

# DARK·SUN

CAMPAIGN SETTING



# Contents



# Chapter 1: Credits

*The way we get things done is not to mind who gets the credit for doing them.*

– Benjamin Jowett



## Main Thanks

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Lance Hancock - Pathfinder Setting for Genesys.pdf  
TheSapient, ESP77, Swordbreaker and Richardbuxton - Genesys Talents Expanded  
Guillaume Tardif - Pathfinder Setting Document Lite.pdf  
Cyvaris - Genesys Spells.pdf  
Unknown - Various Pictures

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# Chapter 2: Intro

*"For thousands of years, the Tablelands have remained untouched: its politics frozen in a delicate stalemate, its life in a balance even more delicate. It is true that the Dragon Kings amused themselves with their petty wars, rattling sabers to punctuate the passing of ages. It is true that, occasionally, another city would be swallowed by the wastes.*

*But there were no surprises. The Dragon Kings steered everything from their omnipotent perches, content in their superiority, but ever thirsting for challenge. All that has changed. The Tablelands have been thrown into turmoil, the likes of which have not been seen since times forgotten. The Dragon Kings have been thrown into confusion, grasping for the tedium they so recently lamented.*

*And yet I fear the worst is yet to come. Change is in the air, and change has never come gently to Athas."*

– Oronis, sorcerer-king of Kurn

Athas' savage, primal landscape is the result of long centuries of ecological and magical abuses. The world is dying. It breathes its last gasps as water turns to silt, grasslands become sandy wastes, and jungles decay into stony barrens. Still, life finds ways to endure even in these hellish conditions. In fact, it thrives. Children growing up beneath the crimson sun don't aspire to become heroes. True heroes who champion causes or try to make the world a better place are as rare as steel on Athas. Living to see the next dawn is more important than defending a set of beliefs, so survival ultimately motivates all living creatures, not virtue or righteousness.

Today, Athas rushes toward its future. If the course of destruction is to be diverted, if Athas is to be restored, then heroes must grab the reins of destiny and give new hope and promise to the world. It will not be easy. In fact, it will be extremely difficult. But it is possible. The denizens of the Tablelands have suffered under oppression for thousands of years, and now, a boiling point has been reached. Perhaps not today, perhaps not tomorrow, but someday, change will come.

## Eight Things You Need to Know

The world of the Dark Sun setting is unique. This is not a world of shining knights and robed wizards, of deep forests and holy shrines. Athas draws on different traditions of fantasy storytelling; simple survival beneath the crimson sun is often its own adventure. With that in mind, here are the seven most important things you need to know about the Dark Sun setting:

- **The World is a Desert** Athas is a hot, arid world covered with vast stretches of desert—endless seas of dunes, stony wastes, thorny scrublands, and worse. In this forbidding world, cities and villages can only exist in a few oases or verdant plains. Beyond these islands of civilization is a barren wasteland roamed by nomads, raiders, and hungry monsters.
- **The World is Savage** Life is brutal and short in Athas. The vile institution of slavery is widespread in Athas, and hundreds, perhaps thousands, are sent to their deaths every year in bloody arena spectacles. Metal is quite scarce. Arms and armor are often made of bone, stone, wood, and other such materials, because steel is priceless.
- **Metal is Scarce** Most arms and armor are made of bone, stone, wood, and other such materials. Mail or plate armor exists only in the treasuries of Sorcerer-Kings. Steel blades are almost priceless, weapons that many heroes never see during their lifetimes.
- **Arcane Magic Defiles the World** Athas was reduced to a wasteland by the reckless use of arcane magic in ancient wars. To cast an arcane spell, one must gather power from the living world around. Plants wither to black ash, crippling pain wracks animals and people, and the soil itself is sterilized; nothing can grow in that spot again.
- **Terrible Sorcerer-Kings Rule the Cities** The city-states of Athas are ruled by defilers of immense power. These mighty spellcasters have held their thrones for centuries. The sorcerer-kings govern through templars, a class of officials and lesser defilers who can call upon the kings' powers.

- **The Gods of Athas are Silent** Athas is a world without gods. There are no clerics, no paladins, no real prophets or religious orders. In the absence of divine influence, people have turned to other sources of power. Psionic power is well known and widely practiced in Athas, while shamans and druids call upon the primal powers of the world - even though the primal spirits of Athas are often wild and vengeful.
- **Fierce and Deadly Monsters Populate the World** Athas is home to its own deadly ecology. Cattle, horses, camels—none of these animals can be found in Athas. Instead, people tend flocks of erdlus, ride on kanks or crodlus, and draw wagons with inixes and mekillots. Wild creatures such as lions, bears, or wolves are almost nonexistent. In their place are terrors such as the id beast, the so-ut, or the tembo.
- **Familiar Races aren't what you Expect** Many of the fantasy stereotypes don't apply to Athasian heroes. On Athas, elves are a nomadic race of herders, raiders, peddlers, and thieves. Halflings aren't amiable river-folk; they're xenophobic headhunters and cannibals who hunt and kill anyone foolish enough to venture into their montane forests. Each of the major races has adapted to Athas in new and unexpected ways.

To create your character you have to do the following, which will be explained in more detail below:

- **Choose Race** Choose a race which will determine your starting XP and several abilities.
- **Create Career** Choose two specialisations which will become your career.
- **Invest Experience Points** Invest the experience points gained from your starting race.
- **Determine Derived Attributes** Determine your Defense, Soak, Strain Threshold, Wound Threshold and Encumbrance.
- **Choose Motivation** Choose your character's main motivation.
- **Choose Wild Talent** Choose your Psionic Wild Talent.
- **Buy Starting Gear** Use your starting money to buy your first gear.

## Select Race

Choose a race from the supplied list. Important factors personality, characteristics, abilities and starting experience. The XP listed on the race information section is your starting XP. This may be used during character creating to upgrade characteristics, buy new skills or new talents. After character creation is completed, the only way to gain upgrades to characteristics is by buying the Dedication Talent, at the end of most talent trees.

## Combine Specialisations

Choose 2 Specialisations from ???: ??, which will be combined to become your career.

The skills mentioned on the talent tree will be your career skills and both talent trees are now accessible for you to spend XP on.

Choose six of your career skills, they will start at rank 1 for free. If you have a skill in both specialisations, you may choose it twice to put two ranks in that skill. Having more than two ranks in any one skill at the end of character creation is forbidden. This includes ranks gained from your chosen race.

## Invest Experience Points

## Determine Derived Attributes

After having spent your initial Experience Points, the Derived Attributes are determined as follows:

**Table 3.1: Investing Experience Points**

# Chapter 4: Races

*"I live in a world of fire and sand. The crimson sun scorches the life from anything that crawls or flies, and storms of sand scour the foliage from the barren ground. Lightning strikes from the cloudless sky, and peals of thunder roll unexplained across the vast tablelands. Even the wind, dry and searing as a kiln, can kill a man with thirst."*

— The Wanderer's Journal

## Dwarf



*"The worst thing you can say to a dwarf is 'It can't be done.' If he's already decided to do it, he may never speak to you again. If he hasn't decided to take up the task, he may commit himself to it simply out of spite. 'Impossible' is not a concept most dwarves understand. Anything can be done, with enough determination."*

— Sha'len, Nibenese trader

Dwarves form a good part of the people encountered in the Tablelands. These strong and devoted beings live

to fulfill their focus, a task they choose to devote their lives to. Stubborn and strong-minded, dwarves make good companions, even though their usual focused nature can tend to be bothersome.

**Personality:** Dwarves prefer to occupy themselves with meaningful tasks, and often approach these tasks with an intensity rarely seen in other races. As such, dwarves make excellent laborers, and take great pride in their accomplishments. However, their stubbornness can lead to difficulties. Dwarves will sometimes fail to listen to reason, attempting to accomplish what are impossible tasks. Dwarves live for their focus. Dwarves that die while being unable to complete their focus return from the dead as banshees to haunt their unfinished work. A dwarf also rarely divulges his focus to anyone.

**Names:** A dwarf's name is usually granted to him by his clan leader after he completes his first focus.

**Male Names:** Baranus, Biirgaz, Bontar, Brul, Caelum, Caro, Daled, Drog, Fyra, Ghedran, Gralth, Gram, Jurgan, Lyanius, Murd, Nati, Portek.

**Female Names:** Ardin, Erda, Ghava, Greshin, Gudak, Lazra, N'kadir, Palashi, Vashara.

**Roleplaying Suggestions:** Remember the intensity of your focus. Breaking or ignoring a focus has social, philosophical and spiritual repercussions. For someone to stand in the way of your focus is an assault on you. There is no greater satisfaction than fulfilling a difficult focus. Keep a serious, sober attitude nearly always. The only time you show your festive side is when you have recently fulfilled a focus, during the hours or days until you set a new focus. Only during these brief days of fulfillment, and only to other dwarves and your most trusted non-Dwarven friends, do you show your full joy and sense of humor. But these days are also a time of vulnerability, for until you set a new focus you lose all of your special focus related bonuses.



- **Wound Threshold:** 10 + Brawn
- **Strain Threshold:** 10 + Willpower
- **Starting Experience:** 90
- **Special Ability:** When Dwarves focus on one task that takes more than a week to complete they gain a ■ on all checks directly related to their focus.
- **Night Vision:** Dwarves may remove ■ imposed by concealment due to darkness.

## Elves



*"Honor? The word does not exist in the Elven language."*

— Tharak, Human guard

Athas' deserts, plains, steppes and badlands are home to the elves, a long-limbed race of trading, raiding, thieving sprinters. Running is the key to acceptance and respect among elves. Elves that are injured and cannot run are often left behind to die.

**Personality:** Other races see elves as dishonest and lazy; generally a fair assessment. Elves idle around their time for days until compelled by need to exert themselves, but they can run for days without complaint. No self-respecting elf will consent to ride an animal. To do so is dishonorable; Elven custom dictates that individuals keep up or be left behind. Elves prefer to lead short, happy lives rather than long, boring ones. Seeing the future as a dark, deadly place, they prefer to live in "the now," enjoying each fleeting moment. They thrive in open spaces, and tend to wither in captivity.

**Names:** Whether slave or free, elves prefer to keep Elven names. Tribe members take the tribe name as surname. Elves treat the naming of young runners as a sacred responsibility, naming the children of the tribe after the

first interesting thing that they do while learning to run. Elves believe with the appropriate name, a child can grow to greatness, but with the wrong name, the elf may vanish in the wastes. Sometimes a child's name is changed because of an extraordinary deed performed during an elf's rite of passage.

**Male Names:** Botuu (Water Runner), Coraanu (First Elf, the Warrior Thief), Dukkoti (Wind Fighter), Haaku (Two Daggers), Lobuu (First Runner), Mutami (Laughs at Sun), Nuuko (Sky Hunter), Traako (Metal Stealer).

**Female Names:** Alaa (Bird Chaser), Ekee (Wild Dancer), Guuta (Singing Sword), Hukaa (Fire Leaper), Ittee (Dancing Bow), Nuuta (Quiet Hunter), Uttaa (Laughing Moon)

**Tribe (Clan) Names:** Clearwater Tribe (Fireshaper, Graffyon, Graystar, Lightning, Onyx, Sandrunner, Seafoam, Silverleaf, Songweaver, Steeljaw, Wavedivers, Windriders clans); Night Runner Tribe (Dark Moons, Full Moons, Half Moons, Lone Moons, New Moons, Quarter Moons clans); Shadow Tribe; Silt Stalker Tribe (Fire Bow, Fire Dagger, Fire Sword clans); Silver Hand Tribe; Sky Singer Tribe (Dawnchaser, Dayjumper, Twilight-catcher clans); Swiftwing Tribe; Water Hunter Tribe (Rain-dancer, Poolrunner, Lakesinger clans); Wind Dancer Tribe (Airhunter, Breezechaser clans)

**Roleplaying Suggestions:** Rely on Elven combat skills (distance, bows, and fighting by the light of the moons and stars). Use Elven noncombat skills and philosophy (running, escape from entangling situations or relationships). When someone professes to be your friend, dismiss them at first and then later, offer them a test of trust. Don't tell them that it is a test, of course. Ask them to give you one of their prize possessions, for example, or leave your own valuables out and see if they take advantage of you. Pretend to sleep, and find out what they say about you when they think you are not listening. Some elves go as far as to allow themselves to be captured to see if the presumed friend will rescue them!



- **Wound Threshold:** 9
- **Strain Threshold:** 10 + Willpower
- **Starting Experience:** 100
- **Special Ability:** Elves may remove ■■ from checks to resist arid or hit environmental conditions.
- **Thieves:** Elves gain one rank in skullduggery, they may not train Skullduggery above rank two during character creation.
- **Elven Run:** Elves gain a ■ on any Athletics test concerning running and may remove and ■ due to exhaustion caused by running.

# Half-Elf



*"People are no good. You can only trust animals and the bottle."*

— Delmao, Half-Elven thief

Unlike the parents of muls, elves and humans are often attracted to each other. Half-elves are typically the unwanted product of a casual interracial encounter.

**Personality:** Half-elves are notorious loners. Many Athasians believe that half-elves combine the worst traits of both races, but the most difficult aspect of half-elves - their lack of self-confidence - comes not from their mixed origins but rather from a life of rejection from both parent races. Half-elves try in vain to gain the respect of humans or elves.

**Names:** Half-elves nearly always have human names. Unable to run as elves, they never receive Elven given names, or acceptance in an Elven tribe that they could use as surname.

**Roleplaying Suggestions:** Desperate for the approval of either elves or humans, you are even more desperate to appear independent and self-reliant, to cover your desire for approval. As a result, you tend towards a feisty, insecure, sullen self-reliance, refusing favors. You take every opportunity to show off your skills in front of elves and humans, but if an elf or a human were to actually praise you, you would probably react awkwardly or suspiciously. From your childhood, your closest friendships have been with animals. Other half-elves do not interest you. As time goes by and you learn from experience, you will find that you can also get along with other races neither human nor Elven: dwarves, muls, even thri-kreen. You don't feel the terrible need for their approval, and yet they give it more readily.

2	2	2	2	2	2
BRAWN	AGILITY	INTELLECT	CUNNING	WILLPOWER	PRESENCE

- **Wound Threshold:** 10 + Brawn
- **Strain Threshold:** 10 + Willpower
- **Starting Experience:** 100
- **Special Ability:** Half-Elves begin the game with one rank in one non-career skill of their choice. They may not train this skill above rank 2 during character creation.
- **Companion:** Desperate for companionship, half-elves often find companionship in small animals. You gain 1 rank in the Animal Companion Feat.
- **Adaptation:** Half-Elves begin the game with either one rank in Survival or in Skulldugger. They may not train that skill above rank 2 during character creation.

# Half-Giant



*"Mind of a child, strength of three grown men. I've seen a Half-Giant tear the walls out of a building because he wanted a better look at the tattoos on a mul inside."*

— Daro, Human trader

Legend has it that in ages past, a sorcerer-queen used wizardry to beget a union of giant and human in order to create a race of powerful slaves. Whatever the truth of this legend, the Half-Giant race has increased in number and is now fairly common especially in human controlled lands near the shore of the Sea of Silt. Half-Giants gain great strength, but dull wits, from their giant heritage, and are

nearly as agile as their human forbearers.

## Halfling



**Personality:** Because of their artificial origins, there is no half-giant culture, tradition or homeland. Half-giants readily imitate the customs and cultures of their neighbors. Half-giants often display curiosity, a willingness to learn, and a general tendency towards kindness.

**Names:** Enslaved half-giants often have human names, and because of this they vary greatly. Free half-giants are likely to borrow the naming conventions of the race or people they are imitating at the time their child is born.

**Roleplaying Suggestions:** Always remember how much bigger and heavier you are than everyone else. Take advantage of your height in combat, but remember the disadvantages. Between your size and your lesser wits (even if you are a relatively intelligent half-giant people will assume you to be dull), you find yourself an object of comic relief. You are used to being teased and will endure more witty remarks than most people, but when you have been pushed too far your personality can suddenly shift, and you can unleash astonishing violence on your tormentors and any who stand in your way. Less frequently, these shifts can happen to you without provocation - you just wake up with a different ethos and altered disposition. Remember you are influenced by powerful personalities, and can shift your personality and ethics. You tend to imitate the tactics, clothes and demeanor of your 'little master.'



- **Wound Threshold:** 14
- **Strain Threshold:** 10 + Willpower
- **Starting Experience:** 80
- **Special Ability:** Half-Giants are capious and unpredictable. They gain 1 rank in intimidate. They may still not raise intimidate above rank 2 during character creation.
- **Large:** Half-Giants have Silhouette of 2.

*"Be wary of the forest ridge. The halflings who live there would as soon eat you alive as look at you. Chances are you won't even notice them until you've become the main course."*

– Mo'rune, Half-Elven ranger

Halflings are masters of the jungles of the Ringing Mountains. They are small, quick and agile creatures steeped in an ancient and rich culture that goes back far into Athas' past. Although they are not common in the Tablelands, some halflings leave their homes in the forests to adventure under the Dark Sun. As carnivores, halflings prefer to eat flesh raw.

**Personality:** Halflings have difficulty understanding others' customs or points of view, but curiosity helps some halflings overcome their xenophobia. Little concerned with material wealth, halflings are more concerned with how their actions will affect other halflings.

**Names:** Halflings tend to have only one given name.  
**Male Names:** Basha, Cerk, Derlan, Drassu, Entrok, Kakzim, Lokee, Nok, Pauk, Ppool, Sala, Tanuka, Ukos, Zol.  
**Female Names:** Alansa, Anezka, Dokala, Grelzen, Horga, Jikx, Joura, Nasaha, Vensa.

**Roleplaying Suggestions:** Remember to consistently take your height into account. Role-play the halfling culture described above: eating opponents, treating fellow halflings with trust and kindness, suspicion of big people, and general lack of interest in money.



- **Wound Threshold:** 10 + Brawn
- **Strain Threshold:** 10 + Willpower
- **Starting Experience:** 100
- **Special Ability:** Halfling gain ■ on all Charm check when dealing with other races.
- **Keen Senses** Halfling add □ to Perception Checks.
- **Small Halfling** have a Silouette of 0.
- **Proud to be Small** Halfling add □ to checks to which their small size is an advantage, for example Stealth and Skullduggery.

## Human



*"Humans are fools, and hopelessly naive as well. They outnumber us; they are everywhere, and yet they have no more sense of their strength than a rat. Let us hope that the Datto remain that way."*

– Dukkoti Nighrunner, Elven warrior

While not the strongest race, nor the quickest, humans have dominated the Tablelands for the last three thousand years.

**Personality:** More than other races, human personality is shaped by their social standing and background.

**Names:** Nobles, artisans and traders use titles or surnames; others some simply use one name.

**Male Names:** Agis of Asticles, King Tithian, Lord Vor-don, Pavek, Trenbull Al'Raam'ke

**Female Names:** Akassia, General Zanthiros, Lady Essen

of Rees, Neeva, Sadira



- **Wound Threshold:** 10 + Brawn
- **Strain Threshold:** 10 + Willpower
- **Starting Experience:** 110
- **Special Ability:** Humans start the game with one rank in two different non-career skills of their choice. They may not train these skills above rank 2 during character creation.

## Mul



*"See, the trick is to break their will. Not too much, mind you. Nobody wants to watch a docile gladiator, and muls are too expensive to waste as labor slaves. But, you don't want them trying to escape every other day. Would you like to tell the arena crowd that their favorite champion will not be appearing in today's match because he died trying to escape your pens?"*

– Gaal, Urikite arena trainer

Born from the unlikely parentage of dwarves and humans, muls combine the height and adaptable nature of humans with the musculature and resilience of dwarves. Muls enjoy traits that are uniquely their own, such as their robust metabolism and almost inexhaustible capacity for work. The hybrid has disadvantages in a few areas as well: sterility, and the social repercussions of being created for

a life of slavery. Humans and dwarves are not typically attracted to each other. The only reason that muls are so common in the Tablelands is because of their value as laborers and gladiators: slave-sellers force-breed humans and dwarves for profit. While mul-breeding practices are exorbitantly lucrative, they are often lethal to both the mother and the baby. Conception is difficult and impractical, often taking months to achieve. Even once conceived, the mul takes a full twelve months to carry to term; fatalities during this period are high. As likely as not, anxious overseers cut muls from the dying bodies of their mothers.

**Personality:** All gladiators who perform well in the arenas receive some degree of pampered treatment, but muls receive more pampering than others. Some mul gladiators even come to see slavery as an acceptable part of their lives. However, those that acquire a taste of freedom will fight for it. Stoic and dull to pain, muls are not easily intimidated by the lash. Masters are loath to slay or maim a mul who tries repeatedly to escape, although those who help the mul's escape will be tormented in order to punish the mul without damaging valuable property. Once a mul escapes or earns his freedom, slavery remains a dominant part of his life. Most muls are heavily marked with tattoos that mark his ownership, history, capabilities and disciplinary measures. Even untattooed muls are marked as a potential windfall for slavers: it is clearly cheaper to 'retrieve' a mul who slavers can claim had run away, than to start from scratch in the breeding pits.

**Names:** Muls sold as laborers will have common slave names. Muls sold as gladiators will often be given more striking and exotic names. Draji names (such as Atlalak) are often popular for gladiators, because of the Draji reputation for violence. Masters who change their mul slaves' professions usually change their names as well, since it is considered bad form to have a gladiator with a farmer's name, and a dangerous incitement of slave rebellions to give a common laborer the name of a gladiator.

**Roleplaying Suggestions:** Born to the slave pens, you never knew love or affection; the taskmaster's whip took the place of loving parents. As far as you have seen, all of life's problems that can be solved are solved by sheer brute force. You know to bow to force when you see it, especially the veiled force of wealth, power and privilege. The noble and templar may not look strong, but they can kill a man with a word. You tend towards gruffness. In the slave pits, you knew some muls that never sought friends or companionship, but lived in bitter, isolated servitude. You knew other muls who found friendship in an arena partner or co-worker. You are capable of affection, trust and friendship, but camaraderie is easier for you to understand and express - warriors slap each other on the shoulder after a victory, or give their lives for each other in battle. You don't think of that sort of event as "friendship" - it just happens.

3	2	2	2	2	1
BRAWN	AGILITY	INTELLECT	CUNNING	WILLPOWER	PRESENCE

- **Wound Threshold:** 10 + Brawn
- **Strain Threshold:** 14
- **Starting Experience:** 90
- **Special Ability:** Mulls begin the game with one rank in Resilience. They may not train Resilience above rank 2 during character creation.
- **Tireless:** Mulls add  to any Resilience checks.

## Thri-Kreen



*"This one does not speak with the quivering soft shells that lay about all night. This one might eat you, but never speak."*

— Tu'tochuk

Thri-kreen are the strangest of the intelligent races of the Tablelands. These insectoid beings possess a mindset very different from any humanoid being encountered. They roam the wastes in packs, hunting for food day and night, since they require no sleep. Thri-kreen are quick and agile and make fearsome fighters, feared throughout the wastes.

**Personality:** Since Thri-kreen (also known simply as the kreen) do not require sleep, they have difficulty understanding this need in the humanoid races. They have difficulty understanding this state of "laziness" in others. Other behaviors of humanoids seem unnecessarily complex. A keen's life is simple: hunt prey. Kreen live for the hunt, and own only what they can carry.

**Names:** Kachka, Ka'Cha, Ka'Ka'Kyl, Klik-Chaka'da, Sa'Relka, T'Chai

**Roleplaying Suggestions:** You tend to rely on your natural attacks and special kreen weapons. Everything you kill is a potential dinner. You have a strong need for a party leader - obedience to this leader in the party is important to you. If you seem to be the most powerful and capable, then you will assume leadership; if someone challenges your authority then you will wish to test whether they are in fact stronger than you. It is not a question of vanity; you won't want to fight to the death, but merely to ascertain who is worthy to lead the party. You do not have the focus of a dwarf to complete a project, but you would give your life to protect your companions. If you did not trust and honor them as your own family, then you would not travel with them and work together with them. You do not understand the concept of sleep. It disturbs you that your dra companions lie unconscious for a third of their lifetimes. You own only what you can carry, caring little for money or other items that other races consider as treasure. Your philosophy of ownership sometimes leads you into conflict with presumptuous dra who think they can own buildings, land, and even whole herds of cattle!



- **Wound Threshold:**  $10 + \text{Brawn}$
- **Strain Threshold:**  $10 + \text{Willpower}$
- **Starting Experience:** 50
- **Special Ability:** Thri-Kreen are immune to sleep or effects imitating sleep.
- **Sleepness:** Thri-Kreen do not need sleep.
- **Chitin Plating:** Thri-Kreen have a defense rating of 1.
- **Multiple Limbs:** Thri-Kreen may spend  $\Delta \Delta$  on a successful Brawl attack to hit a second target engaged with it, dealing the same damage as dealt to the original target.
- **Leap:** Once per encounter as a maneuver, a Thri-Kreen may suffer 3 strain to leap forward to any location within medium range, or vertically to any location within short range.

# Chapter 5: Specialisations

*"There are many paths to power, but all power comes at a price. Fame or infamy follows those who make great sacrifices and who reach grand achievements. Would you be called tyrant or savior, I wonder. Perhaps you would prefer to be addressed as Mighty One, or plain and simply by your birthname? Will the bards speak of you as delusional or omnipotent? It all depends on the eye that sees. The hero of one is villain to another. But all beings of power share one trait -each has its own secrets. Remnants of the past, stories of the now, or visions of the future - secrets are the source of power. And the keepers of the greatest secrets are the most dangerous of all beings, for they will use any means to prevent others from unveiling them."*

– The Oracle, Blue Shrine Scrolls

As stated in ???: ?? Each character combined two specialisations to form his or her career. In addition, it is possible to buy new careers using experience points as mentioned in Table: ?? ?? on page ??.

## Arcana

*"So what if the land becomes barren? It's not like we're going to stick around."*

– Datuu Dawnchaser, Elf Defiler

Athasian wizards drain energy from the surrounding soil. The method used labels the wizard as a defiler or a preserver. Preservers have the self-control to gather energy without destroying plants. Those who do not, or who feel no remorse about the damage caused, become Defilers. Defilers leave behind sterile soil and infertile ash when they cast spells. Because of this, most wastelanders blame wizards for the desert landscape that dominates the Tablelands today, and their hatred extends to defilers and preservers alike. In the seven cities, arcana magic is outlawed and feared.

Writing is also illegal in the Tablelands, thus wizards have to go to great lengths to conceal their spellbooks, and they have refined this art to the point where even fellow wizards can be hard pressed to identify a spell book. When found, they are precious resources, hoarded and studied by wizards thirsty for knowledge or power.

See ?? on page ?? for more information.

## Archer

Dedicated to his ranged craft, an archer is often precise and meticulous. Although he can be a hunter, he can also very well be a noble, shooting only in tournaments, rarely setting a foot outside the city walls. It goes without saying that an archer trains with ranged weapons, thus Ranged is a career skill. If you can't see your target you surely can't hit it, thus an archer is often perceptive. Discipline

is needed to focus for that inner focus to hit that tiny spot in the distance. Finally in the heat of the moment, he needs to keep his cool, so that he does not let his projectile fly too early.

See ?? on page ?? for more information.

## Assassin

*"assassin quote"*

– assassin quotee

Some Description

See ?? on page ?? for more information.

## Beast Rider

*"beastRider quote"*

– beastRider quotee

Some Description

See ?? on page ?? for more information.

## Charmer

*"charmer quote"*

– charmer quotee

Some Description  
See ?? on page ?? for more information.

## Dune Trader

*"duneTrader quote"*

– duneTrader quotee

Some Description  
See ?? on page ?? for more information.

## Gladiator

*"I might be a slave, but I am famous, I dine well, and my company is that of the finest noble women. Tell me, what do you have that I do not, slave trader - except the freedom to feel miserable?"*

– Jarek, arena champion

The arena is the battlefield of the gladiator. From hand-to-hand combat in the mud pits of small forts to the grand games of the city-states, the gladiator is a warrior who fights to the sounds of people cheering his name or cursing his presence. A master of crowd control and the art of prolonged combat, gladiators are trained to fight. They train to best wild beasts in deadly games for the amusement of the masses. They fight for glory, wealth, prestige and power. They fight to survive. Some are merely slaves, having to fight and perhaps hoping to win a chance to obtain freedom, while some fight willingly for the thrill of combat or the promise of riches and fame.

A gladiator often does not have the luxury of choosing her own weapons, and is thus familiar with all melee combat skills. Finally she has to be a crowd pleaser, for a pure and efficient kill does not attract a full stadium, and therefor Charm is a career skill.

See ?? on page ?? for more information.

## Mercenary

See ?? on page ?? for more information.

## Performer

*"Some people think a club can solve any problem. Unless you're a half-giant, there are more sophisticated ways of settling a disagreement."*

– Cabal, half-elven bard

Performers are master the art of entertainment, using their performances to amuse nobles and templars and gain wealth. Most performers can dazzle a crowd, or incite them to riot. Performers tend to learn to play a variety of instruments, or recite poetry or old legends by campfire. They can be acrobats, performing dazzling displays of physical prowess.

See ?? on page ?? for more information.

## Doctor

*"doctor quote"*

– doctor quotee

Some Description  
See ?? on page ?? for more information.

