

SANCTUM

FILIP NEDUK



In ancient times, the legends say, the land was seized by the Demon Lord Malghazar. His infernal minions swarmed the earth and laid waste to all that humankind had built.

But from the ruins arose great heroes. They battled through the demonic hordes and fought their way to Malghazar himself. Through courage, luck, and raw magical power, they defeated the Demon Lord and sealed him inside the Jade Sarcophagus.

Atop this deathless tomb, the land's new rulers built a city – a monument to their victory. They wished their city to forever be a safe haven, and so they named it Sanctum.

tutorial video



cge.as/stv

COMPONENTS



3 double-sided act boards



6 starting bonus cards



4 player boards



3 divine intervention tiles



18 double-sided potion tiles



4 quick reference sheets



1 achievement board



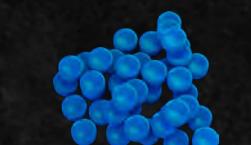
12 achievement tiles



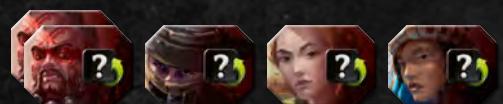
28+ stamina tokens



4 player figures



28+ focus tokens



5 rage tiles



1 hordes board



84 gems in four colors



4 health counters



84 demon cards in three decks
(84 items on back)



24 dice



12 skill tiles



33 Demon Lord cards



18 fury cards



28+ hit markers



24 skill cards

When the horrors had faded to legends and the Jade Sarcophagus had been forgotten, the throne of Sanctum fell to a king both weak and foolish. Though ruler of a bountiful land, the king saw visions of even greater power – power that lay buried somewhere beneath his city. And so began the frenzied digging – buildings torn down and streets dug up in search of a mad man's hallucination.

But the vision proved true. The king did find the power. He found it sealed underground, and he broke the seal with his own hands.

The Jade Sarcophagus has been opened. Who will come to the aid of Sanctum?

OVERVIEW

Players take the roles of heroes trying to fight their way through hordes of demons so they can defeat the Demon Lord. Although the heroes strive toward the same goal, they each have different motivations. Thus, players are competing to see who can fight the best.

Players take turns. On your turn, you can **move** through the land, **fight** the demons who pursue you, or **rest** from your struggles. When you travel, you attract demons. When you fight and defeat them, they grant you level advancements and powerful magic items. When you Rest, you can equip these items and you restore the stamina and focus you need to continue on.

The game takes place over several acts. In each act, the demons get tougher, but they offer more levels and better items. When players reach Act V, they fight to breach the Walls of Sanctum. The first player to do so sets out on a path all must follow – the path to confront the Demon Lord. Their performance in this final confrontation determines which of them wins the game.

THE FOUR HEROES



The Huntress

As the Springlands lay burning and blighted, she wept for her home. The gods felt her tears and granted her the powers of the Huntress. Too late to defend her homeland, she seeks vengeance.

The Outlaw

He was a guardsman who dared to speak against King Yurik's rule. His sentence was death by poison. Somehow, he survived. Tormented by the foulness in his veins, he seeks a cure in the ruins of Sanctum.

The Slayer

His people are the keepers of the old stories. They knew this time would come. Trained from birth, bound by destiny, the Slayer is sent to defeat the evil.

The Dancer

She is King Yurik's elder sister. Ten years ago, she escaped his assassins and found refuge among the Battle Dancers. Now fully trained, she returns to claim the throne.



"That which once was will be again. I know well the dangers you face. Fear not, brave champions of Sanctum, for I shall be with you on your path."

CENTRAL SETUP

1 Hordes Board

These are the demons who are plaguing the land.

Demon Decks

All the demon cards should have the demon face up. Sort them into three decks according to the demon icon in the upper right corner. Cards with the same number of dice will be in the same deck. Red, green, and blue cards will be mixed together. Shuffle each deck and place it on the hordes board.



2 Act Boards

The game is played in several acts, each with its own board. Games with fewer players use fewer boards:

- four-player game: play all 6 acts in order.
- three-player game: skip Act III.
- two-player game: skip Act II and Act IV.

You only need two boards at a time.



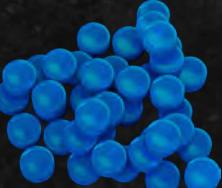
Hit Markers



Potions



Stamina



Focus

Place these where everyone can reach them.



Dice

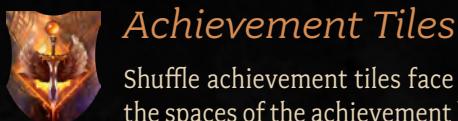
Most of the dice have gold pips. Use these for all setup on this page. The silver-pipped dice are special, as will be explained on the following pages.

Table Layout

Player boards can sit around the central board like this. Their setup is explained on the following pages.



