, if anyone?

Driven by the thrill of the unknown, you crave the untamed wilds over the stifling order of your domain. Whispers of danger beckon you onward, promising legendary monsters to conquer, ancient ruins to explore, and relics of immense power to claim. Your actions will shape your reputation and influence the ongoing struggle for control between the factions.

Many adventures revolve around coveted artifacts – your goal or that of rival factions. However, seemingly simple quests can evolve into complex schemes, leading you face-to-face with the enigmatic deities who rule this world.

Choose your path wisely, adventurer. Your deeds have the potential to become a legend, and through your actions, you might unravel the true forces shaping this extraordinary world.

## THE RULES

**GODFLESH** is a story-driven game. Players collaborate to tell a tale through conversation, with every voice shaping the narrative. The Godmaker (or GM) is a facilitator, guiding the conversation with questions and prompts to keep the story flowing.

When faced with challenges or opportunities, a Move is triggered. You'll roll  two six-sided dice (2d6) and add modifiers based on your character's skills and actions. The result isn't just a pass or fail; it's a narrative prompt.

A Strong Hit describes a successful action in a way that furthers the story and establishes your character's prowess. On a Weak Hit, you achieve your goal, but at a cost. The Godmaker will describe the consequences, prompting you to adapt your strategy. On a Miss, things don't go as planned despite your efforts. The Godmaker will introduce a twist or complication, forcing you to react creatively.

Words are powerful, but to truly influence the world, you need Power (). This resource is gathered by collecting materials and crafting them into potent Treasures. Spending Power and using Treasures fuel your actions, showcasing your character's growth and sacrifice. As your reserves dwindle, the hunt for new materials and the thrill of creation become an integral part of your adventure.

## INFLUENCES

Many works of media and gaming have influenced the creation of **GODFLESH**. Here are some of them.

This game first and foremost builds on the foundations set by *Dungeon World* (Sage LaTorra and Adam Koebel), and several other expansions and games based on the original *Apocalypse World* (Vincent Baker). Other influences include *Dungeon & Dragons* 5th edition (Wizards of the Coast), *The 13th Age* (Rob Heinsoo and Jonathan Tweet), *Blades in the Dark* (John Harper), and *City of Mist* (Son of Oak), to name a few.

Some elements of the setting and the themes explored in Godflesh were inspired by manga series like *Claymore* (Norihiro Yagi) and *Jujutsu Kaisen* (Gege Akutami), and video games like *Elden Ring* (FromSoftware), *Tyranny* (Obsidian Entertainment), *Monster Hunter: World* (Capcom), *The Witcher III: Wild Hunt* (CD Projekt), *God of War* (Santa Monica Studio) and *Pillars of Eternity* (Obsidian Entertainment).

## HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

*Enter the World:* Discover the foundations of Thaal, where mortal gods rule ordered Domains amid untamed Wildlands. Understand the Cycle of Inheritance, divine prohibitions, and the strange phenomena that define this world.

*Lay the Groundwork:* Master the principles of collaborative storytelling and establish boundaries that create a respectful, engaging experience for everyone at your table.

*Take Action:* Learn the core mechanics that power your adventures – from triggering moves and interpreting dice results to managing resources and earning experience.

*Create a Character:* Transform concept into reality through step-by-step character creation, from selecting a playbook to establishing connections that anchor your adventurer in the world.

*Become an Adventurer:* Explore nine unique playbooks, each offering distinct abilities, backgrounds, and approaches to the challenges that await in both Domain and Wildland.

*Craft Treasures:* Harness the power of divine artifacts that enhance your capabilities. Learn to attune to treasures, craft new ones, and weave these remarkable items into your character's story.

*Face Peril:* Navigate the dangers of Thaal through systems that track both physical and emotional tolls. Master techniques for mitigating damage and confronting mortality itself.

*Venture into the Wildlands:* Journey beyond civilized Domains using specialized travel moves. Gather precious materials, overcome environmental hazards, and manage resources during expeditions.

*Shake the World:* Influence the complex web of factions through reputation and obligations. Witness how your actions ripple outward, triggering political machinations that reshape the realm.

*Advance Your Character:* Chart your growth through experience-based advancement or the forbidden consumption of divine essence. Improve your Haven and navigate the transformative consequences of approaching divinity.

*Reign as Godmaker:* Guide the narrative as Godmaker using principles, agendas, and moves that create a responsive, dynamic world. Craft memorable NPCs and compelling scenarios that challenge and inspire your players.

# CHAPTER I

# ENTER THE WORLD

*Thaal is a realm shaped by the ebb and flow of divine power. Here, mortals can ascend to godhood, carving out Domains of order amidst the chaos of the untamed Wildlands. This world pulsates with the remnants of fallen deities, their essence – known as Godflesh – sought after by adventurers and alchemists alike.*

In Thaal, history is a tapestry woven from myth and reality. The Cycle of Inheritance perpetuates a constant struggle for power, as new gods rise and fall. Civilization clings to the relative safety of divine Domains, while the Wildlands between teem with monstrous creatures and unpredictable magic.

As an adventurer in Thaal, you'll navigate a landscape where the written word is forbidden, strange mutations mark the populace, and the night sky burns with celestial flames. Your choices will shape not only your destiny but the very fabric of this ever-changing world.

## GODS ARE NOT IMMORTAL

Divines live for generations but eventually die. When this happens, a mortal consumes the god's heart and undergoes Apotheosis, becoming a new Divine. This process, called the Cycle of Inheritance, reshapes the land around them into a new domain reflecting their nature.

The cycle raises questions about power, sacrifice, and the relationship between mortals and gods. Are Divines truly rulers, or merely vessels awaiting consumption?

## PEOPLE ARE AFRAID OF CONSUMING MEAT

When Osirin the Corruptor consumed the first Godflesh, they inflicted all humanity with the Hunger – a craving for power manifesting in various forms. Most cultures developed a deep aversion to meat, a taboo observed even by animals within Ordered Domains.

In the Wildlands, decaying god-flesh attracts those seeking power. The unprepared risk transformation into mindless, ravenous ghouls. Despite these dangers, some still venture into these territories, drawn by the promise of power through forbidden consumption.

## **THE WRITTEN WORD WAS BANNED BY THE GODS**

After the War of the Word, Divines created an Edict silencing written language forever. This prohibition is woven into reality itself – within Domains, no mortal can produce writing.

People adapted through oral traditions, pictographs, symbolic markers, and numerical systems. The Edict manifests as a tangible force, with severe punishment for those who attempt to defy it. Even in the Wildlands, only exceptional individuals can attempt to use written language.

## **GODS HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL OVER THEIR LANDS**

During Apotheosis, a mortal transforms into a colossal manifestation of their divine aspect. Around them forms a domain where weather, terrain, plants, animals, and natural phenomena obey their will.

When a new Divine emerges, their domain typically forms elsewhere, leaving their predecessor's territory to deteriorate into Wildlands – chaotic regions with unpredictable weather and dangerous creatures. Travel between Domains means crossing these perilous borderlands, as the ancient network of Pathways lies in ruins and magical transportation has become unstable.

## **SOME PEOPLE HAVE STRANGE PHYSICAL FEATURES**

Since the First Tasting, some people worldwide display unusual physical characteristics known as the Strain. These manifestations include feathers, scales, hooves, unusual colored eyes/skin, or rapid aging/rejuvenation.

Most affected by the Strain suffer no physical hardship beyond their distinctive appearance. Cultural interpretations vary – some view these traits as ill omens, others as marks of divine favor.

## **THE NIGHT SKY IS FILLED WITH EXPLODING FLAMES**

By day, skies reflect local Divine influence. At night, a universal phenomenon called the Nightflame appears – explosive displays of fire in various colors and intensities that follow unpredictable patterns.

Despite their chaotic nature, recurring patterns within the Nightflame serve as navigational guides in a world without fixed cardinal points. Sailors of the Cinderglow have developed expertise in reading these displays, aided by the sea's ability to mirror the night sky with exceptional clarity.

## **PEOPLE AND ANIMALS HAVE BIZARRE MENTAL POWERS**

All living creatures possess some degree of Psionics – innate mental powers that vary greatly in strength. Some individuals, like the Psychometric monks of Astera, have developed extraordinary abilities through discipline and practice.

Certain animals demonstrate telepathic capabilities, establishing mental connections that bridge species barriers. This shared capacity creates an invisible bond connecting all living things, revealing glimpses of a reality beyond physical perception.

# BRIEF HISTORY

Unveiling Thaal's past demands a unique approach since no written records chronicle its history. Our understanding rests solely on oral traditions, passed down through generations.

## THE MOUNTAIN GOD'S REIGN

Long ago, They That Are All – a colossal mountain deity – ruled all of Thaal. Under their benevolent gaze, humanity's first civilization flourished, protected from the chaos of the wilderness.

## THE FIRST TASTING

Ambitious humans carved into the sacred mountain and consumed divine flesh in an act known as the First Tasting. Osirin "The Corruptor" led this transgression, unleashing the Hunger upon humanity.

Some who consumed godflesh underwent Apotheosis, transforming into new Divines with Domains reflecting their nature. Others became monstrous, driven by insatiable hunger. This began the Cycle of Inheritance – when gods die, mortals consume their essence and become new Divines.

As They That Are All weakened, their final act scattered the power of death across the world through birds, preventing any future Divine from controlling it completely.

## THE SCRIBES' ASCENSION

As humanity scattered under numerous Divines, a class of Scribes arose to document knowledge. They established Great Libraries, unknowingly creating reservoirs of magical power through the written word.

## THE WAR OF THE WORD

The Scribes' growing influence rivaled the Divines, leading to devastating conflict. Despite desperate measures by Skinrafters – who tattooed knowledge on their bodies – the Divines prevailed. They enacted an Edict permanently banning writing, forcing humanity to rely solely on oral tradition.

## THE ERA OF HIDDEN ROADS

Following the Wars of the Word, the discovery of underground Pathways briefly reconnected isolated Domains. Heroes called Paragons maintained these routes, until rivalries erupted into the Crossings War.

The conflict damaged the Pathways' foundations, causing them to sink and become inaccessible. This severed connections between Domains once again.

## THE IMBRICATION'S PROMISE

More recently, five Divines with overlapping Domains formed the Imbrication, seeming to fulfill ancient prophecies of reunification. At their convergence point stood the Pentafold Obelisk, bearing forbidden writing.

After excavation revealed the obelisk was part of a colossal hand, all five Divines mysteriously perished simultaneously. Their Domains crumbled, and those who sought similar artifacts vanished.

## CURRENT AGE

In our time, Paragons once again arise to protect communities from encroaching wildlands. However, the lure of power proves too strong for many, and they seek godflesh to undergo Apotheosis. The Cycle of Inheritance continues, as it always has.

# CHAPTER 2

# LAY THE GROUNDWORK

*Before you venture into the perilous realms of Godflesh, it's crucial to establish a solid foundation for your adventure. This chapter serves as your essential guide, equipping you with the tools and knowledge needed to navigate this world of fallen deities and untamed wilderness.*

We'll explore the core principle of "playing to find out," set up your game, and create a respectful environment for all players. You'll learn how to frame exciting scenes, make impactful decisions, and weave a collaborative story that honors established fiction.

By the end, you'll be ready to step into a world where gods fall and mortals rise to claim their power.

## PLAYING TO FIND OUT

Godflesh embraces discovery through play as its core principle. Characters are as lost as the players, navigating a world of uncertainty. The game's mechanics guide you on this journey, leading to unexpected twists and turns. Embrace the unknown and commit to uncertainty; the thrill lies in the unfolding narrative, not a predetermined destination.

## WHY PLAY?

Godflesh offers unique experiences: explore forgotten corners of the world, claim powerful Godflesh remnants, test your courage against untamed wilderness, unearth lost civilizations, and forge your legend by challenging divine boundaries.

## SETTING UP

Gather 2-5 players for a 2-4 hour session, with one player as the Godmaker (GM) to guide the story and portray non-player characters. Choose a quiet, dedicated space for focused play. Each player needs a pencil, eraser, and playbook. Essential materials include this quickstart document, relevant playbooks, core & GM reference sheets, and the band sheet.

For dice, each player should have at least three six-sided dice (d6) or access to an online dice roller. Consider keeping notes on key characters, locations, and a journal for ongoing campaigns.

## FINDING COMMON GROUND

Discuss the desired tone and style of your game before starting. While player choices influence the mood, consider these points: embrace the dangers and rewards of the Wildlands, understand that your actions shape your reputation and the world, and prepare to confront powerful god-like beings. Choose a playbook that reflects your character's motivations, whether you're a cunning treasure hunter, fearless warrior, or stoic scholar.

# PRACTICING RESPECTFUL PLAY

To ensure a safe and enjoyable experience, establish boundaries by discussing themes or topics to avoid beforehand. Use safe words or signals to pause the game for respectful discussion, and maintain open communication by regularly checking in with each other.

Implement *Lines and Veils* to set clear content boundaries. Lines are hard limits on off-limits topics, while Veils are areas best mentioned indirectly. Create separate lists for Lines and Veils before playing, encouraging everyone to contribute without judgment. Revisit and adjust these lists throughout your campaign as needed.

**Examples might include:**

## *Lines*

- Discrimination based on personal characteristics: Racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, etc.
- Hate speech or slurs: Any language intended to demean or intimidate based on identity or beliefs.
- Animal cruelty: Deliberate and gratuitous harm to animals.
- Self-harm or suicide: Detailed descriptions or depictions of these acts.

## *Veils*

- Violence: Physical altercations, and combat situations, but details of injuries or gore are skipped.
- Medical situations: Graphic descriptions of procedures or illnesses.
- Political or religious conflict: Mentioning the conflict but avoiding detailed arguments or justifications.
- Imprisonment or torture: The setting or consequences can be mentioned, but specifics are faded to black.

Use the **X-Card** system to empower players to ensure comfort during play. Place a card marked with an X within reach of everyone. If anyone feels uncomfortable, they can tap or hold up the X-Card to pause the game immediately. Players can then briefly describe what they'd like changed, removed, or skipped, with others asking clarifying questions if needed.

# RE-IMAGINING NARRATIVES

Godflesh adopts a "modern mythology" approach, re-imagining classic narratives for a contemporary audience. When drawing inspiration from myths, consider which elements are core, which need reevaluation, and which you want to explore or critique. Move beyond perpetuating harmful stereotypes or insensitive depictions. If tackling sensitive topics, openly discuss with your players how to handle these themes thoughtfully and respectfully.

# THE CONVERSATION

Godflesh is built on collaborative storytelling. Players voice their characters' actions and thoughts, while the Godmaker (GM) brings the world to life. This flowing exchange creates a unique narrative, focusing on characters' decisions and their consequences.

# FRAMING SCENES

The GM creates compelling situations, placing characters directly into action with clear goals and obstacles. Players can suggest scenes, contributing to the story. The GM provides enough context to spark questions and engage players.

# HARD FRAMING

This technique throws characters into intense situations without explanation, demanding immediate reactions. It creates memorable moments and tests characters' improvisation skills.

# "WHAT DO YOU DO?"

This phrase drives action, inviting players to make impactful choices. Every interaction should push the narrative forward. Indecision has consequences; the world moves on regardless.

# FICTION FIRST

Respect the established narrative, even when challenging. Embrace unexpected outcomes; they often lead to exciting twists. Don't rewrite history for convenience. Hold each other accountable to the shared fiction, prioritizing elements that drive the story forward.

Remember, you can't pursue every plot thread. Focus on what matters most for your current narrative, allowing some elements to fade and potentially resurface later in new, interesting ways.

# CHAPTER 3

# TAKE ACTION

*Godflesh uses "moves" to handle uncertain situations in the narrative. These arise when a PC takes an action with an unclear outcome, such as picking a lock or bluffing a dragon. Moves act as mini-rules addressing various scenarios, from simple actions to complex interactions.*

Each move consists of a trigger and a result:

- The trigger, phrased as "When you do [x]" or "When [x] happens," defines when the move activates. It's prescriptive, outlining specific actions that initiate it in the story. To use a move, you must first fulfill its trigger within the narrative. This requirement ensures a strong connection between actions and consequences.
- Move results can be fixed outcomes or require a dice roll to determine the specific consequence. The GM interprets the roll's outcome, tailoring it to the narrative context and seamlessly integrating mechanics with the story. Once resolved, the narrative returns to the conversation, with players reacting and propelling the story forward.

Dice only enter play when prompted by moves or rules. Resist rolling for uncertain moments without corresponding moves. In such cases, the GM resolves the uncertainty based on their characters' agendas, principles, and relevant moves.

## HITS AND MISSES

When a move requires dice, roll two six-sided dice (2d6) and add the numbers. Often, you'll "roll with a stat," adding your character's relevant stat value to the total. For example, a Prowess +2 Scarred adds 2 when they "roll ♦ Prowess."

**The outcome depends on your total:**

- **10 or higher (Strong Hit):** You achieve your goal, possibly with an extra benefit.
- **7-9 (Weak Hit):** You succeed, but face a cost or setback.
- **6 or lower (Miss):** The GM introduces a dramatic complication.

These outcomes aren't simple success or failure. A hit might unexpectedly achieve your goal, while a miss could lead to unintended consequences. Misses allow the GM to create exciting complications that drive the narrative forward.

During gameplay, the GM never rolls dice for moves. Players' choices, represented by dice rolls, drive the narrative and maintain focus on their actions and outcomes.

Regardless of modifiers, your final roll never exceeds +4 or falls below -3.

## TRACKS

Tracks visually represent progress towards goals, conditions, or dangers. They appear as a series of boxes or circles, filled or "marked" (Q) during play. Tracks guide character actions within scenes and serve as clear reminders of various states.

Tracks come in three types:

- **Open Tracks:** Visible to all players, allowing them to gauge progress.
- **Hidden Tracks:** Players know they exist but can't see their length or progress.
- **Secret Tracks:** Unknown to players until the final box is marked, allowing for surprises.

Marking tracks depends on context. Some have clear triggers, like damage marking a Pressure track. Others require nuanced actions, such as gaining a merchant's trust through favors or resources.

Marks are usually not permanent. Some events or abilities can clear boxes, reversing negative impacts. "Burns" (X) represent deeper consequences, requiring significant effort to erase. When a track fills with marks, it becomes exhausted, needing special moves to clear.

## POWER

Power represents your character's ability to influence the world. Most moves require spending power to activate their effects.

Each clear mark O on a track grants 1 power. Spend any amount on a single move, marking the track accordingly Q. Power is only spent on successful hits.

Some treasures and moves grant overflow power (O), providing an additional 1 power usable even on exhausted tracks.

You can also Push Your Limits to gain more power when exhausted.

## CHARACTER GROWTH

Your character develops through experience, both from failures and meaningful actions. This growth is tracked through Experience Points (XP, P) which can be spent on advancements that enhance your character's capabilities.

### Earning XP:

You gain XP P in several ways:

Learning from failure is your most immediate path to growth. When you roll a miss on any move, immediately mark one XP P. These moments of challenge become opportunities for improvement.

At the end of each session, you can earn additional XP P through:

- Acting according to your nature.
- Resolving a bond and creating a new one.
- Learning significant information about the world.

## THREADS

Threads P are a currency that give players extended narrative control. You start each session with one Thread and can hold up to five.

### Gaining Threads:

- **Be Epic:** GM rewards exceptional roleplay or clever actions.
- **Fulfill a Drive:** Complete one of your character's three Drives, once per session.
- **Twist of Fate:** Roll doubles on any dice roll.

### Spending Threads:

- **Gain Favor:** Roll a third die, keeping the highest two.
- **Reduce Damage:** Decrease incoming damage by 1 per Thread.
- **Alter the Scene:** Improve your odds before rolling, take 7-9 result on any move.

Adding logical details to a scene is free. Spending a Thread justifies more significant environmental changes that benefit your character.

Some moves use "Favor" or "Disfavor," adding uncertainty. For these, roll 3d6, keeping the two highest (Favor) or lowest (Disfavor) dice.

Certain moves, like "take a powerful blow," are reversed, meaning you want to roll low. For these, rolling low avoids consequences, while high rolls lead to tough choices.

# THE CORE MOVES

Moves are the core mechanic in Godflesh, used to navigate the narrative and resolve uncertain situations. They include basic moves (available to all players), and specialized moves for specific situations (danger and recovery, faction, travel, and session moves).

## Using Moves in Play:

- Moves are triggered by character actions in the story.
- The principle is "To do it, you do it" – if you perform the trigger, you experience the result.
- Moves don't happen in isolation; they're tied to narrative actions.
- The GM helps identify when moves are triggered.

## Key Terms:

- Hold: A point of leverage you can use later.
- +1 Forward: A bonus on your next relevant roll.
- +1 Ongoing: A continuous bonus for specified conditions.

Basic moves are essential for all situations, while specialized moves add depth to specific aspects of the game. Session moves occur once per session, typically at the start or end.

Every Godflesh player character has access to all basic moves. These are the most frequently used tools for resolving conflicts and progressing the story.

The basic moves are: Assess a Tense Situation, Clash in Battle, Defend, Figure Someone Out, Empower, Plead Your Case, Provide Support, Recall Information, Steel Your Nerves, and Sway Someone.

## Godlike Results

Godlike  results occur when you roll 13 or higher on a move you've unlocked the Godlike advancement for.

These transcendent outcomes represent perfect success beyond ordinary limitations, offering powerful effects unique to each move. Until you unlock a move's Godlike potential through advancement, a 13+ counts only as a standard 10+ result. Once unlocked, you may choose to apply either the Godlike effect or treat it as a normal 10+ success, giving you control over when to embrace these extraordinary capabilities.

## Unchallenged Outcomes

Not every action requires a move. When your character performs tasks well within their capabilities, faces minimal risk, or engages in ordinary activities, the GM simply narrates the outcome based on what makes sense in the fiction. Climbing a short wall during peaceful exploration, conversing casually with a friendly NPC, or examining an object in your possession are all examples of unchallenged actions. Moves trigger only when uncertainty, danger, or extraordinary circumstances come into play. This distinction keeps the game flowing smoothly, reserving dice rolls for meaningful moments of tension and consequence.

## ASSESS A TENSE SITUATION

When you carefully study a tense situation, roll ⚡ Insight. On a 10+, ask the GM 3 questions from the list below. On a 7-9, ask 1. Either way, take +1 forward when acting on the answers.

- What's my best way out / in / through?
- Who or what is the biggest threat?
- What here is valuable or useful to me?
- What should I be on the lookout for?
- What here is not what it appears to be?

On a miss, you may still ask 1 question, but the GM will tell you how your scrutiny exposes you to danger or costs you valuable time.

⌚ GODLIKE: On a 13+, freely ask a question not on the list and then state something true about the situation.

When you analyze a dangerous environment, you actively search for specific information that could give you an advantage. Your careful scrutiny reveals details others might miss.

Upon success, the GM provides truthful answers reflecting your perceptive insights. If they say something is the "best way out," it genuinely represents the optimal escape route given the circumstances. These answers apply only to the current situation and must be acted upon immediately.

The +1 forward bonus applies specifically to actions utilizing the information gained. This advantage disappears if the situation changes significantly or if you ignore the insights.

Even on a miss, your observation yields one insight, though at a meaningful cost determined by the GM.

### Options For Assess A Tense Situation

*What's my best way out/in/through?* – You identify the optimal route for escape, entry, or passage past obstacles. The "best" path isn't necessarily easy or safe – it's simply the most advantageous option available.

*Who or what is the biggest threat?* – You pinpoint the most dangerous element present. This might be a powerful combatant, a hidden danger, or even a seemingly minor figure pulling the strings behind the scenes.

*What here is valuable or useful to me?* – You spot resources, tools, or environmental features that could benefit your current objectives – unexpected weapons, tactical advantages, or useful terrain features.

*What should I be on the lookout for?* – You identify potential complications or hidden threats that haven't yet manifested, helping you anticipate problems before they develop into immediate dangers.

*What here is not what it appears to be?* – You see through deceptions or misleading appearances, revealing hidden truths about your surroundings – disguised enemies, false structures, or complex situations beneath simple facades.

*Freely ask a question and state something true (Godlike)* – You gain extraordinary insight. Ask any question about the situation, then state one fact that becomes established truth about the scene.

### Unchallenged

When situations aren't tense or dangerous, you don't need to roll to gather information. Simply ask the GM what your character would reasonably notice, and they'll provide straightforward details about your surroundings.

## CLASH IN BATTLE

When you directly engage a threat in battle, roll ⚡ Prowess. On a hit, you trade blows. On a 10+, pick three. On a 7-9, pick one:

- Resist or avoid their blows
- Crush them, gain 1 overflow ○
- Take something from them
- Create an opening (you or an ally gets +1 forward)
- Impress, surprise, or frighten the opposition

On a miss, you can still make a basic attack by marking 1 pressure.

◆ GODLIKE: On a 13+, neutralize an opponent or threat completely, at least for now.

Combat in **GODFLESH** represents a dynamic exchange where both participants attack and defend simultaneously. When you engage an opponent capable of fighting back, you focus on the complete exchange rather than just your individual attack.

Trading blows means both sides inflict damage. You spend Power from your treasures while the GM marks appropriate tracks on your opponent based on your attack type. In return, your opponent strikes back – the GM determines whether you mark Pressure, suffer an Injury, or need to roll Take a Powerful Blow.

On a miss, though outmatched, you can still make a basic attack by marking 1 Pressure, representing your determination despite unfavorable circumstances.

### Options For Clash In Battle

*Resist or avoid their blows* – You successfully evade or block attacks, preventing your opponent from harming you during this exchange.

*Crush them* – Your attack proves particularly devastating. Gain 1 overflow power (○) that can be spent even if your treasure's track is exhausted, representing a moment when you exceed your normal limitations.

*Take something from them* – You change the tactical situation by seizing something physical (a weapon, an artifact) or positional (their balance, the high ground, control of a key location).

*Create an opening* – Your actions establish an advantageous situation. Either you or an ally gains +1 forward on their next move that capitalizes on this opportunity.

*Impress, surprise, or frighten* – Your combat prowess affects your opponent psychologically. The GM determines the specific effect based on the situation – enemies might hesitate, retreat, or reconsider their approach.

*Neutralize an opponent (Godlike)* – You temporarily remove the threat from the conflict by stunning, trapping, or otherwise incapacitating them. This creates significant breathing room but isn't necessarily permanent.

### Unchallenged

When your opponent is unaware, surprised, or doesn't represent a meaningful threat, you don't need to roll. Instead, you can choose to inflict damage directly or incapacitate them. The GM will determine the appropriate outcome based on the situation and your approach.

## DEFEND

When you interpose yourself to shield someone or something from immediate harm, roll ♣ Prowess. On a hit, you successfully protect your ward – the attack targets you instead, and you suffer any damage or effects that would have harmed them. On a 10+, choose two options from the list below. On a 7-9, choose one option and brace yourself as the GM describes how your valiant defense draws unwanted attention, depletes your resources, or intensifies the threat.

