

# My Magnum Opus

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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Chapter 1: Character Creation</b>	<b>2</b>
1.0.1	Choose an Example Character & Modify It . . . . .	2
1.1	Step 1: Choose Attributes . . . . .	2
1.1.1	Quick Build . . . . .	11
1.1.2	Custom Build . . . . .	12
1.1.3	Archetype Build . . . . .	12
1.1.4	Record Attribute Dice . . . . .	13
1.1.5	Roll Them Bones . . . . .	13
1.2	Step 2: Calculate Defenses and Hit Points . . . . .	14
1.3	Step 3: Purchase Feats . . . . .	15
1.3.1	Choose your feats . . . . .	15
1.4	Step 4: Choose Your Race . . . . .	17
1.4.1	Celestial . . . . .	17
1.4.2	Dragonblood . . . . .	17
1.4.3	Dwarf . . . . .	18
1.4.4	Elf . . . . .	18
1.4.5	Feytouched . . . . .	18
1.4.6	Half-Orc . . . . .	18
1.4.7	Halfling . . . . .	19
1.4.8	Human . . . . .	19
1.5	Step 5: Choose Starting Equipment . . . . .	19
1.6	Step 6: Describe Your Character . . . . .	20
1.6.1	Tell Your Story . . . . .	21
1.6.2	Relax . . . . .	21
1.6.3	Respect the GM . . . . .	21
1.6.4	Respect the Other Players . . . . .	21
1.7	Beyond First Level . . . . .	21
1.7.1	New Attribute Points . . . . .	22
1.7.2	New Feats . . . . .	22
1.7.3	New Hit Points . . . . .	22
<b>2</b>	<b>Concerning Hereditary Principalities</b>	<b>23</b>



# Chapter 1

## Chapter 1: Character Creation

Before you can start telling your story, you'll need a character to play. This chapter will offer you step-by-step instructions to creating your own hero. In *Open Legend*, you typically begin as a level one character. As you complete quests and gain more experience adventuring, you'll level up and gain more power. These rules explain how to create a character starting at level one. Later, you'll learn what to do when you level up.

Before reading on, take a minute and think of your favorite fantasy movies, books, or video games.

*Who were the characters you identified with?*

*Who inspired you?*

Now that you've got some of your favorites in mind, let's create your character.

### 1.0.1 Choose an Example Character & Modify It

For anyone who feels they could benefit from some inspiration, you can easily make a copy of any of these spreadsheets (they include formulas for doing most all of the calculations for you), and then increase or decrease attribute scores, as well as add or remove feats. Be sure to adjust the **Level** field to get the correct calculations for attribute & feat points at your current character level.

[View Pre-generated Character Options](#)

## 1.1 Step 1: Choose Attributes

Attributes are the backbone of every character in *Open Legend*. They define what your character can and can't do—the spheres he excels in, as well as his greatest weaknesses. Whenever your character attempts a heroic action in *Open Legend*, you'll look to your attributes to see how well you succeed or fail.

In *Open Legend*, attributes are divided into four categories: physical, social, mental, and supernatural.

A character's skill with each attribute is expressed as a score from 0 (completely unpracticed) to 9 (superhuman). The average commoner or craftsman usually has scores ranging from 1 - 3 in several physical, social, and mental attributes. Supernatural attributes are generally reserved for characters of power and note.

The Attributes at a Glance tables provide a quick overview of some of the common actions that each attribute will help you accomplish.



## Physical Attributes at a Glance

---

**Agility** Dodge  
at-  
tacks,  
move  
with  
stealth,  
per-  
form  
acro-  
batics,  
shoot  
a bow,  
pick a  
pocket

**Fortitude** ~~Wade~~  
heavy  
armor,  
resist  
poi-  
son,  
shrug  
off  
pain,  
exert  
your-  
self  
physi-  
cally

**Might** ~~is~~ Swing  
a  
maul,  
jump  
over a  
chasm,  
break  
down  
a door,  
wres-  
tle a  
foe to  
sub-  
mis-  
sion

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## Mental Attributes at a Glance

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### **Learning**

facts  
about  
his-  
tory,  
ar-  
cane  
magic,  
the  
nat-  
u-  
ral  
world,  
etc.

