

# Chapter 1: Introduction

## The System

This system is based on the world of the xianxia novel Reverend Insanity (aka Master of Gu) by Gu Zhen Ren. In short, it is a high-magic system where most characters and all players are spellcasters called Gu Masters. Spells are contained within creatures called Gu, which can be stored inside a Gu Master's body. Each Gu has a specific function, and the way your character will play is going to constantly change as your personal collection of Gu changes. If you specialize in fire path and later decide you'd rather beat your enemies to death with strength path, you can sell your Gu and buy, find, or create new ones to fulfill that purpose, or dual cultivate the paths for a unique playstyle.

## The Aperture

The aperture is a sort of extra-dimensional space located in a Gu Master's stomach. Around the age of puberty, people can awaken their aperture by coming into contact with Hope Gu. Not everyone is lucky enough to be able to awaken their aperture, but those that do are henceforth called Gu Masters. People without an awakened aperture are called mortals, and are just regular people.

The aperture is a simple sphere bounded by walls and filled with a sea of primeval essence, a resource used to activate Gu as well as to cultivate. Cultivation consists of attacking your aperture walls with this primeval essence, eventually breaking them and moving on to a new realm. Gu Masters begin at rank 1 and can cultivate to rank 5. Each rank is considered a large realm, and are subdivided into 4 small realms: initial stage, middle stage, upper stage, and peak stage. After rank 5, there are still ranks 6 through 9, but that is the realm of Gu Immortals and the rules change massively. In this system, the maximum rank attainable is rank 5 peak stage.

You can store Gu in your aperture no matter their size, and there is no limit to the number of Gu that can be stored in your aperture. The aperture is accessible to its owner at any time through their thoughts, but other creatures can only access someone else's aperture after they are dead or through the use of special Gu.

## Primeval Essence

Primeval essence is the main resource used by Gu masters to activate and refine Gu as well as cultivate to increase their strength. The representation of primeval essence you see here is an approximation, as the resource quickly becomes quite complex when factoring in the rank and realm of the user alongside the rank of the Gu.

A Gu Master's aperture has a maximum amount of primeval essence, determined by their aptitude. At the initial stage of each rank, a Gu Master has a number of portions of primeval essence equal to their aptitude. A Gu Master at rank 2 initial stage with a 30% aptitude (D-Grade) has a maximum of 30 portions of primeval essence.

When out of combat, the recovery rate is 10% of the Gu Master's maximum primeval essence every hour. Each small realm above initial stage doubles the maximum number of portions available.

At higher ranks, your primeval essence is significantly more potent than even peak stage of the rank below you. For simplicity, activating any Gu of a rank below your own costs a single portion of primeval essence.

As a bonus action, you may leak the aura of your primeval essence. Any creature within 10 meters of you can sense this aura and immediately identify the rank and stage of your primeval essence.

## Primeval Stones



Small, smooth stones naturally formed from primeval essence, primeval stones are the main currency in the Gu world. On your turn, you can absorb the essence of a number of primeval stones equal to the number of hands you have as a **Combat Action**. You must have one hand free for each stone being absorbed.

For each primeval stone being absorbed, you gain  $\{5, 4, 3, 2, 1\}^1$  portion(s) of primeval essence, and the stone is destroyed in the process, crumbling into dust.

You can carry up to 250 primeval stones on your person, but many storage type Gu exist to hold additional stones.

<sup>1</sup> When you see curly brace notation, it represents your rank, or the rank of the Gu if it appears in a Gu's description. In this case, it means expending a primeval stone restores 5 primeval essence if you are rank 1, 4 if you are rank 2, and so on.

## Refinement

Gu can be created out of materials and other Gu in a process called refinement. See the *Gu* chapter for more details.

## The World

The Gu world is a massive, flat disc, consisting of 5 regions. The source material is pretty inconsistent with size, but it is safe to say each region is at least 6 or 7 times the surface area of the Earth. The 5 regions are as follows:

- Northern Plains: Flat grassland dotted with nomadic tribes of various sizes. Conflict is commonplace and the Gu Masters here are the most adept at fighting.
- Western Desert: A dry wasteland with cities gathered around its oases. Lone cultivators are very uncommon.
- Southern Border: An uneven, mountainous region with familial clans settling on mountainsides. The setting of this system.
- Eastern Sea: Vast ocean dotted with archipelagos. Conflict is less common due to difficulty in reaching other settlements, allowing its inhabitants to focus on cultivation and gaining wealth. Many lone cultivators.
- Central Continent: The most powerful of the five regions and home to the Heavenly Court. Has a mix of the other four regions' geography (i.e. a normal continent).

Since the world is a disc, Southern Border does not border Northern Plains, but it does border the other regions. The same goes for the other outer regions, with only Central Continent connecting to all of them.

## Mortals

People without an awakened aperture cannot use Gu. Their status is very low, and in most places a Gu Master can outright kill any mortals that disrespect them. Despite that, mortals do a great deal of work to provide food and resources to the clan, and cannot be wantonly murdered without reproach from righteous path forces.

## Righteous and Demonic

Gu Masters identify as part of either the demonic path or righteous path. Demonic does not necessarily mean evil, just that the Gu Master does not follow the rigid systems of community. Of course, many demonic path Gu Masters ARE evil and more than willing to hurt the innocent to further their own goals. Similarly, righteous path Gu Masters are not necessarily good, they just follow the rules of society. While many have ideals of justice and virtue, the more powerful righteous path Gu Masters exploit this societal responsibility for their own gain, and are often willing to commit evil deeds to further their goals, just in more subtle ways than the demonic path.

## Inheritances

Inheritances are a common aspect of the Gu World's culture; a Gu Master's ideals can live on long after their death by leaving an inheritance of Gu, refinement recipes, and information to be found in the future. Some inheritances are fraught with difficulty, fully capable of killing those that seek to claim them. Others are safe but with measures to ensure the inheritor is someone worthy of the prize. Sometimes a Gu Master just leaves some Gu in a cave with food and hopes for the best.

## Setting

Given the size of the world and the fact that each region has its own local gu, flora, and fauna, I've chosen to localize this system to the Southern Border. You can certainly design a campaign in one of the other regions using this system as a framework though.

Chapter 5 is dedicated to Southern Border, its clans, and geography. It is heavily recommended for the Game Master to read it.

## The Dice Mechanic

### Skill Tests

Skill tests are rolled when a character would like to do an action that:

- has a chance of failure
- has a chance of success

The GM should be able to determine if an action is possible for your character to do, as well as if the action should be an automatic success.

### Dice

Dice are notated d[sides]; a d4 is a four sided die. The td10 is a 10 sided die where each value is a tens place (10, 20, 30, etc). If instead of the number of dice, the die is annotated with an R (Rd12), then the number of dice is equal to the rank of the Gu. This system uses d4, d6, d8, d10, td10, d12, and d20.

**The d100** Skill tests are rolled on a d100; to roll a d100, roll a d10 and a td10. The td10 represents the tens place while the d10 represents the ones place. So if you roll an 80 and a 5, your roll is 85. Rolling a 10 on the d10 is just a zero, so rolling 90 and 10 would just be 90. Finally, rolling 00 on the td10 and a 10 on the d10 is 100.

### Penalties and Bonuses

Penalties and bonuses are a number added or subtracted from the number you roll on the die during a skill test. The GM can add either to represent the difficulty of the check, using the table below as a guideline. Penalties and bonuses do not have to be round multiples of 10, but they typically are.

Penalty/Bonus	Difficulty
+80	Nearly Impossible (Traveling against the Reverse Flow River)
+60	Extreme Difficulty (Refining an Immortal Gu)
+40	High Difficulty (Convincing a Wisdom Path master to change their plans)
+20	Difficult (Cultivating with minor distractions)
0	Challenging (Cultivating in a secret room)
-20	Slightly Challenging (Refining a common Gu)
-40	Simple (Identifying poisonous plants around your clan's walls)
-60	Trivial (Haggling a merchant to take a few primeval stones off a large price)

### Advantage and Disadvantage

If you have advantage on a test, roll an additional td10 and take the lower of the two. You can stack advantages as long as they come from different sources. Disadvantage works the same way, but you take the higher of the td10 rolls.

### Degrees of Success/Failure

For every 10 you roll above/below your skill value, you gain a degree of failure/success, respectively. Some skill tests, such as an opposed Deception/Insight roll, do not take degrees of success into account; they're either deceived or they aren't. Many tests, however, will have different effects based on the degrees of success or failure.

## **Critical**

When you roll at or under 1/10 of your skill's value (rounded down) on the die, you've landed a critical. Criticals are automatic successes, though degrees of success are still calculated like normal. Some skills have a critical success effect built into them, though the GM can always add a special additional success to any test you critically succeed.

If you score a critical with an attack roll, the attack deals double the damage it normally would.

## **Fumble**

Fumbles occur when 99-100 is rolled on the die for a skill test. If your skill value is above 99, you only fumble on a roll of 100 for that skill. Fumbles are an automatic failure, though degrees of failure are still calculated like normal.

## **Opposed Tests**

When competing with your skills against another creature, the two of you may be called to make an Opposed Test. You both roll a skill test, which can be for the same or different skills, and compare results. Critical successes beat any non-critical roll, and fumbles lose to any non-fumble roll. Then, the player with the most degrees of success or least degrees of failure wins. If they're tied for degrees of success/failure, then the lower number on the die wins. If they're still tied, the Opposed Test ends in a tie if possible. If the Opposed Test can't be tied, then the involved parties make the test again until they do not tie.

## Running the Game

*“Today I step on grass; later I shall step on mountains and rivers!”*

## Materials

To run the game, you will need a full set of dice including a d4, d6, d8, d10, td10, d12, and d20. Additionally, each player will need a character sheet and something to write with. This game is intended to be played with miniatures on a grid.

## The Game Master

Your role as GM is difficult, but ultimately rewarding. Your most important job is making sure everyone at the table is having fun, but that includes yourself. Come to an agreement with your players before running the game to see what you and them want to get out of the game. Also, remember that it is not you against the players. You’re playing the antagonists and will certainly try to kill them. But you’re also creating a challenge for the players to surmount, and you have the right to be excited when they do.

You will be switching quickly between the roles of storyteller, roleplayer, and rulemaker.

### Storyteller

You are the story. If your players are staying in the clan’s walls and quietly cultivating, it’s your fault if they grow bored and don’t know what to do. Maybe an overbearing elder puts his hand on the scale, improving one player’s cultivation and suppressing another’s. A beast tide could put their cultivation on hold as they struggle to defend the clan and gain battle merits. And it’s worth knowing where each event fits into your larger campaign. The Gu World is massive and dangerous, so what are the villains doing in the meantime?

### Rulemaker

There are lots of edge cases where a rule just doesn’t work. When that happens, you make a ruling on how it should work. Listen to your player’s input if they don’t agree, but you have the final say as GM.

## Awarding Experience

There are two avenues of progression in this game: Experience and cultivation.

Experience is used to purchase talents and increase attributes, while cultivation improves a player’s raw power by increasing their pool of primeval essence and allowing the use of higher rank Gu. Experience is awarded for overcoming challenges such as by fighting beasts and other Gu Masters, but can also be awarded for engaging in intrigue. The amount of experience awarded should be reflective of the overall difficulty of the encounter.

## Encounter Difficulty

Combat encounters can be judged by the **Challenge Rating** (CR) of all creatures in the encounter. The lowest CR a creature can have is 0, representing mortal threats like common wolves and humans without any Gu. CR then jumps to 11. The first digit represents the rank of the threat, and the 2nd digit represents the estimated strength of the threat from 1-5. 1 represents initial stage, 2 middle stage, 3 upper stage, and 4 peak stage. A 5 means the threat is especially strong for its rank and may even be able to challenge weaker threats in the rank above it. CR caps at 54, for no mortal Gu Master could ever pose a threat to a Gu Immortal.

## Character Creation

In this game, you will create and play a Gu Master. Gu Masters are human beings who have awakened their aperture, a kind of extradimensional space within the stomach that can contain Gu and primeval essence. The first thing you ought to mark down is your starting rank. For first-time players, it is recommended to start at rank 1 initial stage. You, your group, and the game master should also determine if you want to follow the righteous path, living and working with a clan, or if you'd like to tread the demonic path, living free in the world with no masters. Your path can always be changed later on, as demonic Gu Masters seek safety and resources, and righteous Gu Masters grow disillusioned and yearn for freedom.

## Experience

You start with 500 experience to spend on character creation. Any experience left over afterwards is removed from the game, so that you start your first session with 0 experience. Experience can be spent to increase your Attributes and Skills, as well as to purchase talents (though talents cannot be purchased at character creation). At character creation, attributes cannot be raised above 50 and skills cannot be increased above 80.

- 1 point in any attribute costs 10 experience to increase up to 50, and 15 experience thereafter.
- 1 point in any skill (except Knowledge) costs 2 experience to increase.
- 5 points in Strength or any single Knowledge skill costs 6 experience.

## Primary Attributes

Primary attributes are a generalized measure of your body and mind. The base values of each of your skills are derived from these attributes. All Attribute scores start at 20 before you spend any experience to improve them. Improving an attribute also increases the value of all derived skills and secondary attributes.

**Agility** - Agility is used to dodge attacks, fight in close quarters, and to maneuver in the air.

**Fortitude** - Fortitude determines your Hit Points, Perseverance, and Strength.

**Cognition** - Your intelligence and reasoning skills. Used to create refinement recipes, remember information, and to fight in both close and ranged combat.

**Wisdom** - Wisdom increases your speed of cultivation, how often you succeed when refining Gu, and awareness of your surroundings.