- Reveal a crucial vulnerability in the threat that wasn't apparent before
- Channel the danger's energy, clearing 1 ♦ on one of your treasures
- Inspire your protected ally, allowing them to clear 1 ♦ pressure of their choice
- Create a tactical advantage that grants an ally +1 forward against this threat
- Establish yourself as the primary target, compelling the threat to focus solely on you

On a miss, your defense isn't enough – both you and your ward suffer consequences, though less severely than if you hadn't intervened at all. The GM will describe how the situation becomes more precarious.

♣ GODLIKE: On a 13+, you manifest a perfect defense – choose two options from the list, and for the remainder of the scene, both you and your protected ally gain +1 armor against this specific threat.

When you put yourself between danger and someone or something you want to protect, you redirect the attack to yourself. On a hit, you absorb damage that would have struck your ward. You can use treasures to mitigate this damage, but cannot avoid it entirely – defense requires sacrifice.

A 7-9 result means your protection succeeds but creates complications. The GM will describe how your defense draws unwanted attention, depletes resources, or escalates the threat.

On a miss, both you and your ward suffer consequences, though reduced from what would have occurred without your intervention.

### Options For Defend

*Reveal a crucial vulnerability* – Your defensive maneuver exposes a weakness in your opponent. The GM reveals a damage track you didn't know existed or a way to mark damage on an established track.

*Channel the danger's energy* – Clear 1 ♦ on one of your treasures as you convert the attack's force into renewed power. Cannot be used on burned or exhausted treasures.

*Inspire your protected ally* – Your selfless act allows your ally to clear 1 ♦ on a pressure track of their choice. Cannot be used for injuries.

*Create a tactical advantage* – Your defensive position creates an opening. An ally gains +1 forward against this specific threat.

*Establish yourself as the primary target* – The threat focuses solely on you until circumstances significantly change, leaving others temporarily safe from its attention.

*Perfect defense (Godlike)* – Beyond choosing two options, both you and your protected ally gain +1 armor against this specific threat for the remainder of the scene.

### Unchallenged

When there's no immediate danger or specific attack to intercept, no roll is needed. The Defend move only triggers when actively stopping an imminent threat to someone else.

## EMPOWER

When you channel divine essence to manifest supernatural effects, burn 1 **X** on your treasure, then roll Magia. On a 10+, choose 2 effects from the list below, or choose 1 effect and clear the burn. On a 7-9, choose one effect. The GM will tell you how the magic manifests in an unstable, conspicuous, or temporary manner. On a miss, the GM will tell you how the magic draws unwanted attention, causes collateral damage, or drains you (mark 2 pressure).

### Effects:

- Perceive hidden truths – see through illusions, glimpse the near future, or sense distant places
- Manipulate physical reality – move objects, alter materials, or create barriers
- Enhance yourself or an ally – grant temporary supernatural capabilities
- Inflict harm (2 damage, ignores armor) or heal wounds (clear 2 marks of injury or pressure)
- Disrupt another's power – temporarily hinder or disable magical abilities or treasures
- Communicate across impossible barriers – speak with animals, the dead, or distant allies

**◆ GODLIKE:** On a 13+, ignore the burn cost and either choose three effects or create a dramatic, permanent change to the environment that serves your purpose.

When you push a treasure beyond its normal capabilities, you temporarily access powers that reshape reality itself. By channeling divine essence through your treasure (burning 1 **X**), you manifest supernatural effects far beyond mundane actions.

On a 10+ hit, your control is exceptional – either manifest two effects or create one while clearing the burn mark. On a 7-9, you still create your chosen effect, but the GM describes how it manifests in an unstable, conspicuous, or temporary manner. Even on a miss, supernatural power manifests, but in ways that create new problems.

### Options For Empower

*Perceive hidden truths* – See through illusions, glimpse possible futures, or sense distant locations. The GM reveals information normally inaccessible to you.

*Manipulate physical reality* – Move objects telekinetically, transform materials, create barriers, or cause environmental changes like tremors or storms.

*Enhance yourself or an ally* – Grant temporary supernatural capabilities such as heightened strength, impossible speed, limited flight, or resistance to specific dangers.

*Inflict harm or heal wounds* – Deal 2 damage (ignoring armor) to an enemy or clear 2 marks of injury or pressure. This transcends mundane combat or medicine.

*Disrupt another's power* – Temporarily interfere with supernatural abilities, disable treasures, or suppress magical effects in the environment.

*Communicate across impossible barriers* – Speak with the deceased, animals, distant individuals, or entities across dimensional boundaries.

*Create a dramatic, permanent change (Godlike)* – Unlike other temporary effects, permanently alter your environment in a significant way that serves your purpose.

### Unchallenged

When using a treasure's standard capabilities within their normal limitations, you don't need to Empower it. Using a magical compass to find north or activating a mastercraft weapon's basic function doesn't require this move. Reserve Empower for when you're pushing beyond normal limits or attempting something truly supernatural.

## FIGURE SOMEONE OUT

When you study someone closely to unveil what lies beneath their façade, roll ⚡ Insight. If you have an existing Obligation with them, add +1 to your roll. If they owe you an Obligation, add +2 instead. On a 10+, hold 3. On a 7-9, hold 1. While interacting with them in this scene, spend your hold to ask the GM a question:

- Are they concealing the truth about something important?
- What do they fear losing or facing?
- How are they connected to the Divines or the Wildlands?
- What do they truly want from me or this situation?
- How could I influence them to \_\_\_\_\_?

On a miss, you still glimpse something revealing – hold 1, but they notice your scrutiny and become guarded or suspicious toward you.

◆ GODLIKE: On a 13+, hold 3 and glimpse something fundamental about their nature. The GM reveals a significant secret, vulnerability, or motivation that offers you substantial leverage in future interactions.

When you observe someone's mannerisms, expressions, and reactions, you discern their true nature beyond surface appearances. This requires focused attention during direct interaction or from an exceptional vantage point where their behavior is clearly visible.

You gain hold to spend on questions during your current interaction. You can ask questions immediately or wait to see how the conversation develops. The GM answers honestly, representing insights your character has gleaned through observation.

Obligations enhance your perceptiveness – history creates patterns you recognize more easily in their behavior.

### Options For Figuring Someone Out

*Are they concealing the truth about something important?* – Reveals if deception exists about significant matters, though not necessarily what the truth is.

*What do they fear losing or facing?* – Uncovers vulnerabilities – possessions, relationships, status, or truths they protect most vigilantly.

*How are they connected to the Divines or the Wildlands?* – Reveals their relationship with supernatural forces, including devotions, experiences, or abilities.

*What do they truly want from me or this situation?* – Exposes actual desires beneath stated goals, showing motivations they haven't openly expressed.

*How could I influence them to \_\_\_\_\_?* – The GM tells you precisely what would persuade them to take your specified action. If you follow through exactly as described, they comply without requiring another roll.

*Glimpse something fundamental (Godlike)* – You perceive a core truth about them – a defining secret, weakness, or motivation that creates significant leverage in future interactions.

### Unchallenged

Standard conversation and direct questioning don't trigger this move. Figure Someone Out represents insights beyond normal interaction, revealing unspoken truths that wouldn't emerge through casual exchange.

## PLEAD YOUR CASE

When you appeal to a fellow adventurer to support your cause, roll ⚡ Awe.

On a 10+, if they agree, they clear 1 ⚡ pressure and take +1 forward on your plan. On a 7-9, if they agree, they choose: clear 1 ⚡ pressure OR take +1 forward. The GM reveals what else they need to commit fully. On a miss, the GM explains how your appeal strains your relationship. The other player always decides if their character agrees. If they refuse, they mark XP 🍁.

◆ GODLIKE: On a 13+, if they agree, all band members gain a thread ⚡, and those supporting your plan take +1 ongoing until the situation changes or your next downtime.

When you directly appeal to another player character to follow your proposed plan, you make a compelling argument that creates tangible benefits when successful.

The move offers mechanical incentives for cooperation while preserving player agency. Even on a miss, the interaction shapes your relationship, creating meaningful consequences regardless of the outcome.

When you roll a 7-9, the GM identifies what additional element – proof, resources, assurances – the other character needs beyond your words to fully commit to your plan.

### Options For Plead Your Case

*Clear 1 pressure* – The convinced character removes one mark from any pressure track. Your appeal provides relief from a burden they've been carrying.

*Take +1 forward* – The convinced character gains +1 to their next roll when acting on your plan. Your persuasion improves their effectiveness.

*What else they need* – On a 7-9, the GM identifies a concrete requirement for full commitment – equipment, information, promises, or guarantees that would bridge their hesitation.

*Group benefit (Godlike)* – Your appeal resonates throughout the band. Everyone receives a thread ⚡, and those supporting your plan gain +1 to all relevant rolls until circumstances significantly change.

### Unchallenged

Routine coordination and situations where others already support your ideas don't trigger this move. Reserve it for when you need to convince a hesitant or resistant ally of your approach.

## PROVIDE SUPPORT

When you reach out to assist a bandmate who has just taken action, describe how your bond manifests to help them and roll  Bonds.

On a hit, they add +1 to their roll. On a 10+, they also gain a thread . On a 7-9, your intervention draws unwanted attention, leaves you vulnerable, or exacts a cost. On a miss, your connection falters at a critical moment – the GM will tell you how your attempt to help creates complications for both of you.

 **GODLIKE:** On a 13+, a flicker of divine resonance flows through your band's connection. Your bandmate adds +1 to their roll and gains a thread , while everyone in your band (including yourself) may clear 1 pressure of their choice.

After a bandmate has rolled dice for another move, you can help improve their result. You roll with your Bonds score (the number of bonds you share with them), with a strong bond counting as 2. Your description must show tangible assistance appropriate to both your relationship and the current situation.

Your support can elevate a miss to a partial success or a partial success to a complete one. On a 7-9, your help succeeds but introduces new complications determined by the GM.

Only one bandmate can provide support for any given roll. Wait to see your ally's result before deciding whether to trigger this move.

### Options For Providing Support

**Add +1 to their roll** – Your bandmate immediately adds this bonus to their original roll, potentially improving the outcome of their move.

***Gain a thread*** – On a 10+, your bandmate receives a thread  they can use later, representing your lasting contribution to their efforts.

***Complications*** – On a 7-9, your help succeeds but creates problems. The GM describes how your intervention exposes you to danger, creates a new threat, or requires sacrifice.

***Divine resonance (Godlike)*** – Your support radiates throughout your band. Your bandmate receives both the +1 bonus and a thread , while everyone clears one pressure mark.

### Unchallenged

Planning together, offering advice before an action, or creating advantages through separate moves doesn't trigger this move. Provide Support specifically represents immediate intervention after another player has already rolled dice.

## RECALL INFORMATION

When you draw upon your accumulated knowledge or esoteric training about an object, entity, or historical matter, roll ⚡ Magia.

On a 10+, the GM reveals something significant and useful about the subject that illuminates your current path. On a 7-9, the GM provides partial insight – your knowledge is fragmentary, ambiguous, or comes with complicating implications.

On a miss, the memory surfaces but misleads – the GM will tell you something that seems credible but contains a crucial flaw or dangerous misunderstanding.

The GM might ask, "How do you know this?" Your answer becomes woven into the world's truth.

◆ GODLIKE: On a 13+, your mind pierces all veils of obscurity – gain profound insight about the subject that reveals both its immediate relevance and an unexpected connection to a greater mystery in your journey.

When you search your memory for specific knowledge about subjects encountered in your adventures, you tap into whispered traditions, personal experiences, dreams carrying ancestral wisdom, and impressions gleaned through communion with divine remnants.

The information you receive on a hit is always true, even if the GM invents it on the spot. When the GM asks "How do you know this?", your answer becomes canonical reality, establishing backstory for both your character and the world.

### Options For Recall Information

*Significant and useful information* – On a 10+, you recall knowledge that is both substantial and immediately applicable, offering clarity or advantage in your current situation.

*Partial insight* – On a 7-9, your knowledge has limitations. It may be accurate but vague, specific but difficult to apply, or useful but carrying troubling implications.

*Misleading memory* – On a miss, your "knowledge" contains a dangerous flaw the GM determines, which may only become apparent when you act on the information.

*Profound insight (Godlike)* – Your understanding transcends ordinary knowledge, revealing both immediate applications and connections to greater mysteries in your journey.

### Unchallenged

Basic facts your character would obviously know don't require this move. Use Recall Information only for specific, obscure, or complex knowledge that genuinely challenges your character's experience and memory.

## STEEL YOUR NERVES

When you face danger head-on and act despite the risks, roll ⚡ Resolve. On a 10+, you succeed admirably – your daring pays off and creates a fleeting advantage or opportunity the GM will describe. On a 7-9, you push through, but the GM will tell you the price: physical toll, lost resources, exposed vulnerabilities, or complications that follow. On a miss, brace yourself – the GM will offer you a dire choice: retreat entirely or push forward at a severe cost.

◆ GODLIKE: On a 13+, you transcend the challenge completely – you succeed without consequence, and this particular threat cannot touch you again in this scene.

When the path forward lies through peril rather than around it, Steel Your Nerves represents that moment you draw a deep breath and face danger with raw determination. Before rolling, state what you hope to accomplish to establish the stakes. For extreme dangers, some consequences may be unavoidable even on a 10+.

### Options For Steel Your Nerves

*Succeed admirably* – You accomplish your goal and gain a momentary advantage – a tactical opening, unexpected insight, or brief window of opportunity described by the GM.

*Push through at a price* – You succeed but face meaningful consequences determined by the GM: marking pressure, losing resources, or creating complications that persist beyond the immediate situation.

*Dire choice* – You face a critical decision: retreat entirely to avoid the worst consequences or push forward at a severe cost that fundamentally changes your situation, often introducing entirely new problems.

*Transcend the challenge (Godlike)* – You achieve perfect victory without any price. Additionally, the specific threat cannot affect you again during this scene.

### Unchallenged

When facing difficulties within your normal capabilities or without imminent danger, no roll is needed. Steel Your Nerves is for those moments when everything is on the line – not everyday challenges.

## SWAY SOMEONE

When you leverage promises or threats to convince an NPC to act within their capabilities and interests, roll  Awe. If you call in an Obligation they owe you before rolling, gain +3. On a 10+, they agree to your request without further demands. On a 7-9, they'll help, but the GM will tell you what promise, payment, or Obligation they require first. On a miss, they refuse or make demands far beyond reason. The more your request endangers them or contradicts their nature, the stronger their resistance.

◆ GODLIKE: On a 13+, they not only comply but also reveal something important and useful that gives you an unexpected advantage.

When your words carry weight of promise or threat, you bend others to your will. This requires genuine leverage – something the target truly desires or fears – not empty words. State what you want the NPC to do before rolling; your leverage must match your request in significance.

### Options For Sway Someone

*They agree without demands* – The NPC complies as asked. They interpret your wishes according to their understanding, so clarity matters.

*They require something first* – Your leverage is compelling but insufficient. The GM determines what additional payment, promise, or obligation they demand before helping.

*They refuse or make unreasonable demands* – Your leverage fails, or they counter with demands amounting to refusal. Requests threatening their safety or contradicting their nature face strongest resistance.

*They comply and reveal something useful (Godlike)* – Beyond merely agreeing, they divulge unexpected information or create an opportunity that extends your advantage.

*Calling in an Obligation* – Referencing a debt someone owes you significantly strengthens your influence (+3 to roll). Once they respond to your request, the obligation is considered fulfilled and erased from your band sheet.

### Unchallenged

Ordinary conversation and reasonable requests don't trigger this move. Sway Someone activates only when you need someone to act against their natural inclination through meaningful incentive or pressure.

# SESSION MOVES

Godflesh uses three session moves, each performed once per session: Start of Session, End of Session, and Advance.

These moves connect individual sessions into a cohesive narrative, tracking character growth, relationship development, and world changes. They require no dice rolls and help create a richer, more interconnected campaign experience over time.

## START OF SESSION

When the session starts, you clear your threads  and mark 1 thread . Clear your Nature and Drive marks.

The Start of Session move prepares your character for new adventures. Begin by clearing all thread marks from your sheet, representing a fresh start. Then, mark one new thread, giving you a resource to influence the narrative. Finally, clear any marks on your Nature and Drives, allowing you to pursue these aspects anew. This reset ensures your character enters each session ready for action, with a clean slate and the potential for growth and achievement in the upcoming story.

## END OF SESSION

When the session ends, take the following steps:

- Choose a bond that came into play during the session and strengthen it. If it's already a strong bond, resolve it, mark XP , and write a new bond.
- If you acted on your nature during the session, mark XP .
- If you learned something new and important about the world, mark XP .

The End of Session move encourages reflection on your character's journey. Evaluate a significant bond, strengthening it or resolving it for XP if already strong. Consider if your actions aligned with your character's nature, marking XP if so. Lastly, if you gained important knowledge about the world that impacts your character's perspective, mark XP. This process rewards character growth, relationship development, and engagement with the game world, setting the stage for future adventures.

## ADVANCE

When you have downtime (hours or days) and 5 XP  marked, clear the marks and advance. You can only advance once per session.

The Advance move allows character growth during downtime. When you have 5 XP and your character has hours or days of peace, clear the XP and choose one Advancement option. This could improve stats, add skills, or deepen personality traits. You can only Advance once per session, representing gradual development over time.

The advancement list is divided into two tiers. You must select five advancements from the top section

# CHAPTER 4

# CREATE A CHARACTER

*Character creation in Godflesh is a collaborative process that happens at the beginning of your first session. All players should participate, asking questions and contributing to the world-building. This process is a conversation, much like the game itself.*

## CHOOSING AN ADVENTURER

Select a playbook that defines your character's archetype. Each playbook offers unique traits, abilities, and challenges. To ensure a diverse and dynamic group, players should choose different playbooks. If two players want the same playbook, the GM can suggest alternatives or use a coin flip to decide.

The available playbooks are The Anointed, The Fable, The Harrier, The Haunted, The Magus, The Primal, The Scarred, The Shaper and The Tempest.

## CORPUS

Each playbook presents three Corpus options, which are specializations that customize your character. A Corpus provides a corpse move, starting Treasures, and a signature Move. Choose the Corpus that best fits your desired play style and character concept.

## TREASURES

Treasures are supernatural gifts acquired through your character's earlier journeys. They include masterwork equipment, companions, familiars, and unique abilities. Your Corpus assigns some starting Treasures, which you'll describe during character creation.

Name your Treasures if appropriate and consider how you obtained them.

## ATTUNEMENT

To use a Treasure, you must attune to it. Start with 6 attunement points to allocate among your Treasures, setting their Power track. Assign attunement for each Treasure's function separately, even if an item has multiple uses.

## ORIGINS AND ASPECT

Your Origin describes your character's beginnings, while your Aspect defines the source of their abilities. Let your choices of Corpus and Treasures influence your Origin and Aspect, creating a cohesive narrative for your adventurer.

## NAME AND LOOKS

Give your character a fitting name and describe their appearance, considering both physical traits and attire. Remember that the Strain's influence can manifest in unique features, making your character stand out.

## BACKGROUND QUESTIONS

Each playbook includes a set of background questions. These prompts help you develop your character's identity, their place in the world, and their relationships with others. Briefly answer these questions, focusing on NPCs rather than other PCs when mentioning other characters. Your responses will enrich your character's backstory and provide material for introductions. Use these answers to inspire your roleplaying, but feel free to expand on them as you explore your character during play.

## ATTRIBUTES

Personalize your character by assigning the following scores to their attributes:

+2, +1, +0, +0, -1

Familiarize yourself with the core moves and starting moves for your chosen playbook. Consider placing your +2 score in the attribute associated with your Corpus' signature move. Allocate the remaining scores based on the advanced moves you find appealing and your desired character concept.

## STARTING MOVES

Every adventurer begins with a set of Core Moves and unique Playbook Moves. Your chosen Corpus grants a signature move and the opportunity to select additional moves during character creation. These moves define your character's capabilities and play style.

## NATURE AND DRIVES

Each adventurer has a Nature and three Drives. Your Nature represents your core identity and guiding principle, while Drives are the desires and goals that propel you forward. You mark XP  when acting on your Nature and gain a Thread  when satisfying a Drive during a session.

## INTRODUCE YOUR CHARACTER

With the playbooks mostly complete, take turns introducing your characters. Share their name, appearance, abilities, origin, noteworthy Treasures, and any crucial information. Engage in a brief discussion, asking questions to forge connections between characters and shape the world you'll explore.

## BONDS

After introductions, establish Bonds between characters. These connections stem from shared history or experiences. Fill in at least one Bond, but more will strengthen your party's dynamic and fuel engaging roleplaying opportunities.

# THE HAVEN

Collaboratively create a Haven, a shared sanctuary for your characters. Choose a location that resonates with your group and serves your needs. Fill in characteristics for your Haven on the band's sheet, considering its type, status, merits, and flaws.

- *Type of place:* abode, tavern, workshop, shrine, museum, park, gymnasium, cave, thicket, or other.
- *Status:* Abandoned, busy, private, public, or other.
- *Merits:* Blessed by a Divine, historical significance, magical fount, ancient battlefield, sacred to nature, or other.
- *Flaws:* Decayed, haunted, under watch, criminal activity, psionic disruption, previous occupants, or other.

Your Haven will evolve and change as your game progresses.

## FORGING THE CRUCIBLE

Establish your band's history by answering questions about a shared, daring exploit called the Crucible. This event binds your characters together and introduces key factions and plot elements. Engage in an open discussion to flesh out the details and create a foundation for your adventures.

1. A supernatural event or dangerous enemy threatened your Haven. Was it truly intended for your sanctuary, or were you simply caught in the crossfire? Describe the nature of this threat.
2. Where did the incident occur, and how did it significantly impact your Haven or the surrounding environment? Describe the aftermath.

3. You bravely faced the threat, but your actions drew unwanted attention from a local group. Who are they, and what did they perceive about your band during the incident?

Add them as a Faction on your band sheet, at no standing.

4. Your deeds caught the eye of a key figure within a larger organization. Who is this organization, and who is the influential figure who noticed you?

Add them as a Faction on your band sheet, at +1 standing.

5. Powerful forces may not have appreciated your interference. Who is this rival, and why do they oppose your band? Are they actively working against you, or do they bide their time for a grander scheme?

Add them as a Faction on your band sheet, at -1 standing.

6. In the aftermath, who did you turn to for aid and support? What assistance did they offer?

Add them as a Faction on your band sheet, at no standing, and an Obligation towards them.

7. What forged the unbreakable bond between your band members? How did you stay connected after the crisis?

8. The incident wasn't an isolated event. What signs did you uncover hinting at a larger conspiracy or looming danger?

## GET READY TO PLAY

Take a brief break to let the GM process your characters' information. When ready, the GM will begin the journey following the steps in the "First Session" chapter.

# CHAPTER 5

# BECOME AN ADVENTURER

*Your journey as an adventurer begins with picking a playbook – a framework that defines your character's core abilities and approach to challenges. Each playbook offers distinct capabilities, from combat prowess to social manipulation or mystical powers.*

While playbooks provide structure, they allow customization within their framework. Your character can evolve through play, potentially even switching playbooks to reflect significant growth.

Each player must choose a different playbook. This requirement ensures a balanced adventuring band where every character has unique abilities and clear opportunities to contribute. The diversity in playbooks creates natural specialization and prevents capability overlap, allowing each adventurer distinct moments to shine.

## Gifted

Certain moves, marked with the Gifted  tag, gain additional effects when paired with specific Treasures. While moves and Treasures can be chosen independently, combining them unlocks their full potential, granting unique advantages described in the move's text.

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**Those are the playbooks presented in this chapter:**

### **THE ANOINTED**

A mystic truth-seeker who glimpse beyond reality's veil, bearing prophecies and revelations that shape your destiny and burden your conscience.

### **THE FABLE**

A charismatic storyteller who weaves tales and lies into reality, using your silver tongue to influence events and manipulate perceptions.

### **THE HARRIER**

A provocateur of change who identifies society's flaws and catalyzes transformation, whether through gentle nudges or forceful upheaval.

### **THE HAUNTED**

A death-touched individual who commune with departed spirits, walking the thin line between the worlds of the living and dead.

### **THE MAGUS**

An arcane scholar who pursues forbidden knowledge and channels raw magical power, risking madness in your quest for arcane mastery.

### **THE PRIMAL**

Nature's avatars who embody the wild's untamed essence, your body and spirit transformed by your deep connection to the natural world.

### **THE SCARRED**

A battle-hardened warrior who carries the weight of past conflicts, approaching violence as a precise tool rather than mindless aggression.

### **THE SHAPER**

A mystical artisan who breathes life into your creations, using your craft to forge both wonders and weapons that alter the world around you.

### **THE TEMPEST**

A living storm who struggles to control your overwhelming emotional power, balancing serene discipline with explosive force.



# THE ANOINTED

No mere bystander, you bear the chilling weight of secrets glimpsed beyond the mortal veil. Driven to unearth truths others fear to speak, you pierce hidden realities, forever marked by the burden of a destiny not your own. Remember, ignorance may seem like bliss, but the knowledge you wield is a double-edged sword. Choose wisely, Anointed.

## THE ANOINTED'S CORPUS

At character creation, pick a corpus. Mark on your playbook sheets the corresponding signature move and list the treasures you receive.

### VEIL OF THE COSMOS

When you probe someone to uncover hidden motivations, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Esoteric Knowledge, Toll the Dead, and Mastercraft Weapon.

**Signature Move:** You start with the Cosmic Revelation move.

### COSMIC REVELATION

When you expose a mortal's mind to the incomprehensible vastness of divine knowledge, roll Awe. On a 10+, choose two. On a 7-9, choose one:

- They answer your questions with unflinching honesty.
- They remain coherent after the revelation.
- You gain deeper insight into their psyche.

On a 6-, the GM decides their traumatic reaction.

 **GIFTED:** With *Undeniable Presence*, you can ask an additional question on a hit.

### VEIL OF PORTENTS

When you analyze potential outcomes and make decisions based on nuanced predictions, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Truesight, Undeniable Presence, and Mastercraft Armor.

**Signature Move:** You start with the Fractures of Possibility move.

### FRACTURES OF POSSIBILITY

When you reach into the threads of time, describe what you seek to witness, then roll Magia. The vision unfolds as a prismatic web of potential. On a 10+, you see one clear future. Take +1 ongoing as you navigate its contours. On a 7-9, the vision blurs, you catch fragmentary glimpses – take +1 forward when you act on these insights.

On a 6-, the timestreams fracture around you. The GM describes a prophecy that promises as much danger as hope, leaving you with more questions than answers.

### VEIL OF SHADOWS

When you attempt to understand movement patterns and hidden connections, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Uncanny Senses, Ghostly Footfalls, and Mastercraft Tool.

**Signature Move:** You start with the Unfolding Route move.

### UNFOLDING ROUTE

When you divine someone's path through arcane signs and mystical portents, roll Insight. If you possess an item or token connected to your quarry, take +1 to your roll.