## Primal

*"A spirit took me in, when neither of my parents would accept me. Athas provides for those who care for it. We live in a desert simply because no-one cares for the land."*

– Sutura, half-elven druid

Athasian primal casters, often referred to as druids, are the protectors of Athas' dying landscape. Patient and often unforgiving, they try to preserve and reclaim the barren lands that surround the Tyr region. Well armed with spells and abilities from the Spirits of the Land, they work to bolster Athas' failing ecology. Often, druids prefer to remain hidden, observing the behavior of creatures and people before passing judgment. Travelers to an oasis are often unaware they are being observed; wanton destruction of the oasis will find themselves under the full fury of the druid and his many abilities.

See ?? on page ?? for more information.

## Psion

*"Resist all you like. I have ways of making you think."*

– Dechares, Dwarven inquisitor

The psion learns the Way, a philosophy of mental discipline, to become master of his will, or innate mental power. Most aspiring psions seek out an instructor, a master of the Way. Most Athasian cities contain psionic academies where students receive instructions in exchange for money or loyal service.

See ?? on page ?? for more information.

## Scout

*"scout quote"*

– scout quotee

Some Description

See ?? on page ?? for more information.

## Thief

*"Marek, always helpful, said that the UnderTyr catacombs are supposed to be haunted. Think I'll go make some inquiries about where*

*a 'heretic' like me can get some holy earth. Always go prepared...."*

– Janos, human rogue

The thief pilfers what she can, knows her way around the labyrinth of the warrens of the city and knows the best fences and suppliers of illegal goods. Skullduggery and Stealth are her livelihood, while Streetwise and her knowledge of the Underworld ensures she knows her way around town.

See ?? on page ?? for more information.

## Thug

*"thug quote"*

– thug quotee

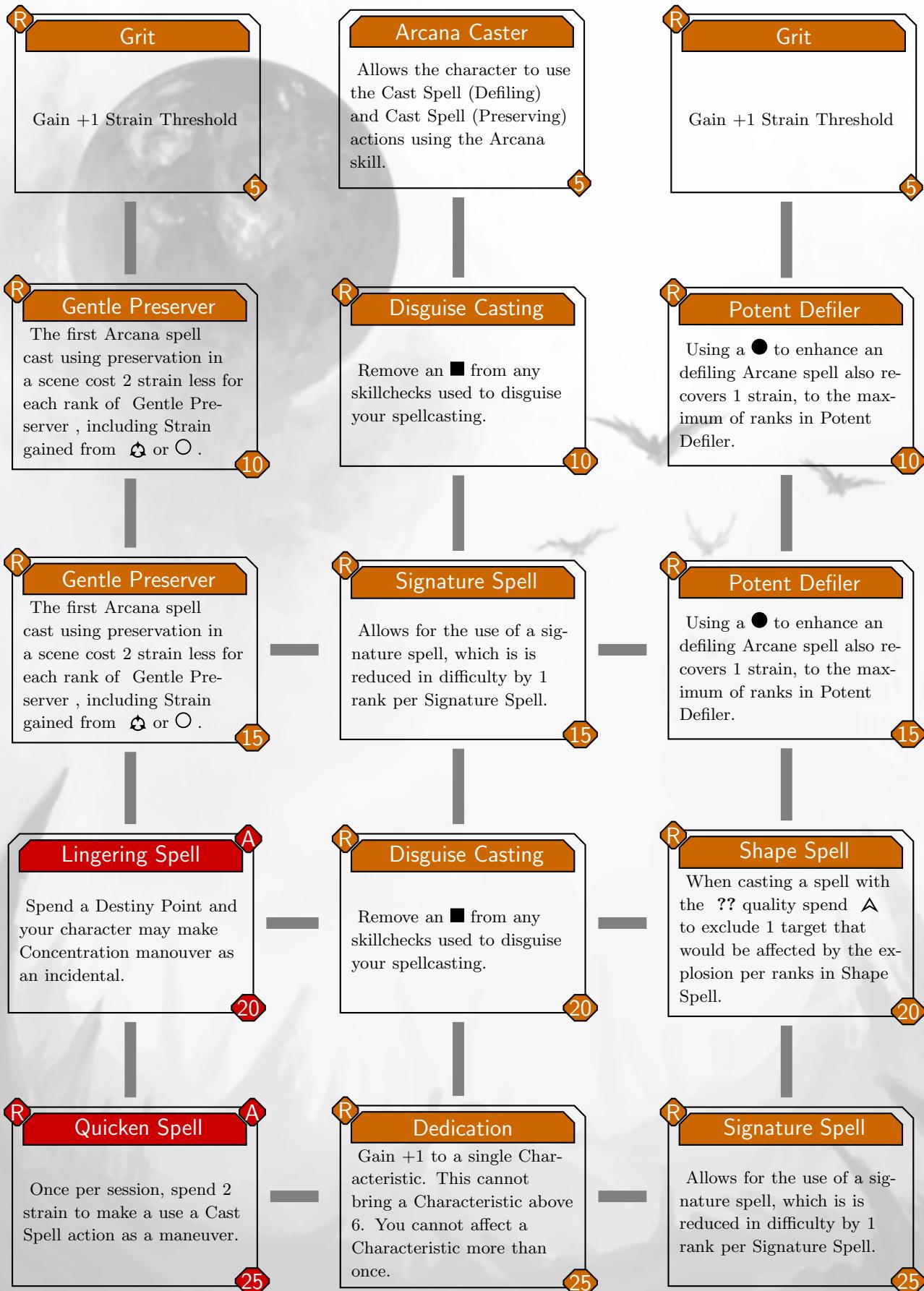
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See ?? on page ?? for more information.