**Attitude** - Attitude represents your understanding of human nature, relationships, and emotions. A higher attitude makes it easier to deceive and persuade others, and to know when others are deceiving you. It also is a minor factor in your Perseverance.

## Secondary Attributes

Secondary attributes either have a flat base value or are derived from your primary attributes.

### Health

You have a pool of Hit Points equal to your Fortitude. You can read about how damage, dying, and injury works in the combat chapter.

### Movement

Your Movement is the number of meters you can move in a turn. Your Movement is 6 meters.

### Strength

Your body's physical power. Strength is often overlooked by Gu Masters, as even rank 1 Gu can overpower the strongest of mortals. But battles are unpredictable, and when primeval essence runs dry Gu Masters may resort to a fistfight. Though this statistic is more relevant at rank 1, some Gu Masters choose to use

Gu to enhance their strength and rely on their own muscles to pound their enemies into meat paste. Your Strength score begins equal to your Fortitude and affects the amount of damage you deal with attacks where your physical strength is a factor.

### Perseverance

Your Perseverance is your ability to endure great pain and stress, and is equal to the sum of your Fortitude and 1/2 of your Attitude, rounded down. Perseverance is rolled when you hit 0 Hit Points.

### Soul

Your Soul score is a literal representation of the strength of your soul. Your starting Soul value is 10. Refining Gu, cultivating, and controlling beast groups all drain the strength of your soul, while sleeping restores it. Many Soul Path Gu also use the strength of your soul to determine their strength when activated. If your current soul ever hits 0 points, you die. When you sleep, your soul recovers 10% of its maximum (rounded down) for every hour spent sleeping. Sleeping for at least 10 hours fully rejuvenates your soul, regardless of rounding.

Your soul begins at 10, the single-man soul. Many Soul Path Gu can strengthen your soul and increase this value. Whenever your soul takes 1/2 or more of its maximum value in soul damage (rounded down) on a single turn, roll 1d6 and reduce the maximum value of your soul by that amount.

When your soul reaches strength 100, you have the ten-man soul. It has the proper strength to sustain damage; you no longer lose maximum soul when you take more than 1/2 of your souls maximum in soul damage.

When your soul reaches strength 1,000, you have the hundred-man soul. If you have not refined your soul using Gu, this is the maximum strength achievable. If your soul increases in strength above 1009 without being refined, your soul explodes and you die, with resurrection being impossible. The hundred-man soul is the minimum strength needed for many soul-mutation Gu, such as Wolf Soul Gu.

When your soul reaches strength 10,000, you have the thousand-man soul. This is the limit for mortal Gu Masters and cannot be raised higher.

### Luck

Players begin with 1 maximum luck point. Luck can be spent to force you or another creature to reroll a skill test directly after the roll, or to add a -50 bonus to a skill test you're making, before the roll. If you've expended a luck point on a skill test, you cannot spend another on the same skill test. You regain luck points up to your maximum at the start of each session.

### Activations

When you take the **Activate Gu** combat action, you can activate a number of Gu equal to your Activations. You have a number of Activations equal to 5% of (Wisdom + Cognition), rounding down to a minimum of 1. To make this calculation easier, consider that for every 20 score you have in both attributes, this number will increase by 1. *Shang Liu has a Cognition of 46 and a Wisdom of 37. With a total of 83 and every 20 combined score giving 1 Activation, brings his total Activations to 4.*

### Aptitude

Your Gu Master's aptitude is incredibly important to their cultivation and battle strength. A higher aptitude means greater primeval essence, meaning your Gu Master can fight for longer and cultivate quicker. Aptitude is mostly immutable, but some Gu exist to raise or even lower a Gu Master's aptitude.

Choosing your Gu Master's aptitude is a decision that will significantly shape their journey. Higher aptitudes offer undeniable advantages in cultivation speed, primeval essence, and clan support, but they come with the heavy burdens of increased clan expectations, heightened scrutiny, and potential danger. Lower aptitudes,

while slower in cultivation, afford your Gu Master greater freedom, fewer obligations, and opportunities to forge their own path.

It is also worth considering the other players in your group. If one player is an A-grade aptitude and another is D-grade, your ranks will most likely diverge dramatically in the early to mid stages. This difference is not insurmountable, but it may not be enjoyable for the weaker Gu Master. It's recommended for the group to decide on 2 adjacent grades and have each player pick one of the two.

Aptitude is just an arbitrary grading of the amount of primeval essence a Gu Master's aperture can store. After choosing your aptitude, roll a d20, subtract 1 from the result, and add it to the minimum essence percentage of your grade to determine your personal maximum primeval essence.

*For example, Shang Liu chooses A-grade aptitude and rolls a 4 on his d20. Subtract 1 to get 3 and add that to the minimum of 80%. Shang Liu therefore has 83% as his maximum.*

**Grade - A:** 80%-99% **Grade - B:** 60%-79% **Grade - C:** 40%-59% **Grade - D:** 20%-39%

## Attainment

Attainment is your understanding of the different Gu paths. That includes your knowledge of refining, using, and identifying Gu of the same path. You can find the different attainments in the Talents section (Chapter 2. Progression), and your character begins the game with *Fundamental* attainment in a single path.

## Starting Items

All characters start with a Gu Master robe, a Vital Gu of rank 1, and 25 primeval stones. At the GM's discretion (for price and availability) you may trade your starting primeval stones for additional rank 1 Gu.

## Lifespan

If your character reaches age 100 without using *Lifespan Gu*, they die.

## Skills

Your character's Skills represent their learned abilities and proficiencies, whether that be in combat, dialogue, or cultivation. The base value of the skill is dependent on what attribute(s) it is derived from, shown in the parenthesis. Remember to increase your skill values whenever you purchase points in the corresponding attribute.

**Close Combat (1/2 Agi + 1/2 Cog)** - Close Combat does not only include fighting hand-to-hand, it relates to any fighting that occurs within 3 meters of you. Many attack Gu can be used at range or in close combat, and this skill represents your ability to make attacks at a close range. Melee attacks are always made with your close combat skill.

**Ranged Attack (Cog)** - If an enemy is further than 3 meters from you, your non-melee attacks will be made with the Ranged Attack skill.

**Athletics (1/2 Str + 1/2 Agi)** - Athletics is used for strength related actions such as pushing a boulder, climbing a steep cliff, or swimming.

**Pushing, Pulling, and Lifting** You can push or pull any weight under 100kg without making a test, halving your movement (rounded down) if the weight is over 50kg. Above 100kg you must make an **Athletics** test with a -40 bonus, increased by +10 for every 50kg over 100.

**Dodge (Agi)** - Dodge is used as a reaction to avoid attacks made against you, either melee or ranged.

When you succeed a Dodge test, you MUST move at least 1 meter and at most 1/2 your movement (rounded down) in any direction.

**Flying (Agi)** - A Gu Master may live his entire life without taking to the skies, but to those that do, this skill is a necessity. Without a decent flying skill, a Gu Master can be easier to hit in the air than they would be on the ground.

The source of your flight tells you how many meters you can move per turn.

### Refinement (Wis)

Even with a complete recipe, refining Gu is an arduous process, requiring precision and constant vigilance. When refinement fails it triggers a backlash which can hurt or even kill you and your Gu. Your refinement skill determines how complex of recipes you can follow, and how often your refinement fails.

### Deduction (Cog)

Deduction is used to create and refine Gu recipes as well as to develop killer moves; the combination of multiple Gu used simultaneously to deliver a very potent effect. It can also be used to investigate your surroundings for clues.

Some Gu have the [Deductive] keyword. When activated, these Gu unlock a special **Deduction** action. To take it, you must spend an hour deducing a specific subject and make a **Deduction** test. Penalties and Bonuses are determined by the amount of supporting information available to you. The subject can be something that occurred in the past, such as who might have committed a murder, or something happening in the present or future, like why a rival clan purchased a huge amount of an unusual refinement material. Deductions cannot create information out of thin air, and a success does not necessarily mean your deduction is correct if you lack a key piece of evidence. For every degree of success on the check, however, you gain one additional conclusion about the subject.

### Persuasion (Att)

Persuasion can only be used on non-player characters. Persuasion tests are used to sway a character through your words.

### **Deception (Att)**

Deception can only be used on non-player characters. Your ability to manipulate and deceive others.

### **Intimidation (Att)**

Intimidation can only be used on non-player characters.

### **Haggle (Att)**

Haggle can only be used on non-player characters. Difficulty is based on the target's feelings towards you, and grants a discount on a purchase of 5% for every degree of success on the test. A critical counts as an additional degree of success.

### **Insight (Wis)**

Used to judge a character's body language and intonation. A successful insight test involves learning a character's intention and scrutinizing their body language, and in most cases will not straight up say whether a character is lying or not.

### **Awareness (Wis)**

Your ability to notice hidden objects. If you're meticulously searching an area, use deduction, but to notice an out of place detail while walking past a building you would use awareness.

### **Cultivation (Wis)**

The higher your cultivation skill, the less damage you will take to your soul during cultivation, and the quicker your cultivation will increase.

### **Knowledge (Cog)**

Knowledge is separated into a few categories:

- Gu - There are an uncountable number of different Gu in the world, and this skill helps to identify them. In a fight, it can mean life or death.
- Southern Border - Your understanding of the geography, flora, and fauna of Southern Border. It can be assumed that all characters will have knowledge of the areas surrounding their clan, but when journeying beyond familiarity this skill can be used to identify beasts, plants, and natural formations.
- Clans - Small, medium, large, and super-sized clans dot the mountains and valleys of Southern Border. This skill represents your knowledge of their names, power structures, specialties, and commerce.

## Chapter 2 - Progression

### Cultivating

The process of increasing your rank in small and large realms is called cultivating. To cultivate, you must meditate and will the primeval essence in your aperture to attack and weaken the aperture walls. To do so, first figure out how many portions of primeval essence will be required to break through the realm. For small realms, the amount is given by the table below. For large realms, the amount is  $(1000 * \text{target rank})$  portions.

Stage	Name	Aperture Wall	Wall Hit Points
1	Initial	Light membrane	$1000 * \text{rank}$
2	Middle	Water membrane	$2000 * \text{rank}$
3	Upper	Stone membrane	$4000 * \text{rank}$
4	Peak	Crystal membrane	None

When you're attempting to break through a small realm, the walls retain any damage done by your primeval essence, thus you can slowly break through over time. For every hour you spend cultivating, you can expend up to 20% of your maximum primeval essence (rounded down), reducing the health of the aperture walls by an equivalent amount.

When you're trying to break through from peak stage of a rank to the next rank, first take your primeval essence recovery rate and subtract  $(15 * \text{target rank})$  to represent the natural recovery rate of your aperture walls. If the number you calculated is 0 or greater, you can move on to the next step. If it is negative, you'll have to increase your recovery rate via consuming primeval stones or use a Gu that assists in cultivation to break through to the next stage.

You must cultivate for 15 hours straight with no breaks in order to break through to the next rank. For every 15 essence per hour you recover greater than the natural recovery rate of your aperture walls, this time is reduced by 1 hour, to a minimum of 5 hours.

For each hour spent cultivating, whether breaking through a small or large realm, make a **Cultivation** test with a bonus/penalty according to the table below. If you fail, your soul takes damage equal to the degrees of failure (minimum of 1).

Target Rank	Modifier
1	-20
2	-10
3	none
4	+10
5	+20

If you're cultivating for longer than 12 hours at a time, make a **Perseverance** test every hour after the initial 12. On a failure, you fall asleep.

### Consuming Primeval Stones

You can expend primeval stones while cultivating to make up for not having a high enough recovery rate, and you may do so to assist in breaking through both small and large realms. You may expend any number of primeval stones per hour spent cultivating, increasing your recovery rate for that hour by  $\{5, 4, 3, 2, \text{N/A}\}$  for each stone consumed when breaking through large realms, or dealing  $\{5, 4, 3, 2, 1\}$  damage to the aperture walls for each stone consumed when breaking through small realms. This depends on your current rank, not the target rank. Primeval stone expenditure must remain constant each hour when breaking through large realms; you cannot use 5 stones the first hour and 2 the second as the math would quickly get very difficult to track.

## **Spending Experience**

In addition to progressing through cultivation, you also get more skilled as a Gu Master as time passes. The GM will award experience at the end of each session, recommended to be between 8-12 experience. Experience earned in this way can be stockpiled, and a few Gu are even be able to consume it as a resource. At the GM's discretion, the players will be allowed to spend their accrued experience at a particular time. Typical situations to allow spending of experience are either when the party is safe and able to rest, or whenever they increase their cultivation.

## Talents

### Charger

*Cost:* 20 experience

When you take the *Sprint* combat action, you may make a single punching attack at some point during your turn. If this attack hits, the target is thrown backward a number of meters equal to 1% of your Strength attribute (rounded down), to a minimum of 0. Making this attack costs the remainder of your movement.

### Combat Absorption

*Cost:* 30 experience

You can multitask on absorbing primeval stones in the heat of combat. Absorbing the essence of primeval stones now takes up your bonus action instead of a combat action.

### Flurry

*Cost:* 20 experience

*Requires Fundamental Strength Path Attainment*

You gain access to the **Flurry** combat action.

**Flurry:** For every arm you have, make two punching attacks against a creature within 1 meter. You gain a +20 penalty to **Dodge** tests and **Close Combat** tests made to parry attacks until the start of your next turn.

### Flying Master

*Cost:* 45 experience

Taking flight no longer expends one of your maneuvers per turn. Your **Flying** skill is increased by 20 points.

### Martial Artist

*Cost:* 20 experience

*Can be purchased up to 3 times*

You gain a -10 bonus to **Close Combat** tests on unarmed attacks and parries while not wielding any weapons.