On a 10+, you unveil a precise tapestry of movement: their current location, likely destination, and a significant detail about their recent journey. On a 7-9, you catch fragmented glimpses: either their current whereabouts, recent path, or a cryptic hint about their next move.

On a 6-, you receive only whispers – tantalizing but frustratingly incomplete fragments that demand further investigation.

 **GIFTED:** With an *Awakened Companion*, you can simultaneously track and pursue other objectives while divining their path.

## BACKGROUND QUESTIONS

- You had a vision, dream, or experience that shattered the veil of reality for you. What secrets did you witness?
- The weight of your knowledge can be crushing. How do you carry this burden?
- Unraveling hidden truths can lead down perilous paths. How far are you willing to go in your pursuit of knowledge?
- Who else shares your belief in the message you carry, or walks a similar path in search of hidden truths?

## NATURE AND DRIVES

At character creation, pick from the lists below or make your own.

### Nature (pick 1):

- Reveal uncomfortable truths even when silence would be safer.
- Sacrifice personal comfort to preserve important knowledge.
- Shield others from truths they aren't prepared to handle.

### Drive (pick 3):

- Share an unwelcome truth.
- Guide someone else's revelation.
- Interpret a prophetic sign.
- Make a sacrifice for truth.
- Preserve forbidden knowledge.

## ADVANCED MOVES

At character creation, pick 2.

### DIVINE RETRIBUTION

When you Clash in Battle against someone you know has committed an egregious offense, on a hit, you strike true, and they cannot easily escape your judgment. On a 7-9, you still expose a vital weakness or create an opportunity, even if you don't fully prevail.

**A** GIFTED: If you wield a mastercraft ranged weapon, you can choose to capture the target instead of inflicting harm, bringing them to face the consequences of their actions.

### LIMINAL SHADOW

When you choose stillness, you fade from mortal perception. People may pass through your space, touch you, or speak nearby without registering your existence. Any deliberate movement instantly breaks this invisibility, causing those around you to suddenly become aware of your presence.

**A** GIFTED: With Ripple in the Crowd or Ghostly Footfalls, you can make minor movements without revealing yourself.

## DEATH MOVE

When you die, the veil shatters and ultimate truth floods your consciousness. Choose three pieces of hidden knowledge you've carried. Those present experience these truths as undeniable visions. Each witness holds 1-Truth. They can spend it during a crucial moment to gain perfect insight about their situation, as if rolling a 10+ on Recall Information. This vision carries your voice and perspective, but burdens them with 1 pressure as the weight of revelation takes its toll.

## APOTHEOSIS

When you consume Godflesh, mark the consumption track on your playbook, trigger the move, and pick a consequence.

Your knowledge takes physical form. Make three statements of absolute truth – each manifests visibly, becoming undeniably real to all who witness it. These revelations can reshape the physical world, expose deceptions, or force understanding upon others.

### Consequences:

- Your body changes significantly.
- You take 1 pressure on a 13+ when you Recall Information.
- Reduce your Injuries track by 1.
- Your damage penalties start after 2 marks.
- Take Disfavor when you Figure Someone Out.

After you consume Godflesh for the third time, your character is forever transformed. It will start manifesting as a new Divine. Make a new character.

## BONDS

At character creation, fill at least one bond. You can pick from the listed below or create your own.

- \_\_\_\_\_ witnessed my first brush with divine revelation..
- \_\_\_\_\_ helps ground me when the weight of knowledge becomes too heavy.
- A vision showed me that \_\_\_\_\_ plays a crucial role in what's to come.
- \_\_\_\_\_ reminds me of who I was before my awakening.



# THE FABLE

Kings tremble, and shadows bow, all before your captivating tales. Lies spin the truth, whispers ignite reality, and fate kneels to your silver tongue. Craft your narrative, shape destinies, and leave your mark on the world, one story at a time. Remember, Fable, even the most enchanting performances can hold hidden thorns.

## THE FABLE'S CORPUS

At character creation, pick a corpus. Mark on your playbook sheets the corresponding signature move and list the treasures you receive.

### ☐ VERSE OF THE BEWILDER

When you swindle people to glean new information, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Guileful Grace, Eloquent Charmer, and Masterwork Armor.

**Signature Move:** You start with the Fascinate move.

#### FASCINATE

When you make eye contact to create a hypnotic effect, roll ⚡ Awe. On a hit, the target falls under your influence, unable to move away or break eye contact. On a 10+, you can move around while maintaining the effect, but it ends if the target loses sight of you. On a 7-9, You must maintain direct eye contact.

### ☐ VERSE OF THE CARNIVAL

When you read the mood and identifying the motives in a social event, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Awakened Companion, Flow State, and Masterwork Weapon (close).

**Signature Move:** You start with the Masquerade move.

#### MASQUERADE

When you integrate into a social gathering where you wouldn't normally belong, roll ⚡ Magia. On a 10+, everyone assumes you're a natural part of the scene, whether a worker, server, or guest. On a 7-9, you'll need to do something to make it look like you belong. On a 6-, unexpected drama or obligations ensnare you, unless you want to blow your cover.

**A GIFTED:** With Guileful Grace, take +1 for this roll.

### ☐ VERSE OF THE REVELER

When you wield your social acumen to influence a crowd, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Enigma Engine, Inspiring Radiance, and Masterwork Instrument.

**Signature Move:** You start with the Bacchanalia move.

#### BACCHANALIA

Any festive gathering you join becomes exponentially more exuberant. Food and drink don't run out for the duration. When you attempt to influence the gathering with your own agenda, roll ⚡ Resolve. On a 10+, people follow your lead, captivated by the heightened atmosphere. No one resists your suggestions directly. On 7-9, you can sway a few key individuals or temporarily calm a tense situation.

**A GIFTED:** With a *Masterwork Instrument* you can start a revelry almost anywhere with just a few people.

## BACKGROUND QUESTIONS

- Your captivating narratives haven't always had the intended effect. What did you learn from this experience?
- Not everyone is equally susceptible to your charms. Who are those that are particularly swayed by your stories?
- Do you believe in the power of truth, even when it's inconvenient or unpopular?
- What motivates you beyond the thrill of a captivating performance?

## NATURE AND DRIVES

At character creation, pick from the lists below or make your own.

### Nature (pick 1):

- Act with dramatic flair even in dire circumstances.
- Help someone tell their story who normally stays silent.
- Step back to let someone else be the hero.

### Drive (pick 3):

- Turn rivals against each other through clever words.
- Make someone question their loyalties.
- Learn a new form of artistic expression.
- Make someone powerful look foolish.
- Win over a hostile audience.

## ADVANCED MOVES

At character creation, pick 2.

### RALLYING CRY

When you **Provide Support**, you may roll  Awe instead of Bonds. If you do, on a hit, they take +2 instead of +1 to their next roll.

 **GIFTED:** Your *Inspiring Radiance* is especially effective. The first time you provide support in a session, they gain a thread on any hit, not only on 10+.

### SERENDIPITY

Fate smiles upon you, always guiding you through minor mishaps. Puddles miraculously vanish, rooms at crowded inns appear, and you effortlessly catch the attention of the right person. Minor threats tremble before your fortunate spirit. Any attack dealing only 1 damage (before armor) glances harmlessly off, leaving you unscathed.

## DEATH MOVE

Death holds its breath. When you **die**, you steal the spotlight one last time. Weave a heart-wrenching monologue, strum a defiant song, or unleash any artistry that captivates the audience. During this performance, **Recall Information**, **Sway Someone**, and **Provide Support** awarded Godlike results, and your signature move guarantees a 10+. The captivated audience, including enemy characters, freezes until the performance ends. Take your final bow, *Fable*, for as the last note fades, the curtain falls.

## APOTHEOSIS

When you **consume Godflesh**, mark the consumption track on your playbook, trigger the move, and pick a consequence.

You reach into the hearts of everyone present and lay bare their emotions. While they experience perfect empathy, you can see each person's greatest desire or goal. Choose one of them and will it into being – a great play, a painting – you make it real.

### Consequences:

- Your body changes significantly.
- People flock to you wherever you go.
- Reduce your Injuries track by 1.
- Your damage penalties start after 2 marks.
- Take Disfavor when Swaying Someone.

After you consume Godflesh for the third time, your character is forever transformed. It will start manifesting as a new Divine. Make a new character.

## BONDS

At character creation, fill at least one bond. You can pick from the listed below or create your own.

- \_\_\_\_\_ reminds me of a character from my favorite tale, for better or worse.
- I share a secret with \_\_\_\_\_ that could ruin both our reputations.
- My stories about \_\_\_\_\_ have made them more famous than they realize.
- I'm trying to change the ending of \_\_\_\_\_'s personal story.



# THE HARRIER

*The world's flaws itch at you, and you see the potential for growth hidden beneath. You nudge, prod, and even force change, knowing progress can be messy and unwelcome. Embrace the chaos, Harrier, but remember: growth has consequences. Are you ready for the world you unleash?*

## THE HARRIER'S CORPUS

At character creation, pick a corpus. Mark on your playbook sheets the corresponding signature move and list the treasures you receive.

### ADAPTIVE MOMENTUM

When you gain the trust or confidence of others through your appearance or demeanor, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Undeniable Presence, Fluid Form, and Mastercraft Tool.

**Signature Move:** You start with the Living Canvas move.

### LIVING CANVAS

Your appearance is a constantly adapting canvas, allowing you to seamlessly blend into any social situation. Your hair, makeup, and clothes shift and reform to be perfect for the given occasion, from casual to formal. Mimicking a recognizable uniform or outfit results in a mostly convincing appearance, but always with minor, telltale flaws.

**A** GIFTED: With *Mimic Shroud*, you can use Living Canvas to convincingly resemble a specific person, including their outfit.

### CHANGING MOMENTUM

When you exert influence over groups or organizations, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Mimic Shroud, Mark of the Order, and Mastercraft Weapon (ranged).

**Signature Move:** You start with the Catalyst move.

### CATALYST

You fabricate a small but significant object or event designed to nudge a situation in a desired direction. This could be a forged document, a strategically placed item, or a carefully crafted rumor. Describe the catalyst and its intended effect. It works perfectly once.

**A** GIFTED: With a *Enigma Engine*, the Catalyst works perfectly the first time. Afterward, you can use the object two more times, but each use requires you to Steel Your Nerves. On a success, the Catalyst functions, but you must describe an unforeseen complication that arises. On a failure, the Catalyst backfires, creating a new problem.

### CRITICAL MOMENTUM

When you force a confrontation or create a high-stakes situation, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Enigma Engine, Sigil of Command, and Mastercraft Armor.

**Signature Move:** You start with the Calculated Risk move.

### CALCULATED RISK

You present a daring plan, one that demands sacrifice but promises great reward. Instead of rolling Plead Your Case, each member can choose to take 1 unhealable damage (ignoring armor) to embrace the risk, granting them +1 ongoing to all rolls related to the plan. This ongoing bonus lasts until you all rest, at which point the damage is healed.

If you present the plan at the Haven, you can shoulder the risk yourself, taking 2 unhealable damage (ignoring armor) to grant the entire band the +1 ongoing bonus. This also lasts until you all rest.

## BACKGROUND QUESTIONS

- You witnessed an injustice, a stifling stagnation, or a missed opportunity for growth that compelled you to take action. What was this event?
- Those comfortable with the current order brand you a villain. How do you handle this label?
- Even in your relentless pursuit of change, are there lines you refuse to cross?
- What does a world sculpted by your vision look like?

## NATURE AND DRIVES

At character creation, pick from the lists below or make your own.

### Nature (pick 1):

- Challenge stagnant traditions that harm more than help.
- Create chaos to reveal hidden truths and opportunities.
- Force growth through controlled destruction.

### Drive (pick 3):

- Create an opportunity where others see only obstacles.
- Plant seeds of doubt in a follower of tradition.
- Take the blame for chaos that leads to growth.
- Turn a defender of order into an agent of change.
- Reveal the cost of maintaining false peace.

## ADVANCED MOVES

At character creation, pick 2.

### DANCE WITH DANGER

You're comfortable in dangerous situations. When you Steel Your Nerves to perform a risky action – sneaking, picking locks, or anything that puts you on the line – take +1.

**A** GIFTED: With *Prestidigitation*, you can manipulate fate itself. Instead of the +1, roll  Magia.

### THE VANISHING ACT

When you leave the scene of your own mischief, you slip away unnoticed. You're not invisible, but everyone's attention seems to be elsewhere.

**A** GIFTED: With *Animal Form*, you can take a small souvenir with you as you depart. Its usefulness will become clear later.

## DEATH MOVE

When you die, your restless spirit refuses to fade quietly. You become a catalyst, rippling outward to shake the foundations of order. Name one pillar of power, tradition, or belief that your passing will ultimately destroy. The GM will weave its inevitable collapse into the world's story. As your body fails, it dissolves into a swarm of glowing butterflies that scatter to the winds. Those touched by them find themselves forever changed, questioning the chains that bind them. Your death marks not an end, but the beginning of transformations you always fought to create.

## APOTHEOSIS

When you consume Godlfesh, mark the consumption track on your playbook, trigger the move, and pick a consequence.

You become a nexus of pure chaos. Name something that has long resisted change – a tradition, a hierarchy, or an immutable law. Describe how your presence unravels it completely, creating a chain reaction that forces everyone to adapt or break. Your allies can ride this wave of transformation, but your enemies must face its full destructive force.

### Consequences:

- Your body changes significantly.
- You draw hostile attention from those who maintain order.
- Reduce your Injuries track by 1.
- Your damage penalties start after 2 marks.
- Take Disfavor when trying to Provide Support or Plead Your Case.

After you consume Godlfesh for the third time, your character is forever transformed. It will start manifesting as a new Divine. Make a new character.

## BONDS

At character creation, fill at least one bond. You can pick from the listed below or create your own.

- \_\_\_\_\_ helped me escape after I caused necessary chaos.
- \_\_\_\_\_ saw through my deception but kept my secret.
- My actions accidentally destroyed something precious to \_\_\_\_\_.
- I trust \_\_\_\_\_ to tell me when I've gone too far.



# THE HAUNTED

*Death's whispers haunt you, its secrets etched on your soul. You offer comfort and fear in equal measure, understanding the finality and beauty death holds. Memories of the departed cling to you like spectral tendrils, a burden both chilling and profound. Tread carefully, Haunted, for the secrets you carry are heavy indeed.*

## THE HAUNTED'S CORPUS

At character creation, pick a corpus. Mark on your playbook sheets the corresponding signature move and list the treasures you receive.

### BOUND BY GUILT

When you discern the truth behind lies and deception, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Walking Corpse, Whispering Despair, and Mastercraft Weapon (choose: reach, or ranged).

**Signature Move:** You start with the Scales of Judgment move.

### SCALES OF JUDGMENT

When you weigh the guilt or regret in someone's heart, roll ⚡ Resolve. Declare your accusation or suspicion and study their soul. On a 10+, you discern the truth of their guilt or the depth of their remorse. On a 7-9, you sense the burden they carry, but the specifics remain clouded.

If they are innocent or bear no regret, you learn what truly weighs upon their conscience.

**A** **GIFTED:** With *Toll the Dead*, you also gain insight into how they might atone for their misdeeds or find peace from their regrets.

### BOUND TO MEMORIES

When you delve into the past, uncovering secrets or lost knowledge, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Psychometry, Shapechanger, and Mastercraft Tool.

**Signature Move:** You start with the Whispers from Beyond move.

### WHISPERS FROM BEYOND

When you commune with the dead to seek answers, roll ⚡ Awe. On a 10+, ask two questions. On a 7-9, ask one. On a miss, the spirit resists, you may take 1-pressure to compel them to answer, or accept their silence.

Having the deceased's remains grants you Favor when rolling. Contacting spirits remotely requires that you spend a thread ⚡.

**A** **GIFTED** With *Walking Corpse*, treat a 7-9 result as a 10+.

### BOUND TO SILENCE

When you inspire fear or awe in others, causing them to hesitate or falter, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Ripple in the Crowd, Unquenchable Flame, and Mastercraft Armor.

**Signature Move:** You start with the Glimpse of Mortality move.

### GLIMPSE OF MORTALITY

When you unleash the chilling echoes of mortality upon a small group, roll ⚡ Prowess. On a 10+, the group is paralyzed by existential dread for the scene, lost in visions of their own demise. On a 7-9, the group is shaken and stunned, giving them pause for a minute or until someone snaps them out of it.

**A** **GIFTED:** Using *Shapechanger* to take on an animal form, the group is likely to flee in terror.

## BACKGROUND QUESTIONS

- What brush with death irrevocably marked you?
- Your connection to the departed can be isolating. Do you seek solace in solitude, or struggle with the weight of the dead's pleas and memories?
- Your brush with death fundamentally changed your view on life. What changed?
- Despite your connection to the dead, an unlikely ally trusts you. Who is this person, and why do they believe in your ability to bridge the veil?

## NATURE AND DRIVES

At character creation, pick from the lists below or make your own.

### Nature (pick 1):

- Bridge the gap between the living and dead.
- Find beauty in endings and help others accept death's role in life.
- Act as death's witness, marking significant endings.

### Drive (pick 3):

- Help someone make peace with a departed loved one.
- Honor a dead person's unfulfilled wish.
- Face death to protect someone who fears it.
- Turn a place of death into one of remembrance.
- Mark a significant transition with proper ceremony.

## ADVANCED MOVES

At character creation, pick 2.

### KINDRED SPIRITS

You transform the fear of death into a celebration of life. Anyone who shares a drink, smoke, or other celebratory act with you heals 1 damage during your first toast. If they offer you a gift (drink, promise, food – your choice), they heal 2 damage instead.

**A** GIFTED: With *Aura of Dread*, you can switch it to *Aura of Celebration* at will.

### THE REAPER'S GAME

You can challenge anyone to a contest of skill, setting the terms (including stakes up to and including death). If they accept, the challenge is magically binding. Never challenge a Haunted when death is the wager.

### SPECTRAL GUIDANCE

You are attuned to the lingering echoes of the departed. When you assess a tense situation, you can consult the spirits present, asking them questions as if they were living witnesses.

## DEATH MOVE

When you die, the emotional weight of every loss and grief you've carried surges outward as a spectral weapon. Enemies near your body are overwhelmed by an intense wave of unresolved pain. Your final moment becomes a devastating act of protection, turning your accumulated sorrow into a force that shields those you care about. The site of your death becomes hallowed ground, marked by an unnatural stillness.

## APOTHEOSIS

When you consume Godlfesh, mark the consumption track on your playbook, trigger the move, and pick a consequence.

In a moment of divine transformation, you become the bridge between life and death. Describe how you use your connection to death to transform a hopeless situation, suspending the natural order. Your intervention rewrites fate, turning inevitable tragedy into unexpected mercy.

### Consequences:

- Your body changes significantly.
- Unresolved spirits are always drawn to you, preventing you from ever truly being alone.
- Reduce your Injuries track by 1.
- Your damage penalties start after 2 marks.
- Take 1 Pressure on 13+ when you Assess a Tense Situation.

After you consume Godlfesh for the third time, your character is forever transformed. It will start manifesting as a new Divine. Make a new character.

## BONDS

At character creation, fill at least one bond. You can pick from the listed below or create your own.

- I helped \_\_\_\_\_ properly mourn a loved one when no one else would.
- \_\_\_\_\_ reminds me of someone I've lost, and I can't look away.
- I've seen \_\_\_\_\_ in a moment of profound vulnerability that others missed.
- A ritual I performed long ago created an unexpected link with \_\_\_\_\_.



# THE MAGUS

*Arcane whispers ignite your hunger for knowledge, power etched in symbols and secrets. Bend nature's fury, channel divine sparks, or dissect reality itself. But beware, Magus, power's a fickle flame. Each manipulation of fate echoes with consequence. Tread carefully, for brilliance and madness waltz close, and a single spell can shift the balance of destiny.*

## THE MAGUS' CORPUS

At character creation, pick a corpus. Mark on your playbook sheets the corresponding signature move and list the treasures you receive.

### BINDING WEAVE

When you restrict people's movement and manipulating their bodies, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Golem, Masterwork Armor, and Sharpened Intellect.

**Signature Move:** You start with the Mote of Translocation move.

### MOTE OF TRANSLOCATION

When you spend a minute and focus on an object you previously marked, as long as it's in a stationary and safe location, you recall it. If the item is somewhere unfamiliar, in motion, or dangerous, roll **D6** Resolve. On a 10+, it's recalled with no issues. On a 7-9, you're disrupted. It arrives at a nearby location. You have a vague sense of where it is. On a miss, it goes somewhere fun and unexpected! You can only recall inanimate objects and the act itself is noisily

**A GIFTED:** If you have a *Ritual Kit*, take +1 for this roll.

### CELESTIAL WEAVE

When you use your abilities to bolster other's magical powers, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Familiar, Masterwork Weapon (close or ranged), and Shapechanger.

**Signature Move:** You start with the Counterspell move.

### COUNTERSPELL

When you use your power to dispel an ongoing magical effect, roll **D6** Insight. On a 10+, you understand the effect well and dissolve it. On 7-9, it's disrupted for a short time but will reactivated later. On a miss, you think you're successful.

### HARMONIC WEAVE

When you use your magical forces to innervate the life force of others, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Arcane Resilience, Mark of the Order, and Ritual Kit.

**Signature Move:** You start with the Cantrips move.

### CANTRIPS

You can cast some simple magic that requires little to no effort on your part. Pick three cantrips. They do not require a roll.

- Sleight-of-hand • Distract
- Empathize • Illuminate/extinguish
- Move small objects • Lock/unlock
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**A GIFTED:** If you have a *Familiar*, it can cast your cantrips.

## BACKGROUND QUESTIONS

- What first ignited your fascination with the arcane?
- You once faced the unintended consequences of your magic. What happened? What did you learn from this experience?
- Arcane magic comes at a cost. What toll does your pursuit of power take on you?
- Your arcane talents haven't gone unnoticed. Who is the rival who mistrusts your methods or goals? How did their actions push you to new heights of magical prowess?

## NATURE AND DRIVES

At character creation, pick from the lists below or make your own.

### Nature (pick 1):

- Reveal the rational principles behind seemingly chaotic magic.
- Endanger yourself pursuing magical knowledge.
- Solve a problem through magical insight rather than brute force.

### Drive (pick 3):

- Uncover the true nature of a divine relic.
- Channel magic beyond your normal limits.
- Clean up someone else's magical mistake.
- Guide someone away from dangerous magic.
- Exchange magical knowledge with a rival.

## ADVANCED MOVES

At character creation, pick Thaumaturgy and 1 other.

### THAUMATURGY

When you **cast a spell**, describe how it should work using the effects and cost you're willing to take. Roll  Magia. On 10+, pick 2 effects and 1 cost. On a 7-9, pick 1 effect and 1 cost. On a miss, pick 2 costs and the MC fills in the rest.

#### Effects:

- Instant casting • Hide something
- Reveal a secret • Deal 2 damage
- Deal 1 damage to a small group
- Communicate impossibly
- Restrict movement

#### Costs:

- Long casting time • Unwanted attention
- Take 2 damage • Short duration
- Something is hidden from you
- Inflict collateral damage
- Deal an ally 1 damage

### EPHEMERAL ENCHANTMENT

When you Sway Someone, you may roll  Magia instead of Awe. If you do, eventually they will realize they were manipulated and will remember this experience.

### WHISPERS OF SECRETS

You have a knack for uncovering hidden knowledge, a natural talent for unearthing and retaining knowledge that most wouldn't dare to seek or even know exists. When you **recall information regarding secret, dangerous, or obscure topics**, take a +1 to the roll.

 **GIFTED:** If you have a Mark of the Order, roll with Favor instead of the +1.

## DEATH MOVE

In a cataclysmic display, your mortal coil crumbles under the immense power of your accumulated magical treasures. When you **die**, the raw magic erupts, permanently warping the surrounding land into a reflection of your arcane legacy. Your body is consumed, leaving only a crater echoing with raw magical energy, the surrounding area becomes a testament to your legacy, forever warped by the unleashed magic.

## APOTHEOSIS

When you **consume Godflesh**, mark the consumption track on your playbook, trigger the move, and pick a consequence.

You grasp the intricate threads of fate, pulling on one, severing another, and weaving them anew around your desire. Unleash a spell of legendary proportions, one that bends the course of events and leaves an indelible mark upon reality. Describe the intended outcome of your grand weave.

#### Consequences:

- Your body changes significantly.
- All Thaumaturgy draws unwanted attention.
- Reduce your Injuries track by 1.
- Your damage penalties start after 2 marks.
- Take Disfavor when you Assess a Tense Situation.

After you consume Godflesh for the third time, your character is forever transformed. It will start manifesting as a new Divine. Make a new character.

## BONDS

At character creation, fill at least one bond. You can pick from the listed below or create your own.

- I owe \_\_\_\_\_ for saving me from magical backlash.
- \_\_\_\_\_ carries an artifact I covet.
- \_\_\_\_\_ questions my methods but respects my results.
- I dream repeatedly of \_\_\_\_\_ and fire.



# THE PRIMAL

*Nature's fury flows in your veins, shaping your body into whispers of leaves, claws of fur, and living earth. Untamed wilds are your domain, their language your tongue, their power your weapon. Embrace life's raw force, defy the gods' hold, and carve your legend in the world's untamed heart.*

## THE PRIMAL'S CORPUS

At character creation, pick a corpus. Mark on your playbook sheets the corresponding signature move and list the treasures you receive.

### BLOOMING TAPESTRY

When you manipulate plants or crops to create new forms for your advantage, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Guardian Beast, Mockingbird, and Masterwork Armor.

**Signature Move:** You start with the move Surge of Life move.

### SURGE OF LIFE

When you tap into your primal essence to accelerate natural healing, roll ♦ Magia. On a 10+, clear up to 4 marks across any combination of targets. On a 7-9, clear up to 3 marks. On a miss, you can mark 1 Pressure to clear 2 marks for one person.

**A** GIFTED: If you have a *Flourishing Aura*, you can heal an additional mark on a hit.

### FEROIOUS TAPESTRY

When you blend into the environment and stay undetected, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Flourishing Aura, Masterwork Weapon (close), and Uncanny Senses.

**Signature Move:** You start with the move Shapeshifter move.

### SHAPESHIFTER

You change your form to that of an animal or plant. For an unremarkable, harmless form, you just do it. When you transform into something formidable, roll ♦ Resolve.

On 10+, choose 2. On 7-9, choose 1, on a miss you shift, but it goes wrong. You have 3-power **OOO** and revert back when exhausted:

- Pick another option when Clashing in Battle.
- Freely communicate with animals.
- Take +1 power when attacking.
- Take +1 power for protection.
- Take a hybrid form.

**A** GIFTED: If you have a *Masterwork Armor*, it's still applied while transformed.

### WHISPERING TAPESTRY

When you tame and handle animals or manipulate wild creatures, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Elemental, Masterwork Armor, and Unbreakable Resilience.