## Talent Trees

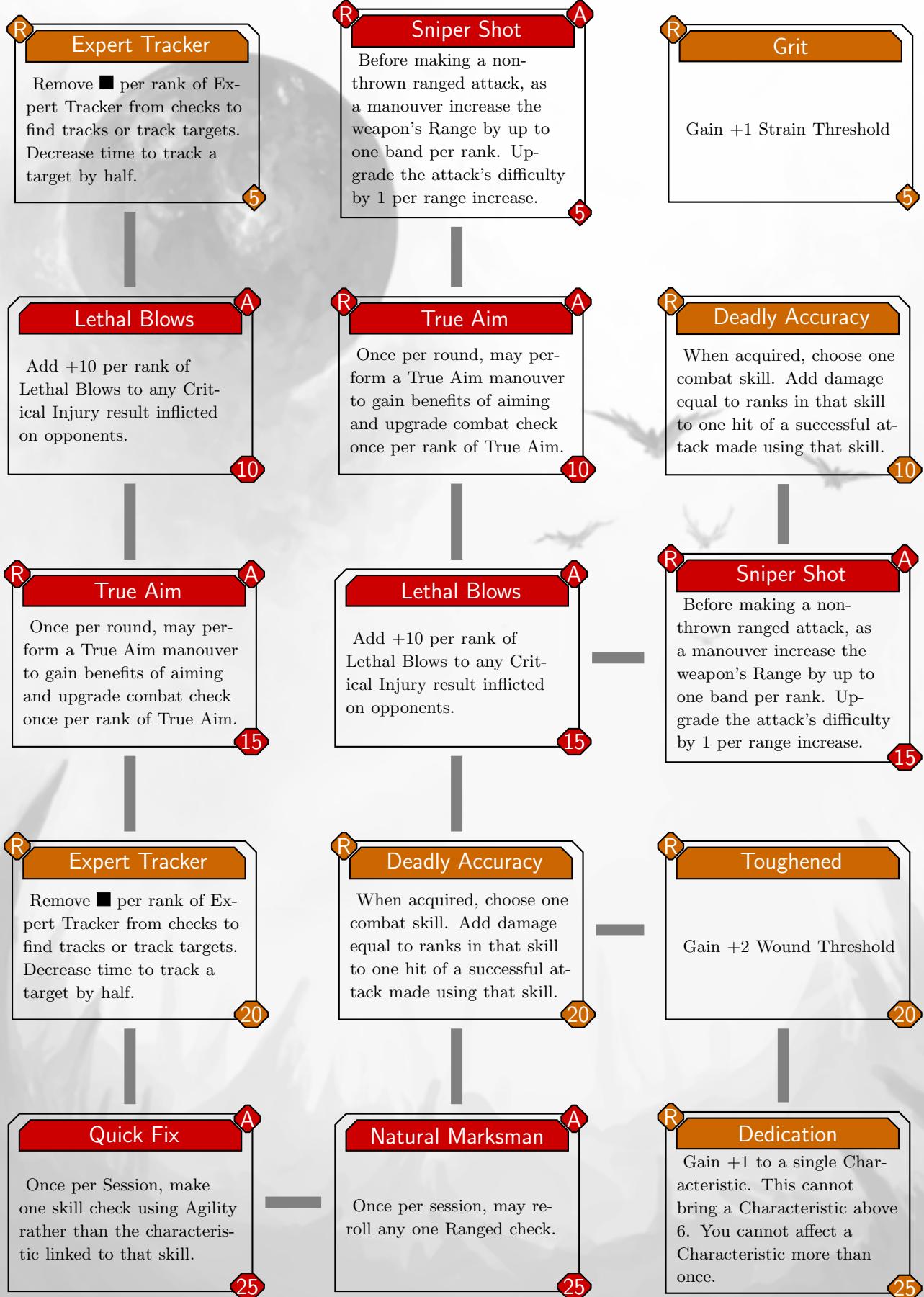
## Arcana Talent Tree

Class Skills: Arcana, Deception, Alchemy, Vigilance



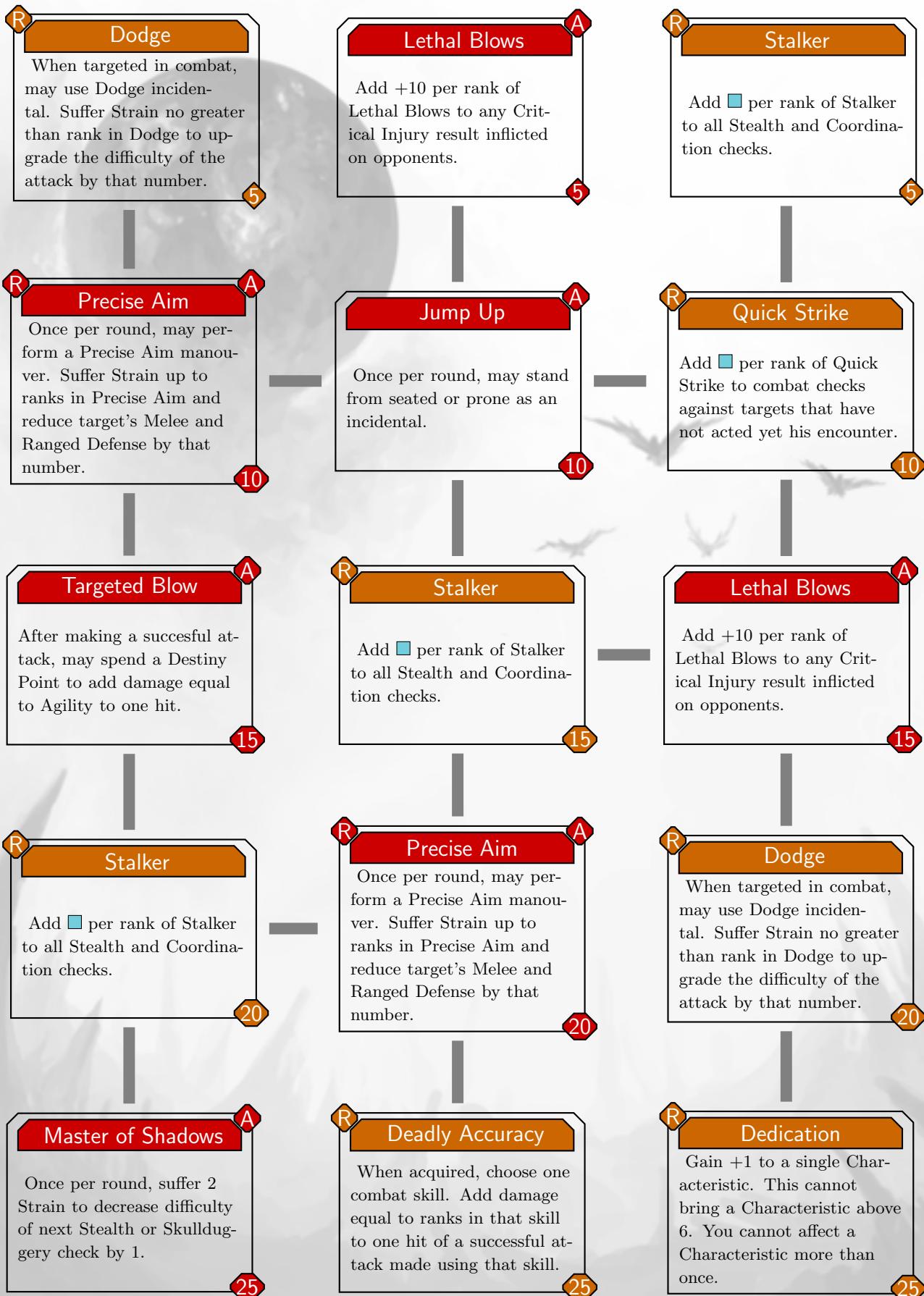
## Archer Talent Tree

Class Skills: Cool, Perception, Ranged, Discipline



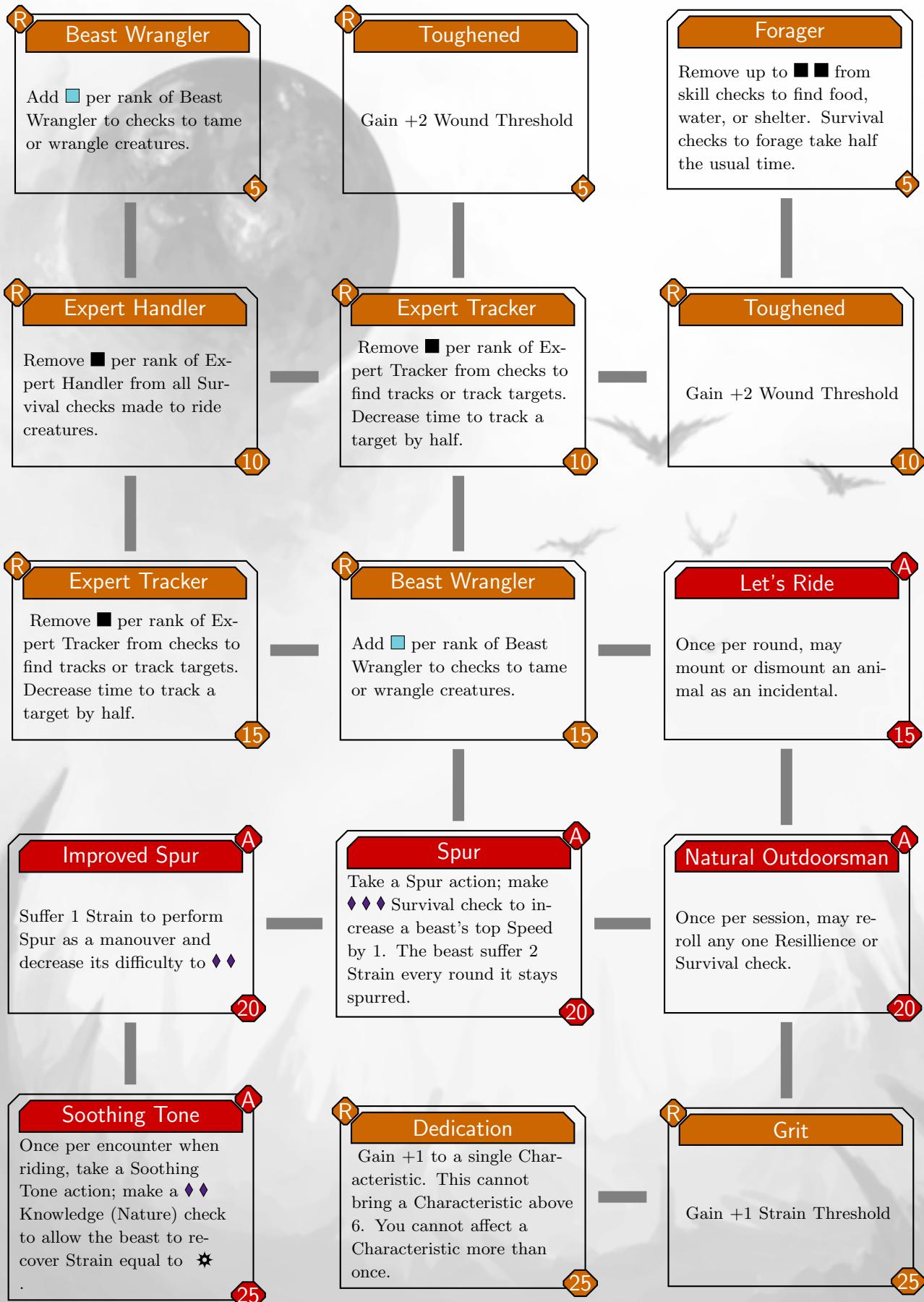
## Assassin Talent Tree

**Class Skills:** Skulduggery, Stealth, Melee (Light), Ranged



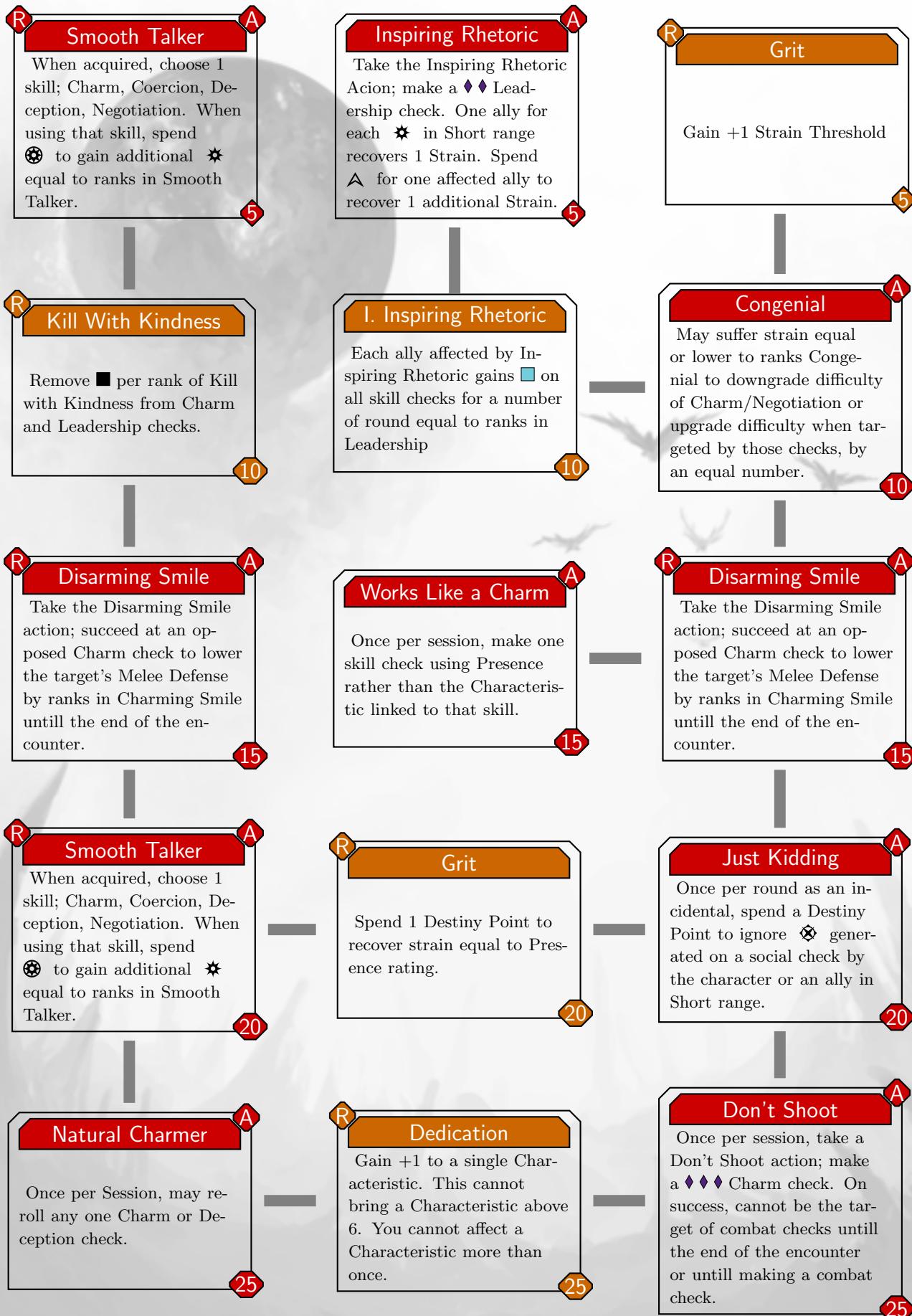
## Beast Rider Talent Tree

**Class Skills:** Athletics, Perception, Survival, Knowledge (Nature)



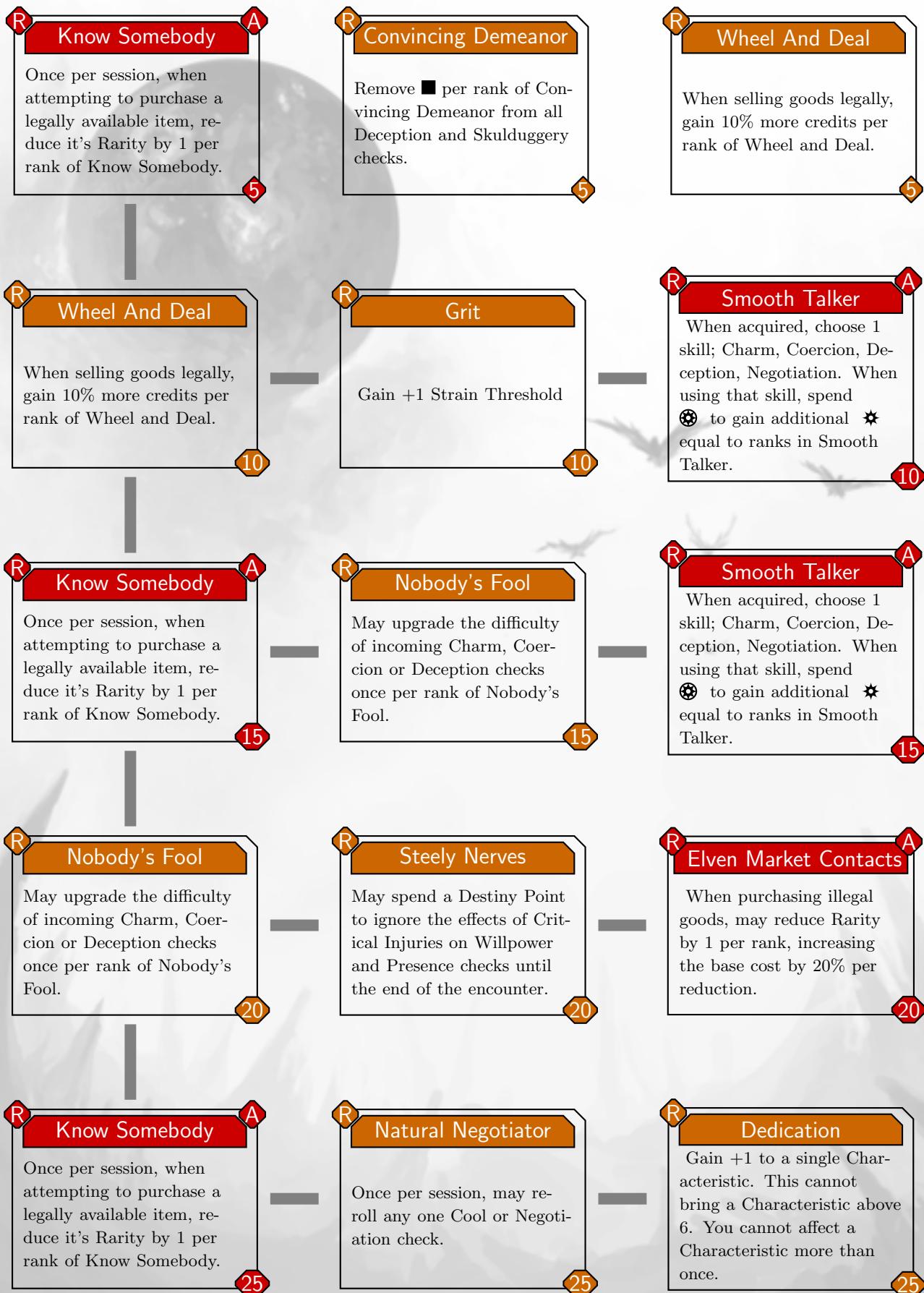
## Charmer Talent Tree

**Class Skills:** Charm, Cool, Leadership, Negotiation



## Dune Trader Talent Tree

**Class Skills:** Deception, Negotiation, Knowledge (Geography), Knowledge (Underworld)



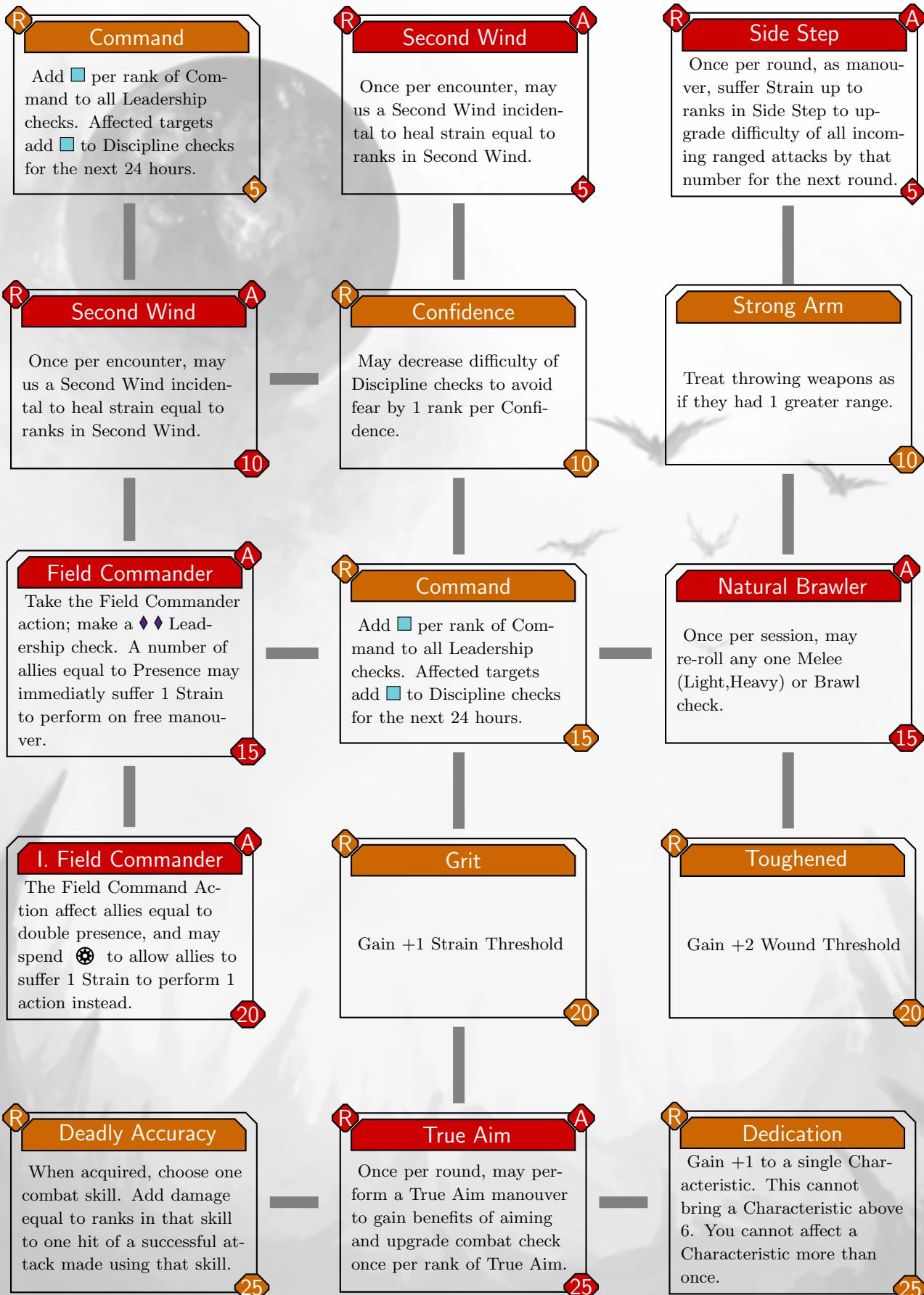
## Gladiator Talent Tree

**Class Skills:** Brawl, Melee (Light), Melee (Heavy), Charm



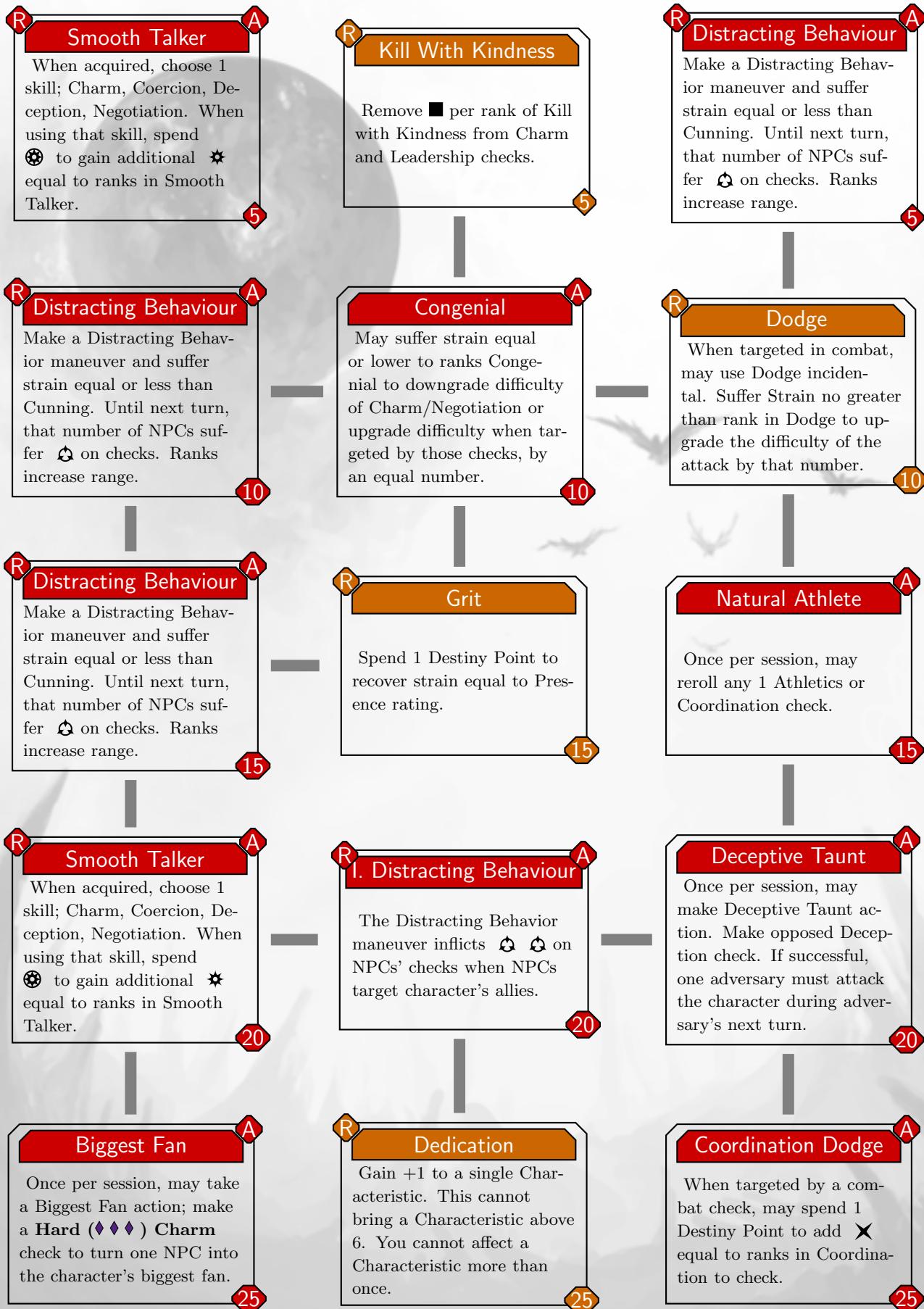
## Mercenary Talent Tree

**Class Skills:** Discipline, Leadership, Melee (Heavy), Melee (Light)



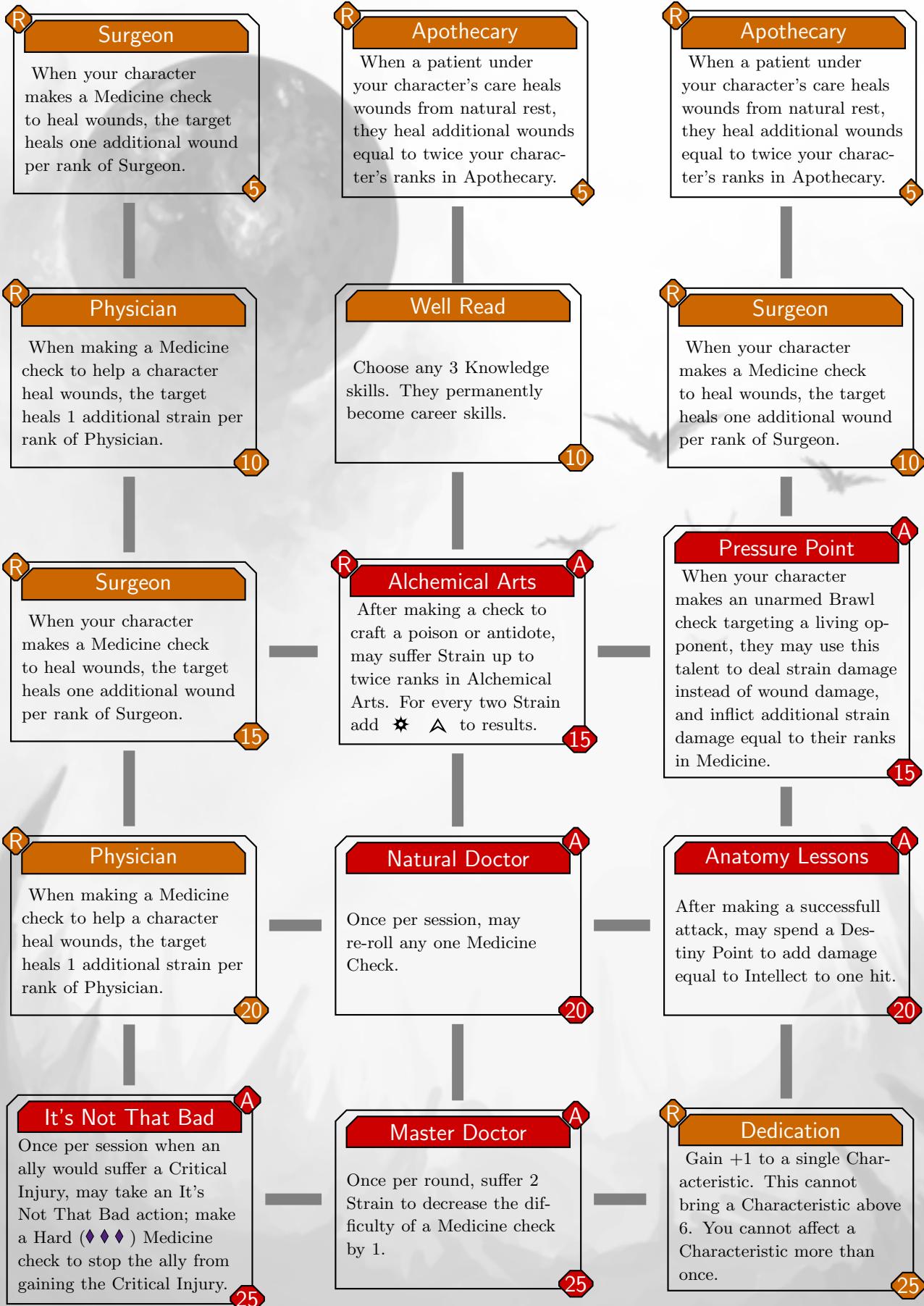
## Performer Talent Tree

**Class Skills:** Charm, Coordination, Deception, Streetwise



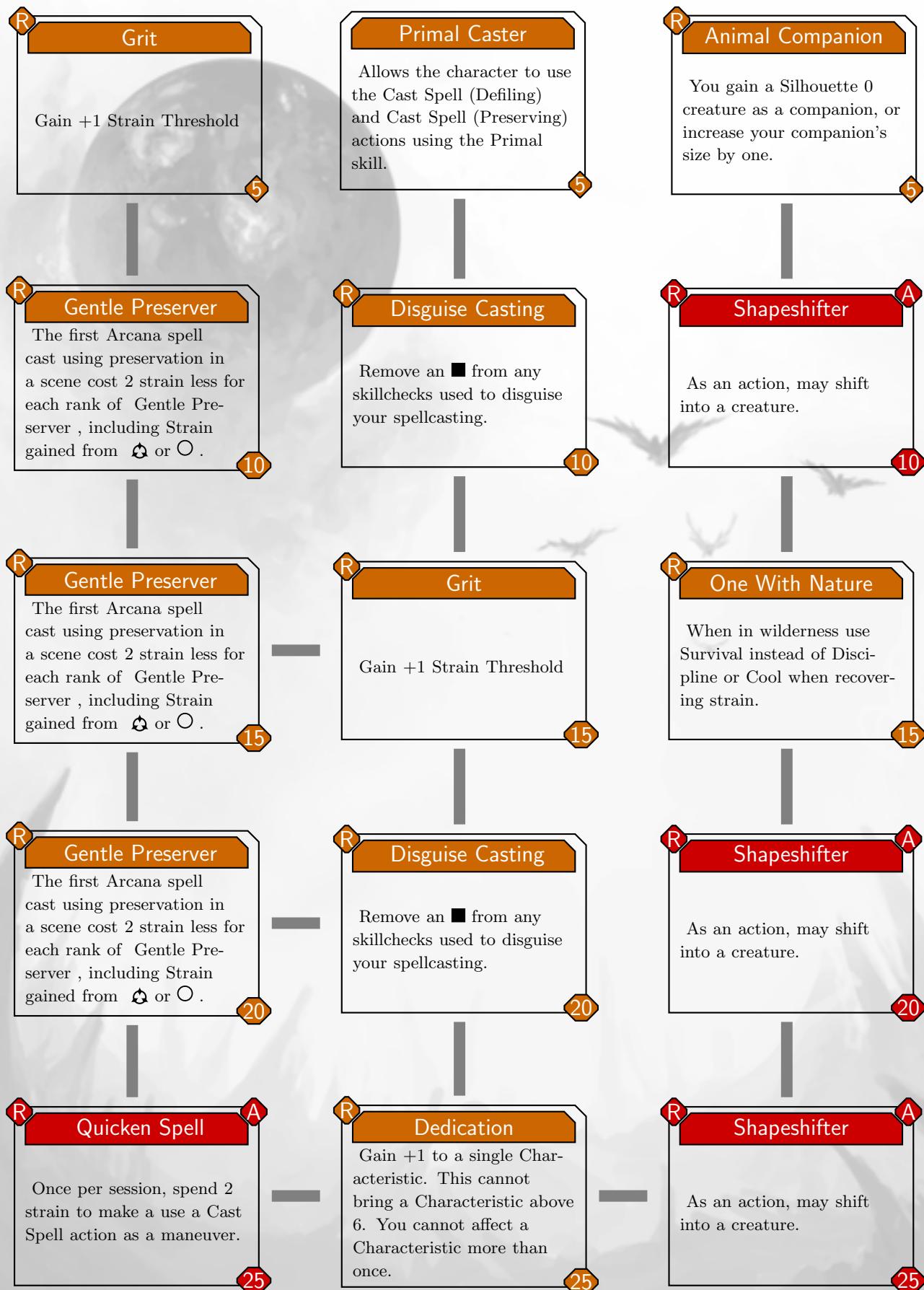
## Doctor Talent Tree

Class Skills: Cool, Medicine, Resilience, Knowledge (Education)



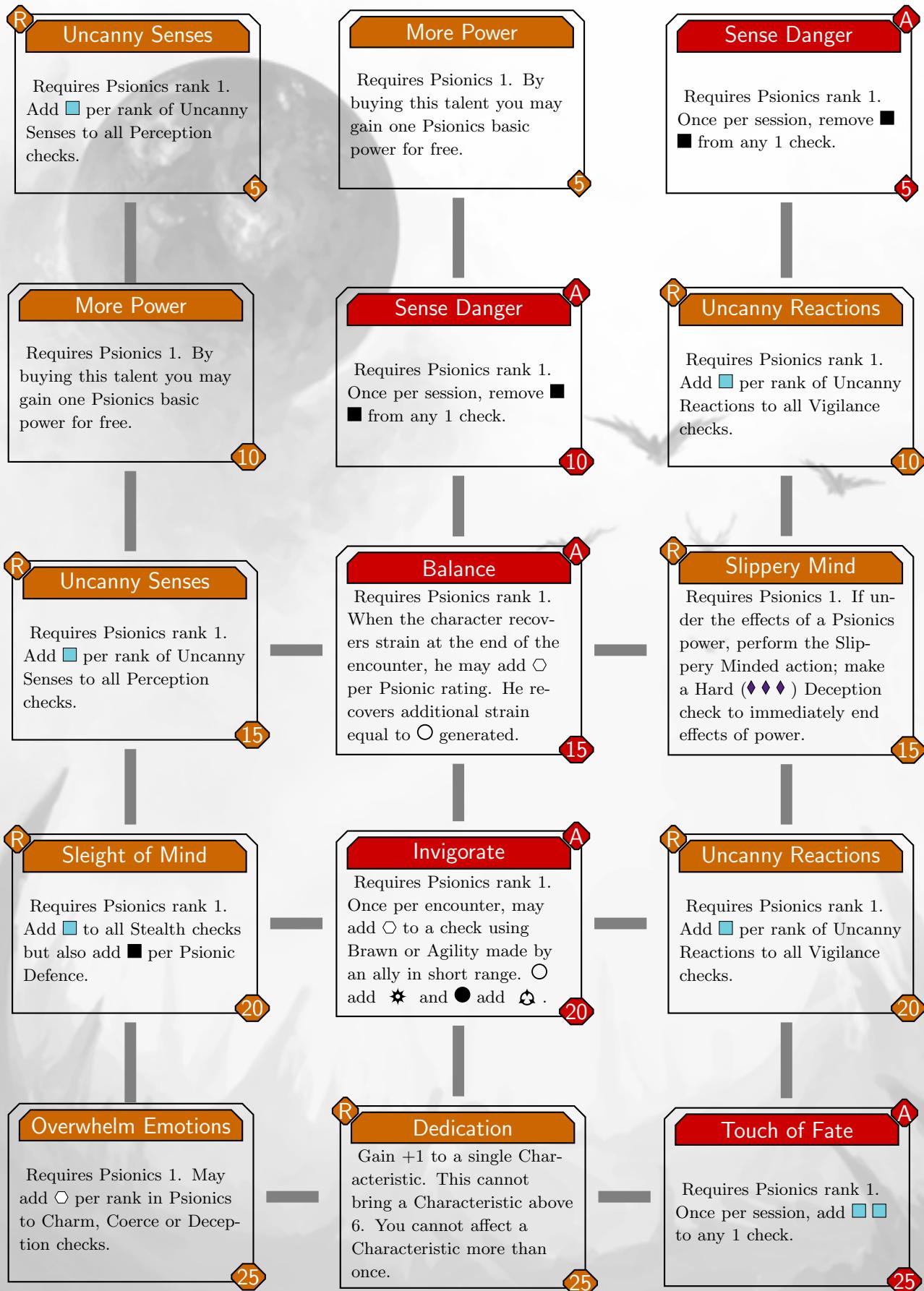
## Primal Talent Tree

Class Skills: Knowledge(Nature), Medicine, Primal, Survival



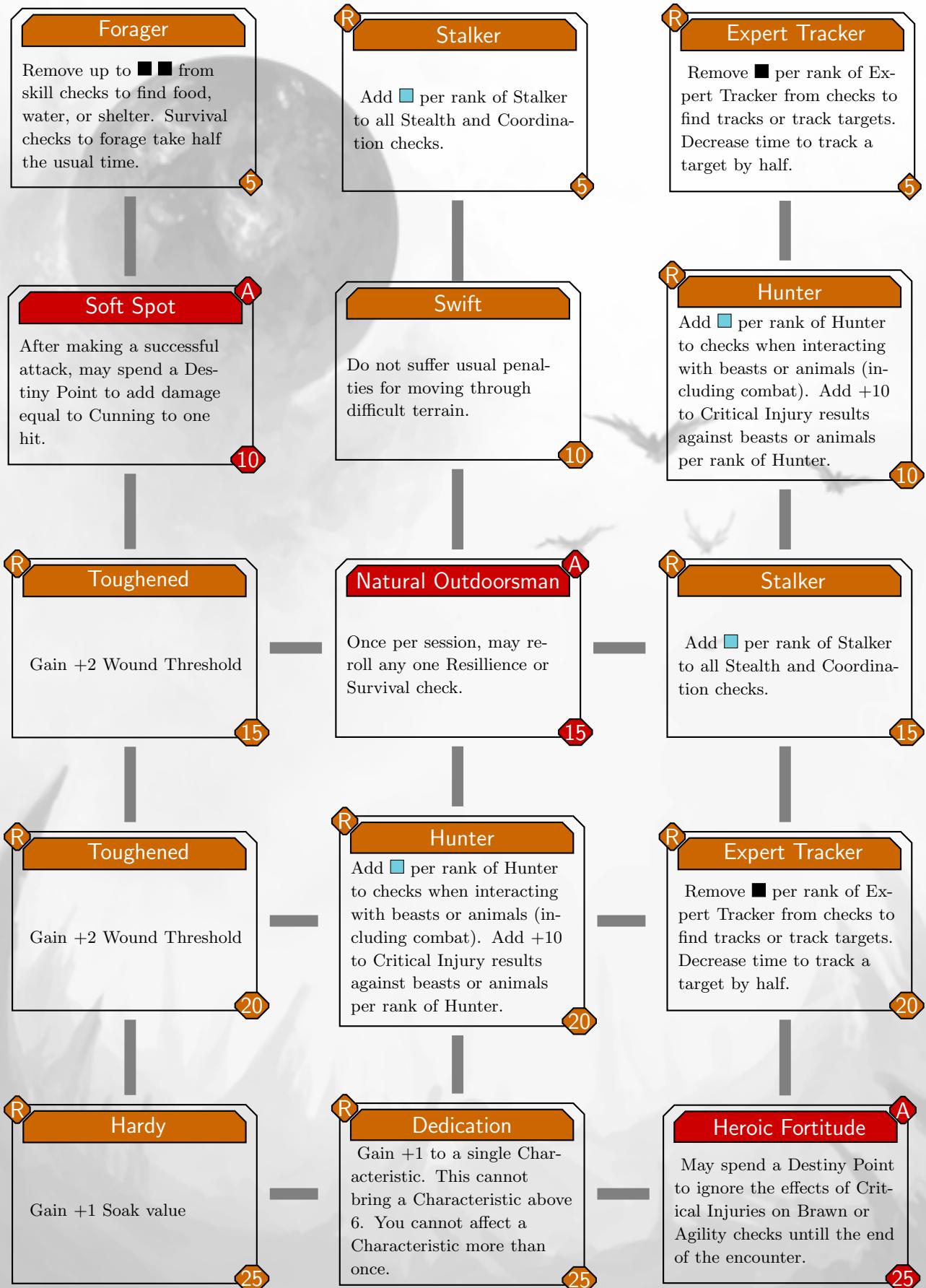
## Psion Talent Tree

**Class Skills:** Psionics, Perception, Vigilance, Discipline



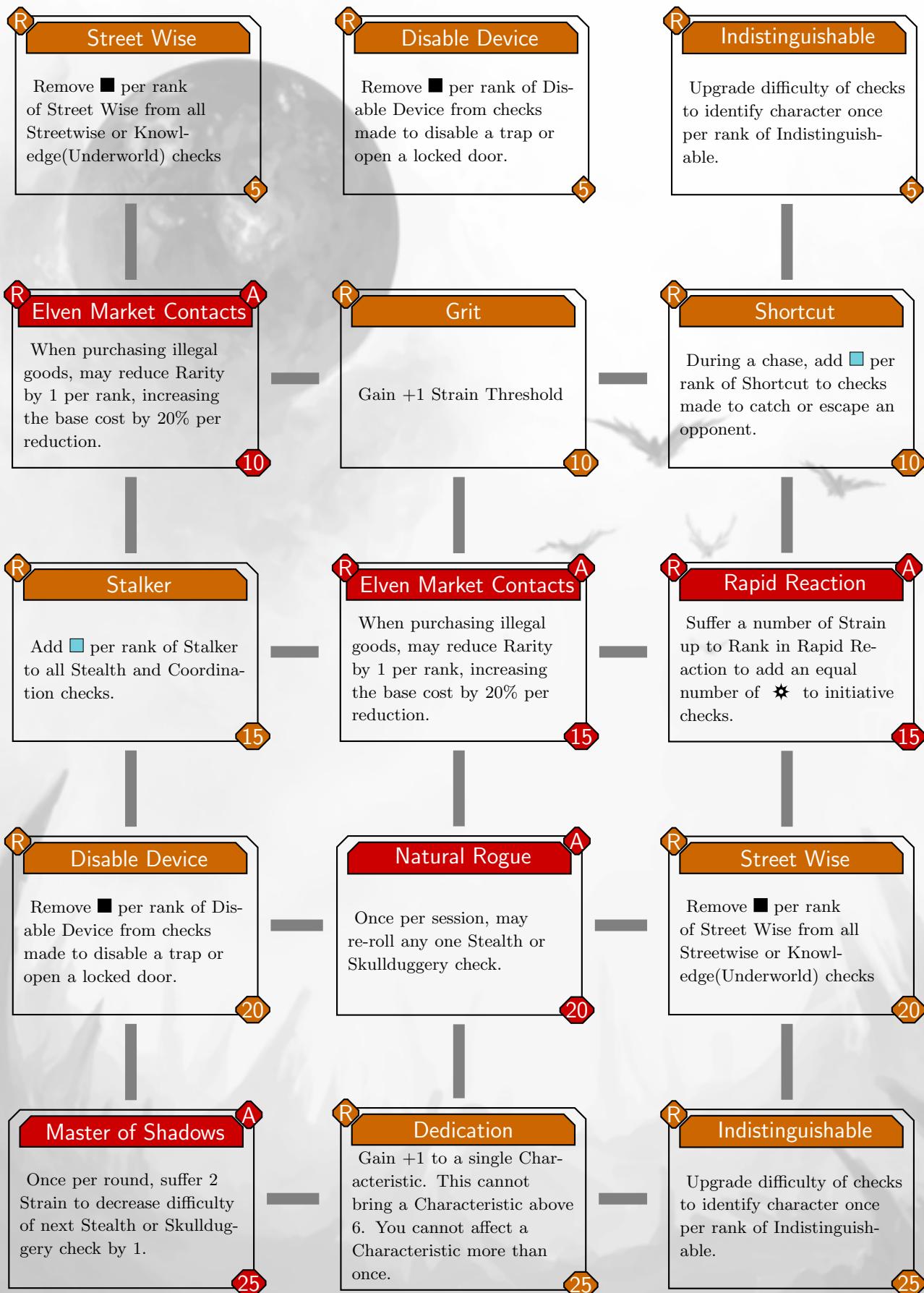
## Scout Talent Tree

Class Skills: Perception, Resilience, Survival, Knowledge (Nature)



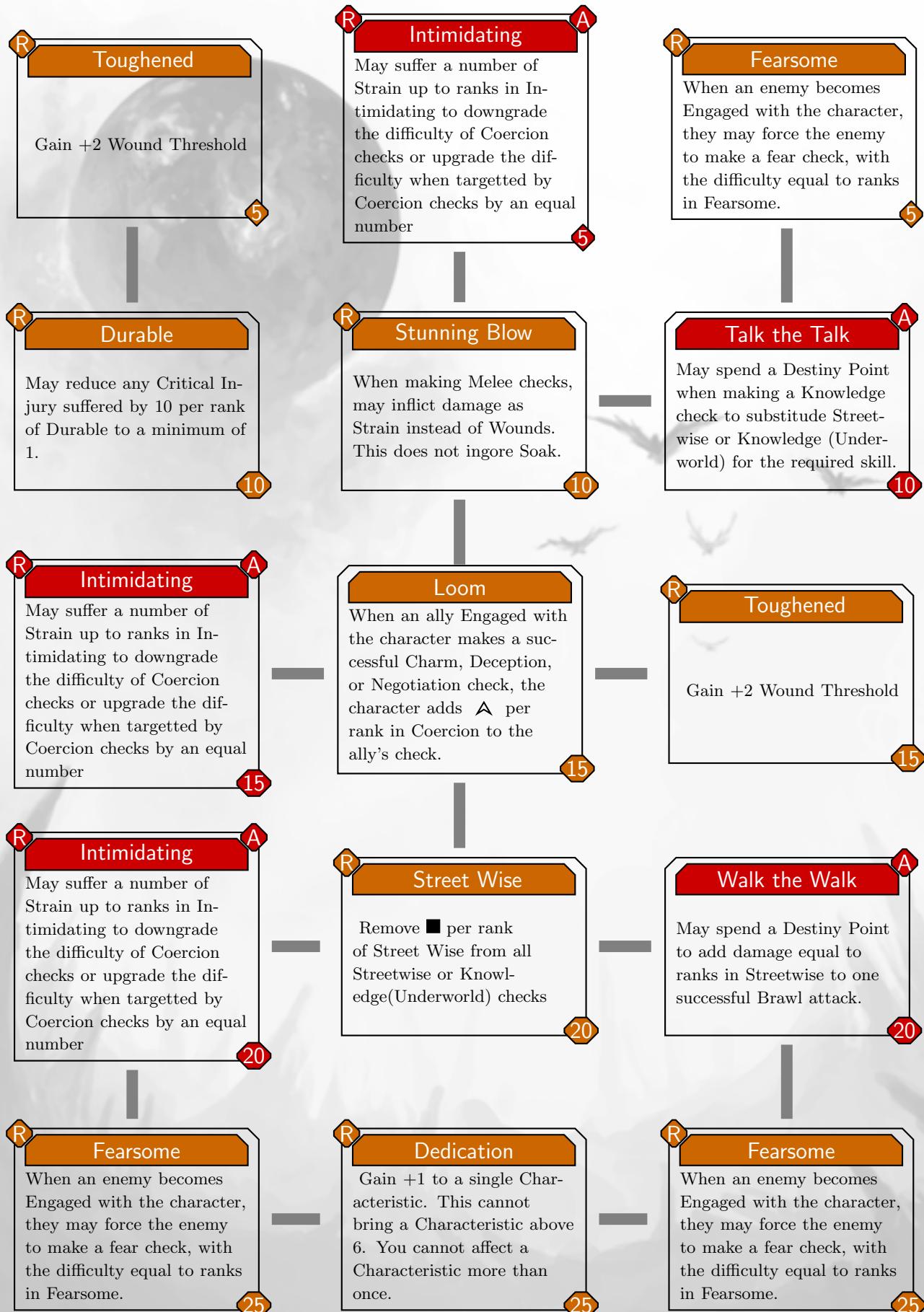
## Thief Talent Tree

**Class Skills:** Skullduggery, Stealth, Streetwise, Knowledge (Underworld)



## Thug Talent Tree

**Class Skills:** Coercion, Streetwise, Knowledge (Underworld), Brawl



# Chapter 6: Skills

*"You can learn much from observing another being. The way the gith hunches before it leaps at you, or how the aarakocra circles before it dives. The way the halfling inhales and pauses briefly before shooting his poisoned needles, or how the Urikite trader licks his lips before making his final offer. But appearances can deceive. No two creatures are alike. Remember that when the gith hunches before casting a defiler spell, or the Urikite trader moistens his lips and spits a needle at you."*

— The Oracle, Blue Shrine Scrolls

## Complete Skill List

## Special Skill Interactions

### Social Skills

#### Cool vs Vigilance

Characters should determine their Initiative using the Cool skill when they are aware and ready for combat (or for whatever situation has resulted in the use of structured gameplay). For example, rolling to see who goes first in a quick-draw gunfight or springing an ambush on an unsuspecting enemy would require Cool, as Cool represents a character's ability to remain calm, collected, and focused

on the task ahead.

Characters should determine their Initiative using the Vigilance skill when combat (or another situation resulting in structured gameplay) begins unexpectedly. Two enemies walking around a corner and running into each other would each use Vigilance to determine Initiative, for example. Likewise, someone being ambushed would also use Vigilance to determine Initiative (and if they ended up going earlier in the Initiative order than their ambusher, clearly they were vigilant enough to spot the ambush at the last second).

## Skills in Detail

### Social Skills

#### Charm

##### You Character should use this skill if ...

- Your character tries to persuade someone to do your character a favor, especially if it might be inconvenient, expensive, or even dangerous for that person.
- Your character tries to appeal to someone's better nature (even if it doesn't exist!) to get them to do something out of character for that person.
- Your character tries to flirt with, seduce, or make a romantic overture to someone.
- Your character tries to make themselves look better to everyone around them. A lot of politicians and public figures have high ranks in Charm.
- Your character performs in front of an audience, acting, playing music, telling jokes, or giving a speech.

##### You Character should not use this skill if ...

- Your character is not at all sincere about what they are saying or doing. If there's duplicity or lying involved, your character should use the Deception skill.
- Your character is being polite, but subtly implying violence or some other threat. In those cases, your character should use the Coercion skill.
- Your character uses their authority (either through rank, station, or natural force of personality) to give orders. These are times for your character to use the Leadership skill.
- Your character interacts with someone who is already friendly to them, or asks someone to do something that is not at all an inconvenience for them (generally, you don't need to use Charm to ask your spouse to pick up something from the store on their way home from work).