### Multitasker

*Cost:* 40 experience

*Can be purchased up to 3 times*

You can sustain an additional Gu every turn without incurring damage to your soul.

### Multi-Weapon Fighting

*Cost:* 20 experience

You can make a number of melee attacks as part of a melee attack combat action as you have wielded weapons, with a +10 penalty to each attack. When wielding only 2 weapons, this penalty is removed.

### Natural Muscle Training

*Cost:* 10 experience

*Can be purchased up to 10 times*

Your Strength attribute is permanently increased by 5.

### Pain Tolerance

*Cost:* 10 experience

*Requires Intermediate Strength Path Attainment*

*Can be purchased up to 3 times*

Your maximum hit points are increased by 5, and you gain a -10 bonus to all **Perseverance** tests.

### [Path] Scholar

*Cost:* 15 experience

*Requires Fundamental [Path] Attainment*

You gain a -20 bonus to **Knowledge (Gu)** tests made to identify [Path] Gu.

### Sentinel

*Cost:* 20 experience

Whenever a creature within your melee range makes a melee attack against your ally, you may use the *Parry* reaction against it. You gain a -10 bonus to all **Close Combat** tests made as part of the *Parry* reaction (including the follow up attack).

### Tough

*Cost:* 40 experience

Your base hit points are equal to twice your Fortitude.

## Reactive Flight

*Cost:* 15 experience

As a reaction to being sent *airborne*, you can activate a [Flying] Gu and immediately execute a maneuver.

## Weapon Training

*Cost:* 15 experience

*Can be purchased up to 3 times*

When you purchase this talent, pick a class of mundane weapons (swords, spears, bows) or a single Gu.

You gain a -10 bonus on close combat and ranged attack rolls made with the chosen weapon for each time you've purchased this talent and selected that

weapon. If a Gu is very close in form to the chosen weapon, you still get this bonus. This usually includes higher ranked versions of the same Gu.

## Wrestling Techniques

*Cost:* 10 Experience

*Requires Fundamental Strength Path Attainment*

*Can be purchased up to 3 times*

You gain a -10 bonus to **Athletics** tests resulting from a *Grapple* combat action. When you successfully grapple a creature, you may make a single punching attack against them as part of the *Grapple* combat action.

## Refinement Techniques

Refinement techniques are used to improve the Gu refinement process in many different ways, such as reducing the difficulty, duration, or even material cost of a refinement recipe. Only one refinement technique can be used on a recipe at a time.

### Dice Falling Waterfall

*Cost:* 10 experience

*Requires Fundamental Luck Path Attainment*

You gain access to the Dice Falling Waterfall refinement technique. When you use the Dice Falling Waterfall refinement technique, you can reroll the failure die a single time per refinement. Upon successfully refining a Gu with this technique, you gain a luck point.

-10 bonus to **Refinement** tests, and their failure die is increased by 2 stages (d4 -> d8, d6 -> d10...).

### Shower

*Cost:* 20 experience

*Requires Fundamental Water Path Attainment*

You gain access to the Shower refinement technique. When you use the Shower refinement technique, you gain a -10 bonus to **Refinement** tests, and the duration of the recipe is reduced by 1/3 (rounded down to the nearest hour).

### Hairy Man Heaven and Earth

*Condenses Gu from Heaven and Earth, opposed to Human Isolation Style. This technique is normally known only to Hairy Men, and takes great practice to perform.*

*Cost:* 50 experience

You gain access to the Hairy Man Heaven and Earth refinement technique. When you use the Hairy Man Heaven and Earth refinement technique, you gain a

### Starfall

*Cost:* 10 experience

*Requires Fundamental Fire Path Attainment*

You gain access to the Starfall refinement technique. When you use the Starfall refinement technique, you gain a -10 bonus to **Refinement** tests, increased to -20 when refining Fire Path Gu. This technique cannot be used to refine Water Path or Ice Path Gu.

## Path Attainments

It's difficult to use Gu of a path you aren't familiar with. Every character starts with *Fundamental* attainment in a single path. Oftentimes, a Gu Master that achieves master level attainment in any path gains great fame for their accomplishment, and may be contacted by other forces to refine Gu or complete difficult tasks related to the path.

You cannot purchase a path attainment unless you have purchased all previous attainments in the same path. So you cannot purchase master attainment in a path unless you also have purchased fundamental and intermediate attainment.

### [Path] Attainment

#### Fundamental

*Cost:* 30 experience

You gain an additional bonus action that can only be used to activate a single [Path] Gu on your turn.

#### Intermediate

*Cost:* 50 experience

Your understanding of [Path] has reached a qualitative change, and you gain the following benefits:

- You gain a -20 bonus to all **Refinement** and **Knowledge (Gu)** tests to refine or identify [Path] Gu.
- **Deduction** tests made to develop killer moves gain a -10 bonus if they have a [Path] Gu in its core.

#### Master

*Cost:* 100 experience

Your understanding of [Path] reaches the apex of mortal comprehension. You gain the following benefits:

- You automatically succeed all **Refinement** and **Deduction** tests to refine or improve the recipe of [Path] Gu, so long as the Gu is of a lower rank than you. You still have to roll the failure die after a successful refinement.
- You gain a -30 bonus to all **Refinement** and **Knowledge (Gu)** tests to refine or identify [Path] Gu.
- You gain a -30 bonus to **Deduction** tests made to improve or create refinement recipes for [Path] Gu.

## Chapter 3 - Gu

Humans are the spirit of all living beings and Gu are the essence of heaven and earth. Mortal Gu represent fragments of the great Dao, or laws of Heaven, and are ranked from 1 to 5, just like mortal Gu Masters. Gu come in many different forms, with bugs being a common motif, but there are just as many that take the forms of beasts and objects. Gu can be either wild or refined; wild Gu usually refers to those birthed from natural primeval essence. These can come into being in any manner of places as long as the conditions are right. Sometimes they are carried by beasts, or roaming the earth alone, or staying sedentary in the place they were born. Refined Gu are those under the direct control of a Gu Master. They obey the user's commands without fail, even destroying themselves with a single thought. The Gu Master can acquire refined Gu by refining wild Gu, creating them themselves using their Refinement skill, or acquiring them from others. Refined Gu may become wild Gu if their master is killed, but this process takes some time.

Gu are separated into different categories based on the effect created when they are activated. These categories have minimal mechanical importance but give a good idea of the Gu's purpose.

**Attack** - Shooting a blade, controlling someone's mind, or softening a person's bones are all attacks. If the primary use of the Gu is to kill or apply negative effects to a person against their will, it is an attack.

**Manifestation** - Creates an object under the user's control. Can be permanent or temporary.

**Guard** - Forms a defensive barrier with the primary focus being blocking attacks.

**Celerity** - Enhances speed or maneuverability.

**Divination** - Gathers information, whether from a short distance or across the continent. Investigative Gu that increase a user's perception are included, as well as those that surveil areas or probe into people's minds.

**Concealment** - Hides the user's presence in any number of ways.

**Tonic** - Gu with a restorative effect. There exist tonic Gu for humans, beasts, and even other Gu.

**Container** - If objects can be placed inside, the Gu is typically a container. They can store objects, gu, and sometimes even people. Convenient for storing items and resources safely within your aperture.

**Catalyst** - A catch-all category for Gu that can be used to supplement other Gu and actions. Gu that increase the likelihood of refinement success, improve cultivation speed, or amplify the effects of other Gu are all catalysts.

**Carver** - Carves dao semi-permanently into the recipient. The most common carvers belong to strength and information path, used to increase a user's strength and create binding agreements, respectively.

Below is a sample statblock for the rank 1 *Moonlight Gu*. This is the signature Gu of the Gu Yue clan, and cannot be found anywhere else in Southern Border.

### Moonlight Gu

*Rank 1 Attack (This signifies that the Gu is of Rank 1, and is an Attack-type Gu)*

*Cost: 5 portions (This Gu costs 5 portions to activate for a rank 1 Gu Master. Rank 2 and above Gu Masters instead only spend 1 portion)*

*Range: 10 meters*

*Health: 10 (This Gu has 10 health. If it hits 0, it dies)*

*Food: Moon orchid petals (3 primeval stones) (This gu eats moon orchid petals. Since it is a rank 1 Gu, it eats every 3 days. When you have access to a market, you can substitute the materials with 3 primeval stones.)*

*Effect: You hurl a flat, crescent-shaped beam of light. Make an attack roll with a -10 bonus. On a hit, deal 6 rending damage.*

## Vital Gu

The first Gu you refine gains the [Vital] keyword and becomes your Vital Gu. Yours and your Vital Gu's lifeforces are connected, and if your Vital Gu should die, you would as well. The Vital Gu has a major advantage, however; It cannot die due to backlash during refinement, instead dropping to 1 hp and being unusable in refinement until its hit points are restored to their maximum. This makes your Vital Gu a very important choice for progression, as you can attempt to refine it to a higher rank many times without worrying about its death.

To change your Vital Gu, you must spend a day in closed cultivation with the new Gu. When you change your Vital Gu, your current hit points are reduced to 1 as you suffer backlash. Your Vital Gu can be of any rank.

## Rank

Mortal Gu have a rank of 1-5. Some Gu exist only at a single rank, others are found at several ranks, and others can only be raised in rank through refinement. For example, the rank 1 Dog Enslavement Gu can enslave a single dog. Rank 2 dog enslavement Gu can enslave a Hundred Beast King dog, rank 3 can enslave a Thousand Beast King dog, and so on, with each being found on increasingly strong dogs. The higher the rank of the Gu, the rarer it is, and their strength increases exponentially.

Gu above rank 5 are called Immortal Gu. Most can only be activated with Immortal Essence, though a few have other costs that can be paid by mortals. Forgetting mortal Gu Masters, even Rank 6 Gu Masters may live their entire life without owning an Immortal Gu. Each one is unique, and for however long it exists in the world, nobody else can refine a copy. When one appears, many Gu Immortals will fight to the death to get their hands on it, and when they fight, many tens of thousands of mortals can and do die in the crossfire.

## Series

Some Gu belong to a series that spans multiple ranks. Some have additional effects based on their rank and will be listed separately. Others just scale up in numbers and will be under the same listing. If several values are inside curly braces, they represent the value at different ranks. If a Gu exists at ranks 3-5 and creates {1, 10, 100} fireballs, then it creates 1 fireball at rank 3, 10 at rank 4, and 100 at rank 5.

## Price

Price is largely dependent on the rank of the Gu in question, but the market also needs to be considered. Relic Gu, for example, are quite rare and of an enormous help to a Gu Master's cultivation, which makes them significantly more expensive than other Gu of the same rank. Smelly Fart Gu, on the other hand, is practically worthless except as a refinement material, and thus would be cheaper than other Gu of the same rank. Use the prices below as a starting point.

Rank	Price
1	500
2	2,000
3	10,000
4	100,000
5	250,000+

Rank 4 and rank 5 Gu are significantly rarer than Gu of rank 1 to 3. It may be difficult to find a seller, and you may even encounter schemes and resistances from your opposition when trying to buy them.

## Primeval Essence Costs

Gu statblocks will have a number of portions it costs to activate. This assumes you are of the same rank as the Gu. If your rank is lower than the Gu, your primeval essence is too weak, and the Gu costs 4 times as

many portions to activate for every rank above you the Gu is. If you are Rank 2 and try to activate a Rank 4 Gu that costs 10 portions, instead it will cost you 160 portions. If the Gu is below your rank, it only costs a single portion of your primeval essence to activate.

### Wild Gu

Wild Gu are found in the wilderness, typically in an environment rich with Dao of the Gu's path. Wild Gu have a speed of 8 meters (except [**Steed**] Gu with their own movement statistic) and will attempt to evade capture, including by activating themselves using natural primeval essence. Wild Gu can see through concealments of a lower rank than itself, and have an **Awareness** skill of 10 \* rank.

### Refining Gu

Refining Gu can refer to two processes; the first is turning a wild Gu or a Gu refined by someone else into your own. The second is the act of following a recipe to create a new Gu. You cannot activate a Gu that is wild or belongs to someone else, unless the owner is willing.

#### Refining Existing Gu

When refining a wild Gu, the Gu must be subdued first. For smaller Gu this usually just involves catching it, but larger or more aggressive Gu may require you to weaken it in battle or through other means. If the Gu is owned by someone else, they can weaken their will to allow you to refine the Gu for free. Otherwise, your will is pitted against theirs. Make an opposed Wisdom test against the owner of the Gu, with the higher ranked Gu Master gaining a -30 bonus for each rank they are above their opponent. If you win the test, the owner's will is driven out and you gain ownership of the Gu. If you lose, they retain control of the Gu, you take 1d4 damage to your soul, and you gain a stacking -10 bonus on subsequent rolls made to refine the Gu.

Once a wild Gu is subdued, you must be touching it to refine it into your own. To do so, you must spend 50 portions of primeval essence. If the Gu is of a higher rank than you, it costs 4 times more portions to refine for each rank above you.

If the Gu is below your rank, it costs a single portion of primeval essence to refine.

If you do not have enough primeval essence to do so in one sitting, you may have to refine the Gu for a longer period, using your natural recovery and/or primeval stones to supply the rest of the required portions. Taking a break from the refinement causes it to fail, and the primeval essence used in the process is lost.

#### Following a Recipe

Refinement recipes will have many required materials. Common materials are included in the recipe's primeval stone cost, assuming you have access to a market to purchase the materials. Rarer materials will be specified, and you may have to seek out a seller or go find these materials yourself. Some recipes will also have an associated ritual which will have to be completed for the refinement to succeed.