**Signature Move:** You start with the Living Tide move.

### LIVING TIDE

You bring forth a swarm of insects, rats, spiders, or small birds, depending on the available environment, providing ongoing support or distraction. They act as one, following your commands with a hivemind-like collective intelligence. The swarm has 2-power **OO** and can be used to inflict damage and assist in other actions. It dissipates when exhausted.

## BACKGROUND QUESTIONS

- Your primal urges clash with human society. What form does your inner struggle take?
- You believe that the advance of civilization threatens the wild places. What emotions does this stir in you?
- A kindred spirit shares your connection to nature. Who are they and what binds you together?
- The wilderness has marked your body in visible ways. How has this transformation shaped your life?

## NATURE AND DRIVES

At character creation, pick from the lists below or make your own.

### Nature (pick 1):

- Challenge the boundaries between human and wild.
- Follow instincts despite rational objections.
- Participate in the natural cycles of growth and decay.

### Drive (pick 3):

- Heal a wounded landscape or creature.
- Transform at an inopportune time.
- Expose a Divine's violation of natural order.
- Show the beauty in what others fear.
- Restore a landscape corrupted by fallen god-essence.

## ADVANCED MOVES

At character creation, pick 2.

### BESTIAL FURY

Unleash your inner beast to enhance your close-quarters combat prowess and transform specific body parts like hands, feet, or even teeth, morphing them into claws, fangs, and talons. When you **fight up close in melee combat**, take 1 overflow .

### HUNTER's Focus

You have unwavering focus and keen observational skills. When you **assess a tense situation to locate or track someone**, you may roll  instead of Insight. If you do, ask one more question on a hit.

**A** GIFTED: If you have *Uncanny Senses* it will take a remarkable supernatural feat to throw you off the trail.

### WILD SPEECH

You can delve into the guttural dialogues of the wild and understand the emotions and basic intentions of local animals and plants. When you **assess a tense situation**, You can directly ask questions to nearby flora and fauna. while they are terrible conversationalists, they will offer limited yet honest answers within their understanding.

## DEATH MOVE

When you die, the wilderness explodes with your final, defiant essence. Your body becomes a catalyst for ecological transformation, dissolving into a living monument that reshapes the surrounding landscape. Ancient seeds burst into impossible growth, dormant creatures awaken, and the land itself transforms into a wild sanctuary that challenges the Ordered Domains of the Divines. Your death creates a primal ecosystem that bears witness to the untamed spirit you embodied, with creatures and plants emerging as living guardians of your final legacy.

## APOTHEOSIS

When you **consume Godlfesh**, mark the consumption track on your playbook, trigger the move, and pick a consequence.

You become a conduit for nature's raw power. You unleash the fury of the wilds to overcome impossible odds, commanding vines, beasts, and brambles to strike your foes and shield your allies. Your presence becomes a terrifying display of nature's might.

### Consequences:

- Your body changes significantly.
- Wherever you go, animals flock to you.
- Reduce your Injuries track by 1
- Your damage penalties start after 2 marks
- Take Disfavor when you Sway Someone or Plead Your Case.

After you consume Godlfesh for the third time, your character is forever transformed. It will start manifesting as a new Divine. Make a new character.

## BONDS

At character creation, fill at least one bond. You can pick from the listed below or create your own.

- \_\_\_\_\_ treats the natural world with careless disregard, and I must correct this.
- \_\_\_\_\_ understands the language of the wilds, but I hear them speak it with a clumsy tongue.
- \_\_\_\_\_ triggers a primal unease within me.
- I've sworn an oath to protect \_\_\_\_\_ from the dangers of the wilds.



# THE SCARRED

*Past battles etch your soul, shaping you with the weight of violence. Words fail, diplomacy crumbles, and action roars. But violence is a tool, not a tongue. Each blow is a calculated echo of experience, etched in scars that whisper potential. Are you shield or storm, Scarred? Choose your path.*

## THE SCARRED'S CORPUS

At character creation, pick a corpus. Mark on your playbook sheets the corresponding signature move and list the treasures you receive.

### MARK OF THE FORGE

When you examine an enemy to identify weaknesses and vulnerabilities, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Bottomless Bag, Mastercraft Armor, and Mastercraft Weapon (ranged).

**Signature Move:** You start with the Strategist's Eye move.

### STRATEGIST'S EYE

You possess a keen tactical mind to assess the battlefield and gain advantages in combat. When you analyze the situation of the battlefield, roll Insight. On a 10+, hold 3. On a 7-9, hold 2. On a miss, hold none or hold 1 and take 1 pressure. Spend a hold to:

- Take 1 damage (ignores armor) instead of a bandmate.
- Grant *Favor* to a bandmate when they clash in battle.
- You or a bandmate choose 1 more option when clashing in battle, even on a miss.

### MARK OF THE RAM

When you use obstacles to disrupt enemy movements, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Colossal Might, Mastercraft Weapon (close), and Sigil of Command.

**Signature Move:** You start with the Breaching the Barricade move.

### BREACHING THE BARRICADE

You have an extraordinary ability to push through physical barriers, fueled by your raw strength and momentum. When you move through a barrier that is exceptionally reinforced by magic or unique craftsmanship, roll Prowess. On 10+, you break through to the other side. On a 7-9, you break down the barrier but take 1 damage, ignoring armor. On a miss, choose: you take 1 damage and bounce off the barrier, or take 3 (ignores armor) and manage to blast through it. Your pride suffers as well as your body.

### MARK OF SHRAPNEL

When you look through salvage and debris to find useful items or materials, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Mastercraft Weapon (reach or thrown), Mastercraft Shield, and Unbreakable Resilience.

**Signature Move:** You start with the Makeshift Mayhem move.

### MAKESHIFT MAYHEM

You possess a knack for turning almost any physical object into a deadly weapon. This could be anything from a common household item like a playing card or a sturdy cloth to a more substantial tool like an oar. These makeshift weapons are temporary, meaning they are likely to break or become unusable after a single use. Gain 2-power with almost any physical object.

**GIFTED:** If you have a *Mastercraft Weapon*, your improvised weapons gain 1 additional power.

## BACKGROUND QUESTIONS

- A defining battle forged you into what you are today. Who was your opponent?
- The marks of your battles etch beyond your flesh. How do these deeper scars manifest, and how do you manage their influence on your daily life?

- While your combat prowess is undeniable, you possess another unique skill or quirk. What is this unique talent? How does it complements your combat abilities?
- A past battle left you burning with a desire for vengeance. Who wronged you? What drives your need for retribution?

## NATURE AND DRIVES

At character creation, pick from the lists below or make your own.

### Nature (pick 1):

- Turn violence into protection.
- Prove your evolution beyond past defeats.
- Transform pain into purpose.

### Drive (pick 3):

- Teach someone a lesson through combat.
- Honor a opponent's fighting style or technique.
- Show mercy when victory is certain.
- Use your experience to resolve a conflict peacefully.
- Face a fear born from a past battle.

## ADVANCED MOVES

At character creation, pick 2.

### BATTLE-TESTED

You bear a mark of your turbulent past. You have an additional box at the front of your Injury track. Mark this box first whenever you take damage. You can mark 4 injuries before taking -1 to all rolls. If you get to 7 injuries you die as usual.

**A** GIFTED: If you have a *mastercraft shield*, you can burn it to ignore damage from an attack.

### INTIMIDATING PRESENCE

When you sway someone using fear and the threat of impending violence, roll ⚡ Prowess instead of Awe, but don't expect them to like you afterward.

**A** GIFTED: If you have a *sigil of command*, take +1 when swaying someone.

### READ THE FURY

Your exceptional combat prowess allows you to gain insights into recent battles or opponents. When you assess a tense situation where a battle took place, or figure someone out with someone you just fought, roll ⚡ Prowess instead of the regular attribute. If you do, You lash out violently or cause unwarranted damage in the process.

## DEATH MOVE

When you die, your battle scars ignite with unleashed power. Strike any enemy in sight with your maximum power, marking them permanently with your most defining scar. They will forever see fragments of the battles that shaped you, your final lesson etched into their flesh.

## APOTHEOSIS

When you consume Godlfesh, mark the consumption track on your playbook, trigger the move, and pick a consequence.

Your scars pulse with divine power as every battle you've ever fought merges into perfect clarity. Describe how you achieve an impossible victory through pure martial perfection, turning your accumulated combat experience into a moment of transcendent strength.

### Consequences:

- Your body changes significantly.
- You feel every wound that you inflict on others as phantom pain.
- Reduce your Injuries track by 1.
- Your damage penalties start after 2 marks.
- You take 1 pressure on a 13+ when you Clash in Battle or Defend.

After you consume Godlfesh for the third time, your character is forever transformed. It will start manifesting as a new Divine. Make a new character.

## BONDS

At character creation, fill at least one bond. You can pick from the listed below or create your own.

- \_\_\_\_\_ helped tend to my wounds after a devastating fight.
- I respect how \_\_\_\_\_ resolves conflicts without violence.
- I'm curious about \_\_\_\_\_'s unusual fighting technique.
- I've sworn to face \_\_\_\_\_ in honorable combat someday.



# THE SHAPER

Clay, metal, or magic – your hands breathe life into creation. Tools in yours are not just for building, but shaping destinies. Craft wonders or unleash chaos, the world your canvas. Embrace creation's power, unleash destruction's fury, and leave your mark on every piece you forge.

## THE SHAPER'S CORPUS

At character creation, pick a corpus. Mark on your playbook sheets the corresponding signature move and list the treasures you receive.

### COGENT DESIGN

When you spend time in a human-made structure and act according to its nature, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Mastercraft Armor, Mastercraft Tool, and Unquenchable Flame.

**Signature Move:** You start with the Heart in the Stone move.

### HEART IN THE STONE

When you touch an object to project your will into it, roll Insight. On a hit, you understand the nature of the object and anything that might deviate from it. On a 10+, you can control the object beyond its normal means. Take +1 ongoing while inhabiting it.

**GIFTED** If you have *sharpened intellect* you retain your consciousness while inhabiting the object.

### ETHEREAL DESIGN

When you interact with unfamiliar substances to determine their qualities or nature, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Awakened Companion, Sharpened Intellect, and Bottomless Bag.

**Signature Move:** You start with the Spiritcrafter move.

### SPIRITCRAFTER

You carry supplies to prepare remedies for personal use. The stock has 3-power . Mark your stock to enhance your natural physique, gain acute senses, or fight maladies. You cannot clear your stock by regular means.

When you search for materials to resupply your stock, roll Magia. On a 10+, clear all of it. On 7-9, clear 1, and something goes wrong.

### UNSEEN DESIGN

When you consult knowledge related to magical phenomena, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Mastercraft Weapon, Golem, and Esoteric Knowledge.

**Signature Move:** You start with the Enchant Components move.

### ENCHANT COMPONENTS

When you enchant an object, describe what it should do, and roll Resolve. On a 10+, it does what you wanted well. On a 7-9, it's functional but has some quirks or hindrances. On a miss, it goes awry and does something unexpected and dangerous. The enchanted object has 2-power and is lost once exhausted.

**GIFTED:** If you have a *Mastercraft Tool*, the object gains +1-power.

## BACKGROUND QUESTIONS

- There was a time when your creative spark felt like a burden rather than a gift. Did this experience dampen your passion, or teach you a valuable lesson?
- You once honed your craft under a patron. Who were they, and what kind of creations did you produce during this time?
- You imbue your creations with more than just functionality. What message or feeling do you hope to evoke with your work?
- You once created something you regretted. How did it impact your approach to shaping the world through your art?

## NATURE AND DRIVES

At character creation, pick from the lists below or make your own.

### Nature (pick 1):

- Create beauty from destruction.
- Sacrifice a cherished creation to protect others.
- Reveal hidden potential through your craft

### Drive (pick 3):

- Craft a solution that overcome limitations.
- Study an unusual material or technique.
- Share your craft with someone.
- Transform a space to reflect its true potential.
- Expose a hidden flaw.

## ADVANCED MOVES

At character creation, pick 2.

### HEARTFORGED

When you clash in battle with a mastercrafted weapon that you made, you may roll  Resolve instead of Prowess. If you do, you cannot choose to resist or avoid their blows.

### INSPIRED TINKERING

When you use your craft to improve a tool someone else is using for the scene, roll  Resolve. On a 10+, they get +1 ongoing when using this tool for the scene. On 7-9, they get a +1 forward for the next time they use this tool.

## DEATH MOVE

When you die, your most significant creation becomes sentient, imbued with your essence and driven to complete your most profound unfinished goal. This artifact will seek out your allies or rivals, carrying your creative spirit forward with an intensity that ensures your impact continues to reshape the world even after your final breath.

## APOTHEOSIS

When you consume Godflesh, mark the consumption track on your playbook, trigger the move, and pick a consequence.

Your creative potential erupts. You can instantly reshape a single object or environment in a way that defies conventional craftsmanship. Describe how your transformation reveals a profound truth about creation, transcending the object's previous form and showing the boundless potential of your artistic spirit.

### Consequences:

- Your body changes significantly.
- Every object you touch subtly changes.
- Reduce your Injuries track by 1.
- Your damage penalties start after 2 marks.
- Take Disfavor when you Empower.

After you consume Godflesh for the third time, your character is forever transformed. It will start manifesting as a new Divine. Make a new character.

## BONDS

At character creation, fill at least one bond. You can pick from the listed below or create your own.

- I created something for \_\_\_\_\_ that went terribly wrong.
- My latest project requires \_\_\_\_\_ as a crucial collaborator.
- I'm searching for a rare material and \_\_\_\_\_ might know its location.
- \_\_\_\_\_ challenges my creative methods, which both frustrates and inspires me.



# THE TEMPEST

A tempest brews within, raw power yearning to erupt. Yet, a serene calm lingers in the eye, seeking to understand its own fury. You walk a harsh path of discipline, wrestling with emotions and unraveling human complexities. Control and chaos dance upon a knife's edge. Even the calmest eye can unleash a devastating storm.

## THE TEMPEST'S CORPUS

At character creation, pick a corpus. Mark on your playbook sheets the corresponding signature move and list the treasures you receive.

### CROWN OF THE MAELSTROM

When you use your speed and momentum to control the battlefield's flow, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Truesight, Arcane Sleight, and Mastercraft Weapon (choose: close, reach, or ranged).

**Signature Move:** You start with the Whirlwind's Embrace move.

#### WHIRLWIND'S EMBRACE

When you harness your inner tempest to surge across the battlefield, roll Resolve. On a 10+, your explosive entrance leaves enemies reeling – any ally who engages them acts with Favor. On a 7-9, the force of your arrival staggers both sides – choose an adjacent ally to gain +1 forward when they engage. On a miss, your momentum betrays you, leaving you exposed amidst your foes.

**GIFTED:** With *Phantom Step*, your tempestuous charge inflicts 2 damage to all enemies caught in your path.

### CROWN OF THE THUNDERBOLT

When you channel destructive forces to break through obstacles or barriers, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Colossal Might, Phantom Step, and Mastercraft Armor.

**Signature Move:** You start with the Storm's Defiance move.

#### STORM'S DEFIANCE

When you unleash a thunderous challenge that shakes your enemies' resolve, roll Prowess. On a 10+, they fixate on you as the primary threat, you gain 1 overflow against them while they ignore your allies. On a 7-9, only the weakest or most impetuous foes focus on you – name them and Favor on your next move against those specific enemies. On a miss, your challenge draws unwanted attention from the most dangerous opponent.

**GIFTED:** With *Mastercraft Instrument*, your challenge resonates with divine power – mark pressure on your enemies' tracks when they first engage you.

### CROWN OF THE VOID

When you use your psychic abilities to perceive or influence others' minds, take +1.

**Starting Treasures:** Fluid Form, Sharpened Intellect, and Mastercraft Instrument.

**Signature Move:** You start with the Mind's Edge move.

#### MIND'S EDGE

When you manifest a blade of pure psychic energy, it functions as a mastercraft weapon (close range) that ignores armor.

When clashing in battle with this blade, you may roll Resolve instead of Prowess. If you fill an enemy's damage track with your psychic blade, they fall unconscious rather than suffering lethal harm.

**GIFTED:** With a *mastercraft weapon*, your psychic blade can strike multiple targets within range – distribute your damage between them as you choose.

## BACKGROUND QUESTIONS

- In the past, you lost control of your emotional power, causing collateral damage. What triggered the outburst? How did it affect the people or environment around you?
- Managing your inner turmoil is a constant battle. What techniques or disciplines do you utilize to maintain emotional control?
- Your tempestuous nature can be a barrier to forming deep connections with others. Do you feel isolated or misunderstood?
- You yearn to understand the root of your emotional tempest. How do you go about it?

## NATURE AND DRIVES

At character creation, pick from the lists below or make your own.

### Nature (pick 1):

- Shield others from the storm's fury.
- Become a conduit for controlled chaos.
- Dance between control and abandon.

### Drive (pick 3):

- Protect someone vulnerable to emotional storms.
- Unleash the tempest for a righteous cause.
- Confront the root of inner turmoil.
- Teach another to navigate their own storms.
- Find a harmonious balance between passion and peace.

## ADVANCED MOVES

At character creation, pick 2.

### FURY UNBOUND

When magical effects would control your mind or instill fear, you may instead enter a focused rage. Ignore the magical influence, but you must attack the nearest enemy each turn until you either defeat the source of the magic or the effect would normally end. If you slay whatever caused the magical effect, you immediately break free of any remaining influence.

### MANTRA OF HEALING

When you treat wounds through raw determination or unorthodox methods, roll  Resolve. On a 10+, you heal 2 damage on two different targets. On a 7-9, you heal 1 damage on two different targets.

### SWEEPING STRIKE

When you violently clear a path through a group of enemies, roll  Prowess. On a 10+, your devastating strike deals 2 damage to each target and sends them sprawling. On a 7-9, the force of your attack knocks them off their feet, but they suffer no lasting harm.

## DEATH MOVE

When you die, the tempest within erupts. Control shatters, and the raw power you contained explodes outward, consuming your body in a swirling vortex of raw emotion. The surrounding area is devastated – winds howl, earth trembles, and the air crackles with untamed energy. The landscape reflects your inner storm, forever marked by its passage. The emotional maelstrom lingers, a palpable echo of your turmoil, permanently influencing the emotions of all who remain, a testament to the tempest you embodied.

## APOTHEOSIS

When you consume Godflesh, mark the consumption track on your playbook, trigger the move, and pick a consequence.

Control shatters, power explodes. You become the storm, performing an impossible feat. The world mirrors your fury: air crackles, earth trembles, elements bend. The landscape transforms, a volatile reflection of the tempest you command.

### Consequences:

- Your body changes significantly.
- People instinctively feel uneasy around you.
- Reduce your Injuries track by 1.
- Your damage penalties start after 2 marks.
- Take Disfavor when you Steel Your Nerves.

After you consume Godflesh for the third time, your character is forever transformed. It will start manifesting as a new Divine. Make a new character.

## BONDS

At character creation, fill at least one bond. You can pick from the listed below or create your own.

- \_\_\_\_\_'s emotional control is absolute. I envy and distrust it.
- I once confided in \_\_\_\_\_ about my past outburst.
- I feel responsible for \_\_\_\_\_'s emotional well-being, perhaps too much so.
- \_\_\_\_\_ challenges my belief that control is always necessary.

# CHAPTER 6

# CRAFT TREASURES

*Treasures are powerful assets that shape your character's journey through the world of Godflesh. They come in four categories: Mastercraft Items, Divine Echoes, Curios, and Bound Spirits. Each category offers unique ways to influence the world around you and overcome supernatural challenges.*

Your character begins with three Treasures, determined by your chosen Playbook and Corpus. While these sources suggest specific options, you're encouraged to work with your GM to customize your Treasures in ways that enhance your character's story and match your creative vision.

## USING TREASURES

Every Treasure has a Power track representing its capacity for extraordinary feats. When you use a Treasure, you typically mark its Power track as directed by various moves in the game. Strong hits sometimes allow you to use a Treasure without spending Power. If a track becomes exhausted, you can still use the Treasure by taking Pressure – representing the strain of pushing beyond normal limits.

Some Treasures provide constant benefits without requiring Power expenditure. You might spend Power to enhance these abilities in dramatic moments, but their base effects remain active regardless of Power state.

As your character grows, you'll discover opportunities to acquire new Treasures through Advancements or crafting. These artifacts often become central to your story – they might be stolen by rivals, held hostage by villains, or affected by ancient curses, drawing the attention of various factions in your world.

## ATTUNEMENT

To use any treasure, you must attune to it by allocating attunement points. These points determine the treasure's Power track – the more points invested, the more power you can draw from it before exhaustion. Your character starts with 6 attunement points to distribute among your starting treasures.

When you gain a new treasure, you can reallocate your attunement points during downtime. This allows you to adjust your power distribution as your collection of treasures grows and your tactics evolve.

## MUNDANE EQUIPMENT

While Treasures are crucial for facing supernatural threats, your character might also carry ordinary weapons and armor. Against monsters, divine creatures, and others wielding extraordinary power, this mundane equipment offers limited effectiveness and provides no Power.

However, when facing ordinary people or animals, your regular weapons and armor can be quite effective. In these situations, mundane equipment functions as if it had 1-overflow Power, reflecting its natural effectiveness against non-supernatural threats.

## TRINKETS

During your adventures, you'll encounter Trinkets – temporary items created through move effects, discovered in the world, or salvaged from materials. Unlike permanent Treasures, Trinkets have limited uses and cannot be recharged once expended. These fleeting resources add tactical depth to your journey, encouraging careful consideration of when their temporary benefits might prove most valuable.

## MASTERCRAFT ITEMS

Mastercraft items are physical artifacts forged from the essence of fallen deities. Each one carries a fragment of divine power, making them formidable tools in the hands of skilled adventurers. Whether inherited as cherished heirlooms, meticulously crafted from scavenged fragments, or claimed from vanquished foes, these items resonate with power and tell stories of their own.

### USING MASTERCRAFT ITEMS

When creating or choosing a mastercraft item, you must define its Aspect – the thematic source of its power tied to the fallen divine from which it was crafted. This Aspect guides how the item's power manifests and what it can accomplish.

## ARMOR

Forged from ancient materials, mastercraft armor provides supernatural protection. When using mastercraft armor, you gain 1-overflow to soak damage, even when the armor's track is exhausted. While formidable, some attacks can pierce or completely ignore this protection.

## INSTRUMENTS

These items channel divine power through music and performance. When using a mastercraft instrument, you gain 1-overflow to relevant moves, even when exhausted. Their magic can manifest in various ways, from enchanting melodies to reality-altering harmonies.

## SHIELDS

Unlike armor, mastercraft shields are held rather than worn, allowing them to be shared in dire situations. They grant 1-overflow  to soak damage, even when exhausted, and this protection stacks with armor. Remember that different shield and armor Aspects might protect against different types of harm.

## TOOLS

Mastercraft tools imbue mundane tasks with extraordinary potential. When using them for their intended purpose, you gain 1-overflow  to relevant moves, even when exhausted. Their power often manifests in subtle but significant ways, making seemingly impossible tasks achievable.

## WEAPONS

Beyond mere instruments of harm, mastercraft weapons channel divine power in unique ways. When attacking with a mastercraft weapon, you gain 1-overflow to damage, even when exhausted. Each weapon's Aspect determines how this power manifests, from searing flames to reality-splitting force.

Remember, mastercraft items are more than just powerful tools – they're extensions of their wielders and catalysts for storytelling. Their unique properties, histories, and manifestations of power should reflect both their divine origins and the character who wields them.

## DIVINE ECHOES

Divine Echoes represent supernatural abilities infused into your character by fragments of divine power. Unlike physical artifacts, these gifts manifest as intrinsic powers that become part of your very being. Each Echo reflects the nature of the divinity from which it originated, shaping how its power manifests.

### USING DIVINE ECHOES

Like all treasures, Divine Echoes require attunement points to access their power. However, many provide passive benefits that remain active regardless of your Power track's state. You can spend power to enhance these innate abilities, pushing them beyond their usual limits in dramatic moments.

**Arcane Resilience** grants an uncanny ability to resist magical trickery and illusions. When targeted by enchantments, you can attempt to shrug them off with a roll.

**Arcane Sleight** imbues your hands with magical dexterity, allowing for fantastical close-up illusions that leave audiences awestruck.

**Colossal Might** bestows extraordinary strength and resilience, enabling feats of power far beyond normal human capabilities.

**Eloquent Charmer** provides a natural gift for weaving persuasive words, tailoring language to different audiences effectively.

**Esoteric Knowledge** unlocks forbidden secrets and lost wisdom, allowing perception of hidden connections and manipulation of unknown energies.

**Flow State** enables tapping into unwavering focus, allowing completion of incredible feats under pressure.

**Flourishing Aura** emanates a vibrant energy that invigorates surroundings, promoting growth and subtle healing.

**Fluid Form** allows seamless bodily adaptation to surroundings, such as growing gills or fur to suit environmental needs.

**Ghostly Footfalls** grants silent movement, leaving no trace of sound during travel.

**Guileful Grace** leaves a captivating first impression, granting advantages in social situations through charm and subtle manipulation.

**Inspiring Radiance** radiates motivating energy, lifting spirits and urging others to embrace their potential.

**Phantom Step** grants supernatural swiftness and reflexes, allowing for seemingly impossible feats of agility and evasion.

**Psychometry** allows tapping into emotional residue on objects, gleaning insights from significant items.

**Ripple in the Crowd** bestows a talent for moving unseen, blending into backgrounds and navigating unnoticed.

**Shapechanger** grants the ability to transform into a small animal or sentient plant while retaining intelligence and personality.

**Sharpened Intellect** enables simultaneous processing of multiple information streams with perfect comprehension.

**Toll the Dead** provides the ability to glean information from the deceased, accessing common details about the departed.

**Truesight** grants an uncanny intuition or sixth sense, manifesting uniquely for each individual.

**Uncanny Senses** provides heightened sensory perception, potentially including supernatural senses.

**Undeniable Presence** commands attention and authority, naturally drawing people in and influencing their behavior within certain limits.

**Unbreakable Resilience** grants immunity to a specific physical affliction, such as poisons, diseases, or toxins.

**Walking Corpse** transcends mortal needs like food, drink, and sleep, but creates an unsettling aura of wrongness.

**Whispering Despair** emanates an unsettling chill that instills unease in others, useful against foes but potentially hindering social interactions.

## CURIOS

Curios are tangible artifacts that bear the mark of divine power, yet manifest in ways different from mastercraft items. These mysterious objects often defy conventional understanding, possessing unique properties that blur the line between tool and wonder. Each Curio holds its own secrets, waiting to be uncovered through use and exploration.

## USING CURIOS

Like all treasures, Curios require attunement points to access their power. Some Curios provide passive benefits that remain active regardless of their Power track's state, while others demand power expenditure for their more extraordinary effects.

**Bottomless Bag** contains a vast extradimensional space within an unassuming container. While not truly infinite, it can hold an astonishing amount of gear, provided each item can fit through its opening.