3 Achievement Board



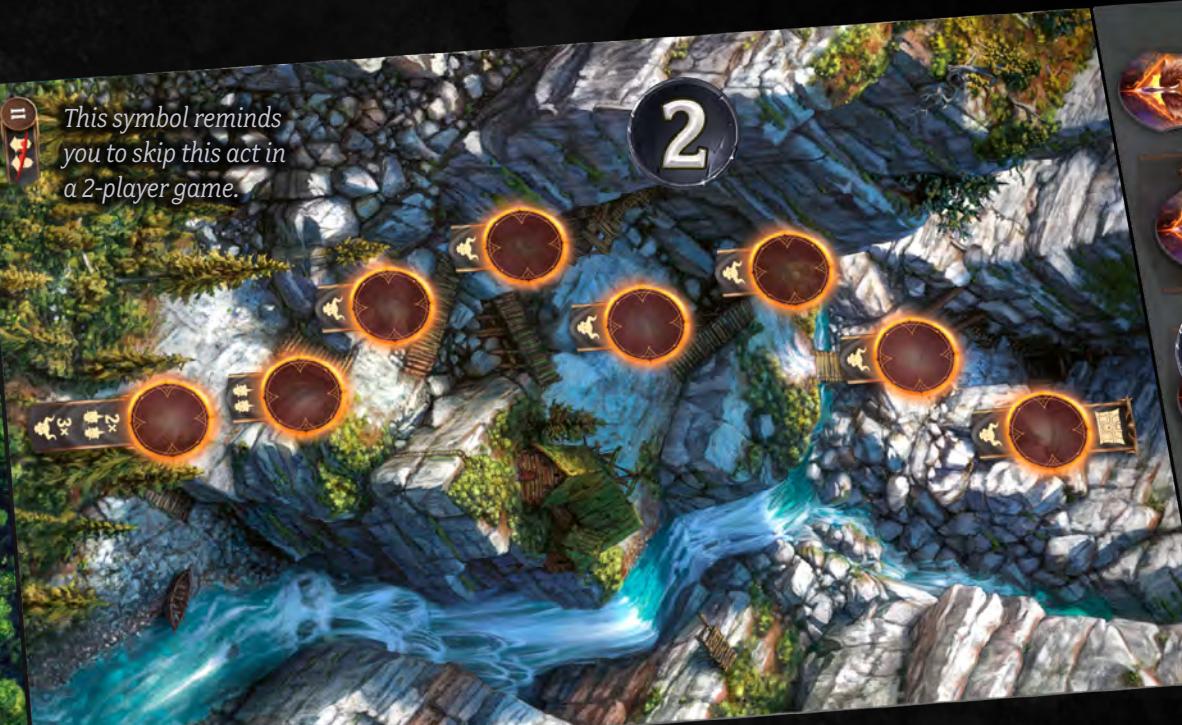
Achievement Tiles

Shuffle achievement tiles face down. Distribute 11 of them randomly on the spaces of the achievement board and return the twelfth to the box.

Two-player game: Three achievement spaces will not be used. In each level, choose a random space by rolling a die. Put the die in the corresponding space. Once you have blocked one space in each level, deal 8 achievement tiles to the remaining spaces. Then remove the dice you rolled. Return the 4 unused tiles to the box.



This symbol reminds you to skip this act in a 2-player game.



4 Divine Intervention Tiles

You have 3 divine intervention tiles, but you will use only two of them. During the game, divine intervention will give each player a new die.

The Act V tile is always used. Place it on the achievement board. Put dice on it, one die per player.

Two-player game: You start with boards I and III. Put the Act III tile on board III now and put 2 dice on it. (Return the Act II tile to the box.)

Three-player game: You start with boards I and II. Put the Act II tile on board II now and put 3 dice on it. (Return the Act III tile to the box.)

Four-player game: You start with boards I and II. Set board III aside, and put the Act III tile on it. Put 4 dice on the tile. (Return the Act II tile to the box.)

Illustrations show you where the tiles go on each board.



Act II

Act III

Act V



These cards will not be used until much later in the game. Set them aside for now.



*"These gifts are yours. Use them wisely.
With luck we shall meet again. At Sanctum."*

YOUR PLAYER BOARD

Assigning Boards

Each character in the Sanctum story has a unique set of skills. We encourage players to try them all. You can choose boards however you like, but often the best solution is to assign them randomly.

- 1 Take the figure matching your board.
- 2 Place your rage tile on your board, as shown, with the active side up.
- 3 Your stamina pool starts with the number of red stamina tokens printed on the board 🔥.
- 4 Your focus pool starts with the number of blue focus tokens printed on the board 🔥.
- 5 Take your health counter 🩺 and place it on the top space of your health track.
- 6 You start the game with 2 dice. Keep them in front of you.
- 7 Take a third die and place it on the angel icon in your gem pool. Right now, this does not count as one of your dice. You will receive it during the course of the game.
- 8 Place 1 white gem in your gem pool, atop the die.
- 9 Set up your skill table.
- 10 Each player gets one silver-pipped die. Put yours on the skill with the die icon. You will be able to use your silver-pipped die only if you gain this skill.



Stamina & Focus

Stamina is used on red ability spaces to block damage. Focus is used on blue ability spaces to help you hit demons. Purple ability spaces can use either one, as you can see if you put stamina and focus together and hold them up to the light.



Item Slot

This slot can have one helmet.



Skill Breakdown



character symbol

Starting Bonuses

Choose the starting player randomly. You will play in clockwise order.

Deal random starting bonus cards or potions to each player as indicated in the table:

1st player	2nd player	3rd player	4th player

If you get a potion, flip it as though it was a coin – that determines whether it is red or blue. Then put it in one of your potion slots.

For each starting bonus card you receive, move one gem from the depicted skill to the space above it in your skill table.



For example, if you get this card, move a blue gem from blue skill III to blue skill II.

9

Your Skill Table

The skill table is what makes your character unique.

- I. Take the nine skills belonging to your character. (Some are cards. Some are tiles.)
- II. Lay them out according to their Roman numerals. Red numerals go in the column on the left, green in the middle, blue on the right. They go in order, I, II, III, with the level I skill at the top.
- III. Give each skill the appropriate number of gems in the indicated colors.
- IV. Some skills will have stamina or focus tokens – or both. Place the appropriate tokens on the flame symbols.

GAMEPLAY

Players will take turns going clockwise around the table. On your turn you choose **one** of these three actions:

Move **or** Fight **or** Rest

The game plays out over several acts. Characters travel along the act boards and become more powerful. Act V begins when one player reaches the Walls of Sanctum. The rules will begin to change, leading to Act VI, the confrontation with the Demon Lord. Whoever comes away from this battle in the best health will win the game.

START

Difficulty Level

Sanctum can be played at various difficulty levels. Experienced Sanctum players should choose a difficulty level before they start the game. New players should try the Normal difficulty first. The difficulty level does not come into play until Act VI, so we will explain it then.