To begin refinement, you must have all the necessary materials on hand. If you know any refinement techniques (see ch.2 - Talents) you may select one. Make a **Refinement** test with a penalty or bonus according to the recipe's difficulty. If you've already successfully refined the Gu before, you gain a -20 bonus on the test. On a success, roll the failure die. If the number rolled is anything except a 1, you have succeeded in creating the Gu. If you do roll a 1, the refinement fails, representing the flat chance of failure all refinement recipes have. If you succeeded, however, cut the duration in half for every degree of success on the refinement test (barring any rituals involved that take a set amount of time).

On a failure, you and all Gu being used in the refinement process take a backlash. If you failed the roll by less than 10, or if the failure was caused by a 1 on the failure die, the backlash is negated. Otherwise, you take damage to your soul equal to the degrees of failure multiplied by the rank of the Gu you're attempting to refine. Every Gu being used in the refinement takes the same amount of damage to their health. If your Vital Gu would be killed in this manner, instead it drops to 1 hit point.

For every 8 hours you spend refining Gu without a rest, take 1d6 damage to your soul.

#### Sample Recipe: Four Flavors Liquor Worm *Four Flavors Liquor Worm*

**Rank:** 2

**Cost:** 25 primeval stones, 2 Rank 1 Liquor Worm Gu, Spicy wine, sweet wine, bitter wine, sour wine

**Additional Gu:** none

**Duration:** 4 hours

**Difficulty:** -10 bonus

**Failure Die:** d10

**Market Value:** 20,000 primeval stones

#### Improving a Recipe

You can leverage your **Refinement** skill to reduce the cost, duration, difficulty, or failure rate of any Gu recipe. To do so, you must have a **Refinement** skill of (20 \* recipe rank) as well as *intermediate* attainment in the path of the Gu in question to attempt the refinement. If you do, start by paying 4 times the total cost of the recipe, to represent the materials needed to practice and attempt to improve the recipe. You must also spend an amount of time equal to 4 times the duration of the recipe in refinement. This time does not need to be sequential, and you can breaks as long as you need and however often you need. Then, make a **Refinement** test with a penalty of +10 multiplied by the rank of the recipe. On a fumble, you do not succeed in improving the recipe and take damage to your soul equal to the degrees of failure multiplied by the rank of the recipe. On a failure, you do not succeed in improving the recipe, but don't face a backlash. On a success, you make a breakthrough and gain a new recipe for the Gu, with one of the following improvements:

- The failure die is increased by one step; d2 -> d4 -> d6 -> d8 -> d10 -> d12 -> d20 -> d100
- The difficulty is reduced by 10
- The primeval stone cost is reduced by 25% OR remove one additional cost (you cannot remove a Gu from the cost if the recipe is to advance that Gu up a rank)
- The duration is reduced by 50%

The recipe you've created is different from the previous one, and both can still be used and sold. The market value of the new recipe is worth double that of the original. You can improve a recipe a number of times equal to 10% of your refinement skill, rounded down.

#### Creating a Recipe

Creating a recipe is a collaborative effort between the player and GM. The player should first approach the GM with the Gu they want to create a recipe for. This can be a Gu from the Gu Index or a unique Gu that the GM has approved. It is up to the GM's judgement as to how expensive and difficult the recipe will be, but a recommended primeval stone cost range is listed in the table below.

Rank	Price
1	5 - 500
2	500 - 1,500
3	2,000 - 5,000
4	10,000 - 75,000
5	100,000 - 1,000,000

## Feeding Gu

Gu are living beings and need to be fed. What they eat is determined by the Gu, while how often they eat is determined by the rank. Some Gu will have a number of primeval stones in parenthesis next to their food. If you have access to a market, you can spend that number of primeval stones for a feeding. Gu also cannot be fed during combat.

Rank	Interval
1	3 days
2	7 days
3	30 days
4	250 days
5	10 years

If the food does not have a primeval stone cost next to it, that does not mean it is impossible to purchase, just that it is a rarer material. You can find your own out in the Southern Border, or seek out a seller of rare items.

To track food, mark the Gu's feeding interval in days inside the "Days Until Feeding" column on your Gu sheet. Every time a day passes in game, subtract 1 from the number. When the Gu eats, set it back to the original feeding interval. If it hits -1, the Gu starves to death. You can feed a Gu outside of combat whenever you wish as long as you have the materials.

## Detonating Gu

As a reaction or at any time during their turn, a Gu Master can self-detonate any Gu owned and refined by them with a single thought. The Gu Master must be conscious to do so, and can detonate as many or as few Gu as they want, from any distance. If the Gu is being suppressed, such as by the land spirit of a blessed land, the Gu Master cannot self-detonate it. Otherwise, the chosen Gu instantly die, with no other effects. If the Gu has a self-detonation ability, it does not trigger, since the Gu was not activated.

## Healing Gu

Gu have a pool of hit points, and thus need to be healed when damaged. Most Gu heal back to full health when they are fed. Some Gu can only be healed by other Gu or an obscure process.

## Stacking Effects

In most cases, the effects of different Gu will stack, whereas the effects of the same Gu will not. Even if a Gu Master owns multiple Golden Breeze Gu, they cannot sustain both at the same time to double the healing effect.

## Gu against Gu

Sometimes the effects of Gu will pit against one another. In most circumstances, the higher rank Gu's effect takes precedence. If both are the same rank, the defending Gu should block the effect. For example, if a Gu Master is attacked by Rank 2 Vein Burst Gu, but has strengthened his blood vessels with Rank 2 Iron Artery Gu, then he would be unaffected, despite neither Gu explicitly mentioning the interaction. Concealments are considered the defender when pitting against Divinations.

The Gu system has a lot of moving parts, and it would be unfun and tedious if every effect listed every possible counter and use case. When there's uncertainty about whether a Gu would affect a target, use common sense, and if that fails the GM will have to make a ruling.

## Gu Keywords

### Deductive

When activated, [Deductive] Gu unlock a special *Deduction* action. To take it, you must spend an hour deducing a specific subject and make a **Deduction** test. Penalties and Bonuses are determined by the amount of supporting information available to you. The subject can be something that occurred in the past, such as who might have committed a murder, or something happening in the present or future, like why a rival clan may have purchased a huge amount of an unusual refinement material. Deductions cannot create information out of thin air, and a success does not necessarily mean your deduction is correct if you lack a key piece of evidence. For every degree of success on the check, however, you gain one additional conclusion about the subject.

### Dao

Gu with the [Dao] keyword contain much higher traces of dao than most mortal Gu. Dao of different paths naturally conflict, and a Gu Master cannot gain the effect from a [Dao] Gu if they are already under the effect of a [Dao] Gu of a non-compatible path. If a Gu belonging to Transformation Path has the [Dao] keyword, it belongs wholly to transformation path and is compatible with all other paths. Transformation Path Gu may instead have the [Dao: [Path]] keyword, indicating that the Dao belongs to a different path and inherits that path's compatibilities. For example, Earth Chief Zombie Gu, which has the [Dao: Earth] keyword, can only be combined with [Dao] Gu of Metal, Transformation, or Wood Path.

Using the same [Dao] Gu multiple times does not stack the effect.

### Compatible Paths

**Blood Path:** Enslavement Path - Transformation Path - Water Path - Wood Path

**Dark Path:** Poison Path - Space Path - Theft Path - Transformation Path

**Earth Path:** Metal Path - Transformation Path - Wood Path

**Enslavement Path:** Blood Path - Soul Path - Theft Path - Transformation Path

**Fire Path:** Light Path - Lightning Path - Metal Path - Transformation Path

**Ice Path:** Transformation Path - Water Path - Wind Path

**Information Path:** Rule Path - Transformation Path - Wisdom Path

**Light Path:** Fire Path - Lightning Path - Sound Path - Transformation Path

**Lightning Path:** Fire Path - Light Path - Transformation Path - Wind Path

**Luck Path:** Rule Path - Transformation Path

**Metal Path:** Earth Path - Fire Path - Strength Path - Sword Path - Transformation Path

**Poison Path:** Dark Path - Transformation Path - Wind Path

**Refinement Path:** Soul Path - Transformation Path - Wisdom Path

**Rule Path:** Information Path - Luck Path - Transformation Path

**Soul Path:** Refinement Path - Transformation Path - Wisdom Path

**Sound Path:** Light Path - Sword Path - Transformation Path

**Space Path:** Dark Path - Time Path - Transformation Path

**Strength Path:** Metal Path - Soul Path - Transformation Path

**Sword Path:** Metal Path - Sound Path - Transformation Path

**Theft Path:** Dark Path - Enslavement Path - Transformation Path

**Time Path:** Space Path - Transformation Path - Wisdom Path

**Transformation Path:** Compatible with all paths

**Water Path:** Blood Path - Ice Path - Transformation Path - Wood Path

**Wind Path:** Ice Path - Lightning Path - Poison Path - Transformation Path

**Wisdom Path:** Information Path - Refinement Path - Soul Path - Time Path - Transformation Path

**Wood Path:** Blood Path - Earth Path - Transformation Path - Water Path

## Defensive

[**Defensive**] Gu can be activated as a reaction to any event.

## Fast

[**Fast**] Gu have a movement of 12 meters instead of 8.

## Expendable X

[**Expendable**] Gu are destroyed after X uses. If there is no number, the Gu can only be used a single time before it is destroyed.

## Low Vitality

[**Low Vitality**] Gu do not regenerate hit points when they are fed. Most will clarify the necessary Gu or process used to recover their health instead.

## Piercing

[**Piercing**] Gu can pierce through any material that lacks dao. The only barriers with dao would be either immortal refinement materials or barriers created by Gu. Mundane armor worn by a creature struck by a [**Piercing**] attack does not reduce the damage of the attack, and the armor takes damage equal to the damage of the attack to its hit points.

[**Piercing**] Gu can also make attacks against targets fully obscured by cover with a +20 penalty. If the target is only partially obscured by cover, attacks made with a [**Piercing**] Gu against them do not have the usual penalty.

## Shield

When you take damage, that damage is first assigned to any active Gu with the [**Shield**] keyword so long as the Gu can block that damage type. If you have multiple [**Shield**] Gu active and it isn't immediately clear which one would block the attack first, you may decide in what order damage is assigned. If you use a [**Shield**] Gu to reduce damage, the Gu takes that damage to its hitpoints. If a [**Shield**] Gu would die from sustaining an attack while active, you may use a reaction to deactivate the Gu at 1 hit point, taking the remaining damage to your hit points or another [**Shield**] Gu.

If you have multiple [**Shield**] Gu active, you can split incoming damage types between any number of active [**Shield**] Gu. This way, if you have a shield that negates heat damage and another that negates rending damage, you could split all rending and heat damage in a way that negates all of the incoming damage.

## Size

If size is not listed, the Gu is the most common size, [**Tiny**]; that of a large insect. If the Gu is [**Small**] it is the size of a child, and [**Medium**] is the size of a man. [**Large**] Gu take up 4 squares when outside of your aperture, and [**Huge**] Gu take up any area greater than 9 squares.

Size	Modifier to Hit
Tiny	+40
Small	+20
Medium	0
Large	-20
Huge	-40

### Steed

A [Steed] Gu can be ridden while outside your aperture. While mounted, your movement is replaced with the [Steed] Gu's movement statistics.

### Supplementary

Supplementary Gu can change the properties of your subsequent activations. When used outside of killer moves, [Supplementary] Gu have no effect on Gu of a higher rank than itself. When used as supplementary Gu in a killer move, you will require a number of the same [Supplementary] Gu to properly apply the effect equal to  $2^{(\text{killer move rank} - \text{[Supplementary] Gu rank})}$ .

### Sustained

You must pay the cost of [Sustained] Gu at the start of each of your turns as long as you keep the effect active. Paying the cost does not use one of your activations. While a Gu is being sustained, it cannot be activated (because it is already active). If you are sustaining more than 1 Gu at the same time, take 1 damage to your soul for every Gu being sustained above your **Activations** attribute at the start of each of your turns.

You may stop sustaining a Gu at any time, whether or not it is your turn. If you fall unconscious or are *stunned*, you automatically stop sustaining all Gu. When you stop sustaining a Gu, you cannot activate that Gu again until after the end of your current turn.

### Undodgeable

[Undodgeable] attacks cannot be avoided by moving, such as with the **Dodge** reaction. A creature can still take the **Dodge** reaction against an [Undodgeable] attack, but it will only move them and not avoid the attack.

### Unreactable

Attacks made with [Unreactable] Gu are too fast for the defender to react in time. When a creature uses a reaction in response to the activation or effect of an [Unreactable] Gu, their reaction is delayed until after the Gu's successful activation and application of its effect.

### Vital

A Gu Master can only have 1 [Vital] Gu at a time. If a Gu with the [Vital] keyword dies, the owner of the Gu dies as well. When taking damage from refinement backlash, a [Vital] Gu cannot be brought below 1 hit point.

## Creating Unique Gu

While I've made an expansive list of many of the Gu paths, in reality there is a basically unlimited number of Gu. Once you're more familiar with the system and balance, you're encouraged to make your own Gu. Here are some guidelines;

- Gu type (attack, guard, celerity, etc.) has no mechanical effect and only exists for easier categorization.