### **Logic**

Solve  
rid-  
dles,  
de-  
ci-  
pher  
a  
code,  
im-  
pro-  
vise  
a  
tool,  
un-  
der-  
stand  
the  
en-  
emy's  
strat-  
egy,  
find  
a  
loop-  
hole



**Perception**

ul-  
te-  
rior  
mo-  
tives,  
track  
some-  
one,  
catch  
a  
gut  
feel-  
ing,  
spot  
a  
hid-  
den  
foe,  
find  
a  
se-  
cret  
door

**Will Maintain**

your  
re-  
solve,  
over-  
come  
ad-  
ver-  
sity,  
re-  
sist  
tor-  
ture,  
stay  
awake  
on  
watch,  
stave  
off  
in-  
san-  
ity



---

## Social Attributes at a Glance

---

---

### Deception

a  
lie,  
bluff  
at  
cards,  
dis-  
guise  
your-  
self,  
spread  
ru-  
mors,  
swin-  
dle  
a  
sucker

### Persuasion

a  
deal,  
con-  
vince  
some-  
one,  
hag-  
gle  
a  
good  
price,  
pry  
in-  
for-  
ma-  
tion



**Presence**

a  
speech,  
sing  
a  
song,  
in-  
spire  
an  
army,  
ex-  
ert  
your  
force  
of  
per-  
son-  
al-  
ity,  
have  
luck  
smile  
upon  
you

---

**Supernatural Attributes at a Glance**


---

**Abjuration**

from  
dam-  
age,  
break  
en-  
chant-  
ments,  
dis-  
pel  
magic,  
bind  
demons



**Entropy** Disintegrate  
mat-  
ter,  
kill  
with  
a  
word,  
cre-  
ate  
un-  
dead,  
sicken  
oth-  
ers

**Alteration** Change  
shape,  
al-  
ter  
molec-  
u-  
lar  
struc-  
tures,  
trans-  
mute  
one  
ma-  
te-  
rial  
into  
an-  
other



**Enchantment**

the  
minds  
of  
oth-  
ers,  
dom-  
i-  
nate  
wills,  
speak  
tele-  
path-  
i-  
cally,  
in-  
still  
su-  
per-  
nat-  
u-  
ral  
fear

**Creation**

channeling  
higher  
pow-  
ers  
for  
heal-  
ing,  
cre-  
ation,  
res-  
ur-  
rec-  
tion,  
di-  
vine  
might,  
etc.



**Illusion**

create  
il-  
lu-  
sory  
fig-  
ments,  
de-  
ceive  
the  
senses,  
cloak  
with  
in-  
vis-  
i-  
bil-  
ity

**Divination**

the  
fu-  
ture,  
de-  
tect  
magic,  
de-  
tect  
evil,  
scry,  
com-  
mu-  
ni-  
cate  
with  
ex-  
tra-  
pla-  
nar  
en-  
ti-  
ties

**Movement**

teleport,  
fly,  
has-  
ten,  
slow



**Energy** create  
and  
con-  
trol  
the  
elements—  
fire,  
cold,  
elec-  
tric-  
ity,  
etc.

**Psychic** psychokinesis,  
telekine-  
sis,  
mind  
over  
mat-  
ter,  
ex-  
trasen-  
sory  
per-  
cep-  
tion

In *Open Legend*, you get to define your character's strengths and weaknesses by choosing the attributes that fit your character concept. Described below are several methods by which you can assign your attributes.

### 1.1.1 Quick Build

If you are new to roleplaying games, or are just looking to get your character built quickly, choose one of the attribute sets listed in the Attribute Quick Builds table. Assign the scores listed to the attributes that define the type of character you want to play. The rest of your attributes begin with a score of zero.