**Enigma Engine** shifts and contorts its form, each configuration potentially unlocking unique effects. Work with your GM to determine if you understand its purpose or if it remains a cryptic puzzle.

**Mark of the Order** signifies membership in a hidden society that delves into forbidden knowledge. This sect possesses deeper understanding of the Divines and the Cycle of Inheritance than most mortals dare imagine.

**Mimic Shroud** grants the ability to dissolve into surroundings, both physically and socially. Moving cautiously while shrouded makes you difficult to discern, while in social settings others are subtly swayed to accept your presence.

**Ritual Kit** contains implements of arcane power, enabling the performance of intricate rituals. While too complex for combat, these rituals can produce significant effects when properly prepared.

**Sigil of Command** bears the mark of authority within an organized force. Those who recognize this insignia readily follow your legitimate commands with confidence.

**Unquenchable Flame** burns despite conventional limitations, defying the need for air and potentially allowing manipulation of its intensity.

## BOUND SPIRITS

Bound Spirits are entities forged from divine essence that form lasting bonds with their wielders. Unlike physical treasures or innate powers, these companions possess their own consciousness and personality. Each spirit offers unique abilities while creating opportunities for roleplay and character development through their interactions with you and the world.

### USING BOUND SPIRITS

Like all treasures, Bound Spirits require attunement points to access their power. When your spirit assists you in battle, you can add their Power to your attacks or defensive actions. As treasures, they transcend mortal vulnerabilities and cannot be permanently slain. While they may be temporarily incapacitated, any counterattack from trading blows will usually be directed at you, their caretaker.

**Awakened Companion** manifests as an unconventional companion imbued with divine power. Whether a flying carpet, a shapeshifting donkey, or a fearsome war pig, each possesses a unique special ability defined collaboratively with your GM, such as camouflage, venom, regeneration, or shared memories.

**Elemental** manifests as a being of pure elemental force, roughly the size and intelligence of a well-trained dog. You can Empower your elemental to temporarily enhance its size, strength, or ability to perform complex tasks.

**Familiar** possesses human-like intelligence and the ability to speak. While lacking offensive capabilities, these loyal spirits serve as invaluable advisors and scouts. They may take various forms, from traditional animals to more exotic manifestations.

**Golem** serves as a magical construct imbued with a spark of sentience. While capable of understanding and following complex commands, their artificial nature can lead to interesting misinterpretations and social awkwardness.

**Guardian Beast** functions as a formidable combat ally, communicating telepathically or through vocalizations you innately understand. Despite their fearsome nature, they remain bound by mystical ties of loyalty to their caretaker.

## CRAFTING NEW TREASURES

Your initial three Treasures come from your playbook's corpus. During your adventures, you'll discover extraordinary materials from fallen gods. While some materials are traded for wealth or used for temporary power, others can be crafted into new Treasures.

Crafting a Treasure requires three key elements: appropriate Relics, a skilled artisan, and an invocation ritual.

First, gather one or more Relics with an Aspect matching your desired effect. You can choose an existing Treasure design from this chapter or work with your GM to create something new.

Next, find an artisan to assist with crafting. A character with the Shaper playbook can serve this role. Artisans typically demand payment in Bounties and sometimes Provisions. You might need to create or call in an Obligation to secure their services.

Finally, perform the crafting ritual. Each ritual requires an Invocation – a rite honoring the dead god who provided the Relics. You must act according to that god's customs, which may require research to understand.

The GM will specify additional requirements for the Invocation, such as:

- Extended research time (days or weeks)
- Multiple attempts and failures before success
- Rare or unusual components
- Long ritual duration (hours or days)
- Multiple participants (2, 3, 7, 13, or more) or specific individuals
- Special location or timing
- Specific risks or side effects

While crafting itself requires no dice rolls, the preparation and ritual may trigger moves like "recall information" for research, "empower" for enhancing existing Treasures, or playbook-specific moves like the Magus's "thaumaturgy."

Once the invocation concludes and the artisan completes their work, the new Treasure requires attunement like any other. Divine Echoes typically manifest as consumables that infuse their power directly into your being when ingested.

# CHAPTER 7

# FACE PERIL

*In the untamed Wildlands, peril lurks around every corner. Your adventures will test you against deadly traps, ferocious monsters, and harrowing experiences as you seek out precious treasures and powerful artifacts.*

## DEALING WITH THREATS

You can draw upon your treasures and materials to fuel your actions, whether attacking enemies, casting spells, or affecting the world around you. When dealing with threats, mark the desired number of power boxes on your treasure tracks. Each material you burn provides an additional 1 power.

Mastercraft items offer reliable effectiveness through overflow power in specific situations. A mastercraft weapon, for instance, always provides 1-overflow power for damage, even when its track is exhausted. This ensures you can remain effective even with depleted resources.

The power required varies by situation. Sometimes, a single point of power is enough to overcome a challenge. In other cases, the amount of power you execute determines your effect's strength and reach. Monsters have Limit tracks that measure their resilience, and the GM may establish tracks for specific challenges. The more power you execute, the more progress you make toward filling these tracks and achieving your goals.

Some moves provide their own power tracks with specific effects. For example, when a Primal of the Ferocious Tapestry transforms, they gain a 3-power track for their new form. Once all power is marked, they revert to their normal form.

## TAKING DAMAGE

The damage you suffer in perilous situations comes from various sources. Move results, monster abilities, and GM decisions all determine when and how your character takes damage. In most situations, you'll take a few marks of Pressure as you navigate challenges. However, when you roll a miss on a move or face particularly volatile situations, the GM will call for you to Take a Powerful Blow – a special move that represents significant danger or dramatic consequences.

When facing multiple attackers, the GM focuses on the most immediate threat, resolving their damage first. Additional attackers may introduce complications beyond simple damage, creating a more complex and dangerous situation.

## DAMAGE TRACKS

Godflesh uses two key systems to track your character's well-being: Pressure and Injury. Both use six-mark tracks where each marked box indicates a worsening condition.

## DAMAGE TAGS

When marking any type of damage, you also note a damage tag that describes the nature of the harm. These tags provide context for how the damage affects your character and may influence your options for recovery. For example, an Injury might be tagged as "blood gash" or "burns," while Pressure could be tagged as "terrified" or "confused." Some tags are temporary, lasting only for the current encounter, while others persist until you properly recover from the damage.

## PRESSURE

Pressure represents the mental and emotional toll of your adventures. Your character maintains separate Pressure tracks for each attribute, reflecting how different experiences affect various aspects of your character. When you take Pressure damage, the GM might specify which attribute track to mark based on the nature of the stress. Alternatively, you can suggest which attribute would be most affected by the current situation. For example, witnessing a horrific scene might mark Resolve pressure with the "terrified" tag, while failing to persuade a crucial ally could mark Awe pressure with the "humiliated" tag.

After marking three boxes on a Pressure track, you suffer a -1 penalty to moves using that attribute. At five marks, your character becomes overwhelmed and can no longer make moves using the affected attribute until receiving proper healing. Should you mark the sixth box on a Pressure track, your character undergoes a permanent transformation. The affected attribute becomes locked – forever changed by the experience and unable to take further Pressure damage. This transformation often manifests physically through scars, lost eyes, or other permanent marks.

## INJURY

Injury tracks physical harm to your character. After three marks on your Injury track, you take a -1 penalty to all rolls your character makes. At five marks, you're gravely wounded and unable to act until you recover. The sixth mark on your Injury track brings you to death's door, triggering the Last Stand move that determines your character's fate.

## MITIGATING DAMAGE

When facing harm, you can use your treasures to protect yourself. After determining the amount of damage you would take, you can mark any number of power from treasures that could reasonably defend you in the current situation. The power you spend reduces the incoming damage point for point.

*Mastercraft armor* provides consistent protection through its 1-overflow  power, meaning you can use this defense even when the armor's power track is exhausted. This represents your armor's supernatural resilience against harm.

Some attacks are particularly devastating. Attacks with the "piercing" quality reduce the effectiveness of your defenses. For example, a *2-piercing* attack would reduce your armor and shield mitigation by 2 Power. Certain attacks completely *ignore armor*, offering no opportunity for mitigation. The Take a Powerful Blow move, for instance, always bypasses armor protection.

You can spend Threads  to reinforce your defenses against incoming damage. This protection stacks with other forms of mitigation, including against piercing damage. However, Threads cannot protect you from attacks that completely ignore armor, such as Take a Powerful Blow.

You can also burn materials for additional protection. Each material you burn grants 1 power  toward damage mitigation. The material must be something that could reasonably offer protection in the current situation. For example, you might burn a protective charm against supernatural attacks, or consume a healing herb to resist poison.

## PERIL MOVES

Danger and recovery are managed through five moves: Catch Your Breath, Final Stand, Gather Strength, Push Your Limits, and Take a Powerful Blow. These moves determine how your character endures hardship, faces death, and recovers from wounds. Each move serves a distinct purpose – from quick recovery during brief respites to confronting mortality itself.

### Death Moves

Your character's Death Move is a final, powerful ability that activates when they die. Each playbook contains a unique Death Move that ensures your character's end becomes a meaningful moment in the story.

When you mark your sixth Injury and fail your Last Stand, your Death Move triggers. The specific effects depend on your playbook, though they often involve shaping your character's final moments, affecting other characters or the world around them, or leaving behind a significant legacy that persists after their death.

## CATCH YOUR BREATH

When you rest briefly in a safe place, eating and tending to your wounds and equipment, clear 1 mark  on all pressure and treasure tracks.

Catching your breath requires a moment of relative safety away from immediate threats. You might duck into a quiet alley, pause to bandage wounds after combat, or take a short break during exploration. This moment of respite allows you to clear one mark from each of your pressure and treasure tracks, representing quick recovery from strain and basic maintenance of your equipment.

This move reflects a brief pause rather than true rest. You cannot use it during combat or while actively dealing with threats. It won't clear injuries, exhausted tracks, or burned  marks – for those, you'll need more substantial recovery through the Gather Strength move or by resting during travel.

## FINAL STAND

When you are dying, you glimpse the true essence of mortality (described by the GM). Then roll  (with no modifiers). On a 10+, you cling to life by a thread, battered but breathing. On a 7-9, the abyss gazes back, transforming you fundamentally. You must choose: embrace this new reality or surrender to the beyond. On a miss, your fate is sealed. The GM will narrate your final moments.

Final Stand triggers when you receive the sixth mark on your Injury track. This represents your character's brush with death – a moment suspended between survival and oblivion. The GM describes a vision revealing profound insights about mortality, which may include memories of past deeds, faces of friends and foes, or stranger revelations that defy explanation.

The outcome of your roll determines your fate:

On a 10+, you survive, though permanently scarred by the experience. The vision of mortality leaves an indelible mark on your character, serving as a constant reminder of your brush with death.

On a 7-9, you face a choice: accept death or return fundamentally changed. If you choose to continue, select an active Pressure track to become "locked," representing your character's permanent transformation. If you have no active Pressure tracks, work with the GM to determine which track locks. Then describe how this experience has altered your character.

On a miss, your character dies. The GM narrates your final moments, which may be swift or lingering depending on the circumstances. This is your chance to make meaningful final actions and trigger your *Death Move* before your character's story concludes.

## GATHER STRENGTH

When you seek to recover from damage or restore a treasure, find an appropriate locale to rest, resupply, and recover. If you're recuperating on your own, pay the material price. If you're getting help from someone, the GM will tell you the reduced price. For each full day, pick one:

- Fully clear a track (including exhaustion).
- Clear a burned  mark.

You may also reallocate your attunement.

Recovery requires both time and a safe location. This could be a secluded camp, a friendly settlement, or any secure place where you can rest without fear of immediate danger. The depths of the Wildlands rarely offer such safety unless you've established a protected haven.

To recover on your own, you must pay a material price that varies based on the type of track you're clearing. This represents using supplies and resources to heal wounds, repair equipment, or restore magical power. Seeking help from others, such as healers or craftspeople, can reduce this material cost. The GM will determine how much the price decreases based on the assistance you receive.

Each day of recovery allows you to either fully clear one track or remove a single burned  mark. When clearing a track, you can remove all marks, including exhaustion. However, you cannot restore a track that has burned marks until those marks are cleared first. If a track is both exhausted and has burned marks, you must address the burns before clearing the rest of the track.

During recovery, you may also redistribute your attunement points among your treasures, reflecting how this period of rest allows you to reconnect with and realign your magical items.

### PUSH YOUR LIMITS

When you exert yourself to use an exhausted treasure by overcoming your limits, mark 1-pressure  and burn  the treasure.

You can use this move to draw power from a treasure that has been completely exhausted. Even when a treasure has no remaining charges and cannot function normally, you can force it to work one more time through sheer determination. This grants you 1-power  for your action, plus any overflow  power the treasure normally provides.

This extraordinary effort takes its toll. You must mark 1-pressure  to represent the mental and physical strain of pushing beyond normal limits. Additionally, you must burn the treasure by converting one of its regular marks  into a burned mark . This permanent damage reduces the treasure's maximum capacity until you can find a way to repair it through special means.

### TAKE A POWERFUL BLOW

When you take a powerful blow, roll  with your highest Pressure. On a 10+, the blow takes its toll. Choose one:

- Retreat strategically, flee the scene, or pass out from the impact.
- Mark 1-injury  • Two options from the 7-9 list.

On a 7-9, you rise above the challenge, but at a cost. Choose one:

- Give ground, offering your opponent an opportunity to exploit your weakness.
- Make a sacrifice, burn 1  on a treasure
- Endure the pain, mark 2-pressure 

On a miss, you stand firm, shaken but not broken. Mark XP  and describe how you weathered the blow.

This move activates when the GM determines you've taken a significant hit, whether physical or emotional. You might face it during combat, after a devastating revelation, or in the wake of a bitter betrayal. The GM calls for this move rather than you choosing to use it.

To determine your roll modifier, check all your Pressure tracks and use the highest value. Even if a track shows 5 marks, you cannot add more than +4 to your roll. If you haven't marked any Pressure, roll with +0.

The damage from this move bypasses all armor and cannot be mitigated.

When choosing to retreat, flee, or pass out, you remove yourself from the current scene. While you'll return in the next scene, your Pressure tracks remain marked.

If you give ground, you create an opening your opponent can exploit – perhaps dropping your guard or revealing a weakness.

When you stand firm on a miss, you not only mark XP  but also get to describe how you endured or deflected the blow, maintaining your position despite the odds.

## CHAPTER 8

# VENTURE INTO THE WILDLANDS

*The untamed Wildlands lie beyond the safety of the Domains, and your adventures will often take you there. These explorations are a core part of Godflesh, with specific moves guiding your journey through dangerous territories. Your travel begins when you cross between regions – entering the Wildlands from a Domain, moving between different Wildland areas, or returning to civilization.*

The GM will determine how long journeys take based on the terrain, distance, and your characters' knowledge of the area. You can contribute to these estimates based on your character's experience, and it's helpful to keep track of travel times between locations for future reference.

Time in the Wildlands is measured in days. When you use travel moves, days will pass even if the move itself yields no immediate result. This passage of time affects your character – supplies diminish, characters age, and the world continues to change while you travel.

While traveling, your character needs to eat and drink to survive. The simplest approach is consuming one *Provisions* material per day as rations, though the adventuring band and the GM can adjust these requirements based on available supplies. Some travel moves include foraging, which might reduce or eliminate your need for carried Provisions.

## MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

While seeking Godflesh relics and forgotten Divines, you'll need to gather various materials for survival, crafting, and trade. Materials come in four categories: **Bounties**, **Charts**, **Provisions**, and **Relics**. When you find materials, record them on your band sheet, marking larger items as "cargo" for processing later.

### MATERIAL TYPES

Bounties represent valuable trade goods. You'll find these while exploring the Wildlands or receive them as payment from benefactors. Use bounties to barter for favors, secure accommodations, or trade for other materials.

Charts guide you through dangerous terrain. These materials help you track monsters, locate mysterious objectives, or find important locations. A well-preserved chart can mean the difference between reaching your destination and getting lost in the wilds.

Provisions keep you equipped and sustained during travel. This category includes food, rations, and maintenance gear. While primarily used for survival, provisions can be valuable trade goods when you encounter others in need.

Relics are the rarest and most valuable materials, harvested from monsters and fallen gods. Skilled artisans can fashion these into new treasures, or you can trade them for substantial wealth. Many factions actively seek relics, making them powerful bargaining tools.

## GATHERING MATERIALS

You can collect materials in several ways. The Cut a Path move helps you find resources while traveling. Assessing a Tense Situation might reveal useful materials in your environment. Most commonly, you'll harvest materials from monsters you defeat in the wild.

## MATERIAL PROPERTIES

Each material has a unique descriptor that defines its properties. For example, moldy berries might serve as intoxicants, while rune-etched bones could hold magical potential. Through research and experimentation, you can discover new uses for materials – turning rotten fruit into medicine or unlocking hidden properties of blood-soaked clover. Work with the GM to determine how your creative use of materials might affect the game.

Materials are also classified by their rarity, which affects their value and the effort required to acquire them. Bounties, Charts, and Provisions can be *common*, *rare*, or *exceptional*. Relics, being the most precious resources, are never common – they only appear as *rare*, *exceptional*, or *mythic* finds.

## USING MATERIALS

Materials serve multiple purposes. You can burn them to gain temporary power in relevant situations, as detailed in the Face Peril chapter. Each material burned provides 1 power, which you can use to fuel moves or defend against threats. Consider the context carefully – while apples might be burned for power when distracting an enemy before combat, they won't help pick a lock. Be cautious when using materials this way – a missed move might damage or destroy them entirely.

### Trading and Currency

In Godflesh, materials also serve as the primary currency for trade. Rather than tracking complex monetary systems across different Domains, you'll primarily trade using materials, especially bounties. You can assume your character can afford basic necessities like food and drink without detailed tracking.

## TRAVEL MOVES

Travel moves govern your journey through the Wildlands, transforming exploration into a meaningful part of your adventure. Unlike standard moves that resolve quickly, travel moves span days and shape entire chapters of your story.

When using travel moves, you'll often see the phrase "*time passes*" followed by an effect. This indicates a narrative jump forward, marking the transition between your preparation and the challenges you encounter along the way.

You have three primary travel options: Cut a Path, Pursue, and Rest and Recover. Choose only one of these moves for each journey. Two additional moves, Brave the Storm and Returning Home, activate in specific circumstances.

Before traveling, your band must choose a leader who will make the primary roll for the chosen travel move. The leader uses the attribute most appropriate for their chosen approach to the journey.

### CUT A PATH

When you travel through the Wildlands and explore your environment for clues or salvage, time passes. Then, roll  Insight. On a hit, you forage enough supplies to sustain you along the journey.

On a 10+, choose 2; On a 7-9, choose 1:

- You find an important clue about your query
- You salvage useful materials
- You avoid any danger lurking in the area

On a miss, you fail to find what you're looking for, ruin the resource you're collecting, or danger finds you.

While exploring the Wildlands, you search ruins, defeated enemies, and natural surroundings for resources and information. Any unclaimed resources you find are yours to take.

### Options for Cut a Path:

"*You find an important clue about your query*", the GM provides information advancing your quest while introducing new challenges. This might be distinctive markings, unusual patterns in nature, ancient ruins, or encounters with mysterious travelers.

"*You salvage useful materials*", you find resources for maintenance, recovery, and crafting. The GM determines what specific materials you discover, which might have practical, magical, or historical value.

"*You avoid any danger lurking in the area*", you successfully evade threats like predators, traps, or environmental hazards. This reduces the risk of injury, equipment damage, and resource waste.

### PURSUE

When you **pursue** someone trying to avoid you, time passes. Then, roll  Resolve. On a hit, you gain ground on your query. On a 10+, choose 2; On a 7-9, choose 1:

- You get the drop on them
- You notice signs of a nearby danger
- You find a shortcut, shelter, or another tactical advantage
- You discover a useful feature of the land

On a miss, your quarry maintains their lead or the pursuit becomes more complicated.

Use this move when actively chasing someone trying to escape. This could be a physical pursuit, tracking through wilderness, or catching up to a fleeing suspect. Success brings you closer to your target but doesn't guarantee immediate capture.

### Options for Pursue:

"*You get the drop on them*", you gain a significant advantage over your quarry. You might maneuver them into a vulnerable position or close the distance undetected. This advantage can be used for surprise attacks, capturing them alive, or gaining leverage for negotiations.

"*You notice signs of a nearby danger*", you spot hazards like treacherous terrain, hostile forces, or ancient defenses. This knowledge lets you plan your approach or potentially use the danger against your target.

"*You find a shortcut, shelter, or another tactical advantage*", you discover a way to improve your position. This might be an alternate path, protective cover, or high ground. Use this advantage to reduce pursuit time, regroup safely, or gain a strategic edge.

"*You discover a useful feature of the land*", you find something valuable in your surroundings. This could be gathering spots for materials, traces of Godflesh, monster tracks, or other discoveries relevant to your broader goals.

### REST AND RECOVER

When you travel at a leisurely pace, tending to your wounds and well-being, time passes. You clear 1-mark  from all tracks for each day of travel (including injuries and exhausted tracks) and choose 1:

- You forage enough supplies to sustain you
- You still make good time
- You clear 1-burned  mark for a treasure

Rest and Recover lets you make progress while healing, though at a slower pace than normal travel. Each day clears one mark from all your tracks – treasures, pressure, and injuries. You can clear exhausted tracks this way, but you can only remove one burned mark per journey, regardless of travel duration.

### Options for Rest and Recover:

"*You forage enough supplies to sustain you*", you find enough food in the wilderness to feed your band during the journey. This eliminates the need to spend materials on food, preserving your supplies for other purposes.

"*You still make good time*", despite your slower pace, you manage to maintain your intended travel speed through favorable conditions or efficient routes. Your journey takes no longer than usual, despite the time spent resting.

"*You clear 1 burned mark for a treasure*", you can remove one burn (X) mark from a treasure's track. You can only clear one burn per journey, no matter how many days you travel.

### BRAVE THE STORM

When you forge ahead despite severe weather, roll ♦ Prowess. On a 10+, you press on and make some progress. On a 7-9, choose 1:

- You overtax yourself, burn (X) 1-pressure
- The trek takes its toll on your gear, burn (X) a treasure
- On second thought, maybe you're better off staying put

Use this move when severe weather prevents normal travel moves. Unlike other travel moves, Brave the Storm resolves immediately and time does not pass. You can either attempt to push through hazardous conditions or wait them out.

On a 10+, you make progress through the storm, with the GM determining how far based on weather severity. On a 7-9, continuing forward comes at a significant cost, marking a lasting toll on you or your equipment.

The alternative to braving the storm is taking shelter and waiting for conditions to improve. This pause gives you a chance to reassess your options, though the delay might impact your broader goals.

### RETURNING HOME

When you return to your Haven after a time in the Wildlands, time passes. Then, mark tension (N). Choose a faction you did not interact with during your quest and roll ♦ Standing. On a 10+, your deeds precede you. You hear about useful information or opportunities. On a 7-9, choose 1:

- Your standing with the faction takes a hit (-1)
- Someone pressures you to fulfill an obligation or do them a favor
- The political situation escalates quickly, mark tension (N) again

After completing your expedition, select a faction that wasn't directly involved in your recent adventures. This keeps all factions engaged in the evolving narrative, as even those uninvolved in your quest might react to your return.

### Options for Returning Home:

"*You bear about useful information or opportunities*", the faction shares potentially valuable knowledge or prospects, though these might come with hidden complications or challenges.

"*Your standing with the faction takes a bit*", the faction disapproves of your recent activities, reducing your standing by 1.

"*Someone pressures you to fulfill an obligation or do them a favor*", a faction representative makes demands of your band. They might call in a past debt or request new assistance. Refusing their request could damage your relationship with the faction.

"*The political situation escalates quickly*", marking tension twice (NN) instead of once, representing heightened instability that brings factions closer to significant change.

# CHAPTER 9

# SHAKE THE WORLD

*Your adventures don't happen in isolation. As you explore the world and face its challenges, your actions ripple outward, affecting the complex web of factions that shape this dangerous realm. Your relationships with these powerful groups evolve based on your choices, creating opportunities and complications that influence your story's direction.*

## FACTIONS AND STANDING

Your actions influence how the world's powerful factions view you. Each faction tracks their opinion of your band through "faction standing," which ranges from +3 to -3. While challenging, you can maintain positive standing with multiple factions simultaneously, though your actions might also lead to widespread negative standing.

Faction standing determines how members of that group respond to you. At 0 standing, the faction remains neutral – either unaware of your existence or indifferent to your activities. At +3, most faction members recognize you on sight, while at -3, your reputation extends even to the group's most isolated members.

## TRACKING FACTIONS

You begin play tracking four factions, each with their own standing. These initial relationships are established during character creation when you create your *Haven* and answer questions about *Forging the Crucible*. While you may encounter other factions during play, you only track standing with the four most relevant to your story. When another faction becomes more significant to your narrative, you can swap it with one of your currently tracked factions.

## TENSION

Your band's actions influence the balance of power between factions through the Tension track. This track has 4 marks that represent mounting pressure in the political landscape. When a move instructs you to "Mark tension," draw a line through one box on this track. Each mark indicates your actions have pushed factions closer to taking dramatic action. When all four marks are filled, you trigger Machinations – significant shifts in faction dynamics that reshape the political landscape. The specific rules for Machinations are discussed later in this chapter.

## OBLIGATIONS

Obligations represent formal debts between your band and others, providing leverage beyond simple persuasion or intimidation. When someone owes you an obligation, they must either honor it or face serious consequences to their reputation. Unlike regular social moves that rely on dice rolls, obligations function as guaranteed leverage – a concrete reminder that favors must be repaid. Those who ignore their obligations risk being seen as unreliable, damaging their standing with multiple factions.

Some obligations are established during character creation through Forging the Crucible, while others develop through play as you interact with various factions and their members.

## USING FACTION MOVES

Unlike most moves that use your character's attributes, faction moves use your faction standing for dice rolls. This reflects how your influence and relationship with a faction affects your interactions with them. Additionally, some faction moves can be enhanced by obligations – debts owed to or by you.

The faction moves are: Ask for a Favor, Call in an Obligation, Do Someone a Favor, Drop Someone's Name, Investigate a Holding, Meet Someone Important, and Refuse to Honor an Obligation.

## FACTION MOVES

### ASK FOR A FAVOR

When you ask something reasonable from a faction based on your reputation, roll  Standing. On a hit, you get what you want. On a 7-9, the GM tells you a complication: the contact is unavailable, busy with their own problems, or your request is more costly than expected. On a miss, your standing with the faction decreases by 1.

Use this move when leveraging your reputation with a previously encountered faction. Before rolling, describe your contact and what you seek – it must be something they could reasonably provide based on your past interactions. Consider approaching established contacts rather than creating new ones to maintain a consistent narrative.

#### Options for Ask for a Favor:

*"Your contact is unavailable or dealing with their own problems"*, they face pressing issues. While this occupies their attention, they might be more open to negotiation if your request could help solve their problems.