- Rank 5 Gu are at the peak of the mortal realm, and have the power to clear sections of a battlefield single handedly, while rank 1 Gu are sometimes strong enough to kill a person. Keep in mind that a Gu of higher rank should have an advantage over lower ranked Gu.
- The rules already account for the differing primeval essence quality between ranks. Costs are proportional to the power of the Gu within its rank. A rank 1 Gu with a high cost can be similar in strength to a rank 2 Gu with low cost.
- Health is usually only relevant to Gu with the [**Shield**] or [**Steed**] keywords or for refinement. Gu with higher health are more likely to survive backlash from refinement and are thus more viable for improvement.
- Range can be Self (an area of effect centered on yourself or an effect that only applies to the user), Touch, or a distance in meters.
- Duration can be permanent or have a specified duration. Duration can be in the form of time (minutes/hours/days/years) or with respect to the turn. If the Gu applies an effect for 1 turn, it's typically better to say “until the end of your/their next turn.” This is because the number of turns remaining on an effect ticks down at the end of the creature’s turn; if you buff yourself on your turn, and the duration of the effect is 1 turn, it would disappear at the end of your turn and not be active when you take any of your reactions outside your turn.
- Overall, the strength of the Gu should be relative to all these factors. If it is more expensive in primeval essence, has a short range, eats expensive food, and/or has major drawbacks to its use, the power of the Gu should be increased relatively. This can mean more damage, more health (for [**Shield**] Gu), making the Gu harder to counter, and so on. A Gu that costs 2 portions, eats dirt, and affects 1km better have a much weaker effect than other Gu in its rank. Adding the [**Expendable**] or [**Low Vitality**] keywords can also be used to balance a Gu that's on the stronger side.

Most importantly, be creative! There is a Gu for any purpose you can think of. There are Gu suited to cure any affliction, make any attack, cause any event that you can think of. Some Gu might seem practically useless, but they can always be used to improve some killer move or refine a new Gu.

## Enslavement Path

Enslavement path Gu Masters are a huge asset to a clan. In battle, a single enslavement path Gu Master can be worth many other Gu Masters of the same rank, as they use Enslavement Gu to dominate the minds of beasts and even other Gu Masters to be used as a personal army. Enslavement path is an uncommon one to follow, however, as it costs a great deal of resources to maintain an army of beasts.

The unorthodox nature of enslavement path requires its own section in this book; this section will cover using Enslavement Gu, maintaining an army, and directing them on the battlefield. To follow the enslavement path, a Gu Master must have a strong soul foundation or else their results will be very limited.

## Enslavement Gu

There are two different Enslavement Gu (not to be confused with Gu of Enslavement Path): - [Beast] Enslavement Gu exist for pretty much all wild beasts; in the Southern Border, wolves and boars are a common target, but some Gu Masters create armies of horses, monkeys, goats, and even birds. [Beast] Enslavement Gu usually cover a specific animal type; Wolf Enslavement Gu can enslave wolves, vermillion flame wolves, shark fin wolves, etc., but they cannot enslave dogs, which are of course enslaved with a Dog Enslavement Gu. - Slavery Gu is used to enslave other humans and variant-humans.

## Controlling Your Army

**Individuals** Commanding individual beasts is tedious and quickly drains the soul. When you individually control a beast, you take its turn for it, and take 1 damage to your soul at the end of its turn. You can choose to individually control any beast that is not part of a horde (beast kings must be individually controlled while part of a horde). If you do not take an enslaved creature's turn, it acts like a wild beast and is under the GM's command, but will usually follow what the horde is doing and never attack friendly creatures.

**Hordes** If you have at least 100 beasts under your control, they must be separated into *Hordes*. A Horde of beasts has no minimum amount, but each must be led by the proper beast king, enslaved by you. The beast king leading the horde is the *Commander*. The maximum number of ordinary beasts in a horde is listed below:

Hundred Beast King: 100 Thousand Beast King: 1,000 Myriad Beast King: 10,000 Beast Emperor: 100,000  
Mutated Beast King: 100 Mutated Beasts of the same type as the *Commander*

- Beast kings of a lower classification can be included in the horde of a greater beast king, but can only be controlled individually.
- Beasts that aren't part of a horde can only be controlled individually.
- In combat, creatures enslaved by you act directly after your turn.

As long as you have at least one beast or Gu Master under your control and within control range, you gain access to the **Direct Combat Action**. ### Direct (*Combat Action*) You give up to one order to each of your hordes. At the end of your turn, you take 1d12 damage to your soul for every order given this way.

## Orders

### Defend

### Attack

## Killer Moves

When multiple Gu are combined into a single effect it is colloquially known as a killer move. Killer moves have a core of 1 or more same-ranked Gu as well as any number of supplemental Gu of lower ranks.

*Blood Vision Rank 4 Divination Killer Move* Core Gu: Rank 4 Blood Sense Gu, Rank 4 Blood Brother Gu Supplementary Gu: Rank 3 Hundred Meter Gu x 2, Total Activations: 4 Activation Cost: 49 portions  
Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: Any creatures within 100 meters have their blood tainted with yours. For 24 hours, these creatures are considered your siblings by blood path methods. While this killer move is sustained, you can sense the exact location of any of your blood relatives within 100 meters.

### Components of a Killer Move

**Core Gu** Core Gu are the most important part of a killer move, and determine the main paths, rank, and general effect of the killer move. Looking at the Rank 4 killer move Blood Vision, shown above, It uses Rank 4 Blood Sense Gu and Rank 4 Blood Brother Gu as its core. Blood Brother Gu can turn a creature into your blood relative, and Blood Sense Gu senses the location of blood relatives nearby, so a natural effect would be to both transmute the blood of and sense nearby creatures. These are also both Blood Path Gu, and thus the killer move belongs to Blood Path as well. Finally, the Rank of the killer move is equal to the highest ranked Gu among the killer move's core.

**Supplementary Gu** Supplementary Gu are used to amplify or mutate the effects of the core Gu. Supplementary Gu can be of a different path and even a higher rank than the core Gu, but do not change the overall rank of the killer move. A Gu with the [Supplementary] keyword has a specific effect when used as a supplementary Gu for a killer move. That being said, any Gu can be used as a supplementary Gu as long as you can justify its use and detail its effect on the killer move.

**Activations** The activations stat is simply the number of Gu in the Killer Move. More complicated killer moves use many Gu and are more taxing on the user's soul. For each Gu over your Activations attribute, your soul takes 1 damage upon activation, or at the start of each of your turns when you choose to sustain a [Sustained] killer move.

**Activation Cost** The combined primeval essence cost of all Gu in the recipe. This number assumes the user is of the same rank as the killer move. If the user is of a higher or lower rank, adjust the cost accordingly.

### Deducing a Killer Move

To deduce a killer move, you must have the *Fundamental [Path] Attainment* talent in the paths of all Core Gu. You should prepare the killer move with the gamemaster first, making sure both of you agree on the Gu used and the final effect. Once you have the killer move prepared, your character has to then spend time experimenting to create the killer move. This takes a

### Activating a Killer Move

Killer moves can be activated with the **Activate a Killer Move** combat action, but can be quite taxing on the soul depending on their complexity. Pick a killer move for which you have all the Gu and enough primeval essence for all activations. For every activation in the killer move over your **Activations** attribute, take 1 damage to your soul. The killer move activates, applying its effect. If the killer move has the [Sustained] keyword, you take 1 damage to your soul any time you activate a Gu while sustaining the killer move.

## Chapter 4: Combat

### Initiative

At the beginning of combat, an initiative is rolled. If an enemy is within 3 meters of you, roll **Close Combat**. If not, roll **Ranged Attack**. The player with the most degrees of success goes first. In the case of ties, the lower number on the die goes first. If this is still tied, creatures controlled by a player go before non player characters. If the tied creatures are all player characters, they decide amongst themselves who goes first; if all are NPCs, the GM chooses. Continue this process for the rest of the combatants.

### Surprise

Surprised creatures have a +20 penalty to their initiative roll and cannot take reactions until the start of their first turn.

### Stealth

There is no stealth skill in the game. Many Gu render your personal sneaking skills worthless, and so most Gu Masters that wish to walk unobserved will use concealment Gu to do so. In the case either party is not using these Gu, the creature you are trying to sneak past makes an awareness check with a penalty or bonus determined by the GM for the circumstance, including the stealthing party's measures to hide themselves.

### The Turn

One turn lasts 10 seconds. Gu Masters recover primeval essence at the beginning of each of their turns.

### Start and End of Turn Effects

If you have multiple start or end of turn effects, you choose in what order they resolve. If an effect is applied to a creature for a specified duration, say 3 turns, the number of turns remaining ticks down at the end of the creature's turns, with the effect ending if it hits 0.

### Action Economy

Gu Masters can take a **Combat Action**, two **Reactions**, a bonus action, and a movement on each of their turns.

### Movement

You can move a number of meters on your turn equal to your movement. 1 meter of movement corresponds to moving 1 adjacent square, including corners. If you have a flying speed, you may forego this movement to execute a number of *Maneuvers* dependent on the flying Gu being used.

A creature cannot move through a hostile creature's square, and cannot end their turn inside another creature's square (unless they are [**Tiny**]).

### Jumping

Jumping costs half of your movement in meters, rounded up. If your movement is 0, you cannot jump.

**Standing Jump** From rest, you can jump a maximum of 10% of your athletics skill (rounded down to a minimum of 1) in meters upwards, or 2 meters forwards.

**Long Jump** If you move at least 1 meter in the direction of your jump before jumping, your forward jumping distance is equal to half your movement, rounded up.

## Maneuvers

You may only execute a Maneuver if you have a flying speed. With the exception of *Take Flight*, you must be *airborne* to execute a maneuver. While *airborne*, you make **Dodge** skill tests with your **Flying** skill until you return to the ground, and use your flying speed when dodging.

**Take Flight** Taking flight can only be done when on the ground. You rise a number of meters into the air equal to half your flying speed, rounded down, and are now *airborne*.

**Fly** You move a number of meters equal to your flying speed in a straight line in any direction.

**Dive** Make a **Flying** test. On a success, you dive down a distance of up to triple your flying speed, and can move up to your flying speed in meters forward. Then, you can either try to execute a *Land* maneuver or else rise 1 meter directly upward at the end of the maneuver.

If you fail the test, you dive directly downward a number of meters equal to your flying speed before regaining control. If this would cause you to hit the ground, you do so, are no longer *airborne*, and take 4 force damage for every meter you dove.

**Evade** Make a **Flying** test. On a success, all skill tests made to hit you with an attack are made with a penalty equal to +(your flying skill, rounded down to the nearest ten) until the start of your next turn.

**Land** You land on solid ground. If executed at the end of a dive or atop *Uneven Terrain*, you must succeed a **Flying** test or else land *prone*.

## Climbing

When climbing a surface, your movement is reduced by 4. If the surface does not have easy handholds like a ladder the GM may call you to make an **Athletics** test or else fall.

## Swimming

Non-aquatic creatures consider water to be difficult terrain. A creature can hold its breath for a number of minutes equal to 10% of their Fortitude attribute (rounded down) before falling unconscious. If the creature remains unable to breath for the same period of time after passing out, they die.

## Difficult Terrain

If a creature is standing in difficult terrain, it costs 2 meters of movement instead of 1 to move to another square.

## Cover

If a creature is completely hidden behind cover from the attacker, they have full cover and typically are not a viable target for attacks. If the attacker uses a Gu with the [**Piercing**] keyword, however, they can make an attack against an obscured target with a +20 penalty. Divinations that reveal the exact location of a target remove this penalty.

If a creature is only partially obscured by cover, they have partial cover; they are a viable target, but attacks made against them are made with a +10 penalty. If the attacker uses a Gu with the [**Piercing**] keyword, however, there is no penalty to the attack roll.

## Combat Actions

### Activate Gu

Your Activations can be used to activate Gu as well as to utilize the lingering effects of many Gu, such as directing manifestations. You may activate a number of Gu equal to your **Activations** attribute. You may activate each at any time during your turn, including in the middle of movement, but you cannot activate a Gu when it is not your turn. You may activate the same Gu multiple times, unless you are sustaining it. Using up your activations does not prevent you from activating Gu using your reactions.

### Activate a Killer Move

Pick a killer move for which you have all the Gu and enough primeval essence for all activations. For every activation in the killer move over your **Activations** attribute, take 1 damage to your soul. The killer move activates, applying its effect. If the killer move has the [**Sustained**] keyword, you take 1 damage to your soul any time you activate a Gu while sustaining the killer move.

### Melee Attack

Melee attacks made against a target incapable of moving automatically hit.

**Weapon Attack** Roll a **Close Combat** skill test against an enemy within your weapon's range. On a hit, deal the damage of the weapon, +1 damage for every 20 points you have in Strength.

**Multi-Weapon Fighting** When wielding more than 1 weapon, you can make a number of melee attacks equal to the number of wielded weapons instead of just 1. If you elect to do so, all melee attacks made have a penalty equal to +(number of attacks \* 10). You cannot wield more weapons than you have arms and hands.

**Unarmed Strike** When you take an unarmed strike combat action, you may make a punch attack for each arm you have, or a single kick attack or bite attack.

**Punch:** Roll a **Close Combat** skill test against an enemy within 1 meter. On a hit, deal 1 force damage, +1 damage for every 10 points you have in Strength. For every 5 damage dealt, even if it is reduced, you take 1 force damage directly to your hit points. Gu such as Metal Skin Gu and Copper Tendons Gu are typically used to prevent your own strikes from hurting you.

**Kick:** Roll a **Close Combat** skill test against an enemy within 1 meter. On a hit, deal 1 force damage, +1 damage for every 5 points you have in Strength. The target is knocked backwards a number of meters equal to 1% of your Strength attribute (rounded down, minimum 1) and lands *prone*.

**Bite:** You viciously bite the target. Roll a **Close Combat** skill test against an enemy within 1 meter. On a hit, deal 2 rending damage, +1 damage for every 5 points you have in Strength. The target is inflicted with *bleeding X*, where X is equal to 20% of the rending damage dealt to their hit points, rounded down (to a minimum of 0).