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#### ATTRIBUTE QUICK BUILDS

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##### **Specialized Hero**

5, 4, 3, 2, 2, 2

##### **Well-rounded Hero**

4, 4, 3, 3, 3, 1

##### **Jack of All Trades**

3, 3, 3, 3, 2, 2, 2, 2, 1

---



### 1.1.2 Custom Build

If you would like more control over your attributes, you can purchase them to create your own set. With this method, at first level, you have a budget of 40 attribute points to spend, and the cost of each score is defined in the Purchasing Attributes table. The highest any score can reach at first level is 5, and you don't have to spend all of your points at character creation.

#### PURCHASING ATTRIBUTES

Attribute Score	Cost
0	0
1	1
2	3
3	6
4	10
5	15

### 1.1.3 Archetype Build

In the Archetype Attribute Builds table, several common fantasy archetypes are listed. If you are envisioning a character similar to one of these, you can just take one of these sets as written, or swap out some of the attributes for others.

#### ARCHETYPE ATTRIBUTE BUILDS

Barbarian	Ranger	Monk
Agility 2	Agility 5	Agility 5
Fortitude 4	Deception 2	Fortitude 2
Might 5	Perception 4	Logic 1
Perception 3	Will 3	Perception 3
Will 3	Enchantment 3	Will 2
		Psychic 4

Paladin	Battle Mage	Mind Mage
Fortitude 4	Agility 3	Agility 3
Presence 5	Fortitude 1	Presence 2
Learning 1	Might 1	Persuasion 1
Perception 1	Presence 1	Learning 2
Will 3	Persuasion 1	Logic 2
Creation 3	Learning 2	Will 2
Divination 1	Logic 2	Enchantment 5
	Perception 2	Illusion 3



Paladin	Battle Mage	Mind Mage
	Will 3	
	Energy 5	

Assassin	Cleric	Druid
Agility 5	Fortitude 2	Agility 1
Fortitude 1	Might 3	Fortitude 3
Deception 3	Presence 1	Might 1
Presence 3	Persuasion 1	Perception 2
Persuasion 3	Learning 1	Will 2
Perception 3	Will 2	Alteration 4
Abjuration 4	Creation 3	
Spirit 5	Enchantment 4	

Shadowdancer	Bard	Arcane Protector
Agility 5	Agility 4	Agility 3
Deception 3	Presence 4	Presence 2
Perception 3	Persuasion 3	Learning 3
Will 1	Learning 1	Logic 1
Entropy 3	Creation 2	Will 2
Movement 3	Enchantment 4	Abjuration 5
	Movement 3	

### 1.1.4 Record Attribute Dice

Every attribute score above 0 grants you bonus dice to increase your chance of success. Consult the Attribute Dice table for each of your attributes and record the appropriate dice. (You'll learn what to do with these dice later on.)

#### Attribute Dice

Attribute Score	Attribute Dice
1	1d4
2	1d6
3	1d8
4	1d10
5	2d6

### 1.1.5 Roll Them Bones

If you are new to gaming, you may not be familiar with dice notation, such as 2d6.



As you play Open Legend, you'll often need to roll dice to determine the outcome of actions. **Dice notation** is a shorthand way of indicating which dice to roll.

Every die roll is indicated by a formula such as 3d6. The number before the *d* indicates how many dice to roll, and the number after the *d* indicates how many sides those dice have.

So, 3d6 means that you roll three six-sided dice.

4d4 indicates four four-sided dice.

And so on.

## 1.2 Step 2: Calculate Defenses and Hit Points

When an enemy tries to attack you—whether with a breath of flame, a deft sword thrust, or a mental assault—it will first need to overcome your defense. You have three defense scores, and each one protects you from different types of attacks. The higher your defense, the better you are at avoiding or shrugging off whatever your foes throw at you.

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$$\text{Toughness} = 10 + \text{Fortitude}$$


---

**Toughness** protects you from attacks that test your endurance, bodily health, or sturdiness. For example, foes attempting to poison you, push you off a cliff, or crush you with an iron maul will target your toughness.

---


$$\text{Evasion} = 10 + \text{Agility}$$


---

**Evasion** protects you from attacks that test your quickness and ability to dodge. Your enemies would need to overcome your evasion in order to hit you with a fireball, shoot you with an arrow, or stab you with a rapier.