**Table 6.1: Complete Skill List**

SKILL	DESCRIPTION
?? Intellect	Creating and Identifying Potions and Poisons.
?? Brawn	Physical activities such as climbing, running, swimming, etc.
?? Intellect	Identifying and performing arcane magic
?? Brawn	Unarmed martial arts.
?? Presence	Your ability to flatter, whoo and persuasion.
?? Willpower	Interrogating, implying and using physical and mental torture.
?? Presence	Keeping your nerfe in a variety of situations.
?? Agility	Determines your flexibility and ability to keep your balance.
?? Intellect	Covers your ability to create and repair objects.
?? Cunning	Disguising, lying and misleading.
?? Willpower	Represents your mental fortitude to resist threats, coercion and your ability to resist mental attacks.
?? Intellect	Indicates your literacy, and academic knowledge.
?? Intellect	Using maps, following directions and sense of direction.
?? Presence	Rallying troops and allies, convincing crowds of political action.
?? Intellect	Indicates your ability to conteract or administer poisons, identiying and performing medical procedures.
?? Brawn	Using two-handed weapons for physical persuasion.
?? Brawn	Using one-handed weapons to kill or incapacitate.
?? Intellect	Identifying plants and beasts, understanding natural phenomena.
?? Presence	Haggeling, turning a profit and brokering political agreements.
?? Cunning	Your ability to notice threats, clues and conducting surveillance.
?? Cunning	Identifying and use Primal spells and effects.
?? Willpower	Identifying and using psionic powers.
?? Agility	Using and performance with bows, crossbows, javelins etc.
?? Brawn	Resisting poison, sleep and hostile environments.
?? Agility	Using and controlling mounts
?? Cunning	Pickpocketing, setting and disabling traps, opening locks and dirty fighting.
?? Agility	Infiltrating, tailing and hiding.
?? Cunning	Finding and trading black-market goods and tracking in an urban environment.
?? Cunning	Locating food and water, handeling animals and tracking in an wilderness setting.
?? Intellect	Locating, understanding and Underworld contacts and methods.
?? Willpower	Awareness, threat assesment and detecting deception.

**Table 6.2: Social Skill Interaction**

Acting Skill	Opposing Skill
Coercion, Leadership	<b>Discipline:</b> The mental fortitude to disobey orders, or the mental strength to resist interrogation and face threats without flinching.
Deception	<b>Vigilance:</b> The mental alertness to notice when someone is lying (since lies and deceptions, by their very nature, are not something someone announces).
Charm	<b>Cool:</b> The ability to keep calm and maintain composure when being charmed or flattered, and to respond politely to flattery without giving away something or giving in to someone's requests.
Negotiation	<b>Negotiation:</b> Bargaining is usually a back-and-forth between two sides, with both sides using their negotiating skills to try to get as much of what they want as possible.

### Coercion

#### You Character should use this skill if ...

- Your character issues a threat, whether or not accompanied by hostile actions. Even an implied threat - such as gesturing toward a weapon- falls under the Coercion skill.

- Your character questions or interrogates a prisoner.
- Your character uses physical or psychological torture.

#### You Character should not use this skill if ...

- Your character issues orders backed by the threat of their authority (such as threatening troops with

courts-martial if they don't follow your character into battle). In cases like this, Leadership would be a better skill for your character to use.

- Your character tries to drive a hard bargain with someone. As long as both sides are still getting something out of the deal, Negotiation should be the skill to use.
- Your character interacts with someone who is already terrified of or completely cowed by your character. In these cases, any further threats would be superfluous.

### Deception

#### You Character should use this skill if ...

- Your character tells a lie.
- Your character tries to mislead someone through clever wordplay or selective omission of certain facts. Your character wears a disguise and pretends to be someone else.
- Your character wishes to disguise the casting of an Arcane spell.

#### You Character should not use this skill if ...

- Your character actually believes the things they are saying (even if they are objectively untrue).
- Your character tells a "white lie," a minor falsehood to make someone feel better.

### Leadership

#### You Character should use this skill if ...

- Your character's allies are suffering from fear, and you want to try to rally them.
- Your character tries to convince a crowd of citizens to take political action.
- Your character leads troops into battle and wants to make sure they follow your character's orders.
- Your character tries to convince a mob of rioters to stand down and return to their homes.

### You Character should not use this skill if ...

- Your character threatens to hurt or kill someone if they don't obey. This would be a good use of Coercion, instead.
- Your character tries to convince someone to do something simply by being friendly and appealing.
- Your character should use Charm here.
- Your character has formal authority and issues routine orders, especially outside of combat or other stressful situations. If there is no good reason not to obey your character (and your character has the rank or station to issue orders), other people are simply going to obey most mundane commands automatically.

### Negotiation

#### You Character should use this skill if ...

- Your character tries to purchase goods or services and wants to haggle over the price.
- Your character tries to sell goods or services and turn a profit. In this case, your character needs to use Negotiation to raise the price.
- Your character attempts to broker a political agreement or treaty between two parties.

#### You Character should not use this skill if ...

- Your character isn't offering anything in return for what they want. Getting something for nothing is something your character can try to do using other social skills, but Negotiation is predicated on the idea of an exchange.
- Your character tells someone what to do. Negotiation has to be a bargain, so at the end of the interactions, the opposing party has agreed to do something, not been ordered to do it.
- Your character wants to buy something for a previously established price.

## General Skills

### Alchemy

The difficulty of preparing a potion should generally correspond to its rarity: generally by dividing the rarity by 2 and rounding up. The resulting number should be the difficulty of the check to brew the potion. For instance, if your character wants to make a healing poultice of rarity 2, the base difficulty of the check is Easy (♦). If your character doesn't have the proper equipment or ingredients, the difficulty may be higher.

#### You Character should use this skill if ...

- Your character tries to identify a potion by taste.

- Your character wants to name the ingredients needed for a certain elixir.

- Your character tries to prepare a potion, elixir, poultice, tonic, or similar compound with wondrous or magical effects.
- Your character attempts to prepare a remedy for a disease or illness.
- Your character attempts to prepare a poison.

#### You Character should not use this skill if ...

- Your character attempts to enchant an otherwise mundane liquid.
- Your character desires to heal someone directly through medical treatment of their wounds.
- Your character seeks to transmute lead into gold. That would clearly be magic!

### Athletics

#### You Character should use this skill if ...

- Your character attempts to climb up or down a structure, particularly when the climb may be tricky or the drop to the bottom is significant.
- Your character tries to jump, either vertically or horizontally. Leaping across a deep chasm or trying to jump up and grab a fire escape to get away from an angry dog are both situations when your character needs to make an Athletics check.
- Your character attempts to run for an extended time.

#### You Character should not use this skill if ...

- Your character attempts an activity without any chances of failure. If your character goes for an early morning jog, or jumps over a small log, they don't need to bother making a check.
- Your character attempts a physical activity that relies more on hand-eye coordination and general agility than straight strength. Engaging in parkour and freerunning, swinging on a rope and rappelling down a surface, and most forms of gymnastics are activities better represented by the Coordination skill.

### Cool

#### You Character should use this skill if ...

- Your character begins laying a trap, staging an ambush, or otherwise setting up a combat encounter in which your character initiates the combat and has to judge the right time to do so.
- Your character needs to stay calm and unaffected when being flattered or charmed by someone.
- Your character needs to refrain from saying or doing something foolish during a tense situation.
- Your character needs to keep their nerve in a tense situation, such as when charging an Erdlu into a spear wall.
- Your character plays a card game or other game of chance in which bluffing, luck, and gambling are all intertwined.

#### You Character should not use this skill if ...

- Your character tries to prevent being surprised. The Vigilance skill would work better in that situation.
- Your character tries to maintain inner self-control, such as when meditating or resisting the effects of fear. When your character is concerned with inner composure, they should use the Discipline skill.

### Coordination

#### You Character should use this skill if ...

- Your character tries to swing back and forth on a rope or rappel down a structure.
- Your character walks across a narrow surface while trying to keep their balance.
- Your character tries to squeeze into a tiny or cramped space such as a crawlspace, sewer pipe, air duct, or narrow crevice.
- Your character falls and needs to try to slow the fall or land safely.
- Your character needs to escape from physical restraints (such as handcuffs or ropes) and wants to contort their limbs or hands so that they can slip out of their bindings.

#### You Character should not use this skill if ...

- Your character tries to climb up or down a rope or climb up a structure. This activity relies more on strength than agility, and calls for an Athletics check instead.
- Your character falls from a short height or onto something soft enough that they won't suffer damage when they land, or is in any similar situation that has no consequences for failure (is lowered down a structure in a firmly secured harness, for example).

### Crafting

#### You Character should use this skill if ...

- Your character needs to repair a damaged weapon, cart, or other piece of equipment.
- Your character needs to identify any parts or tools necessary prior to completing a job. This can save time and money on the project.
- Your character has access to a supply of components and tools and wants to design a completely new device.
- Your character needs to sabotage an enemy's caravan cart or find a weak point in their defenses.
- Your character needs to build an item or modify it.

#### You Character should not use this skill if ...

- Your character has just a simple task like hanging a door, or fixing a shoe.

### Discipline

#### You Character should use this skill if ...

- Your character confronts something terrifying and wants to avoid fleeing in horror (or to avoid other debilitating effects of fear).
- Your character tries to keep their sanity in the face of something that defies reality and rational thought.

- Your character wants to heal strain they are suffering from at the end of an encounter.
- Your character wants to meditate, calm their mind, and reach a mental equilibrium.

### You Character should not use this skill if ...

- Your character tries to keep their composure in a social setting and avoid letting their emotions show.
- Your character would make a Cool check instead.
- Your character catches a lie as it is being told. Noticing a lie depends on your character's Vigilance.

## Medicine

### You Character should use this skill if ...

- They or another character has suffered wounds, and your character wants to heal those wounds.
- Your character tries to counteract or administer a poison.
- Your character needs to cure a disease.
- Your character creates a new pharmaceutical (or recreational) drug.
- They or another character has suffered a Critical Injury, and your character wants to heal it.
- Your character performs a complex medical procedure such as surgery.

### You Character should not use this skill if ...

- Your character researches a disease or poison. While studying a disease or poison directly might require Medicine, the act of researching requires an Education check.
- Your character tries to heal their own strain at the end of an encounter. Recovering from strain at the end of an encounter requires Discipline or Cool.
- Your character tries to administer poison through slight of hand, such as by dropping it in a drinking cup or surreptitiously injecting it into an unsuspecting target. The inherent subterfuge in this activity makes that a Skulduggery check.

## Perception

### You Character should use this skill if ...

- Your character wants to search a crime scene for clues.
- Your character wants to study the surrounding landscape for possible threats.
- Your character conducts surveillance on an unaware target from a distance.
- Your character studies an ancient relic, trying to spot any minute details that could reveal its purpose or construction.

### You Character should not use this skill if ...

- Your character tries to avoid being surprised during an ambush. Constant, unconscious awareness of your character's surroundings is a function of the Vigilance skill.
- Your character is being lied to, and you're trying to find out if your character noticed or not. Again, Vigilance is the skill for this situation.
- Your character tries to follow a trail or track a foe through the wilderness. The Survival skill covers these activities.

## Resilience

### You Character should use this skill if ...

- Your character tries to go without sleeping for days on end, and you need to see if they stay awake.
- Your character ingests a toxin, and you need to see how bad the effects are.
- Your character endures a hostile environment (somewhere too hot, too cold, or even too polluted) for days on end.
- Your character attempts to recover from a Critical Injury on their own, without medical attention.

### You Character should not use this skill if ...

- Your character tries to do something that isn't beyond the limits of normal endurance. Going for a day-long hike wouldn't call for a Resilience check unless the hike is through the Rocky Mountains in a sandstorm.
- Your character immediately stops and rests to recover fully at the end of the activity. If there's no need to track lasting consequences, there's no need to make the check.

## Riding

### You Character should use this skill if ...

- Your character flees from pursuers who are also mounted, or fast enough to potentially catch up.
- Your character tries to joust at a tournament.
- Your character competes in a friendly (or not so friendly) race.
- Your character tries to catch up to enemies with a significant head start.
- Your character's mount panics during a storm, and your character needs to get the creature under control.

**Table 6.3: Medicine Check Difficulty**

Current wounds equal half of wounds threshold or less  
 Current wounds equal more than half of wound threshold  
 Current wounds exceed wound threshold  
 Critical Injury

**Easy:** (♦ )  
**Average:** (♦♦ )  
**Hard:** (♦♦♦ )  
 Critical Injury severity Rating

**You Character should not use this skill if ...**

- Your character travels without any immediate danger.
- Your character makes an attack from horseback. The additional difficulty brought about by attacking from a horse should be factored into the combat check's difficulty, generally in the form of one or more ♦ .
- Your character tries to tame a wild animal. In this case, your character uses the Survival skill.

**Skulduggery**

**You Character should use this skill if ...**

- Your character attempts to pick someone's pocket or lift their wallet.
- Your character tries to pick a lock or disable a trap.
- Your character would also use Skulduggery to set a trap in the first place.
- Your character attempts to distract an opponent through guile or a feint, such as by throwing a handful of dirt in their eyes during a fight.
- Your character tries to surreptitiously slip a poison into someone's food or drink.

**You Character should not use this skill if ...**

- Your character attempts to sneak into a location unnoticed. Your character needs to make a Stealth check instead.
- Your character attempts to pick someone's pocket when that person is helpless or incapacitated. This doesn't require a check at all.
- Your character tries to make a poison. Your character needs Alchemy to make poisons or toxins, but they do need Skulduggery to use them.

**Stealth**

**You Character should use this skill if ...**

- Your character attempts to hide from someone.
- Your character tries to tail someone through a crowd, and to do it without being noticed.
- Your character tries to infiltrate a government installation while avoiding both electronic security and human guards.
- Your character tries to move quietly through a house.

**You Character should not use this skill if ...**

- Your character tries to pick someone's pocket. Your character needs Skulduggery for this activity.
- Your character tries to remain hidden when their opponent has no chance of spotting them, such as if they try to avoid being seen by an flying Aarakocra during a blizzard at midnight.
- Your character has no realistic chance of hiding from an opponent, such as if trying to hide from a nearby person while in the middle of miles of salt flats at noon.

**Streetwise**

**You Character should use this skill if ...**

- Your character looks for a merchant who sells black-market goods or illegal services.
- Your character wants to understand particular references or slang in a conversation.
- Your character tries to approach criminals and start up a conversation without appearing like an outsider or a threat.
- Your character tries to find their way around an unfamiliar city.
- Your character tries to track and hunt someone somewhere in a city.

**You Character should not use this skill if ...**

- Your character tries to find their way around a rural or wilderness environment. In this case, your character should be using Survival.
- Your character interacts with the upper crust of society. Charm (or possibly Deception or Coercion) may serve the character better here.
- Your character has already established themselves as a member of the criminal underworld, and is continuing to interact with other criminals. Streetwise lets your character fit in, know how to act, and know what topics to bring up and what to avoid. However, it shouldn't replace social skills.

## Survival

### You Character should use this skill if ...

- Your character is trapped in the wilderness and needs to find food and potable water.
- Your character needs to notice approaching severe weather and know how to prepare for it.
- Your character needs to follow a crude map or directions through a rural area to find a specific location.
- Your character tries to tame or calm a wild animal, or handle a domesticated animal.
- Your character hunts something (or someone!) through a wilderness setting.

### You Character should not use this skill if ...

- Your character uses a highly accurate and detailed map to find a location.
- Your character tries to find their way around an urban environment. In this case, your character should be using Streetwise.
- Your character interacts with an animal that already likes or respects your character, or your character asks an animal to do something completely within their

nature (they wouldn't need to make a Survival check to get a dog to play "fetch," for example).

## Vigilance

### You Character should use this skill if ...

- Your character just got ambushed, and you are rolling to determine Initiative order. A high Vigilance means your character has a better chance of reacting quickly to the threat.
- Your character is being lied to; the opponent's Deception check is opposed by your character's Vigilance skill.
- Your character has a chance to notice important details in their surroundings while not looking for them directly.

### You Character should not use this skill if ...

- You are determining Initiative order when your character is not surprised (such as when they are the ambushers, instead of the ambushed). In this case, your character uses Cool instead.
- Your character actively looks for something. This calls for a Perception check.

## Combat Skills

### Brawl

### You Character should use this skill if ...

- Your character fights with their bare hands or a weapon specifically designed to augment an unarmed attack, such as cestus or punchik (or even a roll of bits).
- Your character tries to pin, grapple, or hold someone.
- Your character uses some form of unarmed martial art.

### You Character should not use this skill if ...

- Your character fights with a projectile weapon or a thrown weapon. If your character is targeting someone who is not within arm's reach, they should be using the Ranged skill.
- Your character tries to fix or modify a melee weapon. Repairing or creating weapons is usually handled by the Mechanics skill.

### Melee (Heavy)

### You Character should use this skill if ...

- Your character fights with a long spear, gouge, quarterstaff, two-handed club, or other large weapon that requires two hands to wield.
- Your character picks up a heavy tree branch and tries to crush someone's skull with it.

### You Character should not use this skill if ...

- Your character fights with a knife, dirk, one-handed club, light spear, or other weapon that can be swung easily with one hand.

### Melee (Light)

### You Character should use this skill if ...

- Your character fights with a knife, dirk, one-handed club, light spear, or other weapon that can be swung easily with one hand.
- Your character wants to hit someone with their shield.

### You Character should not use this skill if ...

- Your character fights with a long spear, gouge, quarterstaff, two-handed club, or other large weapon that requires two hands to wield.

### Ranged

### You Character should use this skill if ...

- Your character fights with a longbow, blowgun, sling or other ranged weapon.

## You Character should not use this skill if ...

- Your character fights with any kind of close combat weapon. Those are handled by the Melee skill.
- Your character uses a ranged weapon to hit someone within arm's reach, such as by loading a sling and use

it like a club. Even though they're using a ranged weapon, they're using it as if it were a melee weapon, and the check should be handled by the Melee skill.

- Your character tries to fix or modify a ranged weapon. Repairing or creating weapons is usually handled by the Crafting skill.

## Knowledge Skills

### Education

#### You Character should use this skill if ...

- Reading and writing. Literacy is forbidden in most cities on Athas, thus only those with higher or specific education can read and write.
- Your character needs to solve a logic puzzle.
- Your character researches a disease or poison.

#### You Character should not use this skill if ...

- Your character needs to know the name of a city, use Geography for that.

### Geography

Whether through study or experience, knowledge of the terrain, climate and people, all provide a greater understanding of the geography. Also, players seeking to navigate and not get lost would use this skill.

#### You Character should use this skill if ...

- Your character wants to know the quickest way to get to a certain city or village.
- Your character has a map of a region which she is trying to decipher.
- Your character is lost and is trying to reorient herself in the wilderness.

#### You Character should not use this skill if ...

- Your character is trying to locate a source of water, use Survival instead.

### Nature

#### You Character should use this skill if ...

- Your character tries to identify a plant creature, an animal or an elemental being.
- Your character wants to know what the landscape is like, where to go to avoid natural dangers, as well as predict weather.

#### You Character should not use this skill if ...

- Your character wants to find a shelter, food and water. This would be under the Survival skill.

### Underworld

#### You Character should use this skill if ...

- Your character needs to establish contact with an illegal business type in a new city.
- Your character needs to know Underworlds Etiquette.
- Your character wants to know the most common methods a particular opponent might use for criminal activity.

#### You Character should not use this skill if ...

- Your character wants to negotiate a better price, use Negotiation for that.
- Your character is trying to disable a trap or pick a lock, use Skullduggery instead.

## Magic

### Arcana

#### You Character should use this skill if ...

- Your character tries to identify a spell being in effect or a magical phenomenon.
- Your character tries to get the meaning of arcane symbols.
- Your character tries to cast Arcane spells.

- Your character wants to make a magic elixir. This would be Alchemy.

- Your character wants to identify or use Psionic Powers. This would be Psionics.

- Your character wants to use Primal Spells. This would be Primal.

### Primal

#### You Character should use this skill if ...

#### You Character should not use this skill if ...

- Your character tries to identify a spell being in effect or a magical phenomenon.
- Your character tries to get the meaning of primal or shamanistic rituals.
- Your character tries to cast Primal spells.

**You Character should not use this skill if ...**

- Your character wants to make a magic elixir. This would be Alchemy.
- Your character wants to identify or use Psionic Powers. This would be Psionics
- Your character wants to identify or use Arcane Spells. This would be Arcana

**Psionics**

**You Character should use this skill if ...**

- Your character tries to detect or identify a psionic effect or phenomenon.
- Your character tries to use Psionic Powers.

**You Character should not use this skill if ...**

- Your character wants to make a magic elixir. This would be Alchemy.
- Your character wants to identify or use Arcane Spells. This would be Arcana
- Your character wants to use Primal Spells. This would be Primal.

# Chapter 7: Talents

## Talent Overview

### Adversary

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

**NPC Only:** Upgrade the difficulty of any combat check targeting this character once per rank of Adversary.

### Alchemical Arts

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** true

After making a check to craft a poison or antidote, may suffer Strain up to twice ranks in Alchemical Arts. For every two Strain add  $\star \Delta$  to results.

### Anatomy Lessons

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

After making a successfull attack, may spend a Destiny Point to add damage equal to Intellect to one hit.

### Animal Companion

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Your character creates a bond with a single animal approved by your GM. This animal must be silhouette 0 (no larger than a mid-sized dog). The bond persists as long as your character chooses, although at your GM's discretion, the bond may also be broken due to abusive treatment or other extenuating circumstances. As long as the bond persists, the animal follows your character, and you dictate the animal's overall behavior (although, since the animal is only bonded with the character, not dominated, it may still perform inconvenient actions such as scratching furniture, consuming rations, and marking territory). Once per round in structured encounters, your character may spend one maneuver to direct their animal in performing one action and one maneuver during your character's turn. The animal must be within hearing and visual range of your character (generally medium range) to do this. Otherwise, the animal does not contribute to the encounter. The specifics of its behavior are up to you and your GM. For every additional rank of Animal Companion your character has, increase the allowed silhouette of the companion by one (this may mean your character gets a new companion, or their companion grows in size).

### Apothecary

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

When a patient under your character's care heals wounds from natural rest, they heal additional wounds equal to twice your character's ranks in Apothecary.

### Arcana Caster

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** false

Allows the character to use the Cast Spell (Defiling) and Cast Spell (Preserving) actions using the Arcana skill.

### Balance

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Requires Psionics rank 1. When the character recovers strain at the end of the encounter, he may add  $\circ$  per Psionic rating. He recovers additional strain equal to  $\circ$  generated.

### Beast Wrangler

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Add  $\blacksquare$  per rank of Beast Wrangler to checks to tame or wrangle creatures.

### Blooded

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Add  $\blacksquare$  per rank of Blooded to checks to resist or recover from poisons, venoms, or toxins. Reduce duration of ongoing poisons by one round per rank of Blooded to a minimum of one.

### Biggest Fan

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Once per session, may take a Biggest Fan action; make a

**Hard (♦ ♦ ♦ ) Charm** check to turn one NPC into the character's biggest fan.

## Bouncing Spell

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

When your character fails a spell casting skill check that targets another character or NPC, may spend ⚡ or ▲ ▲ to immediately reroll the attempted spell with a new target.

## Command

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Add □ per rank of Command to all Leadership checks. Affected targets add □ to Discipline checks for the next 24 hours.

## Confidence

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

May decrease difficulty of Discipline checks to avoid fear by 1 rank per Confidence.

## Congenial

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

May suffer a number of strain to downgrade difficulty of Charm or Negotiation checks or upgrade difficulty when targeted by Charm or Negotiation checks, by an equal number. Strain suffered this way cannot exceed ranks in Congenial.

## Convincing Demeanor

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Remove ■ per rank of Convincing Demeanor from all Deception and Skulduggery checks.

## Coordination Dodge

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

When targeted by a combat check, may spend 1 Destiny Point to add ✕ equal to ranks in Coordination to check.

## Crippling Blow

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

The character may voluntarily increase the difficulty of a combat check by one to deal a crippling blow. If he succeeds and deals damage to the target's wound threshold, the target suffers one strain whenever he moves for the remainder of the encounter.

## Deadly Accuracy

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Each time the character gains a rank of Deadly Accuracy, he must choose one combat skill. The character may add his basic training ranks in that combat skill as additional damage to one hit of a successful attack made with that skill with non-starship/vehicle weapons. He cannot choose the same combat skill twice.

## Deceptive Taunt

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Once per session, may make Deceptive Taunt action. Make opposed Deception check. If successful, one adversary must attack the character during adversary's next turn.

## Dedication

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Each rank permanently increases a single Characteristic of the player's choice by one point. This cannot bring a Characteristic above six and you cannot increase a Characteristic more than once.

## Defensive Stance

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** true

Once per round on the character's turn, the character may perform a Defensive Stance maneuver to defend against incoming melee attacks. He then suffers a number of strain no greater than his ranks in Defensive Stance. Until the start of the character's next turn, upgrade the difficulty of all melee combat checks targeting the character a number of times equal to the strain suffered by the character in this way.

## Disarming Smile

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** true

Take the Disarming Smile action; succeed at an opposed Charm check to lower the target's Melee Defense by ranks in Charming Smile until the end of the encounter.

## Disable Device

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

The character removes ■ per rank of Bypass Security from his Skulduggery skill checks made to disable a trap or open locked door.

## Disguise Casting

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Remove an ■ from any skillchecks used to disguise your spellcasting.

## Distant Spell

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Once per session, when casting a spell, the first range enhancement does not increase the difficulty of the spell.

## Distracting Behaviour

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** true

Make a Distracting Behavior maneuver and suffer strain no greater than ranks in Cunning. Until beginning of next turn, equal number of NPCs suffer ♀ on checks. Range increases with additional ranks.

## Dodge

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

When targeted by a combat check (ranged or melee) the character may choose to immediately perform a Dodge incidental to suffer a number of strain, then upgrade the difficulty of the combat check by that number. The number of strain suffered cannot exceed his ranks in Dodge.

## Don't Shoot

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Once per session, take a Don't Shoot action; make a ♦♦♦ Charm check. On success, cannot be the target of combat checks until the end of the encounter or until making a combat check.

## Durable

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

May reduce any Critical Injury suffered by 10 per rank of Durable to a minimum of 1.

## Elven Market Contacts

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** true

When looking to purchase illegal, exotic or black market goods, the character may decrease an item's rarity by one per level in Elven Market Contacs. For each level an item's rarity is decreased it cost increases by 20% of its base cost.

## Expert Handler

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Remove ■ per rank of Expert Handler from all Survival checks made to ride creatures.

## Expert Tracker

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

The character removes ■ per rank of Expert Tracker from his checks to find or follow tracks. Survival checks made to track targets take 50% less time than normal (this does not decrease with additional ranks of Expert Tracker).

## Fearsome

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

When an enemy becomes Engaged with the character, they may force the enemy to make a fear check, with the difficulty equal to ranks in Fearsome.

## Forager

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** false

Remove up to ■ ■ from skill checks to find food, water, or shelter. Survival checks to forage take half the usual time.

## Force of Will

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Once per session, make one skill check using Willpower rather than the characteristic linked to that skill.

## Feral Strength

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

The character adds 1 damage per rank of Feral Strength to one hit of his successful Brawl and Melee attacks.

## Field Commander

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Take the Field Commander action; make a ♦♦ Leadership check. A number of allies equal to Presence may immediately suffer 1 Strain to perform on free manouver.

## Frenzied Attack

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** true

When making a Melee or Brawl combat check, the character may suffer a number of strain, then upgrade the ability of his combat check by that number as an incidental action. This number cannot exceed his ranks in Frenzied Attack.

## Gentle Preserver

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

The first Arcana spell cast using preservation in a scene cost 2 strain less for each rank of Gentle Preserver , including Strain gained from ♀ or ○ .

## Grit

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Each rank of Grit increases a character's strain threshold by one.

## Hardy

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

The character gains + 1 soak value per rank of Hardy.

## Heroic Fortitude

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

The character may spend one Destiny Point to ignore the effects of ongoing Critical Injuries on any Brawn- or Agility-related checks until the end of the encounter. He still suffers from the injury itself.

## Hunter

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Add □ per rank of Hunter to checks when interacting with beasts or animals (including combat). Add +10 to Critical Injury results against beasts or animals per rank of Hunter.

## Improved Distracting Behaviour

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** true

The Distracting Behavior maneuver inflicts ♀ ♀ on NPCs' checks when NPCs target character's allies.

## Improved Field Commander

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

The Field Command Action affect allies equal to double presence, and may spend ⚙ to allow allies to suffer 1 Strain to perform 1 action instead.

## Improved Inspiring Rhetoric

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** false

Each ally affected by Inspiring Rhetoric gains □ on all skill checks for a number of round equal to ranks in Leadership

## Improved Spur

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Suffer 1 Strain to perform Spur as a manouver and decrease its difficulty to ♦♦

## Indistinguishable

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

The character's appearance is so common that people have a hard time identifying distinguishing traits. Opposing characters upgrade the difficulty of any checks made to identify him once per rank of Indistinguishable.