### Called Shot

When you make an attack roll against a creature, you can choose to pick a particular body part, worn or carried item, or manifested body parts like wings as the target of your attack. A called attack roll is made with a penalty based on the size of the target; for an average person, their hands would be tiny, arms and the head are small, and the torso is medium.

Size	Modifier to Hit
Tiny	+40
Small	+20
Medium	0
Large	-20

Size	Modifier to Hit
Huge	-40

## Grapple

Select an enemy of equal or lesser size in an adjacent square. Roll an opposed **Athletics** test against them. If you win, The creature is *restrained* and now occupies the same square as you while *restrained* in this way. While you are grappling a creature, you may not make kicking attacks and the number of free hands you can make punching attacks with using the **Melee Attack** action is reduced by 1. You may expend your movement to make an **Athletics** test, with a +10 penalty for every 50 kilograms the grappled target weighs. On a success, you can move up to half your movement (rounded down).

As a combat action, a grappled creature can attempt to break free, making an opposed **Athletics** test against the grappler. On a success, they break free.

## Absorb Primeval Stones

On your turn, you can absorb the essence of a number of primeval stones equal to the number of hands you have. You must have one hand free for each stone being absorbed.

For each primeval stone being absorbed, you gain 5 portions of primeval essence, and the stone is destroyed in the process, crumbling into dust.

## Hold an Action

You can choose to hold your Combat Action, specifying an action and a trigger for it to occur. When the trigger happens, you may use a reaction to take that Combat Action. If you are reacting to an opponent's actions, you must make an opposed skill test to see whose action occurs first, with the skill in question being **Close Combat** if within 3 meters of each other, or **Ranged Attack** if not. If you hold the **Activate Gu** action, you may only specify a single activation.

Triggers can be specific or broad, ranging from “when the opponent uses Fire Pellet Gu” to “when a creature makes any hostile moves”.

## Sprint

Taking the sprint action triples your non-flying movement until the end of your turn.

## Reactions

You can react to most actions around you at any time other than during your turn. An exception is that you cannot react to someone activating a Gu, but you can react to them making an attack with one, manifesting an object with it, or applying any other effect. If a Gu has the [**Unreactable**] keyword, you cannot use a reaction in response to its effect. You cannot use multiple reactions to the same trigger, for example, dodging and activating a shield Gu when an attack hits you.

## Activate a Shield Gu

Unless specified otherwise by the Gu, shield Gu can be activated as a reaction, including after its determined an attack has hit you, but only before the damage has been rolled.

## Dodge

The dodge reaction can be taken when its determined an attack has hit you and before the damage has been rolled. Make a **Dodge** test, opposing the opponent's attack roll if the attack required one. If you succeed,

you successfully dodge the attack and take no damage. If you fail, you are hit and take the full damage of the attack.

When you succeed a Dodge test, you MUST move at least 1 meter and at most 1/2 your movement (rounded down) in any direction. If you are unable to move, you are also unable to take the dodge reaction. If 1/2 of your movement is insufficient to escape an area of effect attack, you are struck by the attack regardless.

If you use a reaction to dodge for any trigger except an attack hitting you, you immediately move at least 1 meter and at most 1/2 your movement in any direction.

Dodging provokes opportunity attacks, but they are made with disadvantage.

### **Parry**

The parry reaction can only be taken when its determined a melee attack has hit you and before the damage has been rolled. Make a **Close Combat** test with a +10 penalty, opposing the opponent's attack roll. If you win, you take no damage from the attack and can make your own melee attack against the opponent in turn as long as they are within your melee range. You can parry attacks made as part of the parry reaction.

### **Make an Opportunity Attack**

When a creature moves from inside your melee range to a square outside your melee range, you may make a melee attack as an attack of opportunity. If you make an unarmed attack, it cannot be a kicking attack.

### **Trigger a Held Action**

When the trigger you specified upon holding a combat action occurs, you may take this reaction to use said action.

### **Detonate Gu Worms**

As a reaction or for free at any time during their turn, a Gu Master can self-detonate any Gu owned and refined by them with a single thought. The Gu Master must be conscious to do so, and can detonate as many or as few Gu as they want, from any distance. If the Gu is being suppressed, for example by the land spirit of a blessed land, the Gu Master cannot self-detonate it. Otherwise, the chosen Gu instantly die, with no other effects. If the Gu has a self-detonation ability, it does not trigger, since the Gu was not activated.

### **Bonus Actions**

Bonus actions are generally fast and low-effort, such as giving a creature a Gu from your aperture, opening an unlocked door, or pulling a lever.

### **Damage**

When you take damage, subtract that amount from your current Hit Points, to a minimum of 0. When you hit 0 Hit Points, make a **Perseverance** test. On a failure, you are *Dying*. On a success, you enter *Final Stand*.

### **Damage Types**

- Force: Being struck with an object or force, such as Qi; piercing attacks are included but generally have the **[Piercing]** keyword
- Rending: Being cut or slashed.
- Cold: Low temperature attacks
- Heat: Fire and heat
- Poison: Damage taken as long as you are *poisoned* by a source; reduce all poison damage dealt to a creatures hit points by 10% of their Fortitude, rounding down.
- Shock: Electricity damage.

- Sonic: Sound-based attacks that bypass many shield Gu but are quite rare and typically weak
- Direct: Direct damage can be of any damage type and, as the name suggests, deals that damage directly to a creature's hit points. If a source says it deals damage directly to a creature's hit points, the damage cannot be assigned to any active [Shield] Gu, but some effects may still reduce it. Damage from poison, burning, and bleeding is always direct.

If a source says you take damage to your soul, that number is subtracted from your current soul value; you take no damage to your hit points.

## **Damage Reduction**

Many defensive Gu reduce the amount of damage taken from attacks. When damage is reduced by a flat number, the damage can be reduced to 0 unless the source of the damage is of greater rank than the source of the damage reduction. If the source of the damage is of greater rank than the source of the damage reduction, the damage can be reduced to a minimum of 1.

## **Vulnerability**

If a creature or object is vulnerable to a damage type, multiply any damage of that type dealt to their hit points by 2. If they have resistance, halve the damage dealt to their hit points, rounding down. If they are invulnerable to a damage type, they do not take the damage at all.

Resistance and invulnerability granted by a Gu can be reduced by Gu of higher ranks. When you take damage of that type from a Gu of higher rank than the one granting invulnerability, you instead are treated as if you had resistance. Similarly, if you only had resistance, you now do not reduce the damage dealt at all.

## **Immunity**

If a creature is immune to a condition, it cannot be applied to them regardless of the rank of the source.

## **Instant Death**

If you take an amount of damage equal to double your maximum Hit Points from a single source, you instantly die, and do not get to roll to see if you enter *Final Stand*.

## **Final Stand**

While in *Final Stand*, you cannot move or take combat actions or reactions other than to activate Gu or hold your action to do so. If you take any amount of damage to your hit points while in *Final Stand*, you enter the *Dying* state and fall unconscious. If you gain any Hit Points while in *Final Stand*, you are no longer in *Final Stand* and can act as normal.

## **Dying**

If you are *Dying*, you are unconscious. At the end of each of your turns, roll a **Perseverance** test. On a success, you gain a **Perseverance Token**. On a failure, you gain a **Predicament Token**. Critical successes and fumbles grant 2 of the respective token. When you have 3 **Perseverance Tokens**, you are no longer *Dying* and instead enter *Final Stand*, and your **Perseverance** token count resets to 0. When you have 3 **Predicament Tokens**, you die.

## **Fall Damage**

When falling from a height of more than 2 meters, you take 3 force damage for every meter you fell. If a creature has a flying speed when it becomes *airborne* from anything other than the *Take Flight* Maneuver, it may immediately move up to half its flying speed. If a creature does not have a flying speed when it becomes *airborne*, it immediately falls up to 500 meters. If the creature is still falling, it falls 500 meters at the end of each of its turns until it hits the ground.

## Injury

When a creature takes damage to their hit points greater than or equal to half their maximum (rounded down), some damage types apply a special effect.

- Force:

d4	Effect
1 - Broken Arm	Unusable limb
2 - Broken Leg	-4 movement. -4 movement. If both legs are broken, your movement is reduced to 0.
3 - Internal Bleeding	<i>Bleeding 1</i>
4 - Concussion	<i>Dazed</i> . Cognition reduced by 15 for 3 days.

- Rending: *Bleeding 1*
- Cold: *Fatigued*
- Heat: *Burning*
- Shock: *Dazed*

**Called Shot Injuries** When you make a called shot and successfully hit a specific body part, if damage is dealt to the creature's hit points they take a corresponding injury.

- Hand: Broken Hand; disarmed and unusable
- Arm: Crippled Limb; Unusable
- Torso: Internal Bleeding; *Bleeding 1*.
- Leg: Crippled; -4 movement. If both legs are crippled, your movement is reduced to 0.
- Head | d4 | Effect | | — | — | | 1 - Brain Damage | Maximum Soul permanently reduced by 50% (rounded down) | | 2 - Blinded | *Blinded* until the end of their next turn | | 3 - Hemorrhage | *Bleeding 5* | | 4 - Concussion | *Dazed*. Cognition reduced by 15 for 3 days. |

## Natural Recovery

When you sleep, you regain 1 hit point for every hour spent sleeping.

## Status Effects

### Ablaze

A creature with the *ablaze* condition is completely engulfed in flames. An *ablaze* creature cannot have or gain the *burning* condition. If a creature with the *burning* condition gains the *ablaze* condition, the *burning* condition is removed. At the start of each of their turns, the creature takes 15 heat damage directly to their hit points. If a creature takes heat damage to their hit points on a turn from the *ablaze* condition, at the end of the turn they must succeed a **Perseverance** test or else fall unconscious. For creatures invulnerable to heat damage, consider damage dealt by the *ablaze* condition to be of the rank of the Gu that applied the *ablaze* condition, or rank 1 if the fire was natural. Being submerged in water removes the *ablaze* condition.

### Bleeding X

*Bleeding* creatures take 1 damage directly to their hit points at the start of each of their turns for every stack of *bleeding*. This damage has no type and cannot be reduced by Gu. Levels of *bleeding* can stack additively from the same or different sources. For every hit point a *bleeding* creature restores, reduce the number of *bleeding* stacks they have by 1.

## **Blinded**

*Blinded* creatures cannot see and have a +50 penalty to **Close Combat** and **Ranged Attack** tests. Gu that rely on vision, including divinations that augment their sight, cannot be used by a *blinded* creature.

## **Burning**

*Burning* creatures take 4 heat damage directly to their hit points at the start of each of their turns. When being negated by a [Shield] Gu, consider this damage to be of the rank of the Gu that applied the *burning* condition, or rank 1 if the fire was natural. Being submerged in water removes the *burning* condition. A creature can use their combat action to roll around on the ground, removing the *burning* condition.

## **Dazed**

A *dazed* creature's activations stat is reduced by 2. At the end of their turn, they lose the *dazed* condition.

## **Fatigued**

A *fatigued* creature's movement is reduced by 3 meters and makes all **Dodge** and **Athletics** tests with a +20 penalty. The *fatigued* condition lasts until the creature rests for at least an hour.

## **Poisoned**

Poison can have any number of effects, and a creature can gain multiple instances of the *poisoned* condition so long as each is unique.

## **Prone**

A *prone* creature has a +30 penalty to all skill tests. **Close Combat** tests made to hit a *prone* creature gain a -10 bonus. **Ranged Attack** tests made to hit a *prone* creature gain a +10 penalty. A creature can expend half their movement to stand up.

## **Restrained**

A *restrained* creature's movement is 0. A *restrained* creature automatically fails all **Dodge** and **Flying** tests.

## **Stunned**

A *stunned* creature cannot move or take any actions or reactions. At the end of their turn, they lose the *stunned* condition and gain the *dazed* condition.

## **Area of Effect Attacks**

When a creature is caught in an area of effect, they can dodge as a reaction, escaping the area of effect if they succeed and can move outside the area of effect.

### **Line**

Lines are really a horizontal cylinder, and will have a width and a length, with their height being the same as the width.

### **Radius**

Circular area of effects will originate from a source square and have a radius. If an area of effect has a radius of 5 meters, it will effect the source square and any square that could be reached using 5 meters of movement from the source square.

# Chapter 5 - Southern Border

## Culture

## Geography

### Notable Mountains

**Wan Cheng Peak** Wan Cheng Peak is less than 10 kilometers from Tie Clan, and atop it is built the Demon Suppression Tower. Demon Suppression Tower is a prison hundreds of meters tall and houses thousands of demonic path Gu Masters. It has metal path Gu formations protecting it from attacks. Most prisoners are subdued with the rank 3 Aperture Lock Gu, but rank 4 and even rank 5 Gu Masters are suppressed through an assortment of different methods.

**San Cha Mountain** San Cha Mountain is a collection of 3 peaks that rise into the sky like a pitchfork, with the middle mountain being the tallest. The area has some resources, and is often fought over by the Zuo and Che Clans. Unbeknownst to anyone, it is also the site of a combined inheritance belonging to three rank 5 Gu Masters, the Three Kings Inheritance. When the inheritance activates, pillars of light visible from across Southern Border shoot into the sky periodically from each peak, transporting potential inheritors from the peaks into the inheritance.