Your First Action

Your first action of the game must be a Move.

The first player puts his or her figure on the first space of the Act I board. This is the first step of a Move action, which is explained on the following pages. Once that player's action is complete, the second player takes a Move action to the front of the line, and so on. An example is on page 11.

Once everyone has taken a turn, everyone's figure is on the board.

Demon Card Breakdown

When you kill this demon, you will gain a green helmet.



The two red gems tell you that you will gain 2 levels for defeating this demon. The icon tells you which deck it belongs to. All level 2 demons are in the same deck.



The die icons are hit locations. If you hit them both, the demon is defeated.

Blood drops represent the damage the demon will deal unless you defeat it.

MOVE

"Malghazar called upon the armies of the Three Hells – the vile ashlings from the fiery Hell of the Damned, the skeletal horrors from the icy Hell of the Dead, and the abominations from the plague-ridden Hell of the Beasts."

When you Move, you advance the game and you acquire more demons to fight. Perform these steps in order:



① Advance

If you are already in front, move ahead one space. If someone else is in front, move to the space ahead of them. No matter how far behind you are, you always move to the front of the line.



② Reveal Demons

The icons at the space you moved to will tell you how to add demons to your current board.



The first player to arrive on the board will deal 5 sets of demons. Some demons are dealt in pairs. Some may be dealt alone.



If you are not making the first move onto the board, the space will ask you to add 1 set of demons. Again, this set may have two demons, or it may have just one.

Demon Icons



level I



level II

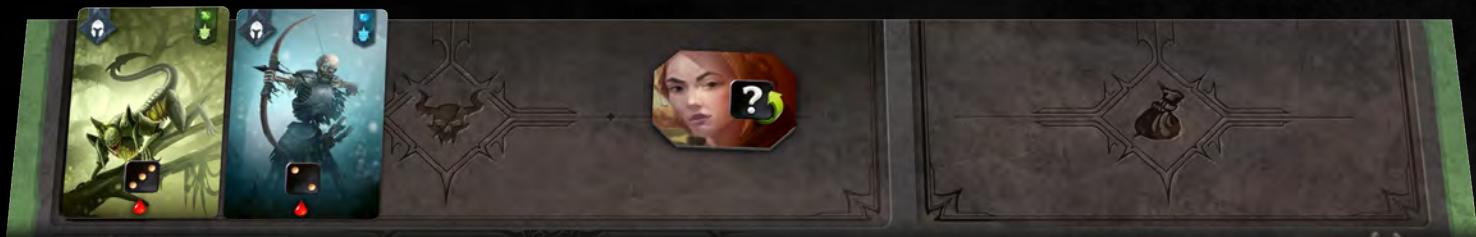


level III

3 Take Demons

You always have 5 sets of demons to choose from. Take 1 set and place it on your battle board. Demons that were dealt in pairs must be taken together. A demon that was dealt alone must be taken alone.

The demons you take during your moves accumulate on your battle board, pursuing you until you fight them.



4 Treasure Chest?



The last space of the board has a treasure chest. When you Move here, you discover the chest at the end of your turn.

The chest holds a wealth of items players can choose from. Flip all remaining demon cards over to the item side.

Beginning with you, and continuing in the current marching order of your figures on the boards, each player chooses one of these items and puts it in his or her item sack.

Note that each player takes only one item, even if it was in a set of two. No one gains levels for these items, and they can be equipped only in the usual way, during a Rest action.

Clear all remaining cards off the board. If you have not done so already, place the board for the next act on the table.

The Next Board

The next board depends on the number of players:

4-player game: use all the boards in order, I through VI

3-player game: skip from board II to board IV

2-player game: skip from I to III and from III to V



Icons remind you to skip the board when you have a certain number of players.

When everyone is on the next board, you can remove the old board and slide the remaining board over. Then put the new board in place. You never need more than two boards. If necessary, you can remove a board from under figures that have fallen two boards behind and line them up on the hordes board.

Divine Intervention



for three players



for two or four players

In a four-player game, you need to put the Act III divine intervention tile on the board when you add board III to the table. In a two- or three-player game, you placed a divine intervention tile on its board during setup. The tile should have one die per player.

When someone Moves to the space marked by the divine intervention tile, **all players gain an extra die**, which they will roll during fights for the Rest of the game. The tile can be discarded.



"They met a man on the road dressed in strange clothing, a lone wanderer in the demon-infested wilderness. When they asked how he had survived, he said he had a power. When they asked what it was, he gave it to them ... and vanished."

Opening Moves Example



Anja, playing the Huntress, has been chosen to start the game. She puts her figure on the first space of the board. This space tells her to deal out 5 pairs of level I demons, as shown on the right. She does so.

Now she has to pick a pair. This is her first game, and she's not sure what to look for. She knows the red-blue pair is bad, because their die icons both show the same number. She likes the looks of the blue-green pair, so she takes them. (This was probably not her best move, either. Those demons both carry helmets, and she won't be able to wear two helmets.)

Anja places her chosen pair on her battle board (the space on her player board above the character's head). This ends her turn.



Lenka, playing second, puts her figure on the second space of the board. She has no other option. This is her first action of the game, so it must be a Move.

The space tells her to deal out another pair. She puts them on the board.

Now she must choose demons. Note that she must choose a pair, and she cannot take cards from different pairs. When she chooses her set of demons, she will put them on her battle board and the next player will go.

Play will continue in this manner, with each player moving to the front of the line and taking a set of demons until it is Anja's turn again. On Anja's second turn of the game, she can choose to Move or Fight. She could also Rest, but that action will be useless to her until she has fought her demons.



Tip: You may be tempted to Fight your demons as your second action of the game. Don't forget that it is legal to Move instead. If your demons have a variety of different die icons, you have more opportunities to hit them in combat.