*"Your request is more costly than anticipated"*, fulfilling your request requires more resources or effort than expected. The contact might demand favors, rare materials, or dangerous tasks beyond simple payment or obligations.

Your faction standing determines what you can reasonably request – higher standing enables more significant asks, while lower standing limits your options.

### CALL IN AN OBLIGATION

When you call in an obligation, remind your contact why they owe you to:

- Answer a question honestly • Lend a hand to your efforts
- Get in the way of someone else • Do you a favor at a reduced cost
- Erase an Obligation they hold on someone
- Give you an Obligation they hold on someone else

If they follow through on your request, the obligation is fulfilled.

Use this move when leveraging a debt someone owes your band from past aid or agreements. Describe the situation and remind your contact of their obligation. Your request must reasonably connect to the original debt. A simple reference to the debt is enough – you don't need to recount every detail, as long as both parties acknowledge the obligation.

#### Options for Call in an Obligation:

*"Answer a question honestly"*, they must truthfully respond to inquiries about their faction's goals, internal dynamics, or rumors. This doesn't extend to personal matters, which still require the Sway move.

*"Lend a hand"* or *"get in the way"*, your contact helps influence another party's actions. They might provide combat support, share expertise, create diversions, or directly confront others on your behalf. The exact outcome depends on the narrative context.

*"Do you a favor at a reduced cost"*, they'll help with tasks matching their abilities and resources, like concealing information or acquiring items. The GM determines appropriate costs based on the contact's background and circumstances.

*"Erase an Obligation"*, canceling a debt someone owes your contact. This frees them from that specific obligation, but doesn't affect other debts they might owe.

*"Give you an Obligation"*, transferring a debt someone owes your contact to you instead. You must understand the debt's nature before attempting to claim it.

## DO SOMEONE A FAVOR

When you do someone a favor, they have an obligation towards you.

Use this move when helping someone in a meaningful way. Your act creates a debt of gratitude that you can later call upon using the Call in an Obligation move. The recipient must acknowledge your help for it to count as an obligation – helping someone who doesn't value your aid doesn't create a debt.

Unlike formal contracts, obligations arise from genuine assistance. While the person you help owes you something in return, the exact nature and timing of repayment remain open. The obligation lasts until fulfilled through the Call in an Obligation move.

## DROP SOMEONE'S NAME

When you drop the name of someone who has an obligation towards you, roll ♦ Standing. On a hit, their name carries weight and gives you an opening or opportunity; Mark tension Q. On a 10+, you keep the obligation. On a 7-9, the obligation is forgotten. On a miss, erase the obligation and brace yourself.

Use this move when leveraging someone's obligation to influence others. Mention the debt they owe, what you could demand of them, and what they risk by refusing. Simply stating their name isn't enough – you must emphasize their vulnerable position to create an advantage.

### Options for Drop Someone's Name:

"*Their name carries weight*", your mention of the obligation opens new possibilities. You might gain easier negotiations, access to restricted areas, or temporary hesitation from opponents. The exact benefit depends on how the person you name is perceived by others.

"*The obligation is forgotten*", the debt is considered repaid through your use of their name. Erase the obligation from your sheet – you cannot use this connection again.

"*Erase the obligation and brace yourself*", your attempt backfires. Not only do you lose the obligation, but your misuse of their name damages your relationship. Expect consequences ranging from lost cooperation to active hostility, depending on the individual and how you used their name.

## INVESTIGATE A HOLDING

When you investigate a faction's holding, roll ♦ Standing. On a hit, you see below the surface to the reality underneath. On a 10+, you can ask the GM one question about the faction's schemes and politics.

Use this move when you carefully examine a location controlled by a faction to uncover hidden activities, plans, or conflicts. A holding might be a stronghold, base camp, city district, or any significant site under faction influence. Describe your method of investigation – searching forgotten caches, observing secret meetings, or interrogating captured guards. Casual observation won't trigger this move; you must actively pursue hidden truths.

While Investigate a Holding is your main tool for uncovering faction secrets, you can combine it with other moves for deeper investigation. Empower might enhance your senses to overhear whispers, while Steel Your Nerves could help you access restricted areas. These complementary moves don't solve mysteries on their own but can reveal new avenues of investigation.

### Options for Investigate a Holding:

"*See below the surface*", uncovering hidden information about the holding itself. The GM reveals details that aren't immediately apparent but relate specifically to that location.

"*Ask about schemes and politics*", learning about the faction's broader plans and internal dynamics. Your question can extend beyond the immediate holding to understand the faction's larger agenda and relationships.

Remember to keep your questions relevant to your current situation and investigation method. The more specific your approach, the more detailed the information you might uncover.

## MEET SOMEONE IMPORTANT

When you meet with someone important for the first time, roll ⚡ Standing. On a hit, you're aware of their wider reputation (if any), and they're aware of yours (if any); Mark tension ☹. On a 7-9, pick one. On a 10+, pick both:

- You've heard stories; ask a question about them
- They've heard something in your favor; take +1 forward when you first try to play up your connection with them and their faction

On a miss, you only know the basics about them, and they've heard stories about you (true or false) – prepare for major complications.

Use this move when encountering influential figures who could significantly impact your story. "Someone important" includes faction leaders, skilled artisans, or rising powers – anyone whose influence matters to the narrative. This move isn't for everyday encounters with guards or merchants, but for meetings that could shape your band's future.

### Options for Meet Someone Important:

"*You're aware of their reputation and they're aware of yours*", you both know publicly available information about each other. This knowledge depends on how prominent each of you is – someone who keeps a low profile might be relatively unknown.

"*You've heard stories*", you have knowledge beyond common rumors. Ask the GM a question about these stories, but expect answers that blend truth with embellishment.

"*They've heard something in your favor*", positive rumors about you have reached them. Take +1 forward when first emphasizing your connection to them and their faction.

A miss means the interaction starts poorly. Their perception of you, based on whatever they've heard, creates immediate complications.

## REFUSE TO HONOR AN OBLIGATION

When you refuse to honor an Obligation, mark tension ☹ and roll ⚡ Awe.

On a hit, you weasel out of the current deal but still owe the Obligation. On a 7-9, choose 1:

- You owe them an additional Obligation
- You lose face with their Faction, -1 standing
- A rivalry is ignited; another Faction moves against you

On a miss, you must either honor your Obligation or face consequences: the GM picks two from the list above or you lose all Obligations owed to you.

Use this move when circumstances make fulfilling an obligation difficult or undesirable. The original circumstances might have changed, the cost might now outweigh the benefit, or the task might exceed your capabilities. While refusing buys you time, it doesn't erase the debt - you're only postponing the inevitable.

### Options for Refuse to Honor an Obligation:

"*You weasel out of the current deal*", you avoid the immediate obligation through negotiation or creative solutions, but the debt remains. The creditor cannot repeat the same request until circumstances change significantly.

"*You owe them an additional Obligation*", adding another debt to your existing one. Like extending a loan, you delay immediate payment but increase your future burden.

"*You lose face with their Faction*", your reputation suffers, reducing faction standing by 1. This makes future interactions more difficult as influential members consider you unreliable.

"*A rivalry is ignited*", another faction sees your refusal as an opportunity to act against you. They might spread rumors, sabotage your efforts, or directly confront your band.

On a miss, you face a harsh choice between fulfilling the obligation or suffering severe consequences. Your creditor either picks two complications or revokes all obligations owed to you, damaging your reputation for trustworthiness.

# MACHINATIONS

In Godflesh, factions constantly vie for power and influence. As your band accumulates marks on the Tension track through their actions, pressure builds until it erupts in dramatic political shifts called Machinations.

## TRIGGERING MACHINATIONS

Your group resolves Machinations when the Tension track fills with five marks and your band enters a period of downtime. This downtime might occur when returning to your Haven, completing a quest, or finding another moment of respite from immediate dangers.

When these conditions align, gather your group - both players and GM - to choose which faction will act. Together, you'll select and resolve one Machination action from those available to your chosen faction. After resolution, clear all marks from the Tension track.

## RESOLVING MACHINATIONS

Machinations need no dice rolls. They represent inevitable changes in the political landscape that your group narrates together. Each Machination action describes a specific way the acting faction attempts to gain advantage or consolidate power.

These political shifts often affect your band directly. Your standing with involved factions might change, and existing obligations could be altered or dissolved entirely. Each Machination creates new opportunities and challenges for future adventures.

## OPPOSITION

Most Machination actions require you to identify an opposing faction that resists the acting faction's goals. This opposition can arise from active rivalries between the factions, conflicting ideologies or interests, historical grudges, or simple political competition.

## EMBOLDENMENT

Some Machination actions can push the opposing faction to become Emboldened. When this occurs, mark the Emboldened  status on your band sheet. After resolving the main Machination action, immediately take a Bold action for the opposing faction.

An emboldened faction remains in this heightened state until the next Machination occurs. Their behavior becomes more extreme - their leaders pursue goals more aggressively, their operatives act with less restraint, and their methods grow increasingly ruthless.

When the next Machination occurs, all emboldened factions return to normal before new actions are chosen. The same faction can become Emboldened  again if it ends up in opposition during subsequent Machinations.

## STANDARD ACTIONS

Choose 1 action when the Tension track is filled:

### ESTABLISH A NEW HOLDING

The acting faction seizes vulnerable territory and establishes a new holding. Decide whether this holding remains secret, known only to faction members and select powerful individuals, or becomes publicly known.

**Choose how the faction acquires the holding:**

- By force: They attack a rival directly. The opposing faction becomes Emboldened . If your band assisted in the assault, gain +1 standing with the acting faction & -1 with the opposition. Additionally, either acquire Bounties for your service or gain an Obligation for future favors.
- By bureaucracy: They manipulate the domain's administration to transfer the holding to their use. If the acquisition remains secret and your band knows of it, gain an Obligation owed to you for keeping this secret.
- By trade: They deplete their wealth to establish the new holding. Their diminished resources create opportunities for your band to acquire Provisions or Charts at reduced cost as they seek to replenish their coffers.
- By criminal contacts: They employ underground connections to seize the holding through intermediaries, maintaining deniability. These criminal elements might demand repayment at a later time.

## HOLD A CELEBRATION OR CEREMONY

The acting faction organizes a grand celebration or ceremony in honor of their Divine. This gathering takes place at a prominent city, important monument, or significant holding, where a faction leader delivers a sermon to the assembled crowd.

### Choose up to two boons:

- The people bring food and offerings, increasing the faction's wealth. Your band might acquire Provisions at reduced cost.
- The people unite behind a shared cause and act with zealous dedication. Your band might find new contracts or arrange obligations in exchange for promised aid. The opposition becomes Emboldened 🌟.
- The leader denounces the actions of the people, a specific individual, or an opposing faction. A denounced faction becomes Emboldened 🌟. If your band has negative standing with the acting faction, you might become entangled.
- The leader honors a specific individual, spreading their fame throughout the domain and beyond. Any obligations your band is owed by this individual are forgotten. Offering favors to this newly prominent figure could yield significant rewards.

## PERFORM A RITUAL

The acting faction channels divine power through an elaborate ceremony. Before beginning, describe what resources the faction has gathered - their preparation creates an opportunity for your band to trade Relics at premium prices.

### Choose the ritual's purpose:

- Craft a powerful treasure
- Receive a divine blessing
- Enhance their influence
- Strike at their rivals

Then decide whether the ritual succeeds or fails:

On success, the faction gains their intended benefit until the next Machination. If they targeted rivals, the opposition becomes Emboldened 🌟. If they created a treasure, your band might discover ways to claim it.

On failure, the ritual's power spirals beyond control. Work with the GM to determine how these unforeseen consequences reshape the political landscape. The results should dramatically alter relationships between factions and create new opportunities for your band.

## STRIKE A DEAL

The acting faction forms an alliance with another faction or influential figure. Their cooperation reshapes the domain's political landscape, creating both opportunities and challenges.

### Choose one benefit:

- Unite against a rival: Together they weaken the opposition, preventing them from becoming Emboldened. Your band might leverage this moment of vulnerability to gain an Obligation from the weakened faction.
- Declare a truce: Their reconciliation eases tensions throughout the domain. The next time you would mark the Tension track, skip it instead.
- Secure official favor: Their combined influence sways local authorities, gaining them privileges and responsibilities that create new opportunities for your band.

### Then choose one complication:

- Unequal partnership: One party gains unexpected leverage in the arrangement. Mark Tension ⚡ immediately (this cannot be ignored by other effects).
- Costly arrangement: Both parties deplete their resources securing the deal. Your band might find opportunities to acquire Provisions or Charts at reduced prices as they rebuild their wealth.
- Hidden interference: An uninvolved faction secretly shaped the negotiations. They gain benefits without revealing their role, creating future opportunities for your band to uncover and exploit.

## BOLD ACTIONS

When a faction becomes Emboldened, complete the normal resolution first. Then, choose one of the following:

### INCITE UNREST

The emboldened faction sparks an uprising among their supporters. First, describe how they lay the groundwork for the unrest through one or more of these preparations:

- Secure a powerful ally's backing through promises or threats.
- Neutralize key opposition forces through sabotage or misdirection.
- Distribute resources among their sympathizers.
- Build local support by addressing community grievances.

Then decide your band's involvement:

#### Supporting unrest:

- Gain +1 standing with the emboldened faction & -1 standing with factions opposing unrest.
- Acquire Bounties from seized resources or gain Obligations from grateful rebels.

#### Opposing the unrest:

- Gain +1 standing with factions opposing unrest & -1 standing with the emboldened faction.
- Gain Obligations from defended authorities or acquire Charts revealing inciter movements

Regardless of your choice, the upheaval creates opportunities to gather resources and forge new alliances as power shifts throughout the domain.

## VILIFY A LEADER

The emboldened faction publicly denounces a rival faction's leader, spreading accusations through whispered rumors and public displays.

#### Choose how their campaign unfolds:

- Erode authority: The targeted leader's influence wanes. They will lose their position unless they take decisive action before the next Machination. Your band might gain opportunities to influence this transition.
- Ignite violence: The accusations spark uncontrolled hostility. Local sympathizers take matters into their own hands, threatening the leader's holdings and supporters. Mark tension 
- Provoke retaliation: The targeted leader responds with aggressive force. They begin treating any questioning of their authority as a direct threat, creating opportunities for your band to either support or oppose their harsh methods.
- Face backlash: The accusations backfire as the community rallies behind the accused leader. The emboldened faction retains their status through the next Machination, having only strengthened their opponent's position.

The turmoil surrounding these events creates opportunities for your band to gather intelligence, forge new alliances, or acquire resources as various groups seek support.

# CHAPTER IO

# ADVANCE YOUR CHARACTER

*The untamed Wildlands shape those who dare venture into them. No adventurer returns unchanged from these perilous journeys. Some grow through experience and skill, their capabilities expanding with each challenge overcome. Others, tempted by forbidden power, undergo more profound transformations – their very essence shifting toward something beyond human.*

In Godflesh, characters evolve along two distinct yet intertwined paths: Advancement and Apotheosis. Advancement represents the natural growth of skills and abilities through experience, while Apotheosis represents the forbidden path of consuming divine flesh – gaining tremendous power at the cost of your humanity.

These systems serve as both mechanical progression and storytelling tools, offering choices that define your character's journey. Will you master mortal skills through perseverance, or will you take shortcuts to power through forbidden consumption? Perhaps both paths call to you, creating tension between what you can learn and what you're willing to become.

## ADVANCEMENT

In Godflesh, advancement represents your character's growth through harrowing experiences, meaningful connections, and pursuit of knowledge. As you navigate the dangerous Wildlands in search of relics and power, your character evolves, becoming more capable while sometimes transforming in unexpected ways.

### MARKING EXPERIENCE

You mark experience points (XP ) in several ways:

*Learning from Failure:* When you roll a miss on any move, immediately mark one XP . Even when things go wrong, your character learns and grows.

*End of Session:* At the conclusion of each session, you may mark XP  for the following:

- If you acted according to your nature during the session
- If you resolved a strong bond and created a new one
- If you learned significant information about the world

### TAKING ADVANCES

When you have downtime (hours or days) and 5 XP  marked, clear the marks and advance. You can only advance once per session.

Downtime represents periods of relative calm where your character can reflect on their experiences, practice new skills, or integrate the changes occurring within them. This might be while resting at the Haven, during travel, or after completing a significant quest. Your transformation should make sense within the narrative, emerging naturally from your character's experiences and choices.

## AVAILABLE ADVANCES

When advancing, choose one from the list below:

- Add +1 to an attribute (max +3):* Increase one of your attributes by 1 point. No attribute can exceed +3 through advancement.
- Increase your attunement by 1:* Gain an additional attunement point to distribute among your treasures, increasing your capacity to channel power.
- Take an advanced move from another playbook:* Learn a move from a different playbook, representing knowledge or skills gained from your diverse experiences.
- Take another advanced move from your playbook:* Select an additional move from your own playbook that you don't already have.

## ADVANCED PROGRESSION

After you've taken five advances from the list above, you can also choose from these options:

- Add +1 to an attribute (max +3):* Further refine your capabilities by increasing another attribute.
- Change playbooks:* Your character undergoes a profound transformation, adopting a new archetype entirely. Work with your GM to determine how this change manifests in the fiction. When changing playbooks: keep your attributes and bonds, transfer existing XP, choose a new Corpus with signature moves and treasures, reallocate attunement points, and rewrite your nature and drives to reflect your new path. The transformation should emerge naturally from your character's experiences and choices.

*Recover a locked pressure track:* Through personal growth or healing, restore a pressure track that had been permanently locked due to excessive strain.

*Retire your character:* Conclude your character's story, determining their ultimate fate. Work with the GM to determine their final disposition – finding sanctuary in a Domain, ascending to divinity, or making a noble sacrifice. A retired character becomes part of the world's lore and may occasionally reappear as an NPC. Upon retirement, you're free to create a new adventurer to join the band.

*Revert 1 progress of Apotheosis:* Step back from the brink of godhood, reducing your transformation by one step.

*Take another signature move from your playbook:* Gain a signature move from a different Corpus within your playbook. This allows you to access the specialized abilities of another path within your archetype.

*Unlock Godlike ☽ result for 2 core moves:* Select two basic moves that you've mastered. When you roll 13+ on these moves, you access an exceptionally powerful result.

## GIFTED MOVES AND TREASURES

Moves marked with the Gifted  tag unlock additional powerful effects when paired with specific treasures. Since most characters won't begin with the required treasures, finding and attuning to these items becomes another path for progression.

As you journey through the Wildlands and acquire new artifacts, these combinations let you channel power in increasingly sophisticated ways. The right treasure can dramatically amplify your abilities, making the pursuit of specific items a meaningful goal that shapes your adventures.

# APOTHEOSIS

In the world of Godflesh, divinity is not a birthright but a transformation – one that begins with a forbidden act and ends with transcendence. When a mortal consumes the flesh of a fallen god, they set foot on a path that will ultimately lead them beyond humanity.

## THE FORBIDDEN FEAST

Consuming Godflesh is taboo for good reason. The power it contains was never meant for mortal vessels, and it warps those who dare to partake. Yet in moments of desperation or ambition, adventurers sometimes choose to take this risk.

### When you consume Godflesh:

- Mark your Apotheosis track
- Trigger your playbook's Apotheosis move
- Select a consequence from the lists below

Your Apotheosis move represents a moment when divine power courses through you, allowing you to perform extraordinary feats beyond mortal limitations. During this moment, you control the narrative – no dice roll is required. The move simply works, allowing you to reshape reality according to your playbook's unique theme.

However, once the power recedes, you're left changed. Each taste of divinity draws you further from humanity and closer to becoming something else entirely.

## CONSEQUENCES OF DIVINITY

After invoking your Apotheosis move, you must choose one consequence from the lists below. These reflect the divine power reshaping you, both granting advantages and imposing challenges.

When you take the "Revert 1 progress of Apotheosis" advancement, you remove one previously selected consequence and clear one mark from your Apotheosis track, representing a hard-fought step back from the brink of divinity.

## GENERAL CONSEQUENCES

*Reduce your Injuries track by 1.* The divine essence within you contracts your mortality, making you more vulnerable to physical harm.

*Your body warps unnaturally.* Your flesh distorts in ways that defy mortal physiology – bones might shift visibly beneath your skin, extra eyes could emerge in unexpected places, your blood might flow with luminescent patterns, or your joints might bend in impossible directions. These changes aren't merely cosmetic but fundamentally aberrant, marking you as something that should not be.

*Your damage penalties start after 2 marks.* The power flowing through you allows you to push through injury more effectively, delaying the onset of penalties.

## PLAYBOOK-SPECIFIC CONSEQUENCES

Each playbook offers unique consequences reflecting how divinity manifests differently in various archetypes. Choose one of the following consequences after triggering your Apotheosis move:

*All Thaumaturgy draws unwanted attention.* Your magical workings create ripples in reality that attract entities from beyond the veil.

*Every object you touch subtly changes.* Reality warps around you as your divine influence leaks into the physical world.

*People flock to you wherever you go.* Mortals are drawn to your divine aura, creating unwanted crowds that follow your every move.

*People instinctively feel uneasy around you.* Mortals sense something fundamentally wrong about your nature.

*Take 1 pressure on a 13+ when using a specific move.* Choose one: Recall Information, Assess a Tense Situation, or Clash in Battle/Defend. In moments of greatest success, divine power overwhelms your mortal form.

*Take Disfavor when using a specific move.* Choose one: Figure Someone Out, Sway Someone, Provide Support, Plead Your Case, Assess a Tense Situation, Empower, or Steel Your Nerves. Your divine perception distorts your ability to perform this mortal action effectively.

*Unresolved spirits are always drawn to you.* The dead sense your liminal nature and cluster around you, whispering incessantly.

*Wherever you go, animals flock to you.* Beasts sense your power and gather around you, behaving unnaturally in your presence.

*You draw hostile attention from those who maintain order.* Authority figures sense your growing power as a threat to established hierarchies.

*You feel every wound that you inflict on others as phantom pain.* Divine empathy forces you to experience the suffering you cause.

## THE FINAL TRANSFORMATION

After consuming Godflesh three times, your character undergoes their final transformation. The divine essence overwhelms what remains of your mortality, and you begin manifesting as a new Divine.

Your physical form grows colossal, reflecting your divine aspect, and a domain forms around you shaped by your nature. The world itself reshapes to accommodate your new existence.

At this point, your character's journey as a player character concludes. They become part of the world's pantheon – a new power in the cosmic landscape. Work with your GM to describe your ascension, then create a new character to continue adventuring with the band.

## STORYTELLING WITH APOTHEOSIS

Apotheosis serves as both a powerful temptation and a narrative countdown for your character. Each consumption represents a significant moment when your character chooses power over humanity. Consider what drives them to make this choice:

- Is it desperation to save others or themselves?
- Ambition to reshape the world?
- A noble sacrifice for the greater good?
- Simple curiosity about what lies beyond mortal limits?

The transformation isn't merely physical – it reflects your character's relationship with power itself. As they grow more divine, how do they view the mortals around them? Do they cling to their humanity or embrace transcendence? These questions create compelling storytelling opportunities.

Remember that consuming Godflesh is taboo in most cultures. Each time you partake, consider how others react to your increasingly obvious transformation. Some may fear you, others may seek to exploit your power, and a few might even worship you as the divine being you're becoming.

The path to divinity is irreversible – except through the rare "Revert 1" progress of Apotheosis advancement. Choose carefully whether your character embraces their destiny or fights against it, for either path will fundamentally reshape their story.

# HAVEN IMPROVEMENTS

Your Haven can evolve and develop between adventures, reflecting your band's growing influence and creating new narrative opportunities.

## ACQUIRING IMPROVEMENTS

**When:** During downtime – either during a Machination phase or when using the "Returning Home" move.

**Cost:** Bounties equal to the number of band members, plus one additional Bounty for each improvement already purchased.

## SPECIAL IMPROVEMENTS

Extraordinary enhancements may require additional bounties, accepting a compromise version, taking on an Obligation, or undertaking a special expedition to acquire necessary components. The GM will present your options based on your specific situation.

## AVAILABLE IMPROVEMENTS

**Build Fortifications:** Reinforce your Haven with protective features. Enemies must reveal themselves before they can threaten you directly, giving you time to prepare or negotiate.

**Change Status:** Transform how your Haven exists in the world (abandoned, busy, private, public, or other). The GM reveals how this shift affects local perception and what new opportunities emerge.

**Conceal a Secret Chamber:** Create a hidden room known only to your band. When examining artifacts or questioning individuals here, the GM reveals insights that would remain hidden elsewhere.

**Consecrate a Ritual Space:** Dedicate an area for ceremonies. Practitioners occasionally request its use, offering knowledge in exchange. During Machinations involving rituals, you witness effects others cannot see.

**Construct a Supply Cache:** Build a well-stocked storage area. Before journeys, the GM reveals one environmental challenge you'll avoid through your preparation, and your supplies stretch further.

**Create a Sanctuary:** Establish a healing area. When Gathering Strength here, recuperating adventurers experience dreams or visions offering clues about threats or opportunities.

**Declare Neutral Ground:** Establish your Haven as a place where rival factions can meet safely. You witness normally hidden conversations and can establish Obligations without immediate favors.

**Erect a Divine Marker:** Place a symbol of divine protection. When Returning Home, locals bring offerings and seek blessings, providing rumors and connections without your active pursuit.

**Establish a Cartography Collection:** Gather maps of explored regions. When Cutting a Path to previously visited areas, ask the GM to reveal one significant change since your last visit.

**Fix a Flaw:** Address one of your Haven's existing flaws. The GM describes how this transformation affects your Haven's reputation and what new opportunities emerge.

**Forge a Faction Alliance:** Create a special relationship with one faction. They provide news and warnings about rival activities. During Machinations, they inform you of relevant developments before they become common knowledge.

**Gain a Merit:** Add a new merit to your Haven. The GM describes how this quality attracts specific visitors and creates unique opportunities aligned with its nature.

**Install a Weather Station:** Set up instruments to predict Wildlands weather patterns. If severe weather would threaten your travels, the GM warns you beforehand, allowing you to prepare or delay.

**Sanctify a Shrine:** Dedicate a space to contemplating mortality and divinity. When facing your Final Stand after seeking guidance here, the GM reveals connections between your crisis and greater divine patterns.

**Secure a Strategic Position:** Enhance your Haven's tactical significance. During Machinations affecting this region, the GM informs you in advance, allowing your band to prepare or negotiate accordingly.

## HAVEN EVOLUTION

When adding improvements, describe how they transform your Haven's appearance and atmosphere. Your Haven evolves to reflect your band's journey and becomes a living record of your adventures in this world.

# CHAPTER II

# REIGN AS GODMAKER

*As the Godmaker (GM), you bring the world to life while other players control their individual characters. You're responsible for the Wildlands, Domains, monsters, and every non-player character the adventurers encounter.*

## CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

**Portray the world:** Describe what players see, hear, and encounter. Speak for every NPC and detail the environment, from chaotic Wildlands to ordered Domains.