### The Three Rivers

#### Jade Dragon River

#### Red Dragon River

#### Yellow Dragon River

## Super Clans

### Ba Clan

### Chi Clan

### Fei Clan

### Shang Clan

### Tie Clan

*"Our Tie clan, since it was established, had been world-renowned for our bravery, unswerving determination and our iron-cold justice. For many generations, Tie clansmen had been upholding justice and striking down on criminals, in this course, countless people have shed blood and sacrificed their lives. The youths that have died here won't be the first and also won't be the last." - Tie Mu Bai, Ch. 370*

Tie Clan stands as a central pillar to the Southern Border righteous path. Their investigators are deployed to solve crimes across the entire continent, and thousands of demonic path Gu Masters guilty of vicious crimes are locked up in Tie Clan's **Demon Suppression Tower** atop Wan Cheng Peak.

### Wu Clan

Wu clan is known as the top force in Southern Border, led by rank 5 Strength Path Gu Master Empress Wu Ji.

## Goods

## **Commerce**

The marketplace breathes life into a continent dotted with tens of thousands of isolationist clans. Caravans owned by Shang Clan's many vassals travel millions of miles across Southern Border like a system of blood vessels, visiting a vast majority of the continent's clans. The caravan system disperses newly discovered Gu, beasts, and recipes into the economy, and great importance is placed on it by all Southern Border's righteous path. Robbing caravans is dangerous, and even the successful thieves are often hunted down by heroes or bounty hunters.

### **Makeup of a Caravan**

Caravans vary greatly in size, but the smallest generally have 200 people. Shang Clan regulations require at least one rank 3 Gu Master on every caravan, but larger caravans are guarded by a rank 4. More Gu Masters are hired, split into teams, and assigned a section of the caravan. The rest of the caravan's population is made up of mortals and slaves, used for menial labor. Rank 1 Gu Masters are given auxillary roles, as the dangers posed to a caravan are often more than they can handle.

### **Refinement Recipes**

Refinement recipes have a listed market value, but that doesn't necessarily mean the recipe is worth that amount. The market value assumes that this recipe is not available anywhere and there are no extenuating circumstances. But if you have a new recipe for Dog Enslavement Gu when the Three Kings Inheritance opens, the actual selling price will shoot up. Once you sell it the first time, however, the price will naturally go down somewhat. You can sell the same recipe as many times as you want, after all. Generally, the selling price is reduced by 75% every time it is sold.

### **Refinement Materials**

Refinement Material	Path	Cost (PS)
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Refinement	Material	Path	Cost (PS)
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## Gear

### Armor

Armor is seldom seen in the Gu world, except when used by mortals. Armor is heavy and lacks the defensive strength of even some Rank 1 Gu, and thus has little demand. Still, some Gu Masters will use the effects of Gu to augment their armor for better effect.

When wearing armor, you gain a penalty to your **Dodge** rolls, but can soak up a bit more damage. Armor has a damage threshold and health statistic. Any force or rending damage dealt to you is reduced by the armor's damage threshold. Any force or rending damage dealt in excess of the damage threshold is dealt both to your hit points and to the armor's hit points. If the armor reaches 0 hit points, it breaks and becomes unusable.

	DT	HP	Dodge Penalty	Movement Penalty
Leather Armor	4	20	+10	-
Iron Armor	8	32	+30	-1

### Refinement Materials

## Beasts

There are an uncountable number of different beast species across Southern Border. Some of the more common ones are listed below. Beast statblocks are somewhat different than Gu Master statblocks. Beasts are missing several skills and attributes that they are incapable of using. As they do not have a Perseverance, when beasts reach 0 hit points they immediately die. They also do not have luck points, nor an aperture, and as such cannot activate Gu. Stronger beasts will have wild Gu worms living on or inside of them, however, and these Gu act independently, usually to assist the beast they live within. When the beast is in dire straits, however, most wild Gu will simply leave and try to escape.

Wild Gu on a beast king can choose to activate one time at any point on the beast's turn, or in reaction to a trigger if the Gu could ordinarily be activated as a reaction to the triggering effect.

### Iron Beak Crane Swarm

*Swarm of Ordinary Beasts*

CR: 11

Attributes	
HP	60
Soul	20
Movement	4, 10 Flying
Strength	20
Agility	55
Fortitude	25
Cognition	5
Wisdom	30
Attitude	5

Skills	
Close Combat	40
Ranged Attack	10
Athletics	44
Dodge	55
Awareness	30

Combat Actions |

**Multiattack.** *Melee Attack, 1 meter* The Iron Beak Crane Swarm attacks 2 creatures within range (reduced to 1 if the Iron Beak Crane Swarm is below half its maximum hit points or soul). On a hit, deal 12 force damage. | Bonus Actions | **Swarm.** The Iron Beak Crane Swarm mobs a 2 meter radius (reduced to 1 if the Iron Beak Crane Swarm is below half its maximum hit points or soul) until the start of its next turn. All creatures in the area have the *blinded* condition and take 4 force damage at the start of each of their turns.

### Iron Beak Crane (Hundred Beast King)

CR: 11

Attributes	
HP	45
Soul	6
Movement	5, 12 Flying

Attributes	
Strength	20
Agility	55
Fortitude	25
Cognition	25
Wisdom	40
Attitude	5

Skills	
Close Combat	60
Ranged Attack	10
Athletics	44
Dodge	55
Awareness	30

Combat Actions |

**Beak.** *Melee Attack, 1 meter* The Iron Beak Crane drills a target with its beak. On a hit, deal 12 force damage.

**Wild Gu** Roll 2d6 (rerolling duplicates) 1 - None

2 - Rank 1 Bullet Gu

3 - Rank 1 Copper Tendons Gu

4 - Rank 1 Golden Bell Gu

5 - Rank 1 Iron Needle Gu

6 - Rank 1 Silver Lining Gu

### Iron Beak Crane (Thousand Beast King)

CR: 21

Attributes	
HP	80
Soul	10
Movement	5, 12 Flying
Strength	20
Agility	60
Fortitude	25
Cognition	40
Wisdom	40
Attitude	10

Skills	
Close Combat	75
Ranged Attack	10
Athletics	40

Skills	
Dodge	60
Awareness	30

### Combat Actions |

**Beak.** *Melee Attack, 1 meter* The Iron Beak Crane drills a target with its beak. On a hit, deal 20 force damage.

**Wild Gu** Roll 2d6 (rerolling duplicates)

1 -

2 -

3 -

4 - Rank 2 Golden Bell Gu

5 -

6 -

### Lightning Wolf

*Ordinary Beast*

CR: 0

Attributes	
HP	50
Soul	2
Movement	8
Strength	20
Agility	55
Fortitude	35
Cognition	5
Wisdom	30
Attitude	5

Skills	
Close Combat	45
Ranged Attack	10
Athletics	44
Dodge	55
Awareness	30

---

### Combat Actions

**Bite.** *Melee Attack, 1 meter*

The lightning wolf bites a target. On a hit, deal 4 rending damage.

---

## **Lightning Wolf (Hundred Beast King)**

CR: 11

Attributes	
HP	50
Soul	9
Movement	10
Strength	35
Agility	65
Fortitude	50
Cognition	5
Wisdom	30
Attitude	5

Skills	
Close Combat	45
Ranged Attack	10
Athletics	44
Dodge	55
Awareness	30

### **Combat Actions**

- **Bite.** *Melee Attack, 1 meter* The lightning wolf bites a target. On a hit, deal 10 rending damage.

**Wild Gu** Roll 2d4 (rerolling duplicates)

1 - No wild Gu

2 -

3 -

4 -

# Gu Index

Gu are listed alphabetically by the path they belong to.

## Blood Path

*Blood path Gu often cost little to feed and are easy to refine, though many recipes require slaughter at huge scales. Its attack methods are brutal, and Blood Path is considered one of the strongest offensive paths. Hundreds of thousands of inheritances were left by a Rank 7 Gu Immortal, Blood Sea Ancestor, all over the Gu world. The righteous path shuns the evil and demonic methods of blood path, and many practitioners live imprisoned in Tie clan's demon suppression tower.*

*It's worth noting that an ordinary human has about 5 liters of blood in their body.*

### Blood Battle Gu

*One of the lesser inheritances of the Blood Sea Ancestor contains Blood Battle Gu. Repeated use can cull a whole battlefield.*

#### Rank 5 Attack

Cost: 150 portions

Range: 100 meters

Health: 48

Food: A 100,000 liter pond of human blood in a hole dug in Hemorrhage Soil

Effect: You rupture the hearts of all *bleeding* creatures within range. They have a chance to react before they instantly die. Immediately following, make 3 attack rolls for each creature affected. The range of these attacks is 15 meters, measured from the original target or the square they were in when they died. On a hit, deal 50 rending damage. If damage is dealt to a creature's hit points in this way, they gain *bleeding* 5. If the damage kills the target, you may make an additional 3 attack rolls with the same properties and measured from the square the target was in when they died.

### Blood Blade Gu

#### Rank 3 Attack

Cost: 4 portions

Range: 3 meters

Health: 22

Food: 3 liters of blood

Effect: Your body shudders as a hundred wounds appear all over it. You take 8 unmitigatable rending damage directly to your hit points, and your blood streaks out like swords; all creatures within range must attempt a **Dodge** test. They take 100 rending damage on a failure, and 50 on a success. If damage is dealt to a creature's hit points in this way, they gain *bleeding* 2.

### Blood Brother Gu

#### Rank 3 Carver

Cost: 35 portions

Range: 1 meter

Health: 13

Food: 1 liter of mixed blood either from siblings or a parent and their child

Effect: Select a creature within range. As long as both you and them have an open wound, your blood twists and mingles in the air before shooting into each other's veins. You and the target are now permanently considered siblings by blood path methods.

### Blood Demon Flower Gu

#### Rank 4 Carver

Cost: 35 portions

Range: Self

Health: 21

Food: 50 liters of blood Keywords: [Dao], [Sustained]

Effect: The roots of the blood demon flower pierce your flesh and wind around your limbs, and a great red flower sprouts from your head. Your flesh wrinkles and clings to your bones.

While sustained, you gain the following effects:

Your maximum hit points are increased by 100. When you start sustaining this Gu, regain 100 hit points.

Your movement is reduced by 4 meters, to a minimum of 1 meter.

As a bonus action, you can burrow your roots into a corpse and consume its blood to regain 30 hit points.

When you use a combat action to make an unarmed melee attack, instead of striking with your fists you may extend your roots and attack up to 5 times. Your root attack range is 5 meters, and your root attacks deal 50 rending damage. If damage is dealt to a creature's hit points in this way, they gain the *bleeding* 3.

At the end of each of your turns, make a **Perseverance** attribute test. On a failure, you gain a **Blood Demon Flower Token** and your body becomes corrupted. If you

ever have 10 **Blood Demon Flower Tokens**, your body is permanently transfigured into this state, no longer requiring you to activate Blood Demon Flower Gu to gain its effects.

As long as you have 9 or fewer **Blood Demon Flower Tokens**, every month you go without activating Blood Demon Flower Gu reduces the number of **Blood Demon Flower Tokens** you have by 1.

### Blood Handprint Gu

*Rank 5 Manifestation*

Cost: 80 portions

Range: 50 meters

Health: 18

Food: 120 severed hands soaked in the blood of a hundred beast king

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: You manifest a [**Large**] 2 meter tall hand made of blood mist in an unoccupied space that you can see within range. As a bonus action, you may move the hand up to 10 meters through occupied or unoccupied spaces. Any creatures in the space moved through by the hand take 200 force damage. If this damage is dealt to their hit points and they have blood in their body, they turn into a puddle of blood and die.

### Blood Hatred Gu

*Rank 3 Carver*

Cost: 15 portions

Range: 10 meters

Health: 5

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: This Gu must be submerged in the blood of a single creature to be activated. All creatures within range must succeed a **Perseverance** attribute test or else gain a **Hatred Token**. Affected creatures have a dislike for the family line of the creature whose blood was used to activate Blood Hatred Gu. A creature with 3 tokens will refuse to consort with any members of the bloodline, while a creature with 5 tokens will seek to kill them on sight.

A creature can have up to 5 **Hatred Tokens** for a single bloodline, and the hatred grows stronger the closer affected creature is to the creature whose blood was used to activate Blood Hatred Gu.

### Blood Pouch Gu

*Rank 1-5 Container*

Cost: 1 portion

Range: Touch

Health: 12

Food: {1, 4, 9, 16, 25} liters of blood

Effect: Activating this Gu while it is in a pool of blood causes the blood to be sucked inside the Gu, up to {10, 20, 100, 500, 50,000} liters. Otherwise, you can activate it to pour out any amount of blood. If blood from multiple creatures is contained inside Blood Pouch Gu, it gets mixed and loses properties such as blood relation.

### Blood Qi Gu

*Rank 1-3 Tonic*

Cost: 25 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 10

Food: 1 liter of blood each from 3 unrelated humans

Effect: The target of this effect must have an open wound. You pour blood infused with qi into the wound, restoring {6, 15, 45} hit points to the target and restoring their blood.

### Blood Rain Gu

*Rank 3 Manifestation*

Cost: 15 portions

Range: 1 kilometer

Health: 24

Food: 1 still beating heart

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: Dense red clouds manifest high above you in the sky. Blood pours from them in a thick and warm hurricane, covering the ground within range with a total of 1,000,000 gallons of blood.

### Blood Sense Gu

*Rank 2-5 Divination*

Cost: 12 portions

Range: {1, 10, 100, 1000} kilometers

Health: 14

Food: {4, 9, 16, 25} liters of blood

Effect: You immediately sense the exact location of any creatures related to you by blood within range. You do not gain any information other than where they are.

## Blood Skull Gu

Rank 4-5 Carver

Cost: 90 portions

Range: 100 meters

Health: 34

Food: 10 liters of blood

Effect: You immediately absorb the blood of any dead creatures related to you by blood within range. For every {100, 10} corpses drained in this way, you gain 1% aptitude, up to a maximum of 99%. The corpses must have been dead for less than 24 hours.