FIGHT

"Once, you were Sanctum's outcast. Now, you must be her champion."

With the Fight action, you attempt to kill your demons so you can gain levels and items. Perform these steps in order:



Your First Fight

You will not use potions in your first fight. Skip ahead to step 2 and roll your dice.

When explaining the game to new players, you don't need to explain potions until they have fought their first fight.

Abilities

Abilities help you attack or block. Most are on items, but you start with some in item slots. Some abilities have one space, some have two. An ability space can be red, blue, or purple.



This ability uses 1 stamina.



This ability uses 1 focus.



This ability can use either 1 stamina or 1 focus.



This ability uses 2 stamina.



This ability uses 2 stamina, 2 focus, or 1 of each.



This ability uses 1 stamina plus another token which could be stamina or focus.

To use an ability, move stamina or focus onto it. The token spent must match the ability space's color. A purple space is matched by either stamina or focus.

① Before Roll



Some players start the game with a potion. You can also get potions when you Rest. Potions can be used at the beginning of a fight to regenerate stamina and focus spent in previous fights.



It is legal to regenerate only one space of a two-space ability. The regenerated token becomes available again, but the remaining token prevents you from using the ability.

Tip: Don't be afraid to drink potions. They can give you an edge when it counts, and you will be able to get more later, when you Rest. Saving potions may actually mean you are wasting them, because the space to carry potions is limited.

② Roll

You start the game with two dice. During the course of the game, you will gain more. Roll all these dice at once.



3 Attack



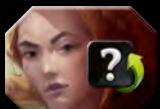
You want to use your dice to hit the demons. You are trying to match the dice shown at the bottom of their cards.

For example, you can hit this demon with a 1 or a 6. If you match both die icons, you will kill it and gain levels and an item.

If you are lucky, you might simply roll all the hits you need. If not, you may be able to get those numbers by using abilities to modify your dice.



For example, you can move a focus to this ability and change the value of one die by 1. If an ability would raise your die above six or lower it below one, then you can't use that ability on that die. However, you are allowed to apply multiple abilities to the same die. You may also be able to use your rage.



When this side of your rage tile is up, your rage is active. You can use your active rage to set any die to a value of your choice. When you use your rage, flip the tile over to the inactive side. Inactive rage cannot be used.

Assigning Hits

Assign your hits by placing your dice on the matching die icons on your demon cards. The die must match exactly, or it is not a hit. Each die can only be assigned to one hit location.



At the end of your Attack, if there are still demons left to kill and you have dice you did not assign, you become enraged. Flip your rage tile back to its active side – you will be able to use it in your next fight. (If your rage was already active, then nothing happens. Maybe you should have used it.)

4 Block

A demon is dead if you have hit all its hit locations. Dead demons will not hurt you.

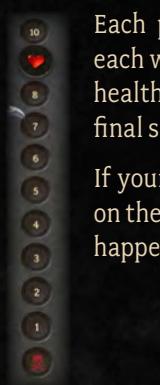


If you have any demons that are not dead yet, they will deal the full amount of damage shown at the bottom of the card.

You block damage by using abilities with one or more shield icons. Each shield icon blocks 1 point of damage. If you can generate shields that equal or exceed the damage, you will take no wounds.



Many block abilities have 2 spaces. You use the ability by putting two tokens on it. Each token must match its space.

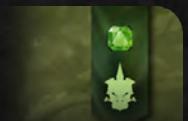


Each point of unblocked damage becomes 1 wound. For each wound, move your health counter one space down the health track. You want to avoid wounds. They lower your final score, and there is no easy way to heal them.

If your health counter reaches zero, your figure falls dead on the path and you drop out of the game. This is unlikely to happen before Act VI unless you are intentionally careless.

5 Gain Levels & Items

Gain levels equal to the levels of each demon you killed.



The gems in the upper right corner depict the levels you gain. For each gem on the card, you move one gem in your skill table up to the next space. The gem you move must match the color of the gem on the card. However, white gems match any color. For example, if you defeated this demon, you could move 1 green gem or 1 white gem.



When you defeat this demon, you move 2 gems, blue or white. You could move the same gem twice. **More details are on page 15.**



After gaining levels from a demon, flip it over. The other side has an item. Keep this in your item sack for now. Your sack can hold any number of items. You can equip them only during a Rest.



Don't flip the demon card until you have gained the levels. This helps you track which ones you have already done and which ones you have left to do.

Demons that were not killed remain on your board. If you have assigned them any hits, record those hits by replacing your die with a hit marker. The hits you assign during one fight carry over to all future fights, so you will never need to hit the same location twice.

6 Check Achievements

Achievements are explained on page 18.



Fight Example

1 After starting the game with Move actions on her first two turns, Anja is being pursued by three demons. On her third turn, she decides to Fight.

This is her first Fight, so there's no point in using potions. She has two dice. She rolls them both and gets two sixes.



2 One of the sixes can be used to hit the level II demon, but the other six does not match any of the remaining hit locations. Anja decides to use her abilities to turn it into a hit.



She moves 2 focus from her focus pool to these two abilities. She applies them both to change a six to a three.



3 Anja places the dice on the demon cards to mark her hits. She killed only one of the demons. The other two will damage her. They are dealing a total of 3 damage.



She pays 2 stamina to use this ability. The ability gives her 2 shields, which block 2 damage.

Anja cannot block the third point of damage. She must move her counter down one space on the health track.



4 Anja gains 1 level for defeating the level 1 demon. The demon is green, so she moves a green gem up one space. (She could have moved a white gem.) She flips the card over and sees a new item, which will go in her item sack. She takes her dice back and places a hit marker to denote that she does not need to hit the six again.

Note: Anja's decisions may not have been the best. Double sixes was an unfortunate roll, but she could have used her rage to set one of them to a one. That would have killed the level II demon without spending any focus. She would have faced only 2 damage, she would have gained 2 levels, and she would have acquired a more powerful item.