## Inspiring Rhetoric

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Take the Inspiring Rhetoric Action; make a ♦♦ Leadership check. One ally for each ★ in Short range recovers 1 Strain. Spend ▲ for one affected ally to recover 1 additional Strain.

## Grit

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Spend 1 Destiny Point to recover strain equal to Presence rating.

## Intimidating

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** true

May suffer a number of Strain up to ranks in Intimidating to downgrade the difficulty of Coercion checks or upgrade the difficulty when targetted by Coercion checks by an equal number

## Invigorate

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Requires Psionics rank 1. Once per encounter, may add ○ to a check using Brawn or Agility made by an ally in short range. ○ add ⚡ and ● add ♣.

## It's Not That Bad

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Once per session when an ally would suffer a Critical Injury, may take an It's Not That Bad action; make a Hard (♦♦♦) Medicine check to stop the ally from gaining the Critical Injury.

## Jump Up

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Once per round on the character's turn, the character may stand up from prone or a seated position as an Incidental.

## Just Kidding

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Once per round as an incidental, spend a Destiny Point to ignore ♦ generated on a social check by the character or an ally in Short range.

## Kill With Kindness

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Remove ■ per rank of Kill with Kindness from Charm and Leadership checks.

## Knockdown

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** false

After hitting with a melee attack, the character may knock the target prone by spending a ♦. If the target is larger than the acting character, it requires one additional ♦ for each silhouette larger.

## Know Somebody

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** true

Once per session, when attempting to purchase a legally available item, reduce it's Rarity by 1 per rank of Know Somebody.

## Lethal Blows

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

The character adds +10 per rank of Lethal Blows to any Critical Injury rolls inflicted on opponents.

## Let's Ride

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Once per round, may mount or dismount an animal as an incidental.

## Lingering Spell

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Spend a Destiny Point and your character may make Concentration manouver as an incidental.

## Loom

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** false

When an ally Engaged with the character makes a successful Charm, Deception, or Negotiation check, the character adds ▲ per rank in Coercion to the ally's check.

## Physician

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Each rank of Physician increases a character's strain threshold by one.

## Plausible Deniability

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Remove ■ per rank of Plausible Deniability

## Potent Defiler

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Using a ● to enhance an defiling Arcane spell also recovers 1 strain, to the maximum of ranks in Potent Defiler.

## Precise Aim

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** true

Once per round, may perform a Precise Aim manouver. Suffer Strain up to ranks in Precise Aim and reduce target's Melee and Ranged Defense by that number.

## Pressure Point

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

When your character makes an unarmed Brawl check targeting a living opponent, they may use this talent to deal strain damage instead of wound damage, and inflict additional strain damage equal to their ranks in Medicine.

## Master Doctor

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Once per round, suffer 2 Strain to decrease the difficulty of a Medicine check by 1.

## Master of Shadows

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Once per round, the character may voluntarily suffer two strain to decrease the difficulty of the next Stealth or Skulduggery check by one, to a minimum of **Easy** (♦).

## More Power

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** ranked

Requires Psionics 1. Each time you buy this talent: Select one Psionics power. You gain the first talent; which allows you to use the power, for free. You still have to pay the this talents cost.

## Natural Athlete

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Once per session, may reroll any 1 Athletics or Coordination check.

## Natural Brawler

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

nce per game session, the character may reroll any one Brawl or Melee check.

## Natural Charmer

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Once per Session, may re-roll any one Charm or Deception check.

## Natural Doctor

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Once per session, may re-roll any one Medicine Check.

## Natural Marksman

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Once per game session, the character may reroll any one Ranged check.

## Natural Negotiator

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Once per session, may re-roll any one Cool or Negotiation check.

## Natural Outdoorsman

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Once per session, may re-roll any one Resillience or Survival check.

## Natural Rogue

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Once per game session, the character may reroll any one Skulduggery or Stealth check.

## Nobody's Fool

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

May upgrade the difficulty of incoming Charm, Coercion or Deception checks once per rank of Nobody's Fool.

## One With Nature

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

When in the wilderness, your character may make a Simple (-) Survival check, instead of Discipline or Cool, to recover strain at the end of an encounter.

## Overwhelm Emotions

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** false

When the character performs a Charm, Coersion or Deception check, she may include ○ equal to her ranks in Psionics. Each ○ add success to Charm checks. Each ● adds ★ to Coercion or Deception checks. However every ○ ○ add ♀ to Coercion or Deception Checks and every ● ● adds ♀ to Charm checks. This does not apply to targets with one or more Psionic Defense.

## Primal Caster

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** false

Allows the character to use the Cast Spell (Defiling) and Cast Spell (Preserving) actions using the Primal skill.

## Quicken Spell

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** true

Once per session, spend 2 strain to make a use a Cast Spell action as a maneuver.

## Quick Draw

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Once per round, draw or put away a weapon or item as an incidental.

## Quick Fix

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Once per Session, make one skill check using Agility rather than the characteristic linked to that skill.

## Quick Strike

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Add □ per rank of Quick Strike to combat checks against targets that have not acted yet his encounter.

## Rapid Reaction

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** true

Suffer a number of Strain up to Rank in Rapid Reaction to add an equal number of ★ to initiative checks.

## Shapeshifter

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** true

Once per scene, as an action, you may change into a non-humanoid Minion level adversary. Your equipment melds with you but is unusable, you cannot speak nor cast spells, but you can use psionics. You do not gain of its abilities, but any ability you have you can still use. For the cost of one Destiny Point you may use one ability for the duration. For example, for one Destiny Point you may gain flight when changing into an Kestrel. You do gain its natural Soak and wounds. You suffer 1 strain per round, but can change back as a free action. When you pass out due to insufficient strain, you refert back to your original form. You can only change into creatures you have encountered. When you have two ranks, you can change into a Rival, staying into an rival costs 2 strain per round, but you can stay into a Minion form without suffering strain. When you have three ranks of Shapeshifter you can change into a Nemesis, for which you suffer 4 strain per round.

## Second Wind

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** true

Once per encounter, may us a Second Wind incidental to heal strain equal to ranks in Second Wind.

## Sense Danger

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Requires Psionics rank 1. Once per session, remove ■ ■ from any 1 check.

## Shape Spell

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

When casting a spell with the ?? quality spend ▲ to exclude 1 target that would be affected by the explosion per ranks in Shape Spell.

## Side Step

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** true

Once per round, as manouver, suffer Strain up to ranks in Side Step to upgrade difficulty of all incoming ranged attacks by that number for the next round.

## Shortcut

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

During a chase, add  per rank of Shortcut to checks made to catch or escape an opponent.

## Signature Spell

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

When your character gains this talent, decide on a signature spell for them, consisting of a particular magic action and a specific set of one or more effects. When your character casts their signature spell (consisting of the exact combination of action and effects previously chosen), reduce the difficulty of the check by one. When you take a new rank of this talent, you may also redefine your Signature Spell.

## Sleight of Mind

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Requires Psionics rank 1. Add  to all Stealth checks but also add  per Psionic Defence.

## Slippery Mind

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Requires Psionics 1. If under the effects of a Psionics power, perform the Slippery Minded action; make a Hard (   ) Deception check to immediately end effects of power.

## Smooth Talker

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** true

When first acquired, choose 1 skill: Charm, Coercion, Deception, or Negotiation. When making checks with that skill, spend  to gain additional  equal to ranks in Smooth Talker.

## Sniper Shot

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** true

Before making a non-thrown ranged attack, as a manouever increase the weapon's Range by up to one band per rank. Upgrade the attack's difficulty by 1 per range increase.

## Soft Spot

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

After making a successful attack, may spend a Destiny Point to add damage equal to Cunning to one hit.

## Soothing Tone

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Once per encounter when riding, take a Soothing Tone action; make a   Knowledge (Nature) check to allow the beast to recover Strain equal to .

## Spur

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Take a Spur action; make    Survival check to increase a beast's top Speed by 1. The beast suffer 2 Strain every round it stays spurred.

## Stalker

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Add  per rank of Stalker to all Stealth and Coordination checks.

## Steely Nerves

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

May spend a Destiny Point to ignore the effects of Critical Injuries on Willpower and Presence checks until the end of the encounter.

## Strong Arm

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** false

Treat throwing weapons as if they had 1 greater range.

## Street Wise

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Remove  per rank of Street Wise from all Streetwise or Knowledge(Underworld) checks

## Stunning Blow

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

When making Melee checks, may inflict damage as Strain instead of Wounds. This does not ingore Soak.

## Surgeon

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

When your character makes a Medicine check to heal wounds, the target heals one additional wound per rank of Surgeon.

## Swift

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** false

Do not suffer usual penalties for moving through difficult terrain.

## Talk the Talk

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

May spend a Destiny Point when making a Knowledge check to substitute Streetwise or Knowledge (Underworld) for the required skill.

## Targeted Blow

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

After making a successful attack, may spend a Destiny Point to add damage equal to Agility to one hit.

## Touch of Fate

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Requires Psionics rank 1. Once per session, add ■ ■ to any 1 check.

## Toughened

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Gain +2 Wound Threshold

## True Aim

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** true

Once per round, may perform a True Aim maneuver to gain benefits of aiming and upgrade combat check once per rank of True Aim.

## Uncanny Reactions

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Requires Psionics rank 1. Add ■ per rank of Uncanny Reactions to all Vigilance checks.

## Uncanny Senses

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

Requires Psionics rank 1. Add ■ per rank of Uncanny Senses to all Perception checks.

## Well Read

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** false

Each rank of Grit increases a character's strain threshold by one.

## Wheel And Deal

**Activation:** false

**Ranked:** true

When selling goods legally, gain 10% more credits per rank of Wheel and Deal.

## Works Like a Charm

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

Once per session, make one skill check using Presence rather than the Characteristic linked to that skill.

## Walk the Walk

**Activation:** true

**Ranked:** false

May spend a Destiny Point to add damage equal to ranks in Streetwise to one successful Brawl attack.

# Chapter 8: Equipment

*I have heard tales that suits of clothing fashioned from metal have even been found from time to time. It is generally agreed that these were worn by warriors to protect against the blows of enemy weapons. I can only speculate that the climate must have been far cooler in those ancient days. Any fool that would wear such clothing now would die faster from heat stroke than he would have from the weapons of his foes. Still, the idea that there was once enough metal in the world to allow such a garment to have been manufactured astounds me. There are even rumors that mounds of steel, silver, and gold lie hidden in the deepest tunnels of certain forlorn cities. I have never seen such a thing myself, but if such treasures exist, they will reward those who find them most handsomely. Those who control such stores of metal can buy food, power, influence, and sometimes even the sorcerer-king's protection.*

— The Wanderer's Journal

*Dark Sun* characters must be well equipped in order to endure the rigors of Athas. This chapter covers a variety of topics related to mundane equipment that every hero needs to survive and prosper.

## Equipping a Character

### Money

The default money unit is an *Ceramic Piece* or *cp*. This unit can be subdivided in *Ceramic Bits* (*bit*). Larger units are *Silver Pieces* (*sp*) and *Gold Pieces* (*gp*).

10,000 bd = 1,000 bits = 100 cp = 10 sp = 10gp.

Ceramics are made from glazed clay and baked in batches once a year in a secure process supervised by the high templar that supervises the city's treasury. Bits are literally one-tenth parts of a ceramic piece—the ceramic pieces break easily into ten bits. Some cities' ceramic pieces have small holes that can be threaded onto a bracelet or necklace. The lowest unit of Athasian trade is the lead bead (*bd*). In general, the Athasian economy in the cities is relatively stable thanks to the Merchant Houses. Under normal conditions, supply is ample thanks to the caravans traveling back and forth between the cities. However, for smaller communities and trade outposts the price situation on certain goods can sway drastically. A raider attack or sandstorm can result in lack of necessities such as food and water, for which people will pay almost any amount of coin. Coins are not the only means of exchange. Barter and trade in commodities is widespread.

## Item Qualities

Some variety equipment and depth features to the weapons, special qualities armor, and that items add your character

may encounter. Item qualities are special rules that can change how the item acts.

Special qualities are generally either passive or active. Passive qualities are always "on" and require no activation on the part of the user. Active qualities must be triggered by the user, often by spending one or more  $\Delta$  to activate the effect.

Item qualities usually have a number associated with them. This is their rating. Ratings affect qualities in different ways, depending on the quality in question. Active qualities require  $\Delta \Delta$  to activate unless otherwise stated in their description. Active item qualities on weapons can only trigger on a successful attack, unless specified otherwise.

As a general rule, items in *Dark Sun* break with can break with spending either  $\Delta \Delta \Delta$  or  $\otimes$ , instead of only on a  $\otimes$ . Items with the ?? quality or made from metal are exempt from this rule.

### General Qualities

#### Accurate

**Type:** Passive

Accurate weapons are easier to aim or wield, whether through design or technology. For each level of this quality, the attacker adds  $\square$  to their combat checks while using this weapon.

#### Auto-Fire

**Type:** Active

A weapon with Auto-fire can be set to shoot in rapid succession and potentially spray an area with bolts, flechettes, slugs, or other types of projectiles. The advantage in using Auto-fire is that it has the chance to hit multiple targets or to hit a single target multiple times. As attacking with a weapon on Auto-fire is generally less accurate, the attacker must increase the difficulty of the combat check by  $\blacklozenge$ . The user may choose not to use the Auto-fire quality on a weapon; in this case, they cannot trigger the quality but also do not suffer the aforementioned penalty.

If the attack hits, the attacker can trigger Auto-fire by spending  $\Delta \Delta$ . Auto-fire can be triggered multiple times. Each time the attacker triggers Auto-fire, it deals an additional hit to the target. Each of these counts as an additional hit from that weapon, and each hit deals base damage plus the number of  $\star$  on the check. These additional hits can be allocated to the original target, or to other targets within range of the weapon. If the attacker wishes to hit multiple targets, they must decide to do so before making the check. Furthermore, if they wish to hit multiple targets, their initial target must always be the target with the highest difficulty and highest defense (if this is two separate targets, the GM chooses which is the initial target). The initial hit must always be against the initial target. Subsequent hits generated can be allocated to any of the other designated targets. Auto-fire weapons can also activate one Critical Injury for each hit generated on the attack, per the normal rules; the Critical Injury must be applied to the target of the specific hit.

### Backup

#### Type: Passive

A backup weapon does not need to be drawn. It could for example be a spiked gauntlet that is already worn.

### Blast

#### Type: Active

The weapon has a large spread, an explosive blast, or a similar area of effect, like a detonated grenade or a warhead fired from a missile launcher. If the attack is successful and Blast activates, each character (friend or foe) engaged with the original target suffers a hit dealing damage equal to the Blast quality's rating, plus damage equal to the total  $\star$  scored on the check. In a relatively small and enclosed area, the Game Master might decide that everyone in the room suffers damage. If the Blast quality doesn't activate, the ordnance still detonates, but bad luck or poor aim on the part of the firer (or quick reactions on the part of the targets) means the explosion may not catch anyone else in its radius. However, the user may also trigger Blast if the attack misses by spending  $\Delta \Delta \Delta$ . In this case, the original target and every target engaged with the original target suffers a hit dealing damage equal to the Blast rating of the weapon.

### Brace

#### Type: Passive

When attacking an engaged mounted enemy which engaged you after the end of your last round, the Aim maneuver grants  $\square \square$  instead of  $\square$ .

### Burn

#### Type: Active

Weapons with Burn inflict damage over time. When Burn is triggered, one target hit by the attack continues to suffer the weapon's base damage each round for a number of rounds equal to the weapon's Burn rating. Apply damage at the start of each of the target's turns. If multiple targets suffer hits from a weapon with Burn, the quality may be triggered multiple times, affecting a different target each time. A victim might be able to stop the damage by performing an action to roll around and make a Coordination check. The difficulty is Average ( $\spadesuit \heartsuit$ ) on hard surfaces such

as the floor of a building, or an Easy ( $\clubsuit$ ) on grass or soft ground. Jumping into a body of water stops the damage immediately. Both situations assume the flame is from actual combustion rather than a chemical reaction. With the latter, there is usually little the victim can do.

### Concealable

#### Type: Passive

These weapons can be easily concealed. An observer adds  $\blacksquare$  to Perception/Vigilance check to find the weapon.

### Concussive

#### Type: Active

The weapon's attack can leave the target shell-shocked from mighty blows or punishing shock waves, unable to perform any but the most basic actions. When Concussive is triggered, one target hit by the attack is staggered (see Genesys pg. 114) for a number of rounds equal to the weapon's Concussive rating. A staggered target cannot perform actions. If multiple targets suffer hits from a weapon with Concussive, the quality may be triggered multiple times, affecting a different target each time.

### Cumbersome

#### Type: Passive

A Cumbersome weapon is large, unwieldy, awkward, or heavy. To wield a Cumbersome weapon properly, the character needs a Brawn characteristic equal to or greater than the weapon's Cumbersome rating. For each point of Brawn by which the character is deficient, they must increase the difficulty of all checks made while using the weapon by one.

### Defensive

#### Type: Passive

An item with the Defensive quality increases the user's melee defense by its Defensive rating.

### Deflection

#### Type: Passive

An item with the Deflection quality increases the user's ranged defense by its Deflection rating.

### Disarm

#### Type: Active

By spending  $\Delta \Delta$ , you can have the opponent drop his weapon.

### Disorient

#### Type: Active

A weapon with Disorient can daze an opponent. When Disorient is triggered, one target hit by the attack is disoriented (see Genesys pg. 114) for a number of rounds equal to the weapon's Disorient rating. A disoriented target adds  $\blacksquare$  to all skill checks they perform. If multiple targets suffer hits from a weapon with Disorient, the quality may be triggered multiple times, affecting a different target each time.

## Ensnare

### Type: Active

A weapon with Ensnare binds a foe and restricts their movements. When Ensnare is triggered, one target hit by the attack becomes immobilized (see Genesys pg. 114) for a number of rounds equal to the weapon's Ensnare rating. An immobilized target cannot perform maneuvers. If multiple targets suffer hits from a weapon with Ensnare, the quality may be triggered multiple times, affecting a different target each time. An Ensnared target may perform an action to attempt a Hard (♦♦♦) Athletics check on their turn to break free from the effect.

## Flimsy

### Type: Passive

Flimsy items lose any soak value they have when targeted by weapons with a Pierce rating.

## Fragile

### Type: Passive

The item only has 2 health levels as opposed to the normal 3 (moderate and major only).

## Inaccurate

### Type: Passive

Inaccurate weapons are less likely to be accurate or precise. When making an attack with an Inaccurate weapon, add ■ to the check equal to the Inaccurate rating.

## Inferior

### Type: Passive

An Inferior item is a lackluster example of its kind, representing shoddy and poor craftsmanship. An Inferior item generates automatic ♦ on all checks related to its use.

## Knockdown

### Type: Passive

When Knockdown is triggered, one target hit by the attack is knocked prone. If multiple targets suffer hits from a weapon with Knockdown, the quality may be triggered multiple times, affecting a different target each time. Unless specified otherwise, Knockdown requires ▲ ▲ to trigger, plus one additional ▲ per silhouette of the target beyond 1.

## Limited Ammo

### Type: Passive

Some weapons fire particularly large or complex projectiles that cost lots of money. Other weapons are expendable weapons like grenades that, once used, are destroyed. A weapon with the Limited Ammo quality may be used to make a number of attacks equal to its Limited Ammo rating before it must be reloaded with a maneuver. In addition, each shot expends one of a limited number of rounds of ammo; more ammo must be purchased or obtained before anyone fires the weapon again. This also applies to grenades and other "one-use" weapons that have the Limited Ammo 1 quality (here, your character is not "reloading" the grenade, but drawing another to use—mechanically, they are equivalent).

## Noisy

### Type: Passive

Items with the Noisy quality bestow ■ on stealth checks made while the item is in use. These ■ are cumulative if multiple noisy items are carried at once.

## Pierce

### Type: Passive

Any hits from this weapon ignore a number of points point of soak equal to the weapon's Pierce rating. If the weapon has more ranks of Pierce than the target's total soak, it completely ignores the target's soak. For example, Pierce 3 against a soak of 2 ignores two points of soak, but the extra point of Pierce has no further effect.

## Prepare

### Type: Passive

Items with this quality require time to set up before being used. The user must perform a number of preparation maneuvers equal to the item's Prepare rating before using the item (if the item is a weapon, "using" it would be making attacks with the weapon). At your GM's discretion, moving with the item, being knocked prone with the item, or other disruptions may require the user to perform the preparation maneuvers again before using the item.

## Reach

### Type: Passive

Disengaging from an opponent wielding a melee weapon with this quality requires 2 manoeuvres rather than the normal 1.

## Reinforced

### Type: Passive

Weapons or items with the Reinforced quality are immune to the Sunder quality. Armor with the Reinforced quality make the wearer's soak immune to the Pierce and Breach qualities.

## Restrictive

### Type: Passive

Restrictive items are difficult to move in when worn. Characters wearing restrictive armor upgrade the difficulty of Agility based checks once.

## Returning

### Type: Active

Returning weapons are throwing weapons which will return to the wielder at the end of the wielder's turn if thrown correctly and the wielder is a bit lucky. Returning costs and ▲ .

## Slow-Firing

### Type: Passive

Slow-Firing weapons tend to deal incredible damage, but need time to recharge or cool down between shots. A weapon's Slow-Firing rating dictates the number of rounds that must pass before the weapon can be fired again after attacking. For example, a heavy laser cannon with Slow-Firing 2 must wait two rounds after being fired before it can be fired again.

## Solid

### Type: Passive

Solid items resist Pierce up to their rating. If the Pierce of an attack against an object surpasses its Solid rating, the Solid quality is ignored.

## Stun

### Type: Active

A weapon with this quality can deal strain damage. When the Stun quality is activated, it inflicts strain equal to the weapon's Stun rating. Since this is strain, not strain *damage*, it is not reduced by a target's soak.

## Stun Damage

### Type: Passive

A weapon with this quality can only deal strain damage (damage applied to the target's strain threshold). Because this is strain *damage*, not strain, it is still reduced by a target's soak.

## Sunder

### Type: Active

When activating Sunder, the attacker chooses one item openly wielded by the target (such as a weapon, shield, or item on a belt). That item is damaged one step: to minor if undamaged, from minor to moderate, or from moderate to major. If an item already suffering major damage is the target of a successful Sunder, it is destroyed. Sunder requires  $\Delta$  to activate, and may be activated even if the attack is unsuccessful. Sunder may be activated multiple times in the same attack, but each activation must be applied to the same item, potentially taking it from undamaged to destroyed in a single attack.

## Superior

### Type: Passive

A Superior item is a sterling example of its kind, representing masterful craftsmanship. A Superior item generates automatic  $\Delta$  on all checks related to its use.

## Thrown

### Type: Passive

These melee weapons can also be thrown up to short range using Ranged skill. When thrown, they inflict the same damage as if used into melee and gain the Limited Ammo 1 quality.

## Unwieldy

### Type: Passive

An Unwieldy weapon is a weapon that can be particularly awkward to use for those without impressive dexterity and hand-eye coordination. To wield an Unwieldy weapon properly, the character needs an Agility characteristic equal to or greater than the weapon's Unwieldy rating. For each point of Agility by which the character is deficient, they must increase the difficulty of all checks made while using the weapon by one.

## Vicious

### Type: Passive

When an attack with this weapon results in a Critical Injury or Hit, the character adds ten times the Vicious rating to the Critical roll. With Vicious 3, for example, you would add +30 to the resulting Critical Injury or Hit result.

# Items

## Melee Weapons

Table 8.1: Brawl Weapons

Name	Dam	Crit	Encum	Price	Rarity	Special
??	+1	3	1	75 cp	0	?? 1
??	+0	4	1	60 cp	1	??, ?? 3
??	+1	3	0	30 cp	2	??, ?? 2
??	-1	-	1	30 cp	4	?? 4, ??
??	+1	4	0	30 cp	5	?? 2, ??
??	+0	6	1	90 cp	3	?? 1, ?? 2, ?? 1

## Alhulak

This weapon is an unusual flail. A short length of rope separates a four-bladed, hafted grappling hook from the handle.

## Buckler

Whether crafted from wood, chitin, or hide, shields are common among warriors of all cultures and skill levels for a simple reason: they keep you alive. The utility of a shield for blocking and parrying blows cannot be over-

stated. While an important part in every warrior's defence, the scorching sun makes carrying a large shield impractical and thus use medium shields or even bucklers.

## Cahulaks

Cahulaks are a pair of four-bladed weapons held together with a length of rope. They can be used in each hand as melee weapons; one or both can also be thrown to tangle and cause damage to an opponent. The blades are commonly carved from the hip or shoulder bones of a mekillot,



**Figure 8.1:** 1. ??; 2. ??; 3. ??; 4. ??; 5. ??; 6. ??; 7. ??; 8. ??; 9. ??; 10. ??; 11. ??; 12. ??

**Table 8.2: Light Melee Weapons**

Name	Dam	Crit	Encum	Price	Rarity	Special
??	+1	3	1	25 cp	1	??
??	+0	6	1	40 cp	0	?? 1, ?? 1
??	+2	5	2	15 cp	1	?? 4
??	+2	4	2	90 cp	1	?? 1, ?? 1, ??
??	+3	3	2	150 cp	3	?? 1
??	+2	4	2	90 cp	2	??
??	+1	2	2	200 cp	5	?? 1

**Table 8.3: Heavy Melee Weapons**

Name	Dam	Crit	Encum	Price	Rarity	Special
??	+0	6	2	80 cp	1	?? 1, ?? 1, ?? 1, ??
??	+4	2	3	300 cp	4	?? 2, ?? 3
??	+3	4	3	250 cp	2	??, ?? 1, ?? 1
??	+4	3	4	300 cp	4	?? 3, ?? 1, ??
??	+3	3	5	250 cp	2	?? 1, ?? 3
??	+2	3	2	240 cp	3	??, ??, ?? 3
??	+2	4	2	315 cp	1	?? 1, ?? 1, ??
??	+2	4	2	250 cp	4	??, ?? 1

but more expensive versions can be forged of steel. The hafts are made of solid lengths of wood or, rarely, sturdy bone. The connecting rope is up to 30 cm long; an experienced cahulak wielder keeps most of that length looped loosely in one hand when preparing for combat.

#### Carrikal

This axe has two forward-facing blades carved from the front of a large jawbone, commonly that of a mekillot.

#### Club

This weapon is usually just a shaped piece of wood, sometimes with a few stone or obsidian shards embedded in it.

## Dragon Paw

The dragon's paw is a multibladed weapon popular among the arena masters of Urik and Tyr. The weapon has two blades, made from any material, one at each end of a 12-15 cm wooden shaft. Around the center is a bar or basket that both protects the hand and holds another blade jutting perpendicular to the central shaft. This blade is called the forward blade, while the others are called the outer blades.

## Gouge

The shoulder-strapped gouge is a specialized infantry weapon perfected for the slave armies of the Shadow King of Nibenay. It is a weapon that can inflict significant damage against an opponent and is unlikely to be dropped in the event of a rout. The gouge itself has a wide bone, obsidian, or chitin blade mounted onto a 3 long wooden shaft. A smaller handle protrudes from a forward position on the main shaft, while the rear of the shaft has a wide grip used to drive the weapon home. The shoulder strap is made of leather or cloth, and it sometimes is expanded to a complete harness around the neck and shoulders. The weapon can be easily turned over to accommodate a left-handed wielder.

## Gythka

Each end of this thri-kreen staff has a small, crescent-shaped blade with a centered stabbing tine. The secondary end of this double weapon is light enough to be used as an off-hand weapon. A gythka can be thrown like a javelin.

## Knife

A dagger has an obsidian blade that is about 30 cm in length.

## Long Spear

Although a simple weapon, a spear is easy to wield and allows the user to keep some distance from an opponent. Hence, spears don't have very high damage, but the Accurate 1 quality represents their ease of use. In addition, the Defensive 1 quality represents their usefulness at keeping someone at arms' reach.

## Lotulis

This short-staffed double weapon sports outward-pointing, barbed crescent blades on each end.

## Macuahuitl

A macuahuitl is a wooden club with obsidian blades. Its sides are embedded with prismatic blades traditionally made from obsidian. The macuahuitl was a standard close combat weapon.

## Net

A net is a web of rope or cord fitted with heavy weights.

## Punchik

Punhicks are often little more than a wooden or bone bar with a large obsidian spike attached to it, with the spike coming out between your fingers. They are the smallest, simplest, and easiest to conceal type of brawl weapon. Due to their small size, punchiks are quite easy to conceal in a pocket, pouch, or compartment in easy reach until they're needed. Add □ to a character's Perception check when attempting to find a punchik on a person's body.

## Shield

Whether crafted from wood, chitin, or hide, shields are common among warriors of all cultures and skill levels for a simple reason: they keep you alive. The utility of a shield for blocking and parrying blows cannot be overstated. While an important part in every warrior's defence, the scorching sun makes carrying a large shield impractical and thus use medium shields or even bucklers.

## Short Spear

Although a simple weapon, a spear is easy to wield and allows the user to keep some distance from an opponent. Hence, spears don't have very high damage, but the Accurate 1 quality represents their ease of use. In addition, the Defensive 1 quality represents their usefulness at keeping someone at arms' reach.