**Adjudicate rules:** Determine when players trigger moves and interpret the results. Make final calls on rule questions to keep the game moving forward.

**Create drama:** Introduce challenges, dangers, and opportunities. Control the pacing by deciding when scenes begin, end, and when to advance time.

**Reveal consequences:** Show how the adventurers' actions affect the world around them, both immediately and over time.

This chapter equips you with agendas (your goals), principles (your approach), and moves (your actions) that create the framework for running Godflesh effectively.

You don't need to memorize everything before playing. Focus on creating an engaging experience where everyone contributes to a story of adventure in a world shaped by the Cycle of Inheritance.

## AGENDAS

Your agendas are your core goals as Godmaker:

- Make the world feel vast, wild, and divine
- Make the adventurers' lives consequential
- Play to find out what happens

### MAKE THE WORLD FEEL VAST, WILD, AND DIVINE

Show the contrast between ordered Domains and chaotic Wildlands. Describe how Divines reshape reality around them while remaining bound by mortality. Present the Wildlands as dangerous yet alluring – filled with twisted creatures and remnants of fallen gods.

### MAKE THE ADVENTURERS' LIVES CONSEQUENTIAL

Let player choices ripple outward, affecting NPCs, factions, and communities. Challenge characters with meaningful threats that transform them both mechanically and narratively. Present opportunities for heroism, sacrifice, and temptation that highlight their unique abilities and treasures.

## PLAY TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS

Don't script the story. Create situations and NPCs, then discover what unfolds through play. Embrace unexpected outcomes from player choices and dice rolls. Let the world respond honestly to the adventurers' actions, whether they forge alliances, create enemies, or consume godflesh.

## ALWAYS SAY...

When caught between different agendas or unsure how to proceed, always say:

- *What the principles demand:* Follow your GM principles (detailed next) as your path to achieving these agendas.
- *What the rules demand:* Apply moves consistently when triggered. If a rule says a character takes damage or a treasure is exhausted, follow through. This creates genuine stakes.
- *What honesty demands:* Share information characters would know. Don't hide details for dramatic effect – the fiction itself provides enough drama. If players ask about something their characters would understand, tell them or ask them to help determine the answer.

## PRINCIPLES

Your principles guide how you achieve your agendas. Follow these to create an engaging experience:

- Address adventurers, not players
- Balance hope with danger
- Be a fan of the adventurers
- Describe a world in constant tension
- Give factions and NPCs clear motivations
- Highlight the cycle of inheritance
- Make treasures both wondrous and treacherous
- Make your move, but misdirect
- Portray the Divines as both awesome and flawed
- Show the transformative nature of hardship

## ADDRESS ADVENTURERS, NOT PLAYERS

Speak directly to the characters, not the players controlling them. Instead of "Sarah, what does Tali do?" say "Tali, what do you do?" This keeps everyone immersed in the fiction.

## BALANCE HOPE WITH DANGER

For every threat in the Wildlands, offer an opportunity. Never make your world so dangerous that adventurers feel hopeless, nor so safe that challenges lose their edge. The most compelling moments arise when characters glimpse something wonderful just beyond grave danger.

## BE A FAN OF THE ADVENTURERS

Create opportunities for characters to be awesome, struggle in meaningful ways, and grow through experiences. You aren't their opponent – you're crafting situations where their unique abilities and treasures can shine.

## DESCRIBE A WORLD IN CONSTANT TENSION

Show the stark contrast between ordered Domains and chaotic Wildlands. Describe how Domains reflect their Divine's nature through predictable patterns, while Wildlands feature unpredictable elements that defy natural law.

## GIVE FACTIONS AND NPCS CLEAR MOTIVATIONS

Frame desires as simple statements: "To preserve the old ways" or "To expand influence." Give important NPCs one fear or vulnerability that humanizes them, making their actions consistent and believable.

## HIGHLIGHT THE CYCLE OF INHERITANCE

Make the rise and fall of Divines visible through ruins, stories, and evidence of ascension. Regularly incorporate elements that remind players of this cosmic cycle and its impact on the world.

## MAKE TREASURES BOTH WONDROUS AND TREACHEROUS

Describe treasures vividly as fragments of divine power with personalities and quirks. Show how they can be both assets and liabilities – tools that grant power but sometimes come with unexpected complications.

## MAKE YOUR MOVE, BUT MISDIRECT

Never announce game mechanics when making moves. Instead, describe what happens in the fiction. Don't say "I'm separating you" – say "The ground crumbles beneath your feet, sending you tumbling into darkness."

## PORTRAY THE DIVINES AS BOTH AWESOME AND FLAWED

Show how Divines reshape reality around them while revealing their fundamentally human nature. They possess immense power but retain desires, fears, and flaws that echo their mortal origins.

## SHOW THE TRANSFORMATIVE NATURE OF HARSHSHIP

When adventurers face fear, disappointment, or injury, describe how these experiences change them. Pressure and injury aren't just mechanical effects – they represent permanent transformations, both physical and mental.

## GODMAKER MOVES

Your moves advance the story when it's your turn to speak. Unlike player moves, yours happen without dice rolls – what you say simply occurs in the fiction.

## WHEN TO MAKE MOVES

*After a miss (6 or less):* Introduce consequences that flow naturally from the fiction. A failed persuasion might make a guard suspicious; a fumbled leap might leave a character dangling precariously.

*When given a golden opportunity:* When players ignore threats or take obvious risks, respond accordingly. If they touch an unstable artifact or ignore alert guards, consequences follow without requiring dice rolls.

*When the conversation stalls:* If players are debating too long or seem unsure what to do, introduce developments that demand action and reinvigorate the scene.

## SOFT VS. HARD MOVES

*Soft moves* signal danger without forcing immediate action: "The ground trembles" or "Figures watch from the shadows." They give players time to react and choose their approach.

*Hard moves* deliver immediate consequences: "The floor collapses beneath you" or "The guardian strikes – mark 2-injury." Use these when warnings have been ignored, after misses, or when the fiction demands significant consequences.

Start with soft moves and escalate to hard ones when appropriate. This creates a natural build-up where consequences feel earned rather than arbitrary.

## YOUR MOVES

- Disrupt Their Plans
- Exploit Character Limitations
- Foreshadow Approaching Dangers
- Inflict Harm
- Offer an Opportunity with a Cost
- Put Someone in a Difficult Position
- Reveal Divine Mysteries
- Reveal Faction Attitudes
- Separate the Adventurers
- Turn Their Move Against Them

## DISRUPT THEIR PLANS

Introduce complications that undermine strategies. The secret passage is blocked, the contact doesn't show, or the ritual requires unexpected components.

## EXPLOIT CHARACTER LIMITATIONS

Activate the downsides of backgrounds, capabilities, or equipment. A notorious background draws unwanted attention; a heavy weapon becomes difficult to conceal.

## FORESHADOW APPROACHING DANGERS

Show signs of coming threats. Strange weather patterns, unsettling animal behavior, or whispered warnings create anticipation without demanding immediate action.

## INFILCT HARM

Mark damage on pressure or injury tracks. Always describe the fictional source – not just "take 2 pressure" but "divine energy surges through you, leaving your muscles trembling."

## OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY WITH A COST

Present a tempting chance to advance goals attached to significant risks or sacrifices. "You can reach the artifact, but only by leaving your wounded ally behind."

## PUT SOMEONE IN A DIFFICULT POSITION

Force tough choices with no clear right answer. Save an innocent or pursue a dangerous foe? Betray a principle or endanger an ally? These dilemmas reveal character.

## REVEAL DIVINE MYSTERIES

Uncover uncomfortable truths about the world, NPCs, or characters. Perhaps a trusted ally serves a fallen Divine, or ancient ruins hold evidence of betrayal among gods.

## REVEAL FACTION ATTITUDES

Show how character actions have influenced their reputation. Marquisate guards might salute with respect, or Eyrie nobles might sneer with contempt.

## SEPARATE THE ADVENTURERS

Split the party, isolating characters from allies. A cave-in blocks a passage, magical barriers appear, or social circumstances force characters to pursue different objectives.

## TURN THEIR MOVE AGAINST THEM

When a player rolls a miss, have their action backfire. A failed intimidation leaves the target amused rather than frightened; a botched spell affects the caster instead.

## ALWAYS END WITH "WHAT DO YOU DO?"

After any move, return focus to the players by asking this question. Even the hardest move should leave room for players to react and shape what happens next.

## QUICK TIPS

Root moves in the established fiction. Vary intensity based on dramatic needs – softer moves build tension while harder ones deliver on it. Focus on describing fictional details rather than mechanical effects, and remember your goal is a responsive world, not defeating players. Trust your instincts and make the move that feels right for the moment.

## USING NPCS

The world of Godflesh comes alive through its inhabitants. Every Domain and corner of the Wildlands teems with people shaped by divine influence, cultural taboos, and the constant tension between order and chaos. As Godmaker, you'll portray these non-player characters (NPCs), giving players glimpses into this complex world through their interactions.

## NPCS AS LIVING EMBODIMENTS

Each NPC reflects some aspect of the world. When introducing characters, think about how they've been shaped by their environment:

- Domain dwellers might embody their Divine's influence, displaying traits or behaviors that mirror their god's nature.
- Wildlands denizens often show signs of strange adaptations, perhaps bearing marks of the Strain or developing unusual survival tactics.
- Those near Domain borders may live with divided loyalties or conflicting worldviews.

The most compelling NPCs aren't just information dispensers or combat obstacles – they're living examples of how people survive and thrive in this dangerous world. Show how they navigate the meat taboo, communicate without written language, and interpret divine phenomena like the Nightflame.

## CREATING MEMORABLE CHARACTERS

You don't need elaborate backstories for every character the adventurers meet. Focus instead on a few distinctive elements that make each NPC immediately recognizable:

- A blacksmith whose face is illuminated by unnatural blue flame when she works
- A merchant who communicates through intricate hand gestures and whistles
- A traveler who collects and wears items from fallen Divines

Even minor characters can leave lasting impressions with a single distinctive trait. When players encounter them again, they'll instantly remember "the merchant with the whistling language" or "the blue-flame blacksmith."

## THE NPC'S DRIVE

Every significant NPC should have a clear drive that motivates their actions. Express this as a simple "To [verb] [object]" statement:

- "To protect my community from the encroaching Wildlands"
- "To discover the location of a fallen Divine's heart"
- "To avenge my family consumed by the Hunger"

When unsure how an NPC would react to the adventurers' actions, look to their drive. They'll act to advance this goal whenever possible, creating natural conflicts or alliances with the player characters.

## TRIANGULAR RELATIONSHIPS

One of the most effective ways to create compelling NPC interactions is through triangular relationships. These occur when two player characters have fundamentally different connections to the same NPC.

### For example:

- A village elder might be a respected mentor to one character but the person who exiled another's family
- A rogue treasure hunter might be a former lover to one character but a bitter rival to another
- A divine fragment might speak telepathically to one character while causing terrible nightmares for another

These triangular relationships create natural tension, forcing characters to navigate complex social dynamics while pursuing their goals. Whenever possible, reuse existing NPCs to create these triangles rather than introducing new characters.

## USING NPC'S TO REVEAL THE WORLD

NPCs serve as your primary tool for revealing the world's mysteries and complexities. Through their perspectives, players can glimpse:

- Divine politics: How do average people view the rise and fall of Divines?
- Cultural variations: How does the meat taboo manifest differently across regions?
- Historical knowledge: What oral traditions preserve knowledge of the past?
- Supernatural phenomena: How do people interpret the Nightflame or display psionic abilities?

Rather than explaining these concepts directly, let NPCs demonstrate them through their actions, beliefs, and reactions to the adventurers.

## NPCS AS THREATS AND ALLIES

NPCs provide both challenges and opportunities for the adventurers. Consider different ways they might interact:

### As threats:

- A fanatical Divine's servant hunting godflesh to strengthen their master
- A community leader enforcing extreme taboos against outsiders
- A once-ally corrupted by consuming godflesh
- A skilled treasure hunter competing for the same relics

### As allies:

- A knowledgeable guide who knows safe paths through the Wildlands
- A sympathetic Domain official who secretly helps outsiders
- A merchant willing to trade unusual items
- A survivor with firsthand experience of the location the adventurers seek

NPCs rarely see themselves as merely "enemies" or "allies" of the adventurers. Each has their own motivations, which might align or conflict with the players' goals at different times.

## MANAGING NPC'S OVER TIME

As your campaign progresses, keep track of important NPCs and how their relationships with the adventurers evolve:

*Reincorporate familiar faces whenever possible.* It's more meaningful for players to encounter someone they know than to meet new characters constantly.

*Let NPCs evolve based on their interactions with the adventurers.* Someone who helped the characters might face consequences from their community, while someone wronged might seek revenge.

*Track relationships between NPCs.* The adventurers' actions create ripples that affect how other characters relate to each other.

*Remove NPCs when necessary.* The world of Godflesh is dangerous – some characters will die, transform, or disappear. These departures can create powerful moments in your story.

## THE DIVINE AND THE MONSTROUS

Some NPCs transcend ordinary human experience, representing either divine power or monstrous corruption:

Divine Fragments might appear as disembodied voices, spectral manifestations, or beings caught between mortality and godhood. Their perspective spans generations, and their goals often seem incomprehensible to mortals.

Those Consumed by Hunger represent the dark fate that awaits those who succumb to forbidden consumption without achieving divinity. These warped beings retain echoes of their former selves, creating tragic encounters when adventurers recognize someone they once knew.

When portraying these extraordinary NPCs, emphasize their otherness – the ways they no longer think or perceive the world as mortals do. Their desires, fears, and goals should feel alien and unsettling, offering glimpses into potential fates that await the adventurers themselves.

## QUICK TIPS

Populate your world with NPCs that exemplify different aspects of the setting. Create a mix of ordinary people trying to survive, ambitious figures seeking power, and those transformed by divine influence. Let your NPCs show rather than tell how this world functions, using their actions and beliefs to illustrate the complex reality of life in Godflesh. And remember – every NPC is an opportunity for players to learn something new about this fascinating world.

## DIRECTING THE ACTION

In Godflesh, action scenes aren't separate from the rest of the game. They operate by the same principles as any other scene – a conversation between you and the players where moves trigger consequences that propel the story forward. What distinguishes action sequences is their heightened intensity, increased danger, and the urgent need for characters to respond.

## MANAGING SPOTLIGHT

Godflesh doesn't use initiative systems or rigid turn structures to determine who acts when during action scenes. Instead, you manage the "spotlight" – directing attention to different characters at dramatically appropriate moments. Think of yourself as directing a film, deciding where to point the camera to capture the most compelling moments.

**To manage spotlight effectively:**

*Follow the fiction.* If a relic-wielding warrior charges a divine guardian, it makes sense to focus on that confrontation before shifting attention elsewhere. Let the natural flow of events guide your spotlight management.

*Spread attention among all players.* While some characters might naturally take more actions in a fight, ensure every player gets meaningful opportunities to contribute. If someone hasn't acted recently, consider directing a threat their way or asking, "What is your character doing during all this?"

*Stay with a character long enough for resolution.* Don't bounce between characters too quickly. When you focus on a character, give them enough time to make a significant contribution before switching to someone else. This creates satisfying micro-arcs within the larger action.

*Shift spotlight after significant moments.* After a character lands a powerful attack, narrowly escapes danger, or makes a critical discovery, that's often a perfect moment to shift attention elsewhere. These natural breaks maintain narrative momentum.

## CREATING TENSION THROUGH MOVES

Your moves are your primary tools for making action scenes tense and meaningful. When making moves during action:

*Escalate gradually.* Start with softer moves that establish dangers, then progress to harder moves as the scene intensifies. This creates a natural arc of tension rather than immediately unleashing the most severe consequences.

*Target what characters value.* Threaten important NPCs, treasured possessions, or mission objectives rather than focusing exclusively on physical harm to the adventurers. This raises the emotional stakes of the conflict.

*Introduce time pressure.* Make it clear that delays have consequences: "While you focus on this guardian, you notice the ritual circle beginning to glow brighter. Whatever's happening seems to be accelerating."

*Change the environment.* Make the battlefield itself dynamic. Perhaps a divine temple begins to crumble as its guardian takes damage, or a wildland predator's thrashing topples trees that create new obstacles and opportunities.

## RESPONDING TO PC ACTIONS

When player characters take action against threats, your response shapes the tone and pace of the scene:

*Every successful attack deserves a reaction.* When a PC successfully attacks a threat, the threat doesn't passively absorb damage – it responds. After applying damage, make a move that shows how the threat adapts, retaliates, or shifts strategy.

*Match your move's intensity to their success.* After a PC's strong hit (10+), make a softer move that acknowledges their effectiveness while maintaining tension. After a weak hit (7-9), make a moderately hard move that creates complications. After a miss (6 or lower), make a hard move that delivers significant consequences.

*Make the outcome matter.* When a PC deals significant damage to a threat, describe how its behavior or capabilities change. Perhaps it becomes more desperate, reveals a hidden ability, or shifts its focus to a different target.

## MANAGING MULTIPLE THREATS

Most action scenes involve multiple dangers competing for attention. When handling multiple threats:

*Give ignored threats opportunities to act.* If the adventurers focus on one threat while ignoring others, the overlooked dangers don't simply wait their turn. Make moves that demonstrate how these threats advance their goals or position themselves advantageously.

*Create threat interactions.* Threats aren't isolated entities – they can coordinate, compete, or accidentally interfere with each other. A guardian might command lesser beings to attack, two rival factions might briefly unite against the adventurers, or chaotic creatures might hinder each other in their frenzy.

*Track threat priorities.* Each significant threat should have clear objectives beyond simply harming the adventurers. A Divine's guardian might prioritize protecting a sacred artifact, while a consumed hunter primarily seeks to satisfy its hunger. These priorities guide your moves when the threats act.

## MAKING ACTION MEANINGFUL

Action in Godflesh isn't just about exchanging attacks – it's about creating pivotal moments that advance character development and narrative:

*Reveal character through crisis.* Action scenes force characters to make difficult choices that reveal their true nature. Notice what players prioritize in the chaos and incorporate those choices into your future moves.

*Connect to larger themes.* Use action to reinforce the game's themes of transformation, consumption, and divine power. Perhaps a threat displays the horrific consequences of uncontrolled consumption, or a Divine's guardian demonstrates the terrible beauty of Ordered Domains.

*Allow non-violent resolutions.* Not every action scene must end with the complete defeat of all threats. Create opportunities for negotiation, escape, or creative problem-solving that allow characters to resolve conflicts in unexpected ways.

*Make consequences linger.* The outcome of action scenes should impact the ongoing story. Injuries sustained, alliances formed, or secrets revealed during conflict continue to influence events long after the immediate danger passes.

## QUICK TIPS

Embrace the inherent chaos of action while maintaining narrative focus. Like all aspects of Godflesh, action scenes are collaborative storytelling exercises where both you and the players contribute to creating memorable, meaningful conflicts. Your moves push players to make difficult choices, while their responses shape the unfolding drama in ways neither of you might anticipate. Allow this back-and-forth to guide you, creating action sequences that feel dynamic and consequential rather than mechanical exchanges of attacks.

## **ENHANCING YOUR CRAFT**

Beyond the core principles and moves, these techniques will help you bring the world of Godflesh to life with minimal preparation.

### **VISUALIZE THE SETTING**

Sketch quick maps on scrap paper to align everyone's mental picture. Mark Divine manifestations, faction holdings, and environment changes as they occur.

Create visual anchors for important elements – a simple drawing of a Divine's symbol or faction insignia creates immediate recognition during play.

### **EVOKE THE SENSES**

Describe how reality shifts at Domain boundaries – air becoming still, colors intensifying, or sounds taking on harmonic qualities. Make these transitions feel significant, with subtle clues revealing which Divine's influence players are entering.

During pivotal moments, slow your narration and engage multiple senses. How does consuming Godflesh alter perception? What harmonies echo through ancient ruins?

### **SHARE WORLD CREATION**

Ask players questions that help build the setting: "What unusual custom marks this trading outpost?" or "How has this place changed since you last visited?"

Their answers become part of your shared world, creating investment while distributing the creative load.

## **MANAGE PACING**

Summarize routine travel with brief descriptions: "After three days in the Wildlands, the chaotic weather begins stabilizing – you're approaching a Domain."

Cut between simultaneous scenes to maintain tension and involvement: "While Tali examines the artifact, what is Jax doing at the perimeter?"

Advance time between sessions, asking each player how their character spent this period. This allows the world to evolve in response to their actions.

### **PRESERVE YOUR ENERGY**

Call for short breaks when you need time to consider options or when intensity has remained high for extended periods.

Trust your instincts about session length – ending slightly early often proves more satisfying than pushing through fatigue. A well-timed conclusion creates anticipation for your next gathering.

### **FOCUS ON TRANSFORMATION**

Highlight how characters change through their experiences. When pressure tracks fill or injuries occur, describe visible alterations – eyes now reflecting the Nightflame, voice carrying new resonance, or movements betraying subtle changes in their nature.

These transformations foreshadow the ultimate question of Godflesh: how far will your characters go in pursuit of power, and what will they become along the way?

# QUICKSTART ADVENTURE

# THE SPIRE OF ECHOES

*Mount Vos'thal stands sentinel where the ordered Domain of Valnirent yields to the untamed Wildlands. This imposing peak harbors ancient secrets from a forgotten era. During the final days of the War of the Word, the Divine Mer-soth-il hollowed its core to create a ritual chamber of unprecedented power – designed to reshape landscapes according to divine will. When Mer-soth-il fell, divine essence scattered to the winds, leaving the chamber incomplete. The "Spire of Echoes" became merely a whispered legend.*

Several moons ago, an expedition from the Atash, seekers of forgotten knowledge, arrived at the mountain's weathered foothills. Their scholars came seeking Mer-soth-il's sanctum, drawn by rumors of divine relics and protected treasures. Though unaware of the ritual chamber's true purpose, they recognized the site's significance from the ancient wards that had repelled all previous attempts at entry.

As they delved deeper, misfortune descended upon their settlement. A chimeric creature, transformed by consuming fragments of divine essence, claimed the mountain's peak as territory. Disturbed from its sanctuary, it now attacks the scholars and their supply caravans with increasing ferocity. Facing mounting losses, the Atash has requested assistance from adventurers skilled in navigating the Wildlands' dangers.

You arrive as Mount Vos'thal's shadow stretches across the plains, tasked with protecting the expedition from the transformed creature. Yet this visible threat merely conceals deeper perils lurking within the ancient stone. The mountain presents three distinct challenges, each capable of reshaping the region's future. Experienced bands might engage all challenges simultaneously, while those newer to the Wildlands would be wise to focus on a single threat.

## ADVENTURE STRUCTURE

Mount Vos'thal's mysteries cannot be exhausted in a single journey. Your first visit might focus on one challenge, after which your band will venture elsewhere in Thaal. Yet the mountain's secrets have a way of calling adventurers back to confront new threats that emerge from its depths.

"*The Lost Seekers*" serves as an ideal initial challenge, investigating the disappearance of expedition members and confronting the transformed humans dwelling in the mountain's depths. The Whispers of the Vine operate in shadow during this time, temporarily withholding aggression as they share opposition to the Hunger-touched.

Upon your return, "*The Vine's Design*" emerges as cultists move to seize control of Mer-soth-il's ritual chamber. Finally, when you revisit weeks after confronting the Vine's followers, you discover that continued exploration has destabilized the sanctum's ancient structure – presenting "*The Collapsing Sanctum*" as your ultimate challenge, a race against time to escape with precious knowledge and artifacts before the mountain claims them forever.

# **LOCATIONS ON MOUNT VOS'THAL**

## **THE CANVAS SETTLEMENT**

A community of tents and simple structures sprawls at the mountain's base, canvas walls snapping in the harsh winds. This temporary village centers around supply stores and a healing pavilion, encircling "Excavation Site Zero" where scholars meticulously uncover an ancient stone village that once supported Mer-soth-il's sanctum.

Approximately eighty expedition members move through the settlement daily – porters hauling equipment up treacherous slopes, vigilant guards scanning the heights, alchemists distilling remedies from local flora, and Atash scholars debating discoveries over evening meals. Should the transformed creature be eliminated, this outpost of knowledge would flourish with renewed stability and purpose.

## **EXCAVATION SITE ALPHA: THE VESSEL COMPLEX**

This lowest excavation zone reveals a network of chambers nearly fully excavated. Passages here grant access to containment chambers and mineral extraction tunnels that once supplied Mer-soth-il's rituals. The dig dangerously approaches the ancient ventilation system of the essence distillery, where strange air causes hallucinations and temporal disorientation.

Two modest tents house 10-12 expedition members who work in rotation, as the strange phenomena intensify the deeper they dig. Many report vivid dreams featuring whispered instructions from entities they cannot see.

## **EXCAVATION SITE BETA: THE CONDUCTOR**

Perched nearest to the mountain's summit, more than a day's journey from the Canvas Settlement, lies the most precarious excavation site. Here, scholars uncovered an intricate system of mirror-lined shafts descending into the mountain's heart before the transformed creature claimed the area as its den, forcing them to abandon their work.

The researchers believe these shafts were designed to channel natural light into the upper chambers. In truth, they were created to direct ritual energy outward – to reshape surrounding lands using Divine Resonance distilled in chambers near Site Alpha. The mirrors remain remarkably intact, occasionally catching sunlight to send brief, blinding flashes deep into the mountain that trigger ancient mechanisms long dormant.

## **EXCAVATION SITE GAMMA: THE MAIN ENTRANCE**

Midway up the mountain stands the most active excavation site. Here, scholars have uncovered the magnificent entrance to Mer-soth-il's sanctum – a massive door inscribed with symbols that shift subtly when observed directly. Despite numerous attempts using both mundane and mystical means, the door remains sealed against their efforts.

Four well-established tents house 20-25 expedition members who work in shifts to understand the doorway's mechanisms. Scattered around the site are experimental apparatuses assembled by Atash mystics, each designed to test new theories for breaching the sanctum's defenses. The air here vibrates with anticipation and frustration in equal measure.

## **LOCATIONS INSIDE MOUNT VOS'THAL**

### **THE RESONANCE MINES**

Beneath the mountain's roots stretches a network of tunnels where the Forgotten Order once extracted minerals crucial to Mer-soth-il's rituals. Here they distilled Divine Resonance – the essence that would power the ritual chamber's reality-altering capabilities. This process produced Void Breath as a byproduct, a substance that distorts perception and weakens barriers between realities. Pockets of this dangerous substance have accumulated throughout the abandoned mines.

If using "The Lost Seekers" challenge, the Hunger-touched now inhabit these tunnels, their bodies warped by exposure to Divine Resonance and Void Breath. Otherwise, the mines contain cave-dwelling creatures and ancient harvesting constructs that continue their programmed tasks long after their creators vanished, collecting minerals with mindless precision.