Skill Table

Gaining Levels



At the end of a fight, you gain levels for each demon you killed. The levels are represented by gems in the upper right corner of the card.

For each gem on the card, you get to move a matching gem in your table up one space. Thus, you can move a gem from skill III to skill II, from skill II to skill I, or from skill I to your gem pool. This process allows you to gain gems and skills.

Gaining Gems

Once you move a gem into your gem pool it is available for equipping items during a Rest action.

Gaining Skills

When you move the last gem off a skill, remove the skill from the skill table. It is now a skill you have. If it's a card, flip it over to see where it goes on your board. If it's a tile, take the tokens, flip it over, and keep it nearby in case you need to doublecheck your token count.

Skills are explained in detail in the next section. Skills do not have to be gained in order; you can have a level II or level III skill without ever earning any skill of level I. Note, however, that when you move a gem off a level III skill, you move it onto a level II skill, which makes that skill harder to get.

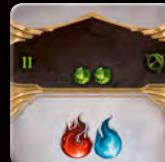
The space that held the skill still counts as a space in your skill table. For example, if you have removed your level II skill, a gem moving from your level III skill will move into the level II space.

Even when you gain multiple levels, you still move your gems one by one. Thus it is legal to move the last gem off a level II skill, remove it because it has no gems, and then move a gem into the vacated space.

Note: If you have gained so many levels in a particular color that you no longer have any gems you can legally move, then any more gains in that color are wasted.

Example: Anja chooses to move these 2 blue gems. She first moves the top gem to her gem pool, thus gaining **Surge**. She then moves a gem up into the empty space.

The gem you move must match the color of the gem on the card. However, white gems match all three colors, which means you can move a white gem in any column.



Note: The stamina and focus tokens on your skill tiles do not move. You earn the tokens when you gain the skill.



Skill Overview



The skill tiles offer you stamina, focus, or both. During setup, you should have put the stamina and focus tokens on these tiles. When you gain the skill, move these tokens to their pools. You now have extra stamina and focus to spend. Flip the tile over and keep it nearby in case you need to check how much stamina and focus your board should have.



Some skills give you an effect that can be used at certain times during the game. When you gain the skill, perform any immediate effect. Then flip the card over and place in the corresponding skill space on the left side of your player board. The card will tell you what it does and when you can use it.



Each character has a signature skill that goes in the slot marked by a diamond.

Using Skills

Some skills have effects that alter the mechanics of the game just for you. Others have a special effect that can be used only during a certain step of a Fight.

Particular skills are explained on your quick reference sheet.

REST

*"When I seized the sabre, I felt the sabre seize me. 'Who are you?' it whispered inside my head.
I see you are quick of hand, but to wield me, you must be quick of mind."*

The Rest action helps you prepare for more combat. Perform these steps in order:



Note: You can Rest even if you have demons on your battle board.

1 Restore

When you Rest, move all the stamina and focus tokens you spent back to your stamina and focus pools. All your abilities become available to use again. All your stamina and focus are once again available to spend.

Note: Resting has no effect on your rage nor on the demons on your battle board.

2 Equip Items

To equip an item, you need gems that match the gems depicted on the item. Gems come in three colors, plus white. When equipping, white gems match any color.

Put the item in the slot with the matching item icon. (If it's a weapon, you have 2 slots to choose from.) Put the gems on the matching spaces on the card. While the item is equipped, you will be able to use its abilities in a fight.

Each item slot can hold only one item. Items that are not equipped can be saved in your item sack for later or they can be spent to buy potions.



Example: Anja has collected these three items and she has these two gems. Anja can equip the Feathered Cap with the white gem. She can equip the Seer's Cowl with the blue gem or the white gem. If these were both weapons, she could equip them both because she has two weapon slots.

But these are both headgear. She has only one head, so she can't equip them both, even though she has enough gems to pay for both.



Anja decides to equip the Acrobat's Shoes. She puts the item in her boots slot and gives it the blue gem and the white gem. The headgear stays in her item sack.

Your First Item



When you equip your first item you gain the die in your gem pool. Add it to your dice. It will be yours for the Rest of the game.

Note: You start with a white gem in your gem pool to make it easy for you to equip your first item.



"I dreamed of a man with wings. When I awoke, I saw nothing but a sparrow hopping along the road. Somehow, after the horrors I had fought, the sight of this stalwart little bird gave me strength."

Reorganizing Items

If you already have some items equipped, you may reorganize them all freely during your Rest action. Items can be moved to your item sack, and their gems can be used to equip different items.

Increased Stamina and Focus

Some items give you stamina or focus. For each red flame icon, add 1 extra stamina to your stamina pool. For each blue flame icon, add 1 extra focus to your focus pool. You keep these extra tokens as long as you have the item equipped, and you return them to the center of the table if you remove the item.

Whenever you reorganize your items, doublecheck your stamina and focus totals to be sure you have the right amount.



③ Buy Potions

You can buy potions during a Rest by discarding items. For each item discarded, gain one potion. You choose red or blue, regardless of the item's color. You gain only one potion, regardless of the item's level.

You can carry at most one potion in each of your potion slots. Usually, you have four potion slots, but some characters have skills that may change this number.

If you don't have an empty potion slot, you can discard a potion of one color to make room for a potion of the other color, but this is wasteful.



④ Check Achievements

Achievements are explained on page 18.

Stamina and Focus Summary

You get stamina or focus from three sources:

- 1 You start the game with the amount depicted in the pool.
- 2 You get more tokens when you gain certain skills. (These skills are represented by tiles.)
- 3 You get more tokens when you equip certain items. But you also lose these tokens if you remove the item.

Example: By counting up the flame icons, Anja can see that she should have 5 stamina and 7 focus.