## Talid

Made from leather, chitin, and bone, this spiked "gladiator's gauntlet" augments unarmed attacks.

## Tortoise Blade

This bony or chitinous plate is affixed with a short blade that points forward from the wielder's hand.

## Trikal

This polearm projects three blades symmetrically lengthwise from its haft. A trikal is equivalent to a halberd.

## Whip

Although a whip is impractical as a weapon in most circumstances, some opponents are prone to underestimating the wielder of a whip, which can lead them to attack rashly or make other mistakes.

## Wrist Razors

This weapon consists of three sharp blades that protrude from a sturdy bracer, freeing the wielder's hand. A shield cannot be worn on the same arm as wrist razors. Wrist razors do not need to be drawn, nor do they need to be sheathed for the wielder to use the hand the razors are on

# Ranged Weapons

## Blow Gun

Blowguns are generally used to deliver debilitating (but rarely fatal) poisons from a distance. They are nearly silent

when fired.

**Table 8.4: Ranged Weapons**

Name	Defense	Soak	Type	Range	Price	Rarity	Special
??	6	3	Short	2	275 cp	3	?? 1
??	+0	-	Short	1/3	20 cp	2	?? 3, ??, ?? 1
??	+2	4	Short	1	275 cp	4	?? 3, ??, ?? 1
??	+2	3	Short	1/3	40 cp	1	?? 1, ?? 1, ?? 1
??	5	3	Medium	2	275 cp	2	?? 2, ??
??	7	3	Medium	2	275 cp	3	?? 2
??	8	3	Long	2	275 cp	5	?? 3

### Bolas

A bola consists of a couple of round stones joined together by a strong string of rope. Skilled throwers can use them to catch or trip prey from a distance.

### Catkcha

This throwing wedge, often shaped from crystal or obsidian, is a thri-kreen invention. It returns to a proficient wielder's hand after the ranged attack is resolved.

### Dejada

A long, scooped basket fitted to a glove-like bracer, the dejada is used to hurl projectiles. Ammunition can be a

fist-sized stone, but the weapon is also used to extend the range of alchemical mixtures.

### Javelin

A javelin is a thin throwing spear.

### Long Bow

At almost 5 feet in height, a longbow is made up of one solid piece of carefully curved wood.

### Short Bow

A shortbow is made up of one piece of wood, about 3 feet in length.

## Armour

**Table 8.5: Armour**

Name	Defense	Soak	Encum	Price	Rarity	Special
??	1	+0	1	5cp	1	
??	0	+1	2	10cp	1	??
??	1	+1	2	25cp	3	??
??	0	+2	3	50cp	4	??, ?? 1
??	1	+2	3	100cp	5	??, ??, ?? 2
??	1	+2	3	200	6	??, ??
??	1	+3	4	600	7	??, ??, ??, ?? 2
??	2	+3	5	1250cp	8	??, ??, ??, ?? 3

### Heavy Robes

These are robes made of multiple layers of thick robe.

### Hardened Leather

This armor is crafted using close-set rivets made of bone, hardwood, stone, or talons.

### Scale mail

Scale mail is usually made from the scales of an erdlu, inix or other naturally scaled creatures.

### Chitin Armor

This armor is skillfully made by interlocking hexagonal bits of chitin (usually carved from a kank's carapace).

### Shell Armor

Shell armor is made by weaving giant's hair around the shells of various small creatures such as an aprig.

### Padded Armor

Padded armor is made of heavy cloth and batting. Many Athasian warriors prefer padded armor woven from giant hair.

### Breastplate

These armors are constructed using choice plates taken from shelled animals, such as mekillots or braxat.

### Half Plate

These armors are constructed using choice plates taken from shelled animals, such as mekillots or braxat.

## Full Plate

These armors are constructed using choice plates taken from shelled animals, such as mekillots or braxat.

## Goods and Services

### Adventuring Gear

**Backpack** Backpacks increase the characters encumbrance by 4.

**Caltrops** A caltrop is a four-pronged metal spike crafted so that one prong faces up no matter how the caltrop comes to rest. You scatter caltrops on the ground in the hope that your enemies step on them or are at least forced to slow down to avoid them. One 1kg bag of caltrops covers an area  $0.5m^2$ .

Each time a creature moves into an area covered by caltrops (or spends a round fighting while standing in such an area), it runs the risk of stepping on one. Make an attack roll for the caltrops with no ranks, against the creature. For this attack defense bonuses do not count. If the creature is wearing shoes or other footwear, add a ▀. If the attack succeeds, the creature has stepped on a caltrop. The target suffers 1 Wound, and the creature applies the *Hamstrung Critical* (*The target loses their free maneuver until this critical is healed*). This Daunting (♦♦♦♦) Brawn check upgrade the movement penalty lasts for 24 hours, until the critical is successfully treated, or until it receives at least 1 point of magical healing.

Caltrops may not work against unusual opponents.

**Chain** A chain. Made from metal, they are rare items, often used to restrict the movement of arena beasts. It can be burst with a Formidable (♦♦♦♦) Brawn check.

**Crowbar** A bar-like object, often made from Mekillot bone, used to force things open.

A crowbar grants a □ on Athletics checks made to force open a door or chest. If used in combat, treat a crowbar as a small improvised weapon.

**Grappling Hook** Throwing a grappling hook requires a Ranged or Coordination check. The difficulty is based on the range, Medium range being its maximum range.

**Ink, 28gr** Ink in colors other than black costs twice as much.

**Jug, Clay** This basic jug is fitted with a stopper and holds 4 liters of liquid.

**Lamp, Common** A lamp illuminates a Short Range area. A lamp burns for 6 hours on one pint of oil. You can carry a lamp in one hand.

**Lantern, Bullseye** A bullseye lantern provides light up to medium range in cone. A lantern burns for 6 hours on one pint of oil. You can carry a lantern in one hand.

**Lantern, Hooded** A hooded lantern illuminates a short range area. A lantern burns for 6 hours on one pint of oil. You can carry a lantern in one hand. This lantern is encased in a more protective cover. Add a s to any check to put out this light by means of water or wind.

**Lock** Daunting (♦♦♦♦) Skulduggery check

**Manacles** Restraints made from metal, these things are used only for the most dangerous of enemies or by the most rich slave- or bounty-hunters.

Manacles can bind a Medium creature. To slip free, a creature must roll a Formitable (♦♦♦♦) Coordination Check. Breaking the manacles requires a Daunting (♦♦♦♦) Brawn check. Most manacles have locks; add the cost of the lock to the cost of the manacles. For the same cost, you can buy manacles for a Small creature. For a Large creature, manacles cost 10 times the indicated amount, and for a Huge creature, 100 times the indicated amount. Gargantuan, Colossal, Tiny, Diminutive, and Fine creatures can be held only by specially made manacles, which cost at least 100 times the indicated amount. The checks to escape all get setbacks.

**Oil, 1 pint flask** A pint of oil burns for 6 hours in a lantern or lamp. You can also use a flask of oil as a splash weapon. With the proper skill you can use oil as an attack Roll an Average (♦♦) Alchemy check, with a base damage of 3 and a burn 1 quality. You can pour a pint of oil on the ground to cover an area  $0.5m^2$ , provided that the surface is smooth. If lit, the oil burns for 2 rounds and deals the base damage of the weapon to each creature in the area.

**Ram, Portable** This iron-shod wooden beam gives you an □ on Brawn checks made to break open a door and allows a second person to help give you □□ instead of one.

**Rope, Hemp (20m)** This rope can be burst with a Hard (♦♦♦) Brawn check.

**Rope, Silk (20m)** This rope can be burst with a Hard (♦♦♦▀) Brawn check.

**Torch** A torch burns for 1 hour, shedding lighting on everything within Short Range. If a torch is used in combat, treat it as a small improvised weapon with a ?? 1 quality.

**Vial** A vial is made out of glass and holds 1 ounce of liquid.

**Table 8.6: Adventuring Gear**

Name	Weight	Value	Weight	Value
??	0	10cp	2	
Bedroll	2	1cp	1	
Bottle, glass	1	10cp	1	
??	1	5cp	3	
Candle	0	10bit	0	
Canvas (m <sup>2</sup> )	1	1cp	1	
Chain (3m)	2	500cp	8	
Chalk, 1 piece	0	5bit	1	
??	1	2cp	8	
Firewood (per day)	1	2cp	2	
Flask (empty)	1	1cp	1	
??	1	5cp	2	
Hammer	1	3cp	0	
Hourglass	1	125cp	4	
??	0	100cp	6	
Inkpen	0	10cp	6	
Jug, clay	1	1cp	0	
Ladder, 3m	5	1cp	1	
??	1	1cp	1	
??	1	65cp	3	
??	1	30cp	2	
??	0	750cp	8	
??	1	300cp	8	
Mirror	0	50cp	3	
Mug/Tankard, clay	1	1cp	0	
??	1	1cp	1	
Parchment (sheet)	0	4cp	3	
Pick, miner's	2	15cp	1	
Pitcher, clay	1	1cp	0	
Pouch, belt (empty)	0	5cp	0	
Rations, trail (per day)	0	3cp	0	
??	4	10cp	6	
??	1	5cp	1	
??	1	50cp	3	
Sealing wax	0	5cp	0	
Sewing needle	0	3cp	1	
Shovel or spade	2	10cp	0	
Signal whistle	0	4cp	1	
Sledge	2	5cp	4	
Soap (per 500g.)	0	3cp	1	
Tent	2	50cp	2	
??	1	1cp	0	
??	1	5cp	0	
Waterskin	1	5cp	0	
Whetstone	0	1cp	1	

### Alchemical Items

**Table 8.7: Alchemical Items**

Name	Encum.	Price	Rarity
??	0	50	2
??	0	100	2
??	0	250	3
??	0	10	2
??	0	100	2
??	1	250	3
??	0	150	3
??	0	5	0

**Acid** You can throw a flask of acid as a weapon with an Ranged light or Alchemy combat check with a base damage of 6 acid damage, with a range of short, and ?? 3, ?? . It can also be used to damage a lock beyond repair.

**Alchemist's Fire** You can throw a flask of alchemist's fire as a weapon with an Ranged light or Alchemy combat check with a base damage of 6 fire damage, with a range of short, and ?? 3, ?? 2 .

**Antitoxin** If you drink a vial of antitoxin, you get an upgrade on your Resilience check against poison for 1 hour.

**Healing Poultice** A healing poultice is a soft moist mass, often heated and medicated, that is spread on cloth over the skin to treat an aching, inflamed or painful part of the body. It can be used on wounds such as cuts. It is a one-use item and provide a □ to medicine checks to treat cuts, bruises and minor ailments.

**Smokestick** This alchemically treated wooden stick instantly creates thick, opaque smoke when burned. The smoke fills a short range radius. The stick is consumed after 1 round, and the smoke dissipates naturally after 1 minute. A creature that is engaged range with the fog adds ■ on Perception, Vigilance, and all combat skill checks. Creatures farther away looking or targetting into the mist add ■■ to their Perception, Vigilance, and all combat skill checks.

### Tools and Kits

**Table 8.8: Tools and Kits**

Name	Encum.	Price	Rarity
??	5	50	6
??	4	150	0
??	1	50	2
??	2	100	4
??	1	100	2
??	0	100	7

**Alchemist's Lab** This lab is used for making alchemical items, and provides a □ on Alchemy checks pertaining to crafting.

**Tanglefoot Bag** tanglefoot bag is a small sack filled with tar, resin and other sticky substances. When you throw a tanglefoot bag at a creature roll a Ranged Light or Alchmey combat check. This attack has a range of short, does no damage. If successful the attack is treated as if the wielder activated an ?? 5 quality. The bag comes apart and goo bursts out, entangling the target and then becoming tough and resilient upon exposure to air.

**Thunderstone** You can throw this stone as a weapon with an Ranged(Light) or Alchemy combat check with a range of short and deals no damage. When it strikes a hard surface (or is struck hard), it creates a deafening bang that is treated as a sonic attack. Each creature within short range of where it went off must make an Average (♦♦) Resilience check or be deafened for 1 hour. A deafened creature, in addition to the obvious effects, takes ■■ on initiative rolls and has a ■ when casting a spell

**Tindertwig** The alchemical substance on the end of this small, wooden stick ignites when struck against a rough surface. Creating a flame with a tindertwig is much faster than creating a flame with flint and steel (or a magnifying glass) and tinder. Lighting a torch with a tindertwig is a maneuver (rather than an action), and lighting any other fire with one is a maneuver.

**Artisan's Tools** These special tools include the items needed to pursue any craft. Without them, you have to use improvised tools and take a ■ on Crafting checks), if you can do the job at all.

**Climber's Kit** These crampons, pitons, ropes, and tools give you a check. on Athletics checks when Climbing.

**Disguise Kit** The kit is the perfect tool for disguise and provides a on Deception checks. A disguise kit is exhausted after 10 uses.

## Mounts

Athasians have domesticated a variety of mounts. The most common are presented below. More unusual steeds, such as giant ants, spiders, drakes, and wyverns can be found, but not easily or cheaply.

**Table 8.9: Mounts**

Name	Speed	Encumbrance	Price	Rarity
??	7	10	2250cp	3
??	7	10	9500cp	6
??	7	10	750cp	2
??	7	10	8400cp	7
??	5	10	11000cp	5
??	6	10	40000cp	8

**Crodlu** A crodlu is a large, flightless drake with a beak and weak, clawed forelimbs that can be used to manipulate small objects. It is a tough and aggressive hunter in the wild. See ?? for more information.

**War Crodlu** A crodlu is a large, flightless drake with a beak and weak, clawed forelimbs that can be used to manipulate small objects. It is a tough and aggressive

**Healer's Kit** This collection of bandages and herbs provides a on Medicine checks. A healer's kit is exhausted with or .

**Thieves's Tools** This kit contains lockpicks and other tools you need to use the Skulduggery skill. Without these tools, you must use improvised tools, and you take a on Skulduggery checks, with these tools you get a to a lock or a latch.

hunter in the wild. When trained, it makes an excellent war mount. See ?? for more information.

**Erdlu** The erdlu is a smaller version of the crodlu. Its body is covered in tough scales, and its folded forelimbs sprout useless wings. Hardy and fast, this drakelike creature is a fine riding beast for a Silhouette 0 rider. It is too skittish to be trained for war, however. See ?? for more information.

**Kank** Kanks are docile insects that form hives. Each member of the group has a role: food producer, soldier, or the brood queen. The kank soldier can be trained for riding and battle. See ?? for more information.

**Inix** An inix, also called a dune behemoth, is a long, low-slung reptile with bony plates on its back. It is strong and spirited. An inix rarely eats anything as large as a humanoid, but it does not shy away from a fight. See ?? for more information.

**Mekillot** These massive creatures serve as draft animals given their tremendous pulling strength. They are aggressive, however, and have been known to turn on handlers. See ?? for more information.

## Magical and Psionics Gear

**Table 8.10: Magic and Psionic Gear**

Name	Encumbrance	Price	Rarity
??	0	30	5
??	1	50	(I) 3

**Healing Fruit** Healing Fruits are fruit grown from magical infused fruit trees. While using any fruit is possible, often pears are most common. While they are great for infusing a living body with healing, their effects do diminish quite fast. The first healing fruit eaten on a day grants 5 healing, the second eaten the same day 4 healing and so

forth.

**Spell Component Pouch** A spell component pouch contains the spell components necessary to cast Primal Spells. A spell component pouch can contain one or more components, which must be bought separately or be sought out. An spell component is empty when a is used to 'damage' the spell component using a magic skill check, in which case the spell component must either be bought again or sought after anew. See Table: ?? ?? on page ?? for a list for Spell Components.

*TODO: Create better spell component names, and are they balanced?*

## Repairing Gear

*Fill This*

**Table 8.11: Spell Components**

Component	Type	Difficulty	Description
S1	(I)	800	7
S2	(I)	400	6
S3	(I)	1000	9

## Item Attachments

Item attachments are ways to customize weapons or armor. They include specialised ways to upgrade or add features and to personalize your gear. Each item attachment has a cost in ceramic pieces, and an cost in Hard Points.

### Hardpoints

The number of hardpoints an item has is determined by its basic encumbrance value. An item has an number of hardpoints equal to half an items base enumbrance value rounded up. Once an attachment is installed, the hardpoints cost of that attachment is now considered 'in use' and cannot be used for other attachments unless the attachment is removed.

### Installing Attachments

Installing an attachment requires roughly an hour of work. In addition, the character doing the installing needs to make a successful Average ( $\diamond \diamond$ ) Crafting check. Failure simply means that the attachment isn't installed, and the character needs to try again later. Failure with a  $\otimes$  (not likely unless you upgrade the check's difficulty) means that the character clumsily destroys the attachment in the process! Success with  $\otimes$  means that the installation is successful, but the attachment may fall off or stop working at an awkward time, depending on the item and attachment involved.

### Weapon Attachments

#### Balanced Hilt

This attachment represents modifying a melee weapon's balance (particularly around the hilt or haft) to make it easier to control.

**Use With:** This attachment can be applied to any weapons that use the Melee (Light) skill.

**Modifiers:** The weapon gains the ?? 1 quality, or increases any existing ?? quality by 1. (If the weapon has the ?? quality, it reduces that quality's rating by 1 to a minimum of 0, instead.)

**Hard Points Required:** 1.

**Cost:** 1000.

**Rarity:** 6.

#### Razor Edge

This attachment represents sharpening a blade to a razor edge, then reinforcing or treating that edge so that it can withstand repeated blows.

**Use With:** This attachment can be applied to any close combat weapon that has a blade.

**Modifiers:** The weapon gains the ?? 2 quality, or increases any existing ?? quality by 1. The weapon also decreases its Crit rating by 1, to a minimum of 1.

**Hard Points Required:** 1.

**Cost:** 1250.

**Rarity:** 6.

#### Recurve Limbs

Making the limbs of a bow or crossbow curve away from the wielder increases the penetrating power of the bow's shots, even if it also makes the bow larger and more difficult to wield.

**Use With:** This attachment can be applied to any bow or crossbow.

**Modifiers:** The weapon gains the ?? 2 quality, or increases any existing ?? quality by 1. The weapon also gains the ?? 2 quality, or increases any existing ?? quality by 1.

**Hard Points Required:** 1.

**Cost:** 300.

**Rarity:** 4.

#### Serrated Edge

Adding jagged sawteeth to a bladed weapon means the wounds it makes are particularly brutal and damaging.

**Use With:** This attachment can be applied to any close combat weapon that has a blade.

**Modifiers:** The weapon gains the ?? 1 quality, or increases any existing ?? quality by 1.

**Hard Points Required:** 1.

**Cost:** 75.

**Rarity:** 2.

#### Superior Weapon Customization

This simply represents the weapon being modified by a master craftsman to be better than other examples of its type.

**Use With:** This attachment can be applied to any weapon.

**Modifiers:** The weapon gains the ?? quality.

**Hard Points Required:** 1.

**Cost:** 750.

**Rarity:** 7.

## Armor Attachments

### Deflective Plating

This attachment applies angled plates or mildly reflective surfaces to help deflect incoming ranged attacks.

**Use With:** This attachment can be applied to any armor.

**Modifiers:** Wearer increases their ranged defense by 1.

**Hard Points Required:** 1.

**Cost:** 450.

**Rarity:** 4.

### Intimidating Visage

Warriors from many cultures paint their armor or add imposing face masks to intimidate opponents.

**Use With:** This attachment can be applied to any armor.

**Modifiers:** When wearing this armor, the user adds

★ to Coercion checks they make, and automatic ✗ to Charm checks they make.

**Hard Points Required:** 0.

**Cost:** 125.

**Rarity:** 63

### Metal Armor

Extremely costly and difficult to produce and manufacture, metal is the holy grail material for most items.

**Use With:** This attachment can be applied to any armor with a soak rating above leather armor.

**Modifiers:** Metal Armour lose the ?? quality. In addition it takes ✗ ✗ to break a metal armor. However, metal armor is generally also more cumbersome. An armor with the Metal Armor qualifier adds 2 to its Encumbrance rating.

**Hard Points Required:** 2.

**Cost:** 10000.

**Rarity:** 10.

### Reinforced Plating

This attachment represents adding extra layers of armor or using stronger materials to reinforce the armor.

**Use With:** This attachment can be applied to any armor that uses hardened plates for protection.

**Modifiers:** The armor gains the ?? quality. The armor also increases its encumbrance by 1.

**Hard Points Required:** 2.

**Cost:** 8000.

**Rarity:** 7.

### Spikes

This attachment represents adding Sharp spikes to the armor. Often made from obsidian or sharpened bone, these hazardous spikes can cause nasty cuts. **Use With:** This attachment can be applied to any armor.

**Modifiers:** If your character is targeted by a melee combat check while wearing this armor, you may spend ♀ ♀ ♀ or ✗ to cause the attacker to suffer 3 wounds. **Hard Points Required:** 1.

**Cost:** 400.

**Rarity:** 2.

# Chapter 9: Magic

*"The Tablelands are a giant wasteland, to the untrained eye barren and devoid of life. When people see plants wither and die when someone utters mysterious phrases accompanied by unknown gestures, they assume the worst. They cry wizard and the mob instantly gathers to kill him. But if people venture into the wastes and look under the rocks, they will learn that Athas is teeming with all sorts of life. And when the vermin swarm forth to envelop them, biting and crawling into every orifice, do they see the irony?"*

— The Oracle, Blue Shrine Scrolls

Table 9.1: Penalties when casting spells

## Condition

Condition	Penalty
The character does not have a free hand	+■
The character is gagged, silenced or otherwise unable to speak	+■ ■
Penalty per 1 encumbrance or armor above 1	+■
The character is in circumstances that interfere with their ability to concentrate, such as trying to cast while swimming or hanging from a rope, being buffeted by a sandstorm, or casting a spell that doesn't target the person they're fighting in hand-to-hand combat.	+1 or more ♦

## Magical Manouvers

To use these manouvers, the character has to have atleast 1 rank in either the Arcane or the Primal skills and have a talent allowing them to use that skill to cast spells.

### Counterspell

Most skilled mages or spellcasters can attempt to counter an opponent's spells as they are being cast. If the character performs the counterspell maneuver, all opponents within medium range upgrade the difficulty of checks to cast spells once, until the end of the character's next turn.

### Concentrate

Some magical effects might require concentration to sustain. If a magical action (or spell) can benefit from concentration, the action description notes this. Spells that can be sustained through concentration last until the end of the character's next turn (as noted in their description). However, if the character performs the concentrate maneuver during that next turn, the spell's effects last until the end of the character's following turn, instead. This can be sus-

tained indefinitely by performing the concentrate maneuver each turn.

## Arcane

Characters can only use the Arcane skill to cast a spell if they have a talent allowing such use. Each spell has various options to raise the overal difficulty of the check, in exchange for various benefits. The overal difficulty of such a check can never be raised beyond (♦♦♦♦♦), after reductions. Casting a spell costs 2 Strain. In addition, when casting an arcane spell the user adds a number of ○ die equal to their Arcana rank. ● thrown during the skill check can be used to substitute a ★ or an ▲ . However, using ○ cost an extra Strain, simulating the extra energy used from within and ● used during casting constitute the use of Defiling magic. The GM is encouraged to narrate this effect on the environment and it is certainly possible that there are actual consequences for its use. People notice defiling magic, especially when it is used often or a lot ● is used at once.

*TODO: Is it better to use 1:1.5 ○ die instead of 1.1?*

### Attack

**Skill:** Arcane

**Concentration:** No

**Basic Difficulty:** Easy: (♦)

**Table 9.2: Spending Threat and Despair when casting spells**

Ⓐ or Ⓣ	The magical energies exhaust the player, they suffer 2 strain or 1 wound (GM's choice)
(When using the Defiling action)	Plantlife in the area turns to ash. Using more Ⓐ or Ⓣ upgrades the area, or even includes wildlife. This is narrative penalty and can include the attention of creatures who are quite unhappy with the state of the new area.
All arcane and primal casters, including the caster, suffer □ until this players next turn	
Ⓐ Ⓑ or Ⓣ	The spell doesn't take effect until the start of the next round, or after a minute in narrative gameplay.
Until the end of the encounter, enemy spellcasters add □ when casting a spell that targets this character.	
Ⓐ Ⓑ Ⓒ or Ⓣ	The spell is slightly more powerful than expected. One character of the GM's choice is targeted or otherwise affected by the spell as well.
All other spellcasters and creatures attuned to magical energies within a day's travel become aware of the character (and depending on their disposition, may be very interested in finding them and doing them harm).	
❖	The character overexerts themself or loses their magical connection and is unable to cast spells for the rest of the encounter or scene.
The GM picks the target of the character's spell. If the caster is an NPC, the controlling player picks the target of the spell instead.	
❖ ❖	The character completely lose control of their magical energies or draws the ire of their deity, suffering one Critical Injury (at the GM's discretion, this may instead take the form of some of terrible or hilarious misfortune, such as temporarily being turned into a small woodland creature, being struck by lightning on a clear day, swapping bodies with someone else in the encounter for the remainder of the day, or summoning an avatar of divine or infernal wrath).
(When using the Defiling action)	A ally of the player gains a number of wounds equal to the number of Ⓐ rolled.
If the caster is using an component from an component pouch, the pouch is now empty, and as to be refilled.	

**Table 9.3: Attack Additional effects**

Cost	Effect
♦	<b>Blast:</b> The attack gains the ?? quality with a rating equal to your character's ranks in Education.
♦	<b>Close Combat:</b> May select a target engaged with your character.
♦	<b>Deadly:</b> The attack gains a Critical rating of 2. The attack also gains the ?? quality with a rating equal to the character's in knowledge
♦	<b>Fire:</b> The attack gains the ?? quality with a rating equal to your character's ranks in Education.
♦	<b>Impact:</b> The attack gains the ?? quality. The attack also gains the Disorient quality with a rating equal to the character's ranks in Education.
♦	<b>Lightning:</b> The attack gains the ?? quality with a rating equal to the character's ranks in Education. The attack also gains the ?? quality. (You must increase the difficulty by one to use the Auto-fire quality as normal.)
♦	<b>Manipulative:</b> If the attack hits, you may spend Ⓑ to move the target up to one range band in any direction.
♦	<b>Range:</b> Increase the range of the spell by one range band. This may be added multiple times, increasing the range by one range band each time.
♦	<b>Quick Sand:</b> The attack gains the ?? quality with a rating equal to the character's ranks in Education.
♦♦	<b>Destructive:</b> The attack gains the ?? quality. The attack also gains the Pierce quality with a rating equal to the character's ranks in Education.
♦♦	<b>Empowered:</b> The attack deals damage equal to twice the characteristic linked to the skill (instead of dealing damage equal to the characteristic). If the attack has the ?? Blast quality, it affects all characters within short range, instead of engaged.
♦♦	<b>Poisonous:</b> If the attack deals damage, the target must immediately make a Hard(♦♦♦) Resilience check or suffer wounds equal to the character's ranks in Education, and strain equal to the character's ranks in Education. This counts as a poison.

Magic attacks are cast spell checks but additionally follow the normal rules for performing combat checks. When mak-

ing a magic attack the character must select one target at short (but not enganged) range. The attack deals damage

equal to the casters Intellect plus one per uncancelled  . The attack has no critical rating, so you may only inflict a Critical Injury with a  . Before making a magical attack, you may choose any number of additional effects from Table: ?? ?? on page ??.

### Barrier

**Skill:** Arcane

**Concentration:** Yes

**Basic Difficulty: Easy:** ()

Both arcane and divine spellcasters have the power to create barriers of magical energy to protect themselves and their allies. The character selects one target they are engaged with (which can be themself), then makes an Arcana or Divine skill check. If the check is successful, until the end of the character's next turn, reduce the damage of all hits the target suffers by one, and further reduce it by one for every uncanceled   beyond the first. Before making an Barrier check, you may choose any number of additional effects from Table: ?? ?? on page ??.

### Dispel

**Skill:** Arcane

**Concentration:** No

**Basic Difficulty: Hard:** (, , )

The ability to nullify magic is a strange and wondrous art that only certain arcane spellcasters possess. The character selects one target within short range that is under the effects of a spell, then makes an Arcana skill check. If the check is successful, the effects the target is under immediately end (if the spell affected multiple targets, the other targets remain affected). Before making a dispel check, choose any number of additional effects from Table: ?? ?? on page ??.

### Illusion

**Skill:** Arcane

**Concentration:** Yes

**Basic Difficulty: Easy:** ()

Arcane spellcasters can influence the mind of a target, causing it to see, hear, or smell something that is not there. Likewise, they can cause the target to not see, hear, or smell something. The character selects up to three targets in short range, then makes either an Arcana or Divine skill check. If the check is successful, the targets either sees a single static image up to a size of silhouette 2, hears a sound ranging from a whisper to a scream emanating from close range, or smells something wafting from close range. Likewise, the spell can cause the target to be unable to see a small, static object with silhouette 1 such as a chest, weapon, door, or shelf. Before making an Illusion check, choose any number of additional effects from Table: ?? ?? on page ??.