## THE GRAND VAULT

A chamber protected by concentric rings of wards and mechanisms rests at the mountain's very heart. The keys to this vault – silver rods etched with symbols corresponding to Mer-soth-il's aspects – lie scattered throughout the sanctum. Beyond its sealed doors wait precious metals and gemstones alongside repositories of knowledge recorded in research journals of the Divine's mystics and spatial architects.

Properly cataloging and retrieving these treasures without triggering dormant protective measures would require nearly a week of careful work, even for the most skilled relic hunters. The vault's contents represent not just material wealth but knowledge that could reshape understanding of divine power in Thaal.

## THE CONTROL CHAMBER

Near the summit, interconnected rooms house mechanisms for monitoring and activating the ritual apparatus. Curved walls bear intricate panels of crystal and metal that would, if properly operated, direct and focus divine energy to reshape the world beyond the mountain. The original operators' remains still occupy positions they held when Mer-soth-il fell, bodies preserved by lingering divine energy – frozen in motion as if the Divine might return at any moment to complete what was begun.

## THE ESSENCE REPOSITORY

This heavily reinforced hexagonal chamber contains crystallized divine essence that would have powered Mer-soth-il's grand ritual. Receptacles line the walls, designed to hold and amplify the essence's power. At the chamber's center stands an animated guardian construct, assembled from stone and metal but animated by a fragment of divine will. It has maintained its vigil for centuries, following commands that no longer have meaning in a world where its master has fallen, yet it refuses to acknowledge this truth.

## ADDITIONAL CHAMBERS

Throughout the mountain's interior lie spaces that once supported the sanctum's inhabitants: living quarters where personal effects remain undisturbed, cleansing pools filled with water that refuses to stagnate, workshops where half-completed projects wait for hands that will never return, storerooms whose preservation wards have kept sustenance fresh for centuries, containment cells designed to hold those who opposed Mer-soth-il's vision, and the ornate throne room where the Divine communed with followers.

These chambers might be empty, protected by traps designed to outlast their creators, or claimed as lairs by creatures drawn to lingering divine essence – from reanimated followers to beings transformed by proximity to power never meant for mortal exposure.

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### VOID BREATH

This ethereal substance permeates the lower levels of Mer-soth-il's sanctum in concentrated pockets. Toxic and highly volatile when exposed to flame, it causes illness, fatigue, and disorientation in those exposed. However, it also amplifies one's connection to divine essence, earning the colloquial name "mage's breath" among knowledge-seekers. Some mystics become addicted to the euphoria and enhanced spiritual sensitivity it provides, though larger doses cause unconsciousness. When channeling divine power under its influence, there's risk of burning oneself from within as essence flows too intensely through mortal flesh.

Scholars suffering from Void Breath poisoning gradually deteriorate physically until treated. Their disoriented state makes them particularly susceptible to mental influence, especially from the Hunger-touched who can use them as conduits for their telepathic abilities.

### NEW MOVE: VOID BREATH ENHANCEMENT

When you channel divine power while affected by Void Breath poisoning, take +1 to your roll, but on a result of 9 or lower, your body burns from within as you suffer 1-injury (ignores armor).

## ACTIVATING THE RITUAL CHAMBER

The ritual chamber's activation follows specific stages: First, essence rods must be fed into the chamber's core through the Control Chamber. Next, operators reverse the rods' polarity to charge the mechanism, heating the extensive pipe network throughout the sanctum. The apparatus is then aligned using the crystal prism at the mountain's peak. Finally, divine energy focuses through the prism and projects outward to the target location, where it alters reality's fabric according to ritual parameters.

Each step requires precise calibration. Errors in the process could result in unpredictable effects ranging from localized reality distortions to catastrophic energy discharges throughout the mountain.

## LANDSCAPE TRANSFORMATION

If Mount Vos'thal's ritual chamber activates, the landscape for miles around will be dramatically reshaped. Physical geography, flora, fauna, and even the flow of divine essence through the region could be permanently altered.

This would not be the first time inhabitants of this region have adapted to sudden, catastrophic change. Any nearby settlement would be reduced to a fraction of its former size, defenses and resources severely diminished. Materials for rebuilding would be in desperate demand. Other factions might exploit this vulnerability, or the Domain's Divine might intervene directly in response to such a profound alteration of their territory.

## GUARDIAN CONSTRUCT

This unique treasure can be found scattered throughout Mer-soth-il's sanctum as six separate components: the head, torso, left arm, right arm, hovering mechanism, and control rod. After assembling the physical components and inserting the control rod, the rod splits in two – one part fuses with the construct while the other remains with the operator, allowing them to issue commands.

The Guardian Construct is a small automaton that once served Mer-soth-il's most trusted followers. It hovers several inches above ground, carries equipment, and performs simple tasks similar to an untrained assistant. Standing slightly shorter than an average human, it cannot hover over liquids. This useful servant might remain with adventurers beyond this expedition, a lasting connection to Mer-soth-il's legacy as it assists with future expeditions into the Wildlands.

## KEY PARTICIPANTS

### THE ATASH EXPEDITION

Scholars, porters, guides, and guards comprise this diverse group of knowledge-seekers. Though the Atash maintain their headquarters elsewhere, the Meridian chapter organized this expedition, bringing together specialists from various Domains with complementary skills. United by curiosity and ambition, they seek to uncover Mer-soth-il's secrets for the advancement of their scholarly order.

#### Godmaker Moves:

- Urge adventurers to explore deeper areas recently uncovered
- Reveal an exciting discovery (ancient records, device schematics, ritual formula, or mysterious artifact)
- Take shelter when danger threatens, leaving adventurers exposed
- Provide medical assistance or crucial knowledge that proves vital to resolving immediate problems

#### Bazarek the Archivist

A towering figure with graying hair and perpetually ink-stained fingers, Bazarek leads the expedition on behalf of the Atash. Well-meaning but easily tempted by promises of buried treasures, he sees himself as the preeminent scholar of ancient Divines. Bazarek believes the discoveries at Mount Vos'thal will establish his reputation for generations and secure his legacy within the order.

His enthusiasm sometimes overrides caution, pushing excavation teams to work faster than safety permits. He carries a leather-bound journal filled with meticulous notes and sketches of every significant find, a treasure trove of information he guards jealously.

## THE TRANSFORMED CREATURE

A chimeric being created during the War of the Word by desperate experimenters seeking weapons against Divine forces. Originally trained to detect divine power emanations and eliminate those channeling such energies, it has since consumed fragments of divine essence itself, transforming into something far more dangerous than its creators intended.

Its body melds features of multiple predators – scaled wings, razor talons, and a fanged maw that drips with caustic fluid. Patches of its flesh glow with the same resonance found within the mountain's depths. It makes its lair at the mountain's peak, descending to hunt when it senses divine energy being manipulated.

### Godmaker Moves:

- Swoop unexpectedly upon people or pack animals when they're most vulnerable
- Retreat to its lair at the mountain peak when seriously threatened
- Seize an object radiating divine energy, destroying or consuming it
- Unleash devastating powers gained from consuming divine essence fragments

## THE WHISPERS OF THE VINE

A secretive cult that infiltrated the Atash in Meridian and initiated the expedition to gain access to Mersoth-il's ritual chamber. Approximately one-tenth of expedition members are actually cultists in disguise, patiently awaiting the right moment to eliminate witnesses and seize control of the mountain's power.

These cultists believe reshaping the landscape will eliminate the chaotic Wildlands and create a more ordered, harmonious world. Their distinctive spiral tattoos remain hidden beneath clothing, revealed only during private rituals conducted away from the main camp.

### Godmaker Moves:

- Attack stealthily for kidnapping or assassination
- Recruit vulnerable expedition members to their cause
- Offer temptations in exchange for assistance with their plans
- Manipulate expedition resources and priorities from behind the scenes
- Negotiate while threatening to activate the ritual chamber

## Sareth Vellen

A slender, soft-spoken man with piercing green eyes, Sareth serves as the expedition's healer. His botanical knowledge and gentle bedside manner have earned him universal trust. In truth, he leads the Whispers of the Vine cultists who have infiltrated the Atash expedition.

Sareth genuinely believes reshaping the landscape will create a more harmonious world, eliminating the chaotic Wildlands that have caused generations of suffering. He sees himself not as a villain but as a visionary willing to make difficult choices for the greater good. His apothecary kit contains both healing remedies and subtle poisons that leave no trace.

## THE HUNGER-TOUCHED

Former expedition members and previous explorers who ventured too deep into the mountain's mines, these unfortunate souls have been transformed by prolonged exposure to Divine Resonance and Void Breath. No longer fully human, they dwell in the mines, continuing extraction and distillation activities with religious devotion, unaware of their purpose.

Their bodies show signs of transformation – skin mottled with crystalline growths, eyes that glow faintly in darkness, and an unsettling fluidity to their movements. The defensive systems in the upper levels of the sanctum no longer recognize them as human, preventing them from approaching unless someone clears their path.

### Godmaker Moves:

- Enhance themselves by consuming stolen knowledge or divine fragments
- Recoil in religious awe from innocuous ancient relics
- Set ambushes to capture prisoners before retreating into darkness
- Sabotage the expedition's progress deeper into the mountain
- Exploit their intimate knowledge of hidden passages and dangerous areas

## THE ANCIENT SANCTUM

Mer-soth-il's sanctum represents a significant threat in itself. Main chambers resemble an opulent but decaying palace, while side corridors form a labyrinth of copper tubes, heat conductors, service stairs made of inferior metals, hidden shafts, and secret passages. The entire complex pulses with residual divine energy that warps reality in subtle, unpredictable ways.

After centuries of abandonment, many systems have degraded or become unpredictable. What once served the Divine's followers now presents deadly hazards to modern explorers unfamiliar with ancient protocols and safeguards.

### Godmaker Moves:

- Activate a deadly trap or release a guardian construct when ancient boundaries are crossed
- Collapse or destabilize at the worst possible moment (crumbling floor, ceiling cave-in, pipe explosion)
- Seal or redirect passageways, obstructing movement in or out
- Reveal hidden chambers housing creatures that have invaded over the centuries

## ADVENTURE ARCS

### THE LOST SEEKERS

**Threat:** The Hunger-touched in the Resonance Mines seek to protect the sanctum from all intruders, capturing those who venture too deep and transforming them through exposure to Divine Resonance.

**Consequences:** The scholarly expedition descends into paranoia and madness as the Hunger-touched use telepathic conduits to flood their minds with hallucinations. Expedition members turn against each other, and survivors abandon the mountain, leaving its secrets undiscovered.

### Stakes:

- What forbidden rituals and strange beliefs have evolved among the Hunger-touched during their isolation?
- Can any of the transformed expedition members be restored to their former selves?
- Will adventurers discover the true nature of the transformation process before it claims them as well?

### Key Participants:

- The Atash Expedition, scholars and their guards seeking knowledge of Mer-soth-il
- The Hunger-touched, former humans warped by divine energy who particularly despise those still untransformed

### Warning Signs:

- Expedition members report strange dreams and hearing whispers near ventilation shafts
- The Hunger-touched begin observing the Canvas Settlement from afar, controlling vermin to spy on the scholars
- Several expedition members disappear while working in deeper excavation sites
- Some captives return to camp exhibiting symptoms of Void Breath poisoning, but secretly serve as telepathic conduits for the Hunger-touched

## THE VINE'S DESIGN

**Threat:** The Whispers of the Vine pursue what they believe is right regardless of cost, while the Ritual Chamber waits to be activated once more, its mechanisms still primed to reshape reality.

**Consequences:** The ritual chamber activates, dramatically altering the landscape around Meridian. Communities are destroyed or transformed, the boundary between Domain and Wildlands shifts, and the natural order is violently rearranged according to Sareth Vellen's vision of harmony.

### Stakes:

- Will adventurers oppose Sareth Vellen, or join his vision for a more ordered world?
- Can the ritual be modified to create beneficial changes rather than destruction?
- Who ultimately controls the chamber when its power is unleashed?

### Key Participants:

- Sareth Vellen, the healer secretly leading the Whispers of the Vine cultists
- Traps and Guardians, ancient defensive systems protecting the sanctum's core

### Warning Signs:

- Expedition members discover partial records describing the mountain's true purpose
- The ritual chamber's crystal prism is discovered in an unexpected location
- Access to the Control Chamber is uncovered, revealing the mountain's true potential
- The essence rods necessary for activation are recovered from throughout the sanctum
- Several scholars are found murdered, and the Whispers of the Vine abandon subterfuge

## THE COLLAPSING SANCTUM

**Threat:** Mer-soth-il's Sanctum lures the greedy to their doom, its ancient structures destabilizing after centuries of neglect and recent disturbances.

**Consequences:** The entire mountain complex collapses inward, crushing everyone inside. Mount Vos'thal crumbles into a crater of toxic dust and vapor, and all artifacts and knowledge within are lost forever to future generations.

### Stakes:

- How much knowledge and how many artifacts can be saved before the mountain claims them?
- Will greed drive the expedition to take fatal risks in pursuit of greater treasures?
- Can the mountain's divine essence be safely contained before it disperses catastrophically?

### Key Participants:

- Bazarek the Archivist, whose ambition pushes the expedition toward increasingly dangerous areas
- The Atash Expedition, torn between safety and the promise of unprecedented discoveries
- Ancient Defensive Mechanisms, triggered by the expedition's intrusion

### Warning Signs:

- Ventilation shafts begin leaking Void Breath, causing illness among scholars
- Expedition uncovers records showing the sanctum's dangerous structural vulnerabilities
- Sections of the complex begin to collapse, with divine energy leaking from damaged containment systems
- Primary access routes become blocked, trapping expedition members in increasingly unstable chambers

## USING THE ADVENTURE ARCS

The Spire of Echoes presents three distinct adventure arcs that provide structure for your narrative. Each arc focuses on a specific threat that endangers the expedition and the world beyond Mount Vos'thal. These arcs are your behind-the-scenes tools for maintaining tension and driving the story forward.

### ADVENTURE ARCS ESSENTIALS

Adventure arcs help you organize opposing forces and maintain narrative momentum. They serve multiple functions:

- They reveal what happens when adventurers aren't present
- They create urgency through escalating threats
- They guide your portrayal of non-player characters
- They track how dangers progress toward potential catastrophe

For new players, focus on a single arc (like "The Lost Seekers"). As you gain experience, weave multiple arcs together for a more complex narrative.

### KEY COMPONENTS

*Threats* represent active forces with clear motivations opposing the adventurers. When unsure how a threat would respond to player actions, refer to its integrated impulse – this defines its core nature and goals.

*Consequences* describe what happens if a threat succeeds unopposed. These significant turning points should feel genuinely impactful, changing the world in meaningful ways.

*Stakes Questions* identify specific unresolved elements that will be answered through play. Focus on concrete situations involving the characters, locations, or groups you find most interesting.

*Warning Signs* track how threats progress toward their consequences:

- Cross off signs when they occur, whether witnessed by adventurers or not
- Advance warning signs when threats operate unhindered
- Use early signs to create investigation opportunities
- Create interesting dilemmas when multiple arcs advance simultaneously

## MANAGING MULTIPLE ARCS

When running interconnected arcs:

- Progress each independently based on adventurer actions and time passage
- Look for natural points of conflict or cooperation between threats
- Allow adventurers to prioritize which threats demand immediate attention
- Resolve arcs when their threat is neutralized or its consequence unfolds

Remember that these arcs exist to enhance your story. Adapt them based on adventurer decisions and unexpected developments at your table. The most memorable adventures emerge when players see how their choices shape the unfolding narrative and threats respond dynamically to their interventions.

#### Designer Notes: Adventure Arcs

The adventure arcs structure adapts concepts from Dungeon World's "fronts" system, reimagined for Godflesh's themes of divine power and transformation.

As the Chrysalis Quickstart represents Godflesh in active development, we haven't yet finalized our official adventure creation guidelines. This framework serves our playtest needs while our complete system evolves.

Your feedback on these adventure arcs during play will directly influence adventure design in the final game.

# QUICKSTART MONSTERS THREATS AND CHALLENGES

*As you guide your players through the mysteries of Mount Vos'thal, you'll encounter various threats that challenge the adventurers. Each threat in Godflesh represents a unique obstacle with distinct capabilities, behaviors, and weaknesses. Understanding how to use these threats effectively will help create memorable encounters that test your players' ingenuity and resourcefulness.*

## ANATOMY OF A THREAT

Every threat description contains several key components that inform how they function in play:

**Description:** Sets the scene with sensory details and rumors about the threat, helping you bring it to life at the table.

**Instinct:** Defines the threat's core motivation and guides how you should portray its behavior when players encounter it.

**Limits:** Each threat has one or more tracks representing how it can be defeated. When players fill a limit track through their actions, the threat is overcome in that specific way.

**Power:** Threats use power for protection (reducing damage) and fueling special abilities. Some threats have overflow power that replenishes automatically.

**Effects:** These are the specific ways a threat can harm or hinder the adventurers, each with a power value indicating its severity.

**Moves:** These represent the threat's characteristic behaviors, guiding you on when and how it acts during encounters.

**Loot:** Materials players can collect after defeating the threat, useful for crafting, trade, or travel.

## RUNNING THREAT ENCOUNTERS

When your players face a threat, keep these principles in mind:

- *Telegraph danger.* Before a threat strikes, describe signs of its approach or intentions. This gives players opportunity to react and make meaningful choices.
- *Use the environment.* Mount Vos'thal offers unique terrain features, from unstable excavation sites to ancient ritual chambers. Have threats interact with these elements to create dynamic encounters.
- *Follow the instinct.* When unsure how a threat would react, refer to its instinct as your guide. This ensures consistent behavior that players can learn and exploit.
- *Track limits visibly.* Let players see their progress as they discover and exploit a threat's vulnerabilities. This creates satisfying feedback as they approach victory.
- *Distribute spotlight.* Ensure each adventurer has opportunities to contribute by having threats react to different character types and approaches.

The threats in this adventure are designed to highlight the mysteries and dangers of Mer-soth-il's sanctum while testing the various capabilities of your players' characters. Use them as catalysts for exploration, combat, and discovery in the forgotten halls of the Spire of Echoes.

## ANCIENT WAR COLOSSUS

*Solitary, Huge, Construct, Magical*

A towering sentinel forged of silver-veined stone and crystal, created to guard Mer-soth-il's most sacred chambers. Six spell stones illuminate its massive frame: crown (head), sun (hands), root (feet), and heart (center). Activation runes pulse with dormant power. When awakened, its crystalline eyes blaze with purpose and ancient machinery hums to life. Instinct: to execute its original programming with unwavering precision.

**Power:** Enchanted Stone Matrix (3, 2 overflow)

**Limits:** Primary Structure (16), Spell Stone Network (12)

**Effects:** Arcane Bombardment -5 (far, area); Crystal Eruption -3 (near); Massive Stone Fists -5 (forceful); Teleportation Flash -4 (ignores barriers)

### Moves:

- Continue functioning despite catastrophic damage to limbs or head
- Channel energy through a specific spell stone for a specialized effect
- Execute original defense protocols without regard for collateral damage
- Reconfigure its physical structure to adapt to threats

**Loot:** Relics (2): Spell stones containing ancient knowledge; Bounties (1): Rare crystalline alloys; Charts (1): Memory fragments of forgotten sanctuaries

## CRYSTAL SPINNERS

*Group, Small, Organized*

Fist-sized arachnids with translucent bodies glowing with resonance energy. Their crystalline-tipped legs move with unnatural synchronization as they maintain the Weaver's network, emitting harmonic chirps when disturbed. Instinct: to extend the Weaver's awareness.

**Power:** Crystalline Augmentation (1)

**Limits:** Fragile Forms (6)

**Effects:** Coordinated Attack -2 (synchronized); Crystalline Bite -2 (piercing); Resonance Signal -3 (alerting)

### Moves:

- Emerge in precise formations from hidden silk lines
- Transmit intruder information through web vibrations

**Loot:** Bounties (1): Minute crystalline fragments; Charts (1): Network patterns encoded in silk

## DELIRIOUS EXPEDITION MEMBER

*Group, Intelligent*

Scholars and workers twisted by Void Breath exposure. They mutter about "whispers from the walls" and "the truth beneath the mountain," alternating between paranoid aggression and terrified lucidity. Instinct: to respond violently to imagined threats.

**Power:** Desperate Protection (1)

**Limits:** Fragile Mortality (8)

**Effects:** Disturbing Revelations -2 (pressure); Frenzied Rush -3; Research Tools as Weapons -2

### Moves:

- Steal something valuable while babbling about "necessary sacrifices"
- Make paranoid demands that reveal partial truths

**Loot:** Provisions (1): Half-empty water skins with strange symbols; Charts (1): Partial excavation notes

## HUNGER-TOUCHED MINER

*Group, Organized, Intelligent, Devious*

Former expedition members transformed by prolonged Void Breath exposure. Their distended skulls house enlarged brains, with veins pulsing beneath translucent skin. They move with eerie coordination, communicating through telepathic whispers that occasionally leak into nearby minds. Instinct: to expand their collective by transforming others.

**Power:** Crystalline Growths (2)

**Limits:** Altered Physiology (8), Telepathic Network (6)

**Effects:** Excavation Tools -2 (mining implements); Mental Invasion -3 (pressure); Void Breath Exhalation -4 (area, transformative)

**Moves:**

- Flood a victim's mind with disorienting alien thoughts
- Temporarily dominate a weaker mind as a spy or saboteur
- Coordinate perfectly through silent telepathic communication

**Loot:** Relics (1): Crystallized brain tissue containing memories; Provisions (1): Concentrated Void Breath extracts; Charts (1): Mental maps of hidden tunnels

## PEAK CHIMERA

*Solitary, Large, Magical*

A chimeric predator whose leonine frame bristles with serpentine scales and crystalline growths. Divine essence pulses beneath its hide, stolen from consuming mountain relics. Its tri-toned roar – beast, serpent, and eerily human – echoes across the slopes, sending expedition members scrambling for shelter. **Instinct:** to consume power and expand territory.

**Power:** Essence-Warped Hide (3, 1 overflow)

**Limits:** Unstable Transformation (14), Divine Corruption (10)

**Effects:** Caustic Breath -5 (area, ignores armor); Crushing Pounce -4 (forceful); Essence Drain -3 (life-stealing); Venom Strike -3 (weakening)

**Moves:**

- Strike from ambush when prey is vulnerable
- Manifest absorbed power in terrifying ways
- Retreat when the odds turn unfavorable
- Consume essence to heal and transform further

**Loot:** Relics (2): Pulsing crystallized essence fragments; Bounties (1): Rare alchemical compounds; Charts (1): Territorial markings with path data

## RESONANCE-WARPED RODENTS

*Horde, Small, Amorphous*

Rodents mutated by Divine Resonance exposure. Crystalline spurs jut from patchy fur, incisors glow blue, and mismatched eyes track prey with unnerving precision. They move as a single entity, flowing through crevices with impossible synchronization. **Instinct:** to consume and incorporate.

**Power:** Crystalline Reinforcement (1)

**Limits:** Swarm Cohesion (7)

**Effects:** Crystal-Tipped Teeth -2 (piercing); Overwhelming Numbers -3 (area); Resonance Shriek -2 (disorienting)

**Moves:**

- Emerge suddenly from hidden passages
- Strip valuable materials with frightening efficiency

**Loot:** Provisions (1): Crystal-infused tissues; Bounties (1): Luminescent teeth valued by alchemists

## SANCTUM WEAVER

*Solitary, Large, Devious, Intelligent*

An ancient arachnid entity whose crystalline carapace fragments light into prismatic displays. Its vast web network conducts resonance energy throughout the mountain's chambers, serving as both sensory apparatus and knowledge archive. Despite its cunning, centuries of isolation have made its thought patterns rigid and predictable. **Instinct:** to weave webs both literal and metaphorical.

**Power:** Crystalline Carapace (3)

**Limits:** Ancient Body (12), Predictable Paranoia (8)

**Effects:** Binding Webs -3 (entangling); Crystalline Mandibles -4 (piercing); Mind-Clouding Venom -3 (confusion); Resonance Silk -2 (conductive)

**Moves:**

- Burrow through solid stone with unsettling ease
- Orchestrate complex schemes using unwitting pawns
- Vanish into hidden tunnels when threatened
- Harvest secrets through an extensive web network

**Loot:** Relics (1): Resonance-infused silk strands; Bounties (1): Iridescent carapace fragments; Charts (1): Web patterns revealing hidden chambers

## SARETH VELLEN

*Solitary, Organized, Intelligent, Devious, Magical*

The expedition's trusted healer appears as a gentle, caring figure with clever hands and kind eyes. His extensive knowledge of botanical remedies earns universal respect. Yet beneath this benevolent facade lurks the fanatical leader of the Whispers of the Vine, secretly advancing plans to reshape the world. **Instinct:** to overthrow the existing order.

**Power:** Botanical Mastery (2)

**Limits:** Mortal Body (12), Cult Leadership (8)

**Effects:** Arcane Lightning -5 (ignores armor); Convincing Deception -3 (social); Toxic Concoction -4 (delayed effect); Vine Manipulation -3 (restraining)

**Moves:**

- Issue commands to cultists hidden throughout the expedition
- Present a convincing facade of compassion and goodwill
- Exploit medical knowledge to heal or harm as needed
- Reveal glimpses of his true nature when his plans are threatened

**Loot:** Relics (1): Ancient ritual implements bearing spiral patterns; Provisions (2): Rare botanical samples; Charts (1): Hidden maps of sacred sites

## STONE GUARDIAN

*Group, Large, Construct*

Imposing sentinels carved from the mountain's stone, embellished with crystalline veins that pulse with arcane energy. Ancient symbols and glyphs cover their joints and base, hinting at command phrases that once controlled their actions. Their weathered features bear solemn expressions worn by centuries of vigilance. **Instinct:** to serve eternal directives.

**Power:** Dense Mineral Frame (3, 1 overflow)

**Limits:** Stone Articulation (10), Command Protocols (8)

**Effects:** Crushing Stone Fists -4 (forceful); Crystal Resonance -2 (area); Pattern Strike -3 (predictable sequence)

**Moves:**

- Follow ancient commands with literal interpretation
- Activate integrated defensive mechanisms
- Coordinate with other guardians using silent signals

**Loot:** Bounties (1): Crystalline fragments with latent energy; Relics (1): Command core with memory engrams

## WHISPERS OF THE VINE CULTIST

*Group, Organized, Intelligent, Devious*

Hidden among the expedition as researchers, guides, and guards, these cultists conceal spiral tattoos beneath their clothing. They gather information and await the moment to seize control of Mer-soth-il's power. **Instinct:** to overthrow the existing order.

**Power:** Natural Defenses (1)

**Limits:** Mortal Form (8)

**Effects:** Ancient Herbal Concoction -2 (disorienting); Concealed Weapons -2; Sacrificial Strike -4 (fatal to self)

**Moves:**

- Employ plant-based magic to control or confuse
- Willingly die to advance the cult's greater purpose

**Loot:** Bounties (1): Rare botanical samples; Relics (1): Ritual amulet with spiraling plant motifs





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