ACHIEVEMENTS



An achievement is a reward for being the first player to accomplish a particular goal. If you gain an achievement, take the tile from the achievement board.



Each achievement offers a hidden blessing. You can look at your blessing, but keep it hidden for now. Blessings cannot be used until you face the Demon Lord.



Achievements come in three categories, plus one bonus category, as depicted on the achievement board.

1 Skill Mastery is the achievement for gaining skills. You gain an achievement if you are the first player to have 3, 5, or 7 skills. This achievement counts all skills you have gained, whether cards or tiles.

2 Gem Mastery is for gaining gems. In particular, you need gems of two different colors, and white gems do not count. If you are the first player to have gained at least 2, 3, or 4 gems in each of two different colors, you get a Gem Mastery achievement.

3 Equip Mastery is for equipping items. Count the levels of all items you have equipped. (An item's level is the number of gem icons it has.) If you are the first player with 4, 7, or 10 levels equipped, you gain an Equip Mastery achievement.

4 Higher Level Mastery is an achievement you get if you are the first player to achieve a level II or level III mastery in skills, gems, or equipping.

It is possible to get multiple achievements at once.

ACT V - THE WALLS OF SANCTUM

"We build these walls to protect our people from dangers yet to come."

"But we build these gates hoping to leave them forever open, welcoming all who come to Sanctum."

Beginning of Act V

The first player to move onto board V deals out 5 pairs of demons, as indicated, and chooses one pair to add to his or her battle board.



The Act V divine intervention tile is removed from the board and each player receives one more die.



When you Move onto board V, place your figure on the matching space. You have arrived at the Walls of Sanctum. Only the first player adds demons. Players who Move onto the board later will have fewer pairs to choose from.

Players at the walls can Move no farther. On their turns they can only Rest or Fight, trying to defeat all their demons.

*The Huntress arrives at the Walls of Sanctum.
All players will now gain one more die.*

Breaching the Walls

A player at the Walls of Sanctum who starts a turn with no demons may breach the walls.

Note: The only other option is to Rest, which you would do only if you wanted to get an Equip Mastery achievement.

To breach the walls, the player advances to the cathedral space.



The Demon Lord Appears

The player who breached the walls removes the achievement board and replaces it with board VI. It is no longer possible to gain achievements. The player then shuffles the Demon Lord deck and places it on the matching illustration. That player ends his or her turn by placing the top two cards on the cathedral, as shown.

Call to Arms

On their turns, the other players can choose to answer the call to arms by discarding all remaining demons and entering the city. This option is available even to players who have not yet reached board V. If all players answer the call to arms, it is time for Act VI.

If you answer the call to arms immediately (on your first turn after the walls are breached) you advance to the cathedral with the player who breached the walls. But this is not required. You could choose to Fight or Rest. And if you are not yet on board V, you can choose to Move to the Walls of Sanctum.

Each time the player who breached the walls gets a turn, he or she adds a new Demon Lord card to the board, below the cathedral, as shown. Players who answer the call move to the card most recently laid down. Players who have already answered the call do nothing on their turns.

The act ends when all players have answered the call to arms. If the board gets a second card below the cathedral (as shown in the final illustration) then all remaining players must answer the call.

Example: In the illustrations at right, the Outlaw breaches the walls. He moves to the cathedral and lays down 2 cards. On her turn, the Huntress joins him. The other two could also join him, but they choose to Fight. On his next turn, the Outlaw lays down a card. The Dancer decides to join on this turn, but the Slayer wants one more Fight. On his next turn, the Outlaw lays down the final card, and the Slayer must join immediately.

A Brief Respite

After the end is triggered, everyone takes their final Rest action of the game. You are not allowed to gain new achievements during this Rest, so you can probably all do this simultaneously.

This is your last chance to equip anything. It's a good idea to check your stamina and focus totals to be sure you have all the tokens you are entitled to.

Buy all the potions you can, and discard any remaining unequipped items. You can also sweep everything off your skill table – you won't need it anymore.

Move your achievement tiles to your newly emptied gem pool. Turn them all over to reveal your blessings. Take a deep breath and prepare to face the Demon Lord.

The Demon Lord's Answer

At the end of Act V, the Demon Lord shakes the city of Sanctum with his mighty power.

Each Demon Lord card has an effect printed on the face-down side. One at a time, turn over each Demon Lord card and resolve its effect. Individual effects are explained on page 22. Applicable blessings can be used at this time.

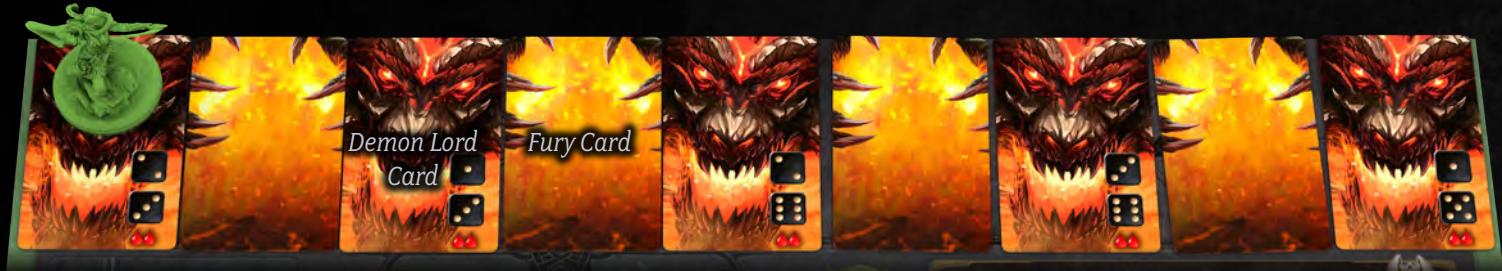
Those at the cathedral are affected only by the two cards at the cathedral. Players who answered the call later are affected by all cards that were already laid down when they answered the call.

