

Lair of the Oneirovore

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Welcome to My Parlor...

The oneirovore traps stray dreams in its web, pickling them into nightmares. Once nicely fermented, the dreams and any unfortunate dreamers trapped within are consumed by the monstrous creature.

The web is difficult to traverse and studded with captured dreams, debris, and a few other denizens.

Vigorous movement along the web or searching for any particular item, person, or dream risks:

- A) Attracting a denizen of the web
- B) Attracting the oneirovore
- C) Breaking a few strands and depositing players into a dream.

Dreams appear as large, coloured orbs trapped in the webbing. Their contents are difficult to judge from the outside. A dream's pickling level might be determined by its smell or the texture of the membrane encasing it.

- Fresh dreams are recently caught and their contents are benign. They tend to be odorless from the outside, and their membranes a firm and elastic.
- Pickling dreams are a few weeks old, and their contents have ripened into something more unsettling or uncanny. They give off a vinegary smell and are encased by a soft membrane.
- Fermented dreams have been trapped a month or more, and have transformed into nightmares. A complex, spicy aroma wafts out of their gelatinous membranes.

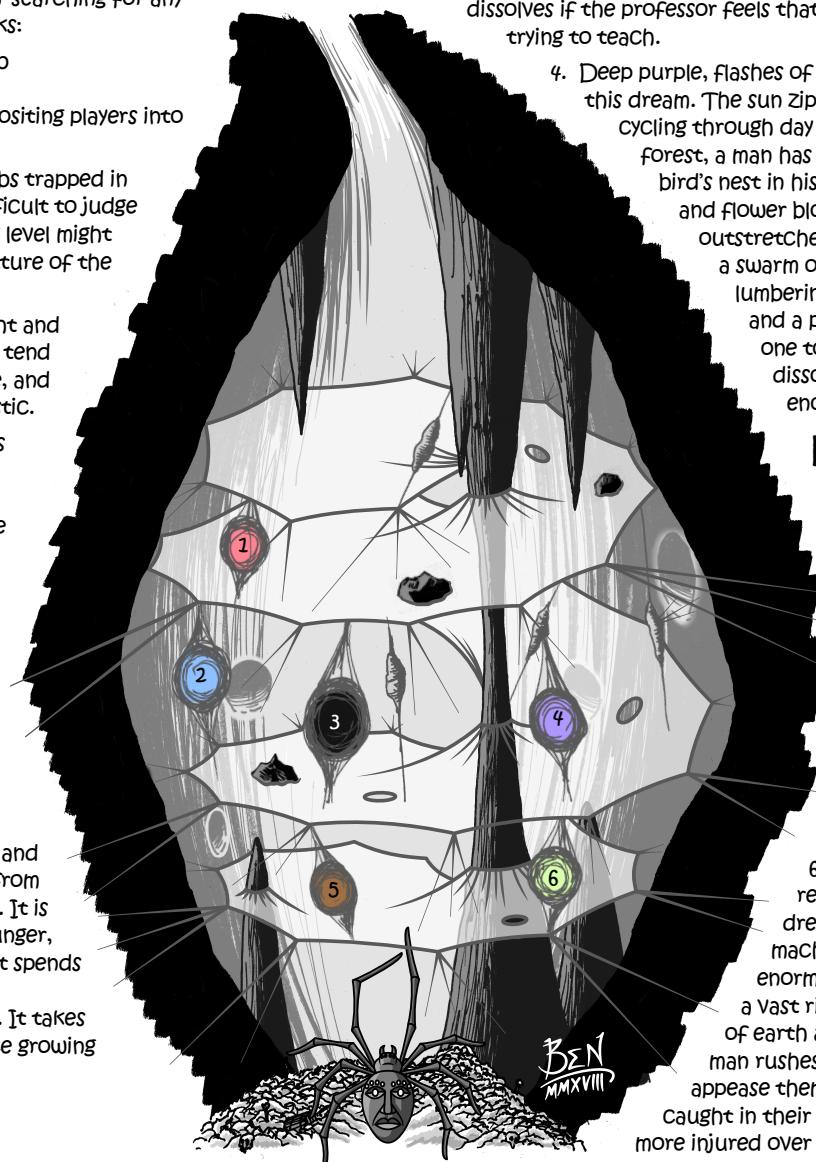
The Oneirovore

The oneirovore is a highly intelligent and coldly rational creature that learns from the dreams (and people) it consumes. It is driven by survival and an immense hunger, but holds no real cruelty or malice. It spends its days feeding, building its web and ruminating on matters of philosophy. It takes the form of a giant spider with a face growing out of its abdomen.

Fresh

1. The colors of this dream are pastel oranges and pinks. A woman sits in a pottery shop filled with vessels of different sizes, shapes, and colors. People are entering and leaving, taking pots with them. The woman sings to herself and throws pots made of strange materials: butter, honey, rose petals, cotton wool... It's difficult to distract her from her work, but if she is made to get up and leave her wheel, the dream dissolves.

2. This dream is coloured a vivid blue, green, and yellow, like painted wagons at a carnival. A young man, handsome enough to hurt your eyes, laughs joyously while leaping from rooftop to rooftop, in a city festooned with streamers. Another teenage boy, with plain features and longing painted on his face, is attempting to catch the handsome youth, calling for him to wait. The dream dissolves when the plain boy stops chasing the object of his affection.



Pickling

3. The colors of this dream are chalk white and cruel black. Raucous laughter, cursing, and chatter fill an enormous university classroom housing an army of rowdy students. A harassed professor desperately tries to direct their attention to a set of equations on the board, but the students are too busy squabbling, playing dice, drinking, and occasionally hurling small, hard objects towards the front of the classroom. The dream dissolves if the professor feels that someone has learned what they're trying to teach.

4. Deep purple, flashes of pale blue, and a deep red dominate this dream. The sun zips across the sky at a surreal pace, cycling through day and night every few moments. In a forest, a man has been planted into the earth, a bird's nest in his hair, a squirrel in his open mouth, and flower blossoms weighing down his outstretched arms. A beast with two mouths, a swarm of insects in the shape of a lumbering cow, a miniature thunderstorm, and a pair of lumberjacks arrive one-by-one to threaten the tree. The dream dissolves if the tree is protected long enough to bear fruit.

Fermented

5. The colors of this dream are a sickly brown, scarlet, and a painful magenta. A woman desperately struggles to scale a massive wall made of chittering mouths, which bite and tear at her hands and feet. A flock of winged insults, sharp and hurtful, continually swoop down and attempt to tear her off the wall. The dream dissolves when the woman reaches the top of the wall.

6. Slimy green, off-white, and reflective silver are the colors of this dream. A giant, animated sewing machine and a slightly smaller (but still enormous) typewriter are doing battle in a vast rice paddy, kicking up water, clods of earth and clumps of vegetation. An old man rushes between them attempting to appease them, even as he gets repeatedly caught in their flailing limbs and grows more and more injured over time. The dream dissolves when the battle ends.

Other Denizens of the Web

- Hypnophages: grubs nibbling on dream essence
- Unbound Night-Terrors: dream-creatures birthed in nightmares
- Troubled Dreamers: insane dreamers escaped from fermented dreams
- Reverie Flies: insects that incubate their eggs within stray thoughts
- Minerva: a mysterious witch who knits using the webbing
- Exoskeleta: animated pieces of the dead husk of another huge arachnid

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