---


$$\text{Resolve} = 10 + \text{Presence} + \text{Will}$$


---

**Resolve** represents your character's ability to resist mental domination and stand brave in the face of danger. Enemies who wish to magically charm you, deceive you with illusions, or frighten you must target your resolve.

---


$$\text{Hit Points} = 2 \times (\text{Fortitude} + \text{Presence} + \text{Will}) + 10$$


---

*That is, add your Fortitude, Presence, and Will scores. Multiply the total by 2. Finally, add 10.*

**Hit Points** (or HP) are an abstract measure of how well you can ignore pain, avoid deadly blows, and maintain a presence on the battlefield in spite of wounds or exhaustion. If they reach zero, you fall unconscious and are at risk of death.



## 1.3 Step 3: Purchase Feats

While your character's attributes define his skill at accomplishing heroic tasks, his **feats** are what make him unique among other characters. Feats allow you to customize your character, granting him the ability to accomplish specific actions exceptionally well.

For example, two different characters who specialize in melee combat might both start with a Might score of 5. However, one character is a swashbuckling pirate, so he takes the *Combat Momentum* feat to allow him to move deftly from one foe to the next like a whirling dervish. The other, a battle-scarred berserker, takes *Berserker* so that she can fly into a frenzied rage in order to decimate her foes.

### 1.3.1 Choose your feats

Feats are purchased using feat points. At 1st level, you have 6 feat points to spend. Any leftover feat points may be saved for the future.

You can read the feat descriptions in a searchable database [here](#).

If your character is based on a specific archetype, you may want to start with the feat selections recommended below:

#### Archetype Feat Recommendations

Barbarian	Ranger	Monk
Berserker	Master Tracker	Fleet of Foot 1
Reckless Frenzy	Attack Specialization 1 (Longbow)	Martial Focus (Unarmed)
	Multi-target Attack Specialist 1 (melee)	Combat Momentum

Elemental  
Paladin

Attribute  
Sub- Ma-  
sti- nip-  
tu- u-  
tion la-  
(Prestion  
ence 1  
>  
Might)



---

Elemental  
Paladin Mage

---

Armored Potent  
Mas-Spe- Bane  
tery cial- (Phan-  
(Scale iza- tasm)  
Mail) tion  
1  
(Cold)

Multi-  
target  
At-  
tack  
Spe-  
cial-  
ist  
(Area)

---

Assassin Cleric

---

Martial Resto-  
Fo- Adeps-  
cus 1 cial-  
(Dag- iza-  
ger) tion  
2  
(Scale  
Mail)

Lethal Armored  
Strike Spe- Min-  
1 cial- ions  
iza-  
tion  
1  
(Scale  
Mail)

Master Boon  
Shifter Fo-  
1 cus  
1  
(Shapeshift)

---



Shadowdancer	Bard	Arcane Protector
Lethal Strike 1	Tactical Inspiration 2	Defensive Expert 1
Boon Focus 1 (Teleport)	Restorative Adept 1	Boon Focus (Teleport)

## 1.4 Step 4: Choose Your Race

While your character in *Open Legend* can be a human, there are also a number of other races to choose, from old standards like elves and dwarves to the more obscure dragonbloods and celestials.

The standard races are described below, along with several defining racial features typical to members of that race. Choose your character's race, and then choose **one** of the listed racial features.

### 1.4.1 Celestial

**Pure-hearted.** Any good-aligned creature you encounter is friendly toward you by default rather than neutral. Circumstances can alter this, but even if rumors or actions you've taken would influence a good creature negatively, it remains one step friendlier than it otherwise would have been.

**Divine Insight.** Drawing on a supernatural connection to a deity, you gain otherworldly insight. Once per game session, you can choose a topic relevant to the story. The GM shares some information about that topic which might be useful. If you've just failed a *Learning* attribute roll and use this ability, the GM decides whether to give you information related to that roll or to give you knowledge that is completely unrelated.

**Trustworthy.** Once per session, you can choose to inspire trust in another character via your good-hearted nature. That character believes that you have their best interest in mind and seeks your advice on something that is troubling them, sharing a secret that they would not normally share with a stranger.