ACT VI - THE DEMON LORD

"Oh, that gaping maw! Those burning, soulless eyes!"

Battle Board Setup

Shuffle the deck of fury cards. Deal 5 Demon Lord cards and 4 fury cards to each player, alternating across the top of their boards as shown.



These cards should be dealt randomly, and no one should choose their order. No one is allowed to look at the other side of their cards at this time.

After the deal, the fury deck can be set aside. It will no longer be needed. Keep your rage tile in your gem pool. Start the Final Battle by putting your figure on the leftmost card of your battle board.

The Final Battle

The Final Battle is divided into rounds. In each round, all players take one Fight action. (You can do this simultaneously.) There is no more Rest. Between rounds, all players will suffer the Demon Lord's wrath.

Fighting the Demon Lord

Each round of the battle is like a normal Fight action, but with these modified rules:

- You can use blessings. Their effects are described on page 22. Once you use a blessing, turn it face down.
- You must defeat each card in order. You can assign hits only to the card your figure is on.
- When you have hit all locations on a card, move your figure to the next one.
- As you move onto a fury card, flip it over. Resolve the card's effect immediately. It applies only to you. Now you must defeat this card before you can move on. (Its effect will not trigger again, even if it survives to the next round.)
- When blocking damage, you face all the damage on your current card and also the damage on all cards ahead of it. (Note that fury cards only deal damage if their hidden side has been revealed.) Cards you have defeated do not deal damage.



In this situation, you would be facing 8 damage.

Everything else follows the usual rules. In particular:

- You can use potions at the start of any Fight.
- You can assign hits to multiple cards before your Block step. (But they have to be hit in order.)
- Dice that could not be assigned as hits will activate your rage.
- After you Block, replace your dice with hit markers and take your dice back. You don't have to worry about cards you have already defeated, and hits on those that were not defeated will carry over into the next round.

The Demon Lord Roars



Setup for the first Roar.

Once everyone has fought one Fight, the Demon Lord unleashes an earth-shaking attack!

Deal two Demon Lord cards in a row along the bottom of the Act VI board.

One by one, reveal each card in the row and resolve it. If players feel their decision depends on what others do, decide in play order, starting with the player who breached the walls. Do not discard the cards in the row.

After each round of Fights, the Demon Lord roars again. In each Roar phase, you deal one less card than you dealt before. In a Normal game, you will have a round of Fights, a 2-card Roar, a round of Fights, a 1-card Roar, and then just rounds of Fights until everyone is dead or victorious.



Setup for the second Roar.

Victory!

If you defeat all cards on your battle board, in order, you are victorious. If others are still in the Final Battle, they continue to play until they are victorious or eliminated. You are no longer in the game and you cannot be affected by any cards.

Defeat!

Of course, it's also possible to take so many wounds that your character dies. This knocks you out of the game.

The End

All players keep fighting until they are eliminated or until they have defeated all their cards. Then it is time to evaluate the Final Battle's outcome.

If everyone dies

A foul smoke rises over the battlefield. No earthly creature survives to bear witness to your destruction. But your names live on. And perhaps your story will inspire others to take up the cause. They will be more successful. You could not defeat the Demon Lord, but you surely did weaken him.

If everyone dies, the winner is the one who defeated the most cards in the Final Battle. Break ties in favor of the player who got the most hits on his or her current card. Players still tied remain tied.

If anyone is victorious

As the Demon Lord falls, the flames rise higher, burning brighter. The ruins of Sanctum are swept by a whirlwind of embers and ash. But the breeze is cool. The flames are quenched. In the sky above Sanctum, the black clouds part, giving way to a single sunbeam that shines on the erstwhile battlefield to illuminate a jade sarcophagus.

Among players who defeated the Demon Lord, the winner is the one with the highest health. Your score for the game is the number under your health counter. Break ties in favor of the player who earned more achievements during the game. Players still tied remain tied. And anyone who defeats the Demon Lord can claim victory. The winner is simply more victorious than the others.

Difficulty Rating

To make the game more challenging, add more cards to the initial row:

Normal: 2-card row.

Hard: 3-card row.

Nightmare: 4-card row.

Inferno: 5-card row.

If you want to try a rating more difficult than Normal, you should agree to that at the beginning of the game.

Final Battle Cards



Demon Lord cards have two jobs. On your board, these are cards you must defeat in a Fight, and the effect on the other side never comes into play.



On the Act VI board, they are a deck of devastating attacks the Demon Lord makes at the end of Act V and between rounds in Act VI. These attacks apply to all players.



Fury cards are used only on players' boards. When it is time to fight that card, it is flipped over and the effect applies immediately. The effect applies only to you and only for your current Fight.

APPENDIX

Demon Lord Card Effects

Card effects are presented as a choice: either pay the penalty, or take the indicated number of wounds. Penalties are explained below. If you cannot pay the penalty, you must take the wounds.

Lose 1 stamina. Discard the token from your pool. If your pool is empty, you get wounded.

Lose 1 focus. Same as above.

Lose 1 blessing. Use one blessing, but ignore its effect.

Corrupt 1 ability space. Put a hit marker in one of your empty ability spaces. That space is now unusable. Nothing can remove the marker. On a two-space ability, you are allowed to corrupt the second space even if the first is already corrupted.

Corrupt 1 blue ability space. All corruption effects follow the same rules as above. If you do not have an empty ability space of the specified type, then you get wounded.

Roll 1 less die in your next fight. This penalty is only for one Fight. Set one of your dice aside. It will not activate your rage.

You face 2 additional damage in your next fight. This applies even if you have defeated all the cards. You can block this damage, as usual.

Shorten your health track by 2. Place hit markers on the death space and the 1 space of your health track. Or, if you are affected by this attack for a second time, place hit markers on the two lowest-numbered empty spaces. This does not affect your score, but you die if your health counter reaches a marked space. If you die with positive points, you lose to all players who survived, even if they survived with fewer points.