### Cantrip

**Skill:** Arcane

**Concentration:** Yes

**Difficulty: Easy:** ()

Cantrips covers all the minor things that we expect people to be able to do with magic, such as levitating a book, transmuting a pebble into a butterfly, detecting something magical nearby, summoning a ghostly light source to see in the dark, or making one's voice growl with distant thunder. Basically, these are all cool abilities with a minor benefit, but are more tricks than dangerous or powerful magics. That doesn't mean a player can't figure out how their character can use a utility spell to their best advantage—that's half the fun of being a spellcaster!

Cantrips don't have an equivalent action for structured encounters, since the effects are almost entirely narrative in nature. A check to cast a utility spell should always be Easy (). If that check seems too easy for what you want to accomplish, then what you want to do is probably beyond the scope of the cantrips!

**Table 9.4: Barrier Additional Effects**

Cost: 1 AP

- ◆ **Additional Target:** The spell affects one additional target within range of the spell. In addition, after casting the spell, you may spend  $\Delta$  to affect one additional target within range of the spell (and may trigger this multiple times, spending  $\Delta$  each time).
- ◆ **Range:** Increase the range of the spell by one range band. This may be added multiple times, increasing the range by one range band each time.
- ◆◆ **Add Defense:** Each affected target gains ranged and melee defense equal to your ranks in Knowledge.
- ◆◆ **Empowered:** The barrier reduces damage equal to the number of uncanceled  $\star$  instead of the normal effect.

**Table 9.5: Dispel Additional effects**

Cost: 1 AP

- ◆ **Range:** Increase the range of the spell by one range band. This may be added multiple times, increasing the range by one range band each time.
- ◆◆ **Additional Target:** The spell affects one additional target within range of the spell. In addition, after casting the spell, you may spend  $\Delta$  to affect one additional target within range of the spell (and may trigger this multiple times, spending  $\Delta$  each time).

**Table 9.6: Illusion Additional Effects**

Cost: 1 AP

- ◆ **Additional Illusion:** The spell creates an additional visual illusion. You may spend  $\Delta \Delta$  to create one additional visual illusion.
- ◆ **Additional Target:** The spell affects three additional targets within range of the spell. In addition, after casting the spell, you may spend  $\Delta$  to affect two additional targets within range of the spell (and may trigger this multiple times, spending  $\Delta$  each time).
- ◆ **Conceal:** Until the beginning of the user's turn, the target cannot see or sense a chosen person or object of silhouette 1 or smaller. The chosen person or object must remain stationary or the spell fails.
- ◆ **Increased Size:** The spell creates an illusion up to silhouette 3 or conceals a static object up to silhouette 2.
- ◆ **Movement:** The spell creates an illusion with basic movements and gestures, and can patrol in an area of up to short range. You may spend  $\Delta \Delta$  to increase the range the illusion can move by one range band per  $\Delta \Delta$ .
- ◆ **Range:** Increase the range of the spell (the distance from the character the illusion effect appears) by one range band. You may spend  $\Delta \Delta$  to extend the range band by one (and may trigger this multiple times, spending  $\Delta \Delta$  each time).
- ◆ **Simultaneous Effect:** The spell creates one additional sensory effect that appears in sync with the visual component of the illusion. You may spend  $\Delta \Delta$  to create one additional visual or sensory effect.
- ◆ **Silence:** The spell causes all sound within an area of 20 feet to be inaudible to any creature outside the area.
- ◆◆ **Disguise:** The spell alters the target's entire appearance, either physically or by adding/subtracting clothing, gear, personal effects, or other. You may spend  $\Delta \Delta$  to alter how the target sounds or smells. Nothing this spell creates has a physical component, so objects pass through it as normal, and any creature that touches it will feel nothing.
- ◆◆ **Massive Size:** The spell creates an illusion up to silhouette 4.
- ◆◆◆ **Invisibility:** The target is invisible and gains  $\otimes$  on any Stealth checks it makes for as long as concentration is maintained. You may spend  $\Delta \Delta$  to render all sounds the target makes inaudible.

## Primal

As with Arcana, Characters can only use the Primal skill to cast a spell if they have a talent allowing such use. Each spell has various options to raise the overall difficulty, but while there are no implements to be used, Primal magic can use Spell Components to enhance the potency of their spells or reduce their difficulty. (See ???: ?? for more information). Unlike Arcana spells, users do not throw  $\square$  dice, but use the above mentioned spell components to add potency.

### Primal Spells

#### Augment

**Skill:** Primal

**Concentration:** Yes

**Basic Difficulty: Average:** (◆◆)

This is using magic to enhance people. A character selects one target they are engaged with (which can be themselves), then makes a Primal skill check. If the check is successful, until the end of your character's next turn, the target increases the ability of any skill checks they make by one (in effect, this means they add  $\diamond$  to their checks). A character

**Table 9.7: Augment Additional Effects**

- ◆ **Haste:** Targets affected by the spell can always perform a second maneuver during their turn without spending strain (they may still only perform two maneuvers a turn).
- ◆ **Fury:** The target adds damage equal to the character's ranks in Knowledge to unarmed combat checks, and their Critical rating for unarmed combat checks becomes 3.
- ◆ **Range:** Increase the range of the spell by one range band. This may be added multiple times, increasing the range by one range band each time.
- ◆ **Swift:** Targets affected by the spell ignore the effects of difficult terrain and cannot be immobilized.
- ◆◆ **Additional Target:** The spell affects one additional target within range of the spell. In addition, after casting the spell, you may spend A to affect one additional target within range of the spell (and may trigger this multiple times, spending A each time).

**Table 9.8: Conjure Additional Effects**

Cost	Effect
◆	<b>Additional Summon:</b> The spell summons one additional item, weapon, or creature. In addition, after casting the spell, you may spend A A to summon one additional item, weapon, or creature (and may trigger this multiple times, spending A A each time).
◆	<b>Medium Summon:</b> The character may summon a more complicated tool with moving parts, a rival no larger than silhouette 1, or a two-handed melee weapon.
◆	<b>Range:</b> Increase the range of the spell (the distance from the character that the summoned item or creature appears) by one range band. This may be added multiple times, increasing the range by one range band each time.
◆	<b>Summon Ally:</b> The creature the character summons is friendly to them and obeys their commands. The character may spend a maneuver to direct the creature, allowing them to determine its action and maneuver. (If the character summons multiple creatures, the character may spend one maneuver on their turn to direct the turns of all summoned creatures.)
◆◆	<b>Grand Summon:</b> The character may summon a rival of up to silhouette 3.

may not be affected by more than one Augment spell at the same time (so no stacking effects). Before making an augment check, you may choose any number of additional effects from Table: ?? ?? on page ??.

### Conjure

**Skill:** Primal

**Concentration:** Yes

**Basic Difficulty: Easy:** (♦)

This action represents the ability of a spellcaster to animate objects or create items (or even allies) out of thin air and the aether. The character makes a Primal skill check. If the check is successful, the character summons a simple tool with no moving parts (such as a shovel or pickax), a one-handed melee weapon with no moving parts (such as a sword or knife), or a minion no bigger than silhouette 1 (such as an animal, magical creature, elemental spirit, or even undead monstrosity). These appear engaged with the character. The summoned minion or item remains present until the end of the character's next turn. If the character summons a creature, the creature behaves in the best approximation of its natural instincts (as determined by the GM). It is not controlled by the character, and may even be hostile to them. In a structured encounter, it takes its turn immediately after the character. Before making an Conjure check, you may choose any number of additional effects from Table: ?? ?? on page ??.

### Curse

**Skill:** Primal

**Concentration:** Yes

**Basic Difficulty: Average:** (♦♦)

This action represents the combat use of curse magic. Your character selects one target within short range, then makes an Primal skill check. If it is successful, until the end of the character's next turn, the target decreases the ability of any skill checks they make by one (in effect, this means they remove one ♦ from their checks).

Before making an Curse check, you may choose any number of additional effects from Table: ?? ?? on page ??.

### Shape

**Skill:** Primal

**Concentration:** Yes

**Basic Difficulty: Average:** (♦♦)

Shape spells change the area around them. A druid compels the plants to grow into aggressive, grasping vines to entangle anything that moves. A wizard creates a sheets of slippery, flammable grease in the path of her gith pursuers. Pooling their power together, a group of cultists call forth a swirling storm of spirits that rip at the armor of the adventuring party that seeks to stop them.

Shaping magic is how spellcasters exert their will over an entire battlefield. Though it does little against a single adversary compared to other magic, shaping magic can effect a wide area for an extended period, completely changing the course of an encounter. Shaping magic generally does no damage - instead, it restricts movement. In its most basic form, it turns an area into difficult terrain. As a rule, shaping magic does not exclude the caster or

**Table 9.9: Curse Additional Effects**

- ◆ **Enervate:** If a target suffers strain for any reason, they suffer 1 additional strain.
- ◆ **Misfortune:** After the target makes a check, you may change one □ to a face displaying a ♀.
- ◆ **Range:** Increase the range of the spell by one range band. This may be added multiple times, increasing the range by one range band each time.
- ◆◆ **Additional Target:** The spell affects one additional target within range of the spell. In addition, after casting the spell, you may spend A to affect one additional target within range of the spell (and may trigger this multiple times, spending A each time).
- ◆◆ **Despair:** The target's strain and wound thresholds are reduced by an amount equal to the character's ranks in Knowledge. This effect may not be combined with the additional target effect.
- ◆◆ **Doom:** After a target makes a check, you may change any one die in the pool not displaying a ✗ or ☀ to a different face.
- ◆◆◆ **Paralyzed:** The target is staggered for the duration of the spell. This affect may not be combined with the additional target effect.

**Table 9.10: Shape Additional Effects**

Cost	Effect
◆	<b>Entangle:</b> All creatures in the affected area are Immobilized.
◆	<b>Range:</b> Increases the range of the spell by one range band.
◆	<b>Radius:</b> The size of the area increases by one range band. This may be added again to further increase the size.
◆	<b>Precision:</b> The character may select one creature within the area to remain unaffected. You may spend one A to select an additional creature.
◆◆	<b>Burn:</b> All creatures in the area suffer ?? damage equal to the character's ranks in the Knowledge(Nature) skill.
◆◆	<b>Rejuvinate:</b> Rejuvinates the life energies of a patch of land, allowing plants to come back and grow.
◆◆◆	<b>Quick Sand:</b> All characters in the area are Paralysed and immune to all damage. The area is impassable terrain. This cannot be combined with Precision.
◆◆◆	<b>Rejuvinate, Large:</b> Rejuvinates the life energies of a large area of land, allowing plants to come back and grow.

their allies. All characters within the affected area suffer its effects unless the caster increases the difficulty. The caster selects a point within medium range, and everything within short range of that point is affected.

At higher levels a shape spell may immobilize creatures, create an area of total silence, or simply freeze everything inside a huge block of salt.

Before making an Shape check, choose any number of additional effects from Table: ?? ?? on page ??.

## Psionics

Your rank in the Psionics skill determines your psionics rating. When using a psionics power, you roll a number of ○ die equal to your psionics rating. You can use ● to enhance your psionics power, using ○ is free, however ● points show that you have a harder time, if you want to use ● points, you lose 1 Strain for each ● point you use.

In contrast to the Arcana and Primal skills, anyone with one or more ranks in Psionics can buy and use a Psionics Power, as listed below.

*TODO: Are the psionic trees competitive with Arcana and Primal?*

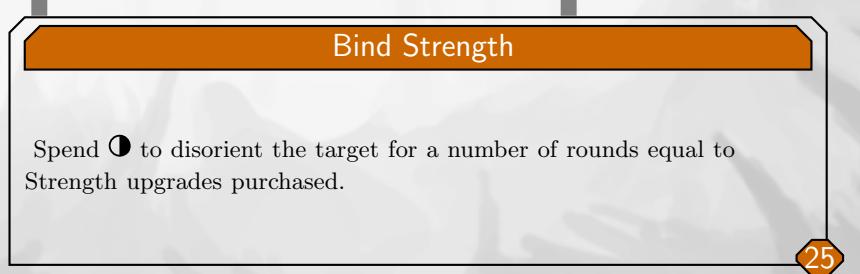
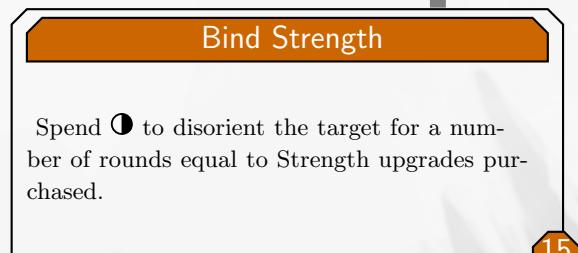
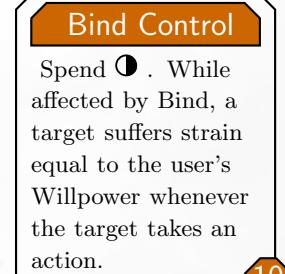
## Bind

### Bind (Power)

The Psionic can restrain one target, preventing it from acting.

The character may spend ⚡ to immobilize a target within short range until the end of the character's next turn. If the character used any ⚡ to generate ⚡, the target also suffers 1 wound per ⚡ spent on the check (ignoring soak).

15



## Enhance

### Enhance (Power)

When making an Athletics check, the Psionic may roll an Enhance power check as part of the pool. The user may spend ⚡ to gain ⚡ or ⚡ (user's choice) on the check.

10

#### Enhance Control 1

Enhance can be used with the Coordination skill.

5

#### Enhance Control 2

Enhance can be used with the Resilience skill.

5

#### Enhance Magnitude 1

Take a Psionic leap action; make an Enhance power check. The user may spend ⚡ to jump horizontally to any location in short range.

10

#### Enhance Control 3

Enhance can be used with the Ride skill.

5

#### Enhance Strength 1

Enhance can be used with the Brawl skill.

5

#### Enhance Magnitude 2

When performing a Psionic Leap, the user can jump vertically in addition to horizontally.

10

#### Enhance Control 5

Enhance can be used with the Operate skill.

5

#### Enhance Strength 2

Ongoing effect: Commit ⚡ . The user increases his Brawn characteristic by 1 (to a maximum of 6).

10

#### Enhance Range

Spend ⚡ to increase power's range by a number of range bands equal to Range upgrades purchased.

10

#### Enhance Control 6

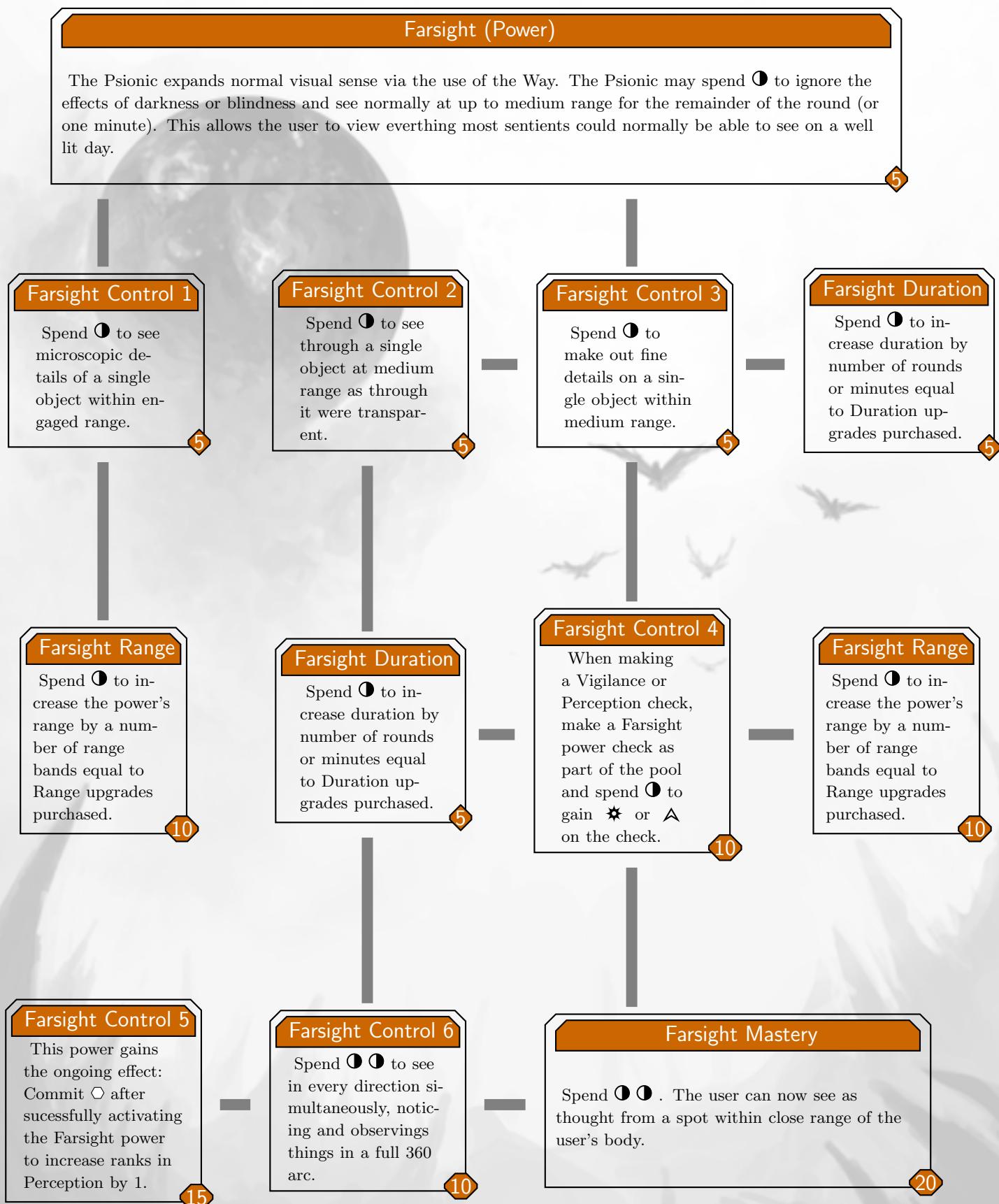
Ongoing effect: Commit ⚡ . The user increases his Agility characteristic by 1 (to a maximum of 6).

10

#### Enhance Magnitude 3

The user can perform a Psionic Leap as a maneuver instead of an action.

10



## Influence

### Influence (Power)

The character may attempt to guide, shape, and even twist the thoughts and feelings of others. The character may also spend ⚖ to stress the mind of one living target he is engaged with, inflicting 1 strain.

10

#### Influence Range

Spend ⚖ to increase power's range by a number of Range bands equal to range upgrades purchased.

5

#### Influence Magnitude

Spend ⚖ to increase targets affected equal to Magnitude upgrades purchased.

5

#### Influence Control 1

The Psionic may make an opposed Discipline vs Discipline checks combined with an Influence Power check. If the user spends ⚖ and succeeds on the check, he can force the target to adopt an emotional state or believe something untrue, lasting for 1 round or 5 minutes.

10

#### Influence Control 2

When making a Coercion, Charm, Deception, Leadership, or Negotiation check, the Psionic may roll an Influence Power check as part of his dice pool. He may spend ⚖ to gain ⚡ or ⚠ (user's choice) on the check.

10

#### Influence Strength

When stressing the mind of a target, the character inflicts 2 strain.

10

#### Influence Range

Spend ⚖ to increase power's range by a number of Range bands equal to range upgrades purchased.

10

#### Influence Magnitude

Spend ⚖ to increase targets affected equal to Magnitude upgrades purchased.

5

#### Influence Duration

Spend ⚖ to increase duration by number of rounds (or minutes) equal to Duration upgrades purchased.

5

#### Influence Duration

Spend ⚖ to increase duration by number of rounds (or minutes) equal to Duration upgrades purchased.

5

#### Influence Range

Spend ⚖ to increase power's range by a number of Range bands equal to range upgrades purchased.

10

#### Influence Magnitude

Spend ⚖ to increase targets affected equal to Magnitude upgrades purchased.

10

#### Influence Duration

Spend ⚖ to increase duration by number of rounds (or minutes) equal to Duration upgrades purchased.

5

#### Influence Duration

Spend ⚖ to increase duration by number of rounds (or minutes) equal to Duration upgrades purchased.

5

## Move

### Move (Power)

The Psionic can restrain one target, preventing it from acting.

The character may spend ⚡ to immobilize a target within short range until the end of the character's next turn. If the character used any ⚡ to generate ⚡, the target also suffers 1 wound per ⚡ spent on the check (ignoring soak).

10

#### Move Magnitude

Spend ⚡ ⚡ to affect 1 additional target within range per rank of Magnitude purchased.

5

#### Move Strength

Spend ⚡ to disorient the target for a number of rounds equal to Strength upgrades purchased.

10

#### Move Range

Spend ⚡ to increase power's range by a number of range bands equal to Range upgrades purchased.

5

#### Move Range

Spend ⚡ to increase power's range by a number of range bands equal to Range upgrades purchased.

5

#### Move Magnitude

Spend ⚡ ⚡ to affect 1 additional target within range per rank of Magnitude purchased.

5

#### Move Strength

Spend ⚡ to disorient the target for a number of rounds equal to Strength upgrades purchased.

10

#### Move Control

Spend ⚡ . While affected by Move, a target suffers strain equal to the user's Willpower whenever the target takes an action.

5

#### Move Magnitude

Spend ⚡ ⚡ to affect 1 additional target within range per rank of Magnitude purchased.

10

#### Move Strength

Spend ⚡ to disorient the target for a number of rounds equal to Strength upgrades purchased.

15

#### Move Strength

Spend ⚡ to disorient the target for a number of rounds equal to Strength upgrades purchased.

5

#### Move Strength

Spend ⚡ to disorient the target for a number of rounds equal to Strength upgrades purchased.

15

#### Move Magnitude

Spend ⚡ ⚡ to affect 1 additional target within range per rank of Magnitude purchased.

10

#### Move Strength

Spend ⚡ to disorient the target for a number of rounds equal to Strength upgrades purchased.

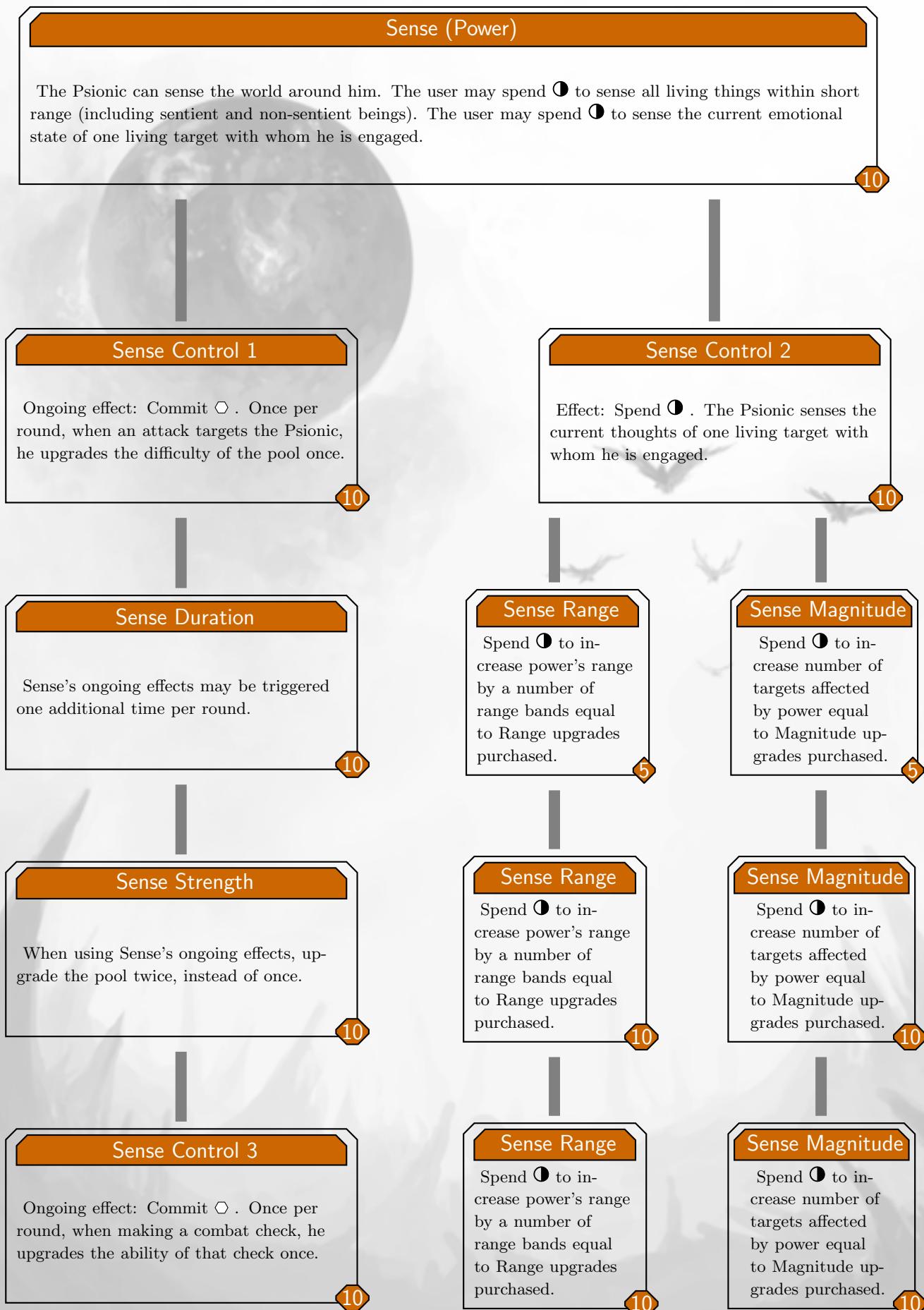
20

#### Move Control

Spend ⚡ . While affected by Move, a target suffers strain equal to the user's Willpower whenever the target takes an action.

15

## Sense



# Chapter 10: Adversaries

*"To survive, almost every form of life has become a monster in one sense or another. These adaptations have taken an almost diabolical turn. Because the world is so barren, to some extent every creature is both predator and prey. Be cautioned, traveler. For even the most passive beast and sweetest flower is often deadly on Athas. In a world where creatures must kill or be killed, this is only logical. Still, many people forget this rule when they see a brightly colored plant or a seemingly friendly ball of scales roll by."*

— The Wanderer's Chronicle

## Belgoi

### Belgoi Craven (Minion)



*When seen from a distance, this creature appears human, but its blue skin, clawed hands and webbed, three-toed feet soon give it away. The creature has no teeth, no visible ears, and its hair is black and stringy.*

Belgoi are a race of savage humanoids that live in the most desolate of places, since no other race will allow them nearby. Belgoi seem to revel in destruction, and are considered to be second only to the defilers in the damage they do to the world around them.

The weakest belgoi are cowardly, craven, creatures that rely on their stronger kin for cover and aid. They seek to gang up on wounded or isolated foes.

Belgoi attempt to use the cover of darkness to mask their attacks. Usually, when attacking a group of creatures, they

use their *psionic dominate* power to draw a single individual away from the main group, to a place where they can use their Strength damage ability uninterrupted. They then attempt to draw out the next creature, and so on, until they feel confident that they can overcome the rest of the group without loss.

If forced into melee combat, the belgoi use claws so they can use their Strength damage ability, and usually will not use weapons. When a battle turns against the belgoi, they retreat and return later with reinforcements. Only by killing the entire raiding party can a battle with the belgoi be prevented from turning into a long running engagement lasting for days.

<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
BRAWN	AGILITY	INTELLECT	CUNNING	WILLPOWER	PRESENCE
<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
SOAK	HEALTH	STRAIN	MELEE	RANGED	MAGIC PSIONIC
1	4	0	1	1	0 0

**Summon:** true

**Skills (group only):** Athletics, Stealth, Perception

**Talents:** None

**Abilities:**

- **Minor Psionics Dominate:** Once per encounter, As an action, a Belgoi Craven may attempt to *Dominate* a sentient creature. Make an opposed **Psionics vs Discipline**. If the target has heard a Belgoi Bell this turn, they gain a ■. On success sentient creature gains ?? 1 and uses its next turn to move towards the Belgoi.

**Equipment:**

- **Claw:** Brawl; Damage: 6; Critical: 4; Range [Engaged]  
- **Belgoi Bell:** Manouver to Activate: Sentient creatures who hear the bell (medium range), gain a ■ to resist *Psionics Dominate*.

### Belgoi (Rival)

*Slinking through the wastes alone, a belgoi stalker watches for travelers who are struggling to survive, engaged in a fight, or otherwise distracted. Flitting on the*

edges of a battle, the stalker gently rings its bell, drawing a lone victim away from the group.

<b>BRAWN</b>	<b>AGILITY</b>	<b>INTELLECT</b>	<b>CUNNING</b>	<b>WILLPOWER</b>	<b>PRESENCE</b>
<b>SOAK</b>	<b>HEALTH</b>	<b>PHYSICAL DEFENSE</b>	<b>MAGIC DEFENSE</b>		
<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	

WOUNDS STRAIN MELEE RANGED MAGIC PSIONIC

**Summon:** true

**Skills (group only):** Athletics 2, Stealth 2, Perception 2, Psionics 3

**Talents:** None

**Abilities:**

- **Psionics Dominate:** As an action, a Belgoi may attempt to *Dominate* a sentient creature. Make an opposed **Psionics vs Discipline**. If the target has heard a Belgoi Bell this turn, they gain a **█**. On success sentient creature gains **?? 1** and uses its next turn to move towards the Belgoi.