**Divine Intervention.** As a divine agent, you are defended by your creator. Once per game session, when you are subject to a *Finishing Blow* while your hit points are below 1, you automatically heal to a hit point total of 1.

### 1.4.2 Dragonblood

**Legendary Bloodline.** Having dragon's blood, you command the respect of those who practice the Arcane arts. You are assumed to have knowledge and a destiny for greatness in the Arcane arts, and others treat you with deference. This influence could guarantee your placement within an Arcane College, grant you an apprenticeship with a famous Archmage, or cause a magic-user who does not know you well to follow a prescribed course of action based on your advice if the question is one of Arcane knowledge.

**Dragonspeak.** Like the great wyrms of your ancestry, you have practiced the ways of sneaking hidden charms and subliminal messages within everyday conversation. Once per session, when you converse with an intelligent creature for at least five minutes, you will learn one useful secret of the GM's choosing about the creature.



### 1.4.3 Dwarf

**Warrior's Code.** As a veteran warrior, you command respect even from foes. Once per session, you can use this ability to cause an enemy or group of enemies to extend special concessions or favorable treatment toward you via an unspoken warrior's code. The GM decides what these concessions look like. For example, your enemies might choose to trust you to come quietly and not shackle you, or overlook an insult that would otherwise have been cause for bloodshed.

**Stone Sense.** While underground you may fail to find what you're looking for, but you can never be truly lost. You can always find your way back to the entrance through which you entered.

**Dwarven Resilience.** Once per game session, you can automatically succeed a *Fortitude* action roll of Difficulty Level equal or less than your Fortitude score.

### 1.4.4 Elf

**Elven Senses.** Your keen senses allow you to notice details that others typically miss. Once per game session, you can use this ability to notice something out of the ordinary. For example, you might spot a hidden passage behind a bookcase, a trace of blood under the fingernails of another character, or a wig that is not quite convincing. If you use this ability after failing a *Perception* roll, the GM decides whether you notice the initial target of your roll or a different detail.

**Sylvan Ally.** Creatures of nature can sense your deep respect for the natural order. Wild animals give you a wide berth, Druids give you the benefit of a doubt by assuming that you do not have destructive intentions, and you can typically gain an audience with the chief of a small local tribe by virtue of your race's reputation for defending nature.

### 1.4.5 Feytouched

**Whisperer of the Wild.** Once per game session, you can ask a single "yes" or "no" question of a plant or animal within earshot. The plant or animal automatically trusts you at least enough to answer the question truthfully. You receive the answer by way of an inner sense, and so this ability cannot be used for further two-way communication.

**Fey Innocence.** Your fey blood gives you a childlike quality that can melt even the coldest of hearts. Once per game session, you can leverage your fey innocence to turn an enemy and cause them to take pity on you. The enemy might choose to look the other way when you've done something illegal, forgive a debt you could never pay, or vouch in your favor before the authorities.

### 1.4.6 Half-Orc

**Orcish Shakedown.** While others might convince with a silver tongue, you speak the universal language of fear. Once per game session, if you make a show of physical force, you can use your *Might* attribute for a *Persuasion* roll. If your *Persuasion* score is already equal to or greater than your *Might* score, you get Advantage 1 on the roll.

**Orcish Scent.** Your sense of smell is similar to that of a wild beast. As a focus action, you can discern the number and relative location of living creatures within 60'. With an additional focus action you can lock onto a particular scent and maintain its relative location as long as it remains within 60'.



### 1.4.7 Halfling

**Halfling Luck.** Once per game session, in a moment of need, you can call on luck shine to upon you. The GM decides what form this luck takes. For example, an attack that was meant for you might target an ally instead, you may discover a secret passage to escape from a rolling boulder, or a town guardsman decides to overlook your crime because you happen to have grown up on the same street.

**Halfling Courage.** You have a brave heart for such a small person. Once per game session, as a free action you can cancel the effects of any bane relating to fear or a penalty associated with negative morale.

### 1.4.8 Human

**Human Nobility.** Being of high birth, you are treated as a benefactor by the lower classes. They will trust and help you in the hopes of being rewarded for their efforts. You are also treated as a peer by lesser nobles and can typically request an audience with them. In addition, representatives of the law generally assume you to be beyond reproach unless they are presented with compelling evidence to the contrary.