Heal 1 wound. Move your health counter up 1 space. If by some miracle your health counter is still at 10, you move it one space above 10.

Drink a potion. Lose the stamina/focus you regenerated. This is not the same as throwing away a potion. This allows you to discard a token from an ability space, which might let you use that ability again. If you have no potions or if you have no tokens that could be regenerated by your remaining potions, you get wounded.

Fury Card Effects

Fury cards follow the same mechanics as Demon Lord cards, except that their effects apply only to the player who is Fighting them. A Fury card's effect applies as soon as you defeat the card that came before it, even if you are now out of dice.

Corrupt and **lose** work the same way on these cards as they do on the Demon Lord cards.

Pay for 1 ability space. Ignore its effect. Move a token from one of your pools to an empty matching space. You are allowed to choose one of the spaces of a two-space ability, even if the other space is occupied (by stamina, focus, or corruption).

Reroll all 2s, if you have any. Look at all your unassigned dice. Any that have a two must be rerolled. Continue rolling until none of your unassigned dice are twos. If you have no unassigned twos, you can still choose this penalty and take no wounds. Yes, really.

Use your rage with no effect. If your rage is not active, you get wounded.

For this fight, lose one die not yet assigned. The die will not activate your rage. You get it back at the end of the Fight. If you have no unassigned dice, you get wounded.

Only modified dice can be placed on this card this fight. If you use an effect to turn a two into a two, that counts as modifying the die.

Blessings

Each blessing can be used only once. When you use a blessing, turn it face down.



Blessings that grant you stamina or focus can be used any time in the Final Battle, even while resolving a card's effect. Turn the tile face down to add a token to the indicated pool.

The other blessings are used during your Attack or Block step, with an effect identical to that of the matching ability. When you use the effect, turn the tile face down.

Reversible Moves

Sanctum presents interesting puzzles. In later acts, these puzzles become somewhat complex, and you may need to, for example, take back a die you assigned as a hit and assign it to a different demon. Or perhaps you need to undo an ability use so you can use the die and the ability in a different way. For the most part, this sort of thing is okay.

Of course, you can't reverse decisions you made before you received new information. A decision made before the roll cannot be changed after the roll. In the Final Battle, you can't reverse decisions made before you revealed the most recent fury card.

Many experienced players recommend modifying your dice only in your head and leaving them physically unchanged. For example, you can "set" a six to a three by placing the six above the icon of the three you want to hit, leaving the six face up to remind you what you rolled. This makes decisions easier to reverse, but some players find it unintuitive, especially when using the Dancer's *Double Strike* skill.



Pace of Play

Much of the game allows simultaneous play. It's fun to watch other players' fights, but once your right-hand neighbor has finished their Block step, you should start your turn. There is no need to wait while they ponder their skill table. And when a player announces a Rest action, play can move on to the next player immediately.

From the standpoint of the rules, however, turns do not overlap. So you can't steal an Equip Mastery achievement by finishing your Rest action ahead of the player who Rested before you. And you can't equip the item you get from a treasure chest opened after you announced your Rest.

Demon Lord card effects can usually be resolved simultaneously, and so can the Final Battle fights.

When presenting the game to new players, let them watch each action from beginning to end, and watch their actions to be sure they have understood the concepts. When they have seen each action once or twice, they will probably be ready for simultaneous play, too.

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Ability Effects



Set one die to the number shown.



+3 Increase one die by the exact amount shown. (If it would go over six, you can't use the ability.)



-2 Decrease one die by the exact amount shown. (If it would go below one, you can't use the ability.)



±1 Increase or decrease one die by the exact amount shown.



+? Increase one die by one or more.



-? Decrease one die by one or more.



Block 1 damage.



Block 6 damage.

Setup Summary

Don't forget to agree to a difficulty level before you start.

Two Players: Use boards I, III, V, and VI. Divine intervention is in Act III. Randomly leave out 1 achievement tile in each row of the achievement board.

Three Players: Use boards I, II, IV, V, and VI. Divine intervention is in Act II.

Four Players: Use all six boards. Divine intervention is in Act III.

Starting Bonuses

	1st player	2nd player	3rd player	4th player
1st player				
2nd player				
3rd player				
4th player				

Unlimited Components

You should not run out of components, unless you are doing something extreme, like playing a 4-player game at the Inferno difficulty level.

- If you run out of Demon Lord cards, take all defeated Demon Lord cards from your battle boards and shuffle them to make a new deck.
- If you run out of hit markers in the Final Battle, you can probably recycle some from the cards you have already defeated. If that doesn't help, use spare change.

Dice Summary

- All players start with 2 dice.
- Each player gains 1 die the first time he or she equips an item.
- All players gain 1 die when a player Moves onto the divine intervention space. (In a two-player or four-player game, the space is in Act III. In a three-player game, the space is in Act II.)
- All players gain 1 die the first time one of them arrives at the Walls of Sanctum (which is Act V).
- Each player has a skill that offers them one extra die for a fight.

Reminders

- You activate your rage when you end your Attack step with at least one unassigned die and at least one card on your battle board that has not yet been defeated.
- Flip a defeated demon card only after you have gained its levels. This helps you keep track of which cards have been dealt with already.
- When you gain levels, move gems one step at a time.
- Gain items from the treasure chest in the order in which figures are lined up on the board, not in play order.

Hidden Information

Some players ask if they can look at the back side of the demon cards. The answer is no. It's supposed to be a surprise. If you play the game so much that you know which demon has which item, well then, good for you, but you still shouldn't peek.

White Gems

Gaining Levels: White gems always match the color of the level you gain.

Equipping Items: White gems match the gem icons on any item.

Gem Master: White gems do not count.

Skills: White gems are not red gems, green gems, or blue gems.