**Equipment:**

- **Claw:** Brawl; Damage: 6; Critical: 3; Range [Engaged]

- **Belgoi Bell:** Manouver to Activate: Sentient creatures who hear the bell (medium range), gain a **█** to resist *Psionics Dominate*.

## Braxat

### Braxat Raider (Rival)



A huge humanoid of mixed stock, mostly a combination of mammalian and reptilian, this creature has a thick shell that covers its back and a handful of horny protrusions on the top of its head.

Braxats are hunters, and they fight like them. They use psionics to disable their opponents, thereby reducing risks to themselves. After attacking with psionics braxats will move in as close as they can while still being able to keep their opponents within their reach. Braxats have a breath weapon as well that they can employ, but they use it as a last resort since the acid can cause their prey to become inedible.

<b>BRAWN</b>	<b>AGILITY</b>	<b>INTELLECT</b>	<b>CUNNING</b>	<b>WILLPOWER</b>	<b>PRESENCE</b>
<b>SOAK</b>	<b>HEALTH</b>	<b>PHYSICAL DEFENSE</b>	<b>MAGIC DEFENSE</b>		
<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	

WOUNDS STRAIN MELEE RANGED MAGIC PSIONIC

**Summon:** true

**Skills (group only):** Melee (Heavy) 2, Brawl 2, Perception 1, Psionics 1

**Talents:** None

**Abilities:**

- **Huge:** Silhouette 3

- **Acid Breath:** Once per Encounter, the Braxat can activate his breath weapon. When he does so, until the end of his next turn, it counts as a weapon with the following profile: Brawl; Damage 6; Critical 3; Range [Short]; Burn 2, Blast 6).

- **Psionic Agonize:** As an action, a Braxat may attempt to *Agonize* an opponent. Make an opposed **Psionics vs Discipline**. On success the opponent 4 Damage and **?? 1**.

**Equipment:**

- **Great Club:** Melee (Heavy); Damage: 6; Critical: 5; Range [Engaged], **?? 4, ??**

### Braxat Lord (Nemesis)

<b>BRAWN</b>	<b>AGILITY</b>	<b>INTELLECT</b>	<b>CUNNING</b>	<b>WILLPOWER</b>	<b>PRESENCE</b>
<b>SOAK</b>	<b>HEALTH</b>	<b>PHYSICAL DEFENSE</b>	<b>MAGIC DEFENSE</b>		
<b>7</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	

WOUNDS STRAIN MELEE RANGED MAGIC PSIONIC

**Summon:** true

**Skills (group only):** Melee (Heavy) 4, Brawl 2, Perception 2, Psionics 2

**Talents:** Durable 2

**Abilities:**

- **Huge:** Silhouette 3

- **Acid Breath:** Once per Encounter, the Braxat can activate his breath weapon. When he does so, until the end of his next turn, it counts as a weapon with the following profile: Brawl; Damage 6; Critical 3; Range [Short]; Burn 2, Blast 6).

- **Psionic Agonize:** As an action, a Braxat may attempt to *Agonize* an opponent. Make an opposed **Psionics vs Discipline**. On success the opponent 4 Damage and **?? 1**.

**Equipment:**

- **Great Club:** Melee (Heavy); Damage: 8; Critical: 3; Range [Engaged], **?? 2, ??**

## Crodlu

### Crodlu (Rival)



Crodlu are a species of flightless, scaled avian-like creatures that roams the wilderness in herds. They have powerful hind legs, which were built for jumping great lengths. Crodlu have very poor eyesight, but make up for it with an excellent sense of smell. Crodlu have great endurance, almost better than a mul's, and can run at high speeds for long periods of time.

*This creature is a large, flightless combination of bird and reptile. It has wicked claws at the end of its long fore and hind limbs, and its scaly hide is a yellowish red, with similar colors along its side and underbelly.*

3	3	1	2	2	1
BRAWN	AGILITY	INTELLECT	CUNNING	WILLPOWER	PRESENCE
SOAK 3	HEALTH 10	STRAIN 0	PHYSICAL DEFENSE 0	RANGED 0	MAGIC DEFENSE 0

**Summon:** true

**Skills (group only):** Athletics 2, Brawl 1, Survival 1

**Talents:** None

**Abilities:**

- **Large:** Silhouette 2
- **Trained Mount 1:** Add □ to a rider's Riding check while mounted
- **Sure-Footed:** Crodlu suffer no penalties while moving through difficult terrain
- **Beast of Burden 5:** Add 5 to encumbrance threshold

**Equipment:**

- **Claws:** (Brawl; Damage: 5; Critical: 5; Range [Engaged]);

### War Crodlu (Rival)

*A large, flightless combination of bird and reptile, this creature is more heavily muscled than most others of its species, and its clawed feet splay more broadly in the sand. A strong creature, used to heavy loads, it has a reddish-yellow scaled hide, with similar variations on its sides and underbelly.*

4	3	1	2	2	1
BRAWN	AGILITY	INTELLECT	CUNNING	WILLPOWER	PRESENCE
SOAK 4	HEALTH 12	STRAIN 0	PHYSICAL DEFENSE 0	RANGED 0	MAGIC DEFENSE 0

**Summon:** true

**Skills (group only):** Athletics 3, Brawl 2, Survival 1

**Talents:** None

**Abilities:**

- **Large:** ( Silhouette 2
- **Trained Mount 2:** Add □□ to a rider's Riding check while mounted
- **Sand Walker:** Remove 1 ■ from any checks made to traverse sandy or desert terrain
- **Sure-Footed:** Crodlu suffer no penalties while moving through difficult terrain
- **Beast of Burden 5:** Add 5 to encumbrance threshold

**Equipment:**

- **Claws:** Brawl; Damage: 8; Critical: 4; Range [Engaged]; ??

### Dune Reaper

### Dune Reaper Drone (Rival)

A chorus of wailing howls and shrieks and a sickly sweet odor on the night breeze warn a traveler that a dune reaper pack is on the hunt nearby. By the time luminescent eyes gleam like floating lanterns against the darkened dunes, escape is no longer possible.

4	3	2	2	3	1
BRAWN	AGILITY	INTELLECT	CUNNING	WILLPOWER	PRESENCE
SOAK 5	HEALTH 14	STRAIN 14	PHYSICAL DEFENSE 2	RANGED 2	MAGIC DEFENSE 0

**Summon:** true

**Skills (group only):** Brawl 2, Cool 2, Perception 3, Stealth 4,

**Talents:** None

**Abilities:**

- **Dark Vision:** A Dune Reaper can ignore ■■ for darkness from preception check related to vision.
- **Shrieking Leap:** Folding its legs beneath its body,

a Dune Reaper has an impressive leap. Each round, as a manouvre, a Dune Reaper can move anywhere up to medium range vertically or up short range vertically. If it attack in the same round, it gains a □ as if it also took the aim manouvre.

#### Equipment:

- **Arm Blades:** Brawl; Damage: 6; Critical: 2; Range [Engaged], ?? 1

## Dune Reaper Warrior (Rival)

A chorus of wailing howls and shrieks and a sickly sweet odor on the night breeze warn a traveler that a dune reaper pack is on the hunt nearby. By the time luminescent eyes gleam like floating lanterns against the darkened dunes, escape is no longer possible.



**Summon:** true

**Skills (group only):** Brawl 4, Cool 4, Perception 3, Stealth 4,

**Talents:** None

#### Abilities:

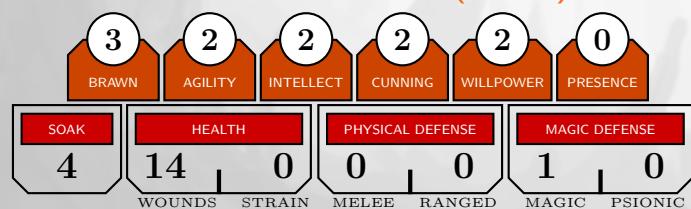
- **Dark Vision:** A Dune Reaper can ignore ■■ for darkness from preception check related to vision.
- **Shrieking Leap:** Folding its legs beneath its body, a Dune Reaper has an impressive leap. Each round, as a manouvre, a Dune Reaper can move anywhere up to medium range vertically or up short range vertically. If it attack in the same round, it gains a □ as if it also took the aim manouvre.

#### Equipment:

- **Arm Blades:** Brawl; Damage: 6; Critical: 2; Range [Engaged], ?? 2, ??

## Elementals

### Minor Earth Elemental (Rival)



**Summon:** true

**Skills (group only):** Brawl 3, Perception 2, Resilience 2, Vigilance 2

**Talents:** None

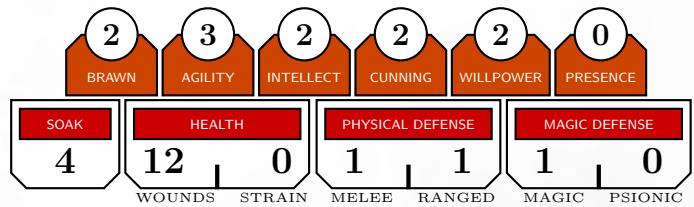
#### Abilities:

- **Rock Solid:** An Earth Elemental is Immune to ??

#### Equipment:

- **Crushing Fist:** Brawl; Damage: 6; Critical: 3; Range [Engaged]; ??, Empowered: ?? 1

## Minor Air Elemental (Rival)



**Summon:** true

**Skills (group only):** Brawl 3, Perception 2, Resilience 2, Vigilance 2

**Talents:** None

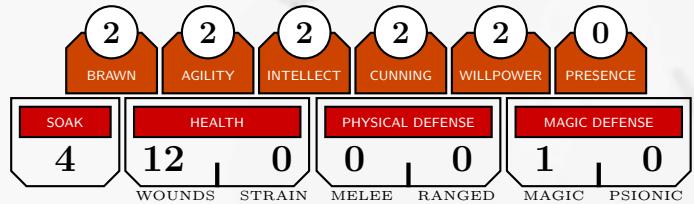
#### Abilities:

- **Flighty:** An Air Elemental is Immune to Immobilize
- **Light as the Wind:** Flying (Hovering)

#### Equipment:

- **Lightning Strike:** Ranged; Damage: 6; Critical: 3; Range [Short]; ?? 1, ?? 1, Empowered: ?? 2, ?? 4

## Minor Fire Elemental (Rival)



**Summon:** true

**Skills (group only):** Brawl 3, Perception 2, Resilience 2, Vigilance 2

**Talents:** None

#### Abilities:

- **Burning:** An Fire Elemental is Immune to Fire damage

#### Equipment:

- **Fire Blast:** (Melee; Damage: 7; Critical: 3; Range [Engaged]; ?? 1, Empowered: ?? 4

## Minor Water Elemental (Rival)



**Summon:** true

**Skills (group only):** Brawl 3, Perception 2, Resilience 2, Vigilance 2

**Talents:** None

**Abilities:**

- **Wet:** An Water Elemental is Immune to Immobilize.

**Equipment:**

- **Fire Blast:** Melee; Damage: 7; Critical: 3; Range [Engaged]; ?? 2, Empowered: ?? 2, ?? 4

## Erdlu

### Erdlu (Rival)

The erdlu is a smaller version of the crodlu. Its body is covered in tough scales, and its folded forelimbs sprout useless wings. Hardy and fast, this drakelike creature is a fine riding beast for a Silhouette 0 rider. It is too skittish to be trained for war, however.

3	3	1	2	1	1
BRAWN	AGILITY	INTELLECT	CUNNING	WILLPOWER	PRESENCE
SOAK	HEALTH	STRAIN	PHYSICAL DEFENSE	MAGIC DEFENSE	
3	12	0	0	0	
WOUNDS	STRAIN	MELEE	RANGED	MAGIC	PSIONIC

**Summon:** true

**Skills (group only):** Athletics 2, Brawl 1

**Talents:** None

**Abilities:**

- **Trained Mount:** Add ⚒ to a rider's Riding check while mounted
- **Beast of Burden 5:** Add 5 to encumbrance threshold
- **Sure-Footed:** Erdlu suffer no penalties while moving through difficult terrain

**Equipment:**

- **Beak:** Brawl; Damage: 5; Critical: 5; Range [Engaged]

## Gith

### Gith Warrior (Minion)



Standing hunched before you is a vaguely reptilian humanoid with hairless, greenish-gray skin and jet black lidless eyes. With clawed hands and feet and a fanged pronounced underbite, the creature's appearance is rendered all the more strange by its bowlegged waddling gait.

Gith combat tactics usually involve ambushes. They prefer to have a distinct advantage in numbers, and so attack in mass. Their weapon of choice is an obsidian spear designed for chopping and slashing rather than piercing, but they will use any weapon they have access to. They disdain the use of range weapons, since they enjoy watching the pain and fear of their opponents.

2	3	2	2	2	1
BRAWN	AGILITY	INTELLECT	CUNNING	WILLPOWER	PRESENCE
SOAK	HEALTH	STRAIN	PHYSICAL DEFENSE	MAGIC DEFENSE	
3	5	0	0	0	
WOUNDS	STRAIN	MELEE	RANGED	MAGIC	PSIONIC

**Summon:** true

**Skills (group only):** Athletics, Melee (Light), Perception, Skulduggery, Stealth

**Talents:** None

**Abilities:**

- **Ambusher:** A Gith Warrior may determine initiative using Skulduggery instead of Cool or Vigilance
- **Psionic Leap:** A Gith Warrior may once per encounter, as a manouever move from long to medium range using one manouever

### Equipment:

- **Spear:** Melee (Light); Damage: 4; Critical: 4; Range [Engaged]; ?? 1, ?? 1
- **Shield:** Melee (Light); Damage: 2; Critical: 6; Range [Engaged]; ?? 1, ?? 1, ?? 1, ?? 1, ??
- **Leather Armour:** +1 Soak

## Gith Captain (Rival)

<b>Brawn</b>	<b>Agility</b>	<b>Intellect</b>	<b>Cunning</b>	<b>Willpower</b>	<b>Presence</b>
3	3	2	2	2	1
<b>SOAK</b>	<b>HEALTH</b>	<b>PHYSICAL DEFENSE</b>	<b>MAGIC DEFENSE</b>		
5	12	0	0	0	0
WOUNDS	STRAIN	MELEE	RANGED	MAGIC	PSIONIC

**Summon:** true

**Skills (group only):** Athletics 2, Brawl 2, Melee (Light) 2, Leadership 1, Perception 2, Skulduggery 2, Stealth 2

**Talents:** None

### Abilities:

- **Ambusher:** A Gith Captain may determine initiative using Skulduggery instead of Cool or Vigilance
- **Psionic Leap:** A Gith Captain may once per encounter, as a manouver move from long to medium range using one manouver
- **Brain Fog:** All enemies in short range gain ■ on Arcana, Discipline, Psionics and Primal checks unless they succeeds in an Discipline check as an incidental
- **Pack Tactics:** A Gith Captain that uses the assist manuever grants □ □ instead of □

### Equipment:

- **Spear:** Melee (Light); Damage: 4; Critical: 4; Range [Engaged]; ?? 1, ?? 1
- **Shield:** Melee (Light); Damage: 2; Critical: 6; Range [Engaged]; ?? 1, ?? 1, ?? 1, ?? 1, ??
- **Chitin Armor:** +2 Soak, ??, ??

## Inix

## Inix (Rival)

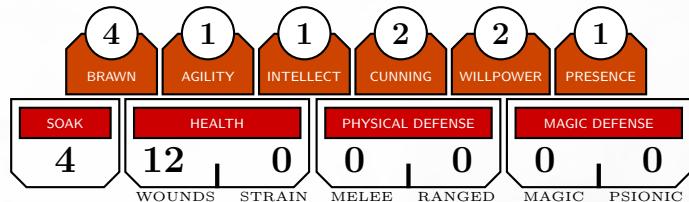


This large lizard has a long, curling tail and a broad mouth that looks quite capable of swallowing a halfling in a single gulp.

Inixes make good mounts because of the amount of weight

they can carry for their size, which is two times their normal capacity.

In combat inixes are fierce enemies. They usually attack with their tail first, taking advantage of its increased reach, then move in and try to bite, hoping to be able to grapple or swallow whole their victim.



**Summon:** true

**Skills (group only):** Athletics 3, Brawl 2, Resilience 1, Survival 1

**Talents:** None

### Abilities:

- **Large:** Silhouette 3
- **Trained Mount 2:** ( Add □ □ to a rider's Riding check while mounted
- **Sand Walker:** ( Remove 1 ■ from any checks made to traverse sandy or desert terrain
- **Beast of Burden 6:** ( Add 6 to encumbrance threshold
- **Grapple:** A Kank may spend ▲ ▲ after an attack and enemies must spend two maneuvers to disengage from an Inix.

### Equipment:

- **Trample:** Brawl; Damage: 8; Critical: 3; Range [Engaged], ?? 1, ??
- **Tail Slap:** Brawl; Damage: 3; Critical: 4; Range [Engaged], ??, ?? 2
- **Bite:** Brawl; Damage: 4; Critical: 5; Range [Engaged], Grapple

## Jozhal

## Jozhal (Minion)

*This creature is a small, reptilian humanoid with long, spindly arms and legs, a coiling tail and a long neck surmounted by a narrow, muzzled head. It is covered in scales that seem to be colored in deliberate patterns.*

Jozhals are small, lightly built reptilian creatures which may be distantly related to crodlu.

Jozhals avoid combat if at all possible, fleeing or using their chameleon-like skin to hide. If forced into combat, a jozhal will attempt to defend itself first with psionics or spells, then with any magical items it currently possesses. If left with no other option, the jozhal will attack with a bite.

BRAWN	2	AGILITY	3	INTELLECT	2	CUNNING	2	WILLPOWER	2	PRESENCE	1
SOAK	2	HEALTH	5	WOUNDS	0	STRAIN	0	MELEE	RANGED	PSIONIC	0
MAGIC DEFENSE	0	PHYSICAL DEFENSE	0	MAGIC	0	PSIONIC	0				

**Summon:** true

**Skills (group only):** Athletics, Melee (light), Stealth, Skullduggery

**Talents:**

**Abilities:**

- **Cameleon Skin:** Jozhal gain □ on Stealth checks while hiding.

**Equipment:**

- **Dagger:** Melee (Light); Damage: 4; Critical: 3; Range [Engaged], ?? 1

- **Alchemist's Fire:** Ranged; Damage: 4; Critical: 5; Range [Short], ?? 4, ?? 1

## Kank

### Kank Mount (Rival)

Athasians have been very adapt at training kanks, which make good and inexpensive mounts.

BRAWN	3	AGILITY	2	INTELLECT	0	CUNNING	2	WILLPOWER	2	PRESENCE	1
SOAK	4	HEALTH	9	WOUNDS	0	STRAIN	0	MELEE	RANGED	MAGIC	0
MAGIC DEFENSE	0	PHYSICAL DEFENSE	0	MAGIC	0	PSIONIC	0				

**Summon:** true

**Skills (group only):** Brawl 3, Perception 2

**Talents:**

**Abilities:**

- **Grapple:** A Kank may spend ▲ ▲ after an attack and enemies must spend two maneuvers to disengage from a kank.

- **Poison:** If the attack deals damage, the target must immediately make a Hard(♦♦♦) Resilience check or suffer 1 wound per turn. The target can me another Hard (♦♦♦) check at the end of each round to stop the poison. An ?? or **Average** (♦♦) medicine check will also stop the poison.

- **Trained Mount 2:** ( Add □□ to a rider's Riding check while mounted

- **Beast of Burden 3:** ( Add 3 to encumbrance threshold

**Equipment:**

- **Pincer Strike:** Brawl; Damage: 5; Critical: 5; Range [Engaged], Grapple, Poison

### Kank Soldier (Rival)

This creature is a large insect with a black, chitinous exoskeleton and long, waving antennae. Its body is divided into a head, thorax and abdomen, and it has a pair of curved mandibles with which it produces a curious clicking noise.

With powerful mandibles and a poisonous bite, soldier kanks are the warriors of their hive. When domesticated, soldier kanks are often used as caravan mounts, as they can travel for a full day at top speed while carrying a tremendous amount of weight for their size.

A soldier is the first line of defense for the hive. A soldier strikes with its pincers when in combat and tries to get a hold. A soldiers bite is poisonous.

BRAWN	3	AGILITY	2	INTELLECT	0	CUNNING	2	WILLPOWER	2	PRESENCE	1
SOAK	4	HEALTH	13	WOUNDS	0	STRAIN	0	MELEE	RANGED	MAGIC	0
MAGIC DEFENSE	0	PHYSICAL DEFENSE	0	MAGIC	0	PSIONIC	0				

**Summon:** true

**Skills (group only):** Brawl 3, Perception 2

**Talents:**

**Abilities:**

- **Grapple:** A Kank may spend ▲ ▲ after an attack and enemies must spend two maneuvers to disengage from a kank.

- **Poison:** If the attack deals damage, the target must immediately make a Hard(♦♦♦) Resilience check or suffer 1 wound per turn. The target can me another Hard (♦♦♦) check at the end of each round to stop the poison. An ?? or **Average** (♦♦) medicine check will also stop the poison.

**Equipment:**

- **Pincer Strike:** Brawl; Damage: 5; Critical: 5; Range [Engaged], Grapple, Poison

### Kank Worker (Minion)

This creature is a large insect with a black, chitinous exoskeleton and long, waving antennae. Its body is divided into a head, thorax and abdomen, and it has a pair of curved mandibles with which it produces a curious clicking noise.

Many kanks roam wild across the Tablelands, as well as being herded. These large, docile insects have black chitinous exoskeletons, which are divided into three sections: head, thorax, and abdomen. They can carry objects with their multi-jointed pincers, or use them in combat.

A worker only goes into combat when all the soldiers are dead or it is backed up into a corner. Workers strike with their pincers when in combat and try to get a hold.

BRAWN	2	AGILITY	2	INTELLECT	0	CUNNING	2	WILLPOWER	2	PRESENCE	1
SOAK	3	HEALTH	6	WOUNDS	0	STRAIN	0	MELEE	RANGED	MAGIC	0
MAGIC DEFENSE	0	PHYSICAL DEFENSE	0	MAGIC	0	PSIONIC	0				

**Summon:** true

**Skills (group only):** Brawl, Perception

**Talents:**

**Abilities:**

- **Grapple:** A Kank may spend  $\Delta \Delta$  after an attack and enemies must spend two maneuvers to disengage from your character.

**Equipment:**

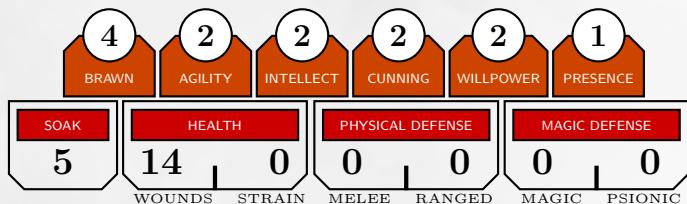
- **Pincer Strike:** Brawl; Damage: 4; Critical: 5; Range [Engaged], Grapple

## Mekillot

### Mekillot (Rival)

This enormous lizard dwarfs you with its sheer bulk. Thirty feet long and covered with a thick shell, it lumbers forward with a plodding inevitability.

Mekillots are used as caravan beasts; a hitched pair can pull a full wagon at a slow pace. Mekillots are never truly tamed, however, for the creatures have been known to go off the road and wander for days. They also like to make snacks of their handlers. Most caravans that use mekillots have a small team of psions to deal with the beasts.



**Summon:** true

**Skills (group only):** Brawl 4, Perception 2

**Talents:**

**Abilities:**

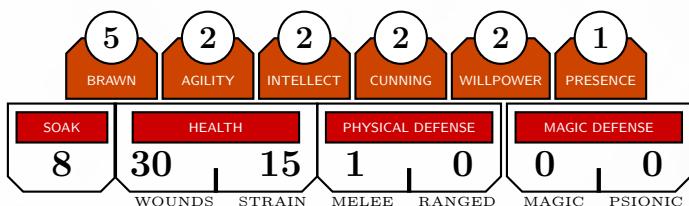
- **Huge:** Silhouette 3
- **Trained Mount 2:** ( Add  $\square \square$  to a rider's Riding check while mounted)
- **Beast of Burden 8:** ( Add 8 to encumbrance threshold)
- **Pull:** After hitting with its *Tongue Lash*, a Mekillot can spend  $\Delta \Delta$  to pull a creature in medium range to itself.

**Equipment:**

- **Trample:** Brawl; Damage: 8; Critical: 3; Range [Engaged], ?? 1, ??
- **Tongue Lash:** Brawl; Damage: 3; Critical: -; Range [Medium], ?? 3, Pull
- **Bite:** Brawl; Damage: 6; Critical: 5; Range [Engaged], ?? 1

### Mekillot Dirk (Nemesis)

In a fight mekillots attack with their tongues, or they trample enemies underfoot. A mekillot instinctively drops to the ground when something is underneath it, causing trample damage.



**Summon:** true

**Skills (group only):** Brawl 4, Perception 2

**Talents:** Durable 2

**Abilities:**

- **Huge:** Silhouette 3
- **Pull:** After hitting with its *Tongue Lash*, a Mekillot can spend  $\Delta \Delta$  to pull a creature in medium range to itself.

**Equipment:**

- **Trample:** Brawl; Damage: 8; Critical: 3; Range [Engaged], ?? 1, ??
- **Tongue Lash:** Brawl; Damage: 3; Critical: -; Range [Medium], ?? 3, Pull
- **Bite:** Brawl; Damage: 7; Critical: 5; Range [Engaged], ?? 1, ?? 2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Spec: \_\_\_\_\_

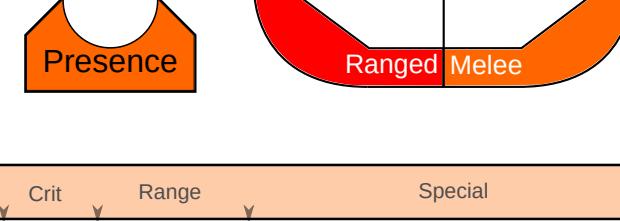
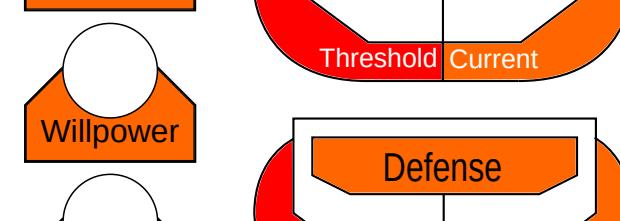
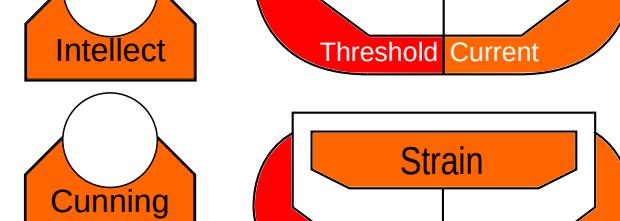
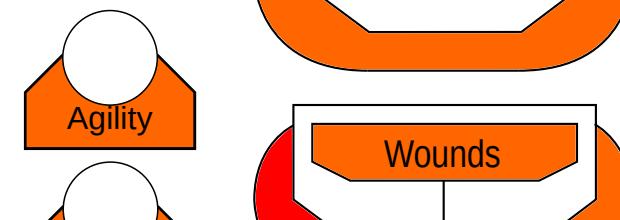
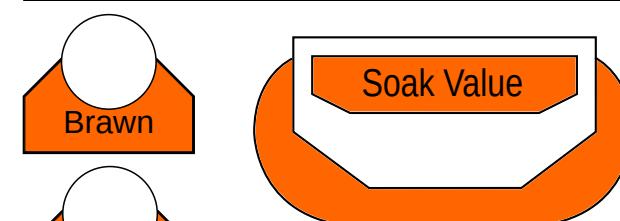
Motivation: \_\_\_\_\_

Race: \_\_\_\_\_

Second Spec: \_\_\_\_\_

Wild Talent: \_\_\_\_\_

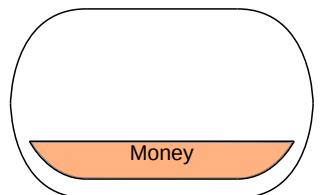
General Skills	Career	Rank
Alchemy (INT)		
Athletics (BR)		
Cool (PR)		
Coordination (AG)		
Crafting (INT)		
Discipline (WIL)		
Medicine (INT)		
Operating (INT)		
Perception (CUN)		
Resilience (BR)		
Riding (AG)		
Skulduggery (CUN)		
Stealth (AG)		
Streetwise (CUN)		
Survival (CUN)		
Vigilance (WIL)		



Combat Skills	Career	Rank
Brawl (BR)		
Melee (Heavy) (BR)		
Melee (Light) (BR)		
Ranged (AG)		

Social Skills	Career	Rank
Charm (PR)		
Coercion (WIL)		
Deception (CUN)		
Leadership (PR)		
Negotiation (PR)		

Magic Skills	Career	Rank
Arcana (INT)		
Primal (CUN)		
Psionics (WIL)		



Knowledge Skills	Career	Rank
Education (INT)		
Geography (INT)		
Nature (INT)		
Underworld (INT)		

Weapon	Skill	Damage	Crit	Range	Special