**Human Learning.** You have a knack for picking up new skills. Once per game session, provided you are not under pressure from an inordinately tight deadline, you can automatically succeed at a non-attack action roll that relates to some craft, trade, skill, or similar work provided it is Difficulty Level 2 or less.

## 1.5 Step 5: Choose Starting Equipment

In a typical game of *Open Legend*, your character will start with the gear he needs for the basic adventuring life. The GM, however, may decide that the campaign starts under special circumstances (such as the entire party caged in a slave convoy) that might dictate otherwise.

Usually, though, you begin with a Wealth Score of 2, and may select up to three items of Wealth Level 2 and any number of items of a lesser Wealth Level. See chapter 4 for rules concerning Wealth as well as equipment details.

Instead of purchasing equipment a la carte, you may also elect to choose one of the following starting packages built for common character archetypes. After selecting your equipment, be sure to note any changes to your defenses or other statistics.

#### Archetype Starting Packages

Barbarian	Ranger	Monk
Maul	Longbow	Quarterstaff
Hatchet	Dagger	Hatchet
Large Shield	Longsword	Leather Armor
Long Bow	Chain Shirt	
Battle Axe	Adventurer's Pack	
Adventurer's Pack		



Paladin	Battle Mage	Mind Mage
Warhammer	Crossbow	Longbow
Short Bow	Quarterstaff	Quarterstaff
Great Sword	Dagger	Dagger
Large Shield	Leather Armor	Leather Armor
Scale Mail	Mage's Pack	Mage's Pack
Adventurer's Pack		

Assassin	Cleric	Druid
5 Daggers	Flail	Quarterstaff
Shortbow	Scale Shirt	Longbow
Hand Crossbow	Large Shield	Dagger
Leather Armor	Short Bow	Scale Shirt
Rogue's Pack	Healer's Pack	Healer's Pack

Shadowdancer	Bard	Arcane Protector
5 Daggers	Dagger	Short Bow
Shortbow	Longbow	Quarterstaff
Hand Crossbow	Longsword	Dagger
Leather Armor	Leather Armor	Leather Armor
Rogue's Pack	Adventurer's Pack	Mage's Pack

## 1.6 Step 6: Describe Your Character

*Open Legend* is a role playing game, which means your character will need more depth than attributes, feats, and gear. To make your character come to life, add the following details. If you can't think of anything yet, try to fill in the blanks during your first couple of play sessions as you get to know your character better.

**A heroic name.** Be sure to check with your GM to see if he has any particular setting in mind. Phil the Fighter would feel quite out of place next to Therilas Windcaster and Gorion Skullcleaver.

**Two exceptional physical traits.** Think of the first two features that other characters notice when they see you. Do your eyes glow red when you are angry? Are you seven feet tall? Is your hair a rainbow hue?

**Two defining social traits.** Maybe you stutter when you're nervous. Maybe you don't trust anyone until they've proven themselves to you. Or, perhaps, you are a winsome bard who almost always talks in sing-song. Your two social traits should be characteristics that others will learn shortly after getting to know you.

**A secret.** Your secret is something that other characters probably won't find out about until they've gotten to know you quite well. It's also a seed for great adventure that the GM can weave into his campaign. Here are a few examples of character secrets to give you some ideas:

*Before Volkor changed his name and began wandering the land as a barbarian sellsword, he was heir to the throne.*

*Sir Thomas Tuckburrough served as an assassin for the local thieves guild until a job went bad*



*and he murdered an innocent child—that's when he began his road to the priesthood.*

*Talia was raised as a Druid of the Briar Rose, but she fled the Order out of distaste for their violent ways. Now, she fears the reprisal of her ex-brethren at every turn.*

### 1.6.1 Tell Your Story

With your character created, you are all ready to start playing *Open Legend*. Whether you're playing with old friends or complete strangers, and whether you're completely new to roleplaying games or an experienced veteran, the following tips will help ensure a fun time for everyone at the table.

### 1.6.2 Relax

*Open Legend* gives you a chance to step out of everyday life for a few hours and into a fantastical world where you can perform heroic deeds. Pour the Mountain Dew or grab a beer, order some takeout or pop open the pretzels—but whatever you do, shake the dice like your life depends on it and have fun. If you're playing a dwarf, maybe pull out your best Scottish accent. If your character's a witch, squint your eyes and speak in riddles. If you're no expert thespian, think of other ways to add to the fun: play adventurous music on your phone, illustrate the party's escapades, and so on.

### 1.6.3 Respect the GM

If you've never GM'd before, you might not realize all the work that goes into it. More likely than not, your GM worked for hours to put her campaign together and prep for this session. Go with her storyline, overlook any accidental inconsistencies, and don't cause a ruckus just for the sake of causing a ruckus. If there's a dispute over the rules, accept the GM's final ruling and agree to look it up later for the sake of the game.

### 1.6.4 Respect the Other Players

Different people play roleplaying games for different reasons. Some enjoy the tactical, chess-like combat encounters. Others just want to tell an epic story. Still others are born actors, reveling in every conversation with every character. Whatever it is that you enjoy about playing *Open Legend*, just remember that not everyone else at the table may enjoy the same aspects. Part of the GM's duty is to give everyone a chance to shine, but you can do your part too by not hogging the spotlight and by encouraging the other players to have fun, whatever that means for them.

## 1.7 Beyond First Level

As the legend you are creating unfolds and grows in danger and magnitude, your character's power will grow to match the challenge. This gain in power is called leveling up. The GM decides when characters level up. When your character does level up, you'll have a few decisions to make.



### 1.7.1 New Attribute Points

Upon leveling up, you gain 9 new attribute points to spend. You can use these to increase your current attributes or buy completely new ones. The cost to increase an attribute is equal to the new score. So, for example, to raise your Might from 3 to 4 would cost 4 attribute points. The cost to purchase a brand new attribute is summarized in the Attribute Overview Table.

Until you reach 5th level, the maximum attribute score is 5. From levels 6 to 9, the maximum is equal to your level.

You do not have to use all of your attribute points at once, any remaining attribute points can be saved for use at future levels.

Attribute Overview

Attribute Score	Cost	Attribute Dice
1	1	1d4
2	3	1d6
3	6	1d8
4	10	1d10
5	15	2d6
6	21	2d8
7	28	2d10
8	36	3d8
9	45	3d10

### 1.7.2 New Feats

Whenever you gain a level, you gain 3 feat points to purchase new feats. You do not have to use all of these at once, and any remaining feat points can be saved for future levels.

See [Feats](#) to view the complete list of feats to choose from.

### 1.7.3 New Hit Points

In *Open Legend*, attributes are the means by which your hit points increase. If you want your character to be able to take more hits, increase either your Fortitude, Presence, or Will attribute. As outlined in the default hit point formula, you'll gain 2 hit points each time you raise one of those attributes by one.



## Chapter 2

# Concerning Hereditary Principalities

I will leave out all discussion on republics, inasmuch as in another place I have written of them at length, and will address myself only to principalities. In doing so I will keep to the order indicated above, and discuss how such principalities are to be ruled and preserved.

I say at once there are fewer difficulties in holding hereditary states, and those long accustomed to the family of their prince, than new ones; for it is sufficient only not to transgress the customs of his ancestors, and to deal prudently with circumstances as they arise, for a prince of average powers to maintain himself in his state, unless he be deprived of it by some extraordinary and excessive force; and if he should be so deprived of it, whenever anything sinister happens to the usurper, he will regain it.

We have in Italy, for example, the Duke of Ferrara, who could not have withstood the attacks of the Venetians in '84, nor those of Pope Julius in '10, unless he had been long established in his dominions. For the hereditary prince has less cause and less necessity to offend; hence it happens that he will be more loved; and unless extraordinary vices cause him to be hated, it is reasonable to expect that his subjects will be naturally well disposed towards him; and in the antiquity and duration of his rule the memories and motives that make for change are lost, for one change always leaves the tothing for another.