## Blood Steps Gu

*A dark crimson cicada with no legs. When active, Blood Steps Gu burrows into the leg muscles.*

Rank 3 Celerity

Cost: 9 portions

Range: Self

Health: 12

Food: 3 liters of blood

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: Your movement is increased by 3 meters. Any squares you walk through while this Gu is active become covered in slick blood and are *Difficult Terrain*. You also now stand and walk on blood as if it were solid ground, and can walk through bloody puddles created by Blood Steps Gu as if they were normal terrain.

## Blood Substitution Gu

Rank 2 Manifestation

Cost: 15 portions

Range: Self

Health: 7

Food: 100 g of dried blood

Effect: You create 10 liters of black blood around your feet that can be manipulated as if it were real blood by other Gu.

[Upgrade Path: Bloodstained Robe Gu]

## Bloody Fabric Gu

Rank 3 Container

Next Rank: Bloody Visage Gu

Cost: 10 portions

Range: 6 meters

Health: 13

Food: 10 kg of silk soaked in blood (10 primeval stones)

Effect: Up to 50 liters of blood within range is pulled in a vortex towards you. It condenses into a tattered bloody robe around your body. Activate this Gu again to destroy the robe, releasing the stored blood all around you.

If a *bleeding* creature is within range when you activate this Gu, it takes 25 rending damage and you drain 100 milliliters of their blood for every level of *bleeding* they have.

*If an ordinary human loses 2 liters of blood, they fall unconscious and are dying.*

## Bloody Visage Gu

Rank 4 Guard

Previous Rank: Bloody Fabric Gu

Next Rank: Bloodstained Robe Gu

Cost: 30 portions

Range: 10 meters

Health: 13

Food: 10 kg of thousand beast king bloodsucker moth silk

Effect: Up to 50 liters of blood within range is pulled in a vortex towards you. It condenses into a bloody robe around your body that defends you from attacks. For every point of damage you take, the robe expends 100 milliliters of blood and you instead take no damage. If you activate the Gu while already wearing a robe created by Bloody Visage Gu, it can only pull in enough blood to restore itself to the maximum of 50 liters.

If a *bleeding* creature is within range when you activate this Gu, it takes 25 rending damage and Bloody Visage Gu drains 200 milliliters of their blood for every level of *bleeding* they have.

*If an ordinary human loses 2 liters of blood, they fall unconscious and are dying.*

## Bloodstained Robe Gu

Rank 5 Guard

Cost: 8 portions

Range: 25 meters

Health: 13

Food: 10 kg of ten thousand beast king bloodsucker moth silk

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: Up to 100 liters of blood within range is pulled in a vortex towards you. It condenses into a magnificent bloody robe around your body that defends you from attacks. Whenever you take damage, if the damage is less than 10 it is instead reduced to 0. For every 10 damage you take, the robe expends 1 liter of blood and you instead take no damage. While sustained, this Gu pulls blood within range as soon as it becomes available.

If a *bleeding* creature is within range when you activate this Gu and at the beginning of every turn while you sustain it, that creature takes 25 rending damage and you drain 500 milliliters of their blood for every level of *bleeding* they have.

When you stop sustaining this Gu, the robe remains on your body and still defends you from attacks, but no longer pulls nearby blood into itself.

*If an ordinary human loses 2 liters of blood, they fall unconscious and are dying.*

[End]

## Bloody Veil Gu

*Rank 1-4 Concealment*

Cost: 45 portions

Range: 1 meter

Health: 18

Food: {4, 9, 16, 25} liters of blood from widowed women

Effect: A 1 meter radius sphere of rotating blood surrounds you. For 10 minutes, all creatures inside the sphere become undetectable to **Divination** Gu of rank {2, 3, 4, 5} or less. They are still visible, but make no sound.

## Flesh Bone Gu

*Rank 3 Tonic*

Cost: 80 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 9

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: You touch a creature or corpse and its body instantly regenerates all missing body parts. If it is alive, it regains 30 hit points.

## Man-Beast Life Burial Gu

*Man-Beast Life Burial Gu is very useful for a rank 2 Gu Master wanting to reach rank 3. Unfortunately, its refinement recipe involves feeding a maiden Gu Master to a beast through the use of Beast Enslavement Gu.*

*Rank 2 Catalyst*

Cost: 5 portions

Range: Self

Health: 5

Food: 2 liters of virgin blood

Effect: Immediately convert 100 portions of your primeval essence into an equal number of portions of black steel primeval essence. Keep track of your current black steel primeval essence portions separately from your other portions of primeval essence. The sum of your natural and black steel primeval essence can never exceed your maximum primeval essence.

Black steel primeval essence cannot be used for any purpose other than to attack rank 2 aperture walls; each portion counts as 10 portions of primeval essence when used to cultivate. Every day at midnight, if you still have at least 1 portion of black steel primeval essence, your aptitude is permanently decreased by 1%.

## Rising Dead Gu

*Rank 4 Tonic*

Cost: 250 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 9

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Expendable]

Effect: You touch the fully intact corpse of a creature dead for no longer than 14 hours. The dead creature is returned to life.

## Staunch Bleeding Gu

*Rank 1 Tonic*

Cost: 12 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 9

Food: 5 cubic centimeters of skin

Effect: Reduce the number of *bleeding* stacks from a creature you touch by 3.

## Thick Blood Gu

*Rank 1 Carver*

Cost: 25 portions

Range: Self

Health: 6

Food: 100 g dried blood

Keywords: [Expendable], [Dao]

Effect: Your blood is permanently modified to coagulate much quicker than normal. Whenever you gain the *bleeding* condition, reduce the number of stacks of *bleeding* you receive by 1, to a minimum of 0. At the end of each of your turns, reduce the number of stacks of *bleeding* you have by 1, to a minimum of 0.

### **Vein Burst Gu**

*Rank 2 Attack*

Cost: 15 portions

Range: 2 meters

Health: 9

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Target creature within range has some of their blood vessels burst, taking 8 rending damage directly to their hit points.

*A large quantity of Vein Burst Gu are required to refine the legendary Blood Battle Gu.*

## Dark Path

*Subtle; the best concealments belong to Dark path. Marginally better defense than offense.*

### Dark Toss Gu

*Rank 1-5 Concealment*

Cost: 10 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 5

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: You touch a Gu and Dark Toss Gu wraps itself around it. That Gu cannot be detected by divination Gu at or below the rank of Dark Toss Gu. Dark Toss Gu can be deactivated by touching it and expending 1 portion of primeval essence.

### Multiple Sword Shadow Gu

*Rank 4 Attack*

Cost: 15 portions

Range: 10 meters

Health: 4

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: A fan of shadow swords fly sporadically in a line 6 meters wide and 10 meters long. Creatures in the area take 100 rending damage. Creatures have a +30 penalty on dodge tests made to avoid this attack. If this damage was dealt to their hit points, they gain *bleeding* 6.

### Overlapping Shadow Gu

*Rank 4 Catalyst*

Cost: 20 portions

Range: Self

Health: 4

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Supplementary]

Effect: The next time you activate a Dark Path attack Gu before the end of your turn, it deals double the damage it normally would.

### Second Shadow Gu

*A pitch black leafbug.*

*Rank 1 Carver*

Cost: 30 portions

Range: Self

Health: 5

Food:

Keywords: [Dao]

Effect: After the sun sets, your shadow permanently splits in two. You permanently have a second shadow, even in direct sunlight, extending 2 meters from you in a direction of your choosing, which you can change as an Activation on your turn. Creatures in contact with your Second Shadow are considered to be in your touch range and have a +30 penalty to **Dodge** skill tests made to dodge your touch attacks.

### Shadow Bond Gu

*Rank 2 Guard*

Cost: 15 portions

Range: 3 meter

Health: 2

Food:

Keywords: [Defensive], [Sustained]

Effect: Choose a creature within range. While sustained, whenever you take damage to your hit points that creature takes the same damage directly to their hit points. If the creature leaves range, Shadow Bond Gu remains active and connected to the target but no longer reflects damage.

### Shadow Follower Gu

*Rank 2 Concealment*

Cost: 10 portions

Range: Self

Health: 2

Food: 2 eyeballs from any creature (1/4 primeval stone)

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, you are enveloped in an inky darkness. As long as you are not in direct light, you are invisible and cannot be visually detected by Gu of rank 2 or lower.

### Split Shadow Gu

*Rank 2-5 Manifestation*

Cost: 2 portions

Range: Self

Health: 3

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: A clone of yourself appearing like a black cloud splits from your body to an unoccupied square within 1 meter of you. When it splits from you, you can give it up to {1, 2, 3, 5} Gu from your aperture and any number of portions of primeval essence. The clone goes directly after you in initiative and is controlled by you. The clone shares all of your statistics, except that it has no soul or strength attributes, has {1, 2, 3, 5} activations, and cannot physically interact with anything in the world. When you stop sustaining this Gu, the Gu carried by your clone drop to the ground and you lose whatever primeval essence the clone still had.

### Breath Concealment Gu

*Rank 3-5 Concealment*

Cost: None

Range: Self

Health: 5

Food: 1 hour of direct sunlight

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: If your current rank is equal to or below the rank of Breath Concealment Gu, the aura of your primeval essence is suppressed to a rank and stage of your choosing below your own cultivation while sustained. Your primeval essence's outward appearance remains as it was, however, so effects that glimpse inside your aperture will see your true cultivation. Sustaining this Gu does not count towards your number of currently sustained Gu.

## Earth Path

*Great supporting path, allowing the manipulation of a battlefield. Well balanced between offense and defense.*

### Crystal Ladybug Gu

*Rank 1 Container*

Cost: 7 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 12

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Small]

Effect: Crystal Ladybug Gu drinks up to 10 liters of liquid it is submerged in, filling its crystal belly.

Pushing your finger into Crystal Ladybug Gu's head causes it to expel any amount of stored liquid (depending on how hard you press).

### [Upgrade Path: Diaoyu Fortress Gu]

### Stoneflesh Gu

*Rank 1 Guard*

*Next Rank: Stoneheart Gu*

Cost: 5 portions

Range: Self

Health: 4

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Defensive], [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, your flesh is transmuted into a dense bedrock. You cannot move or be moved from your square, and whenever you take damage to your hit points, reduce the damage dealt by 15.

### Stoneskin Gu

*Rank 2 Guard*

*Previous Rank: Stoneflesh Gu*

*Next Rank: Mountain Pass Gu*

Cost: 12 portions

Range: Self

Health: 80

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Defensive], [Shield], [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, your skin is transmuted into a dense bedrock. Stoneskin Gu has invulnerability to rending damage and cannot block sonic damage. Reduce all force damage dealt to Stoneskin Gu by 15.

### Mountain Pass Gu

*Rank 3 Guard*

*Previous Rank: Stoneskin Gu*

*Next Rank: Diaoyu Fortress Gu*

Cost: 70 portions

Range: 10 meters

Health: 5

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Choose two 10 meter long, 1 meter wide lines. Large stones burst from the ground in the lines; any creatures that do not dodge are knocked *prone* to a random side of the line. The rocks are 5 meters tall and creatures have a +40 penalty to **Athletics** skill tests made to climb them. Dealing 50 hit points worth of damage to a square filled with rocks destroys them in that square, and the rocks have all damage dealt to them except sonic reduced by 100.

While you remain within 2 meters of the square you originally activated this Gu, reduce all damage dealt to your hit points by 50. The rocks are permanent but the effect ends after 1 hour.

### Diaoyu Fortress Gu

*Rank 4 Guard*

*Previous Rank: Mountain Pass Gu*

Cost: 120 portions

Range: Self

Health: 4

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Defensive], [Shield]

Effect: Dense stone walls rise in a 5 meter by 5 meter square perimeter, centered on your square. Any creatures occupying a square the walls rise in that do not dodge are knocked *prone* to a random side of the wall. The walls are 3 meters high and **Athletics** skill tests made to climb them are made with a -10 bonus. While you are within the perimeter, including on top of the walls, you have resistance to all damage and reduce all damage dealt to your hit points by 75. The walls are permanent but the effect ends after 1 day.

[END]

### Granite Bones Gu

*Rank 2 Carver*

Cost: 30 portions

Range: Self

Health: 15

Food: 1 kg granite (2 primeval stones)

Keywords: [Dao]

Effect: You are assailed with a horrendous pain for 1 hour. You are incapable of taking any actions except to speak for the entire duration. When the process is complete, your bones are permanently transmuted into granite. Your bones can no longer be broken by damage or effects originating from a Gu of Rank 2 or lower. Additionally, reduce all force damage dealt to your hit points by 3.

### Life-retaining Jade Coffin Gu

*Rank 5 Manifestation*

Cost: 80 portions

Range: Self

Health: 15

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: A jade coffin appears around you, sealing you inside. It cannot move on its own and weighs 500 kg in addition to your weight. Damage dealt to you is dealt to the coffin instead. The coffin has 2000 hit points, and all damage dealt to it is reduced by 100. You cannot move or activate Gu while inside, but can still speak. Your lifespan is not consumed over time while inside the coffin, and pushing the lid off the coffin from the inside ends the effect.

### Quake Step Gu

*Rank 1 Attack*

Cost: 5 portions

Range: 2 meters

Health: 11

Food: 1 kg mound stone (2 primeval stones)

Effect: You stomp, and the ground quakes; all creatures standing on solid ground within range of you must succeed an **Athletics** test with a +10 penalty or else be knocked *prone*.

### Rice Pouch Grass Gu

*Rank 1 Manifestation*

Cost: 20 portions

Range: Self

Health: 15

Food: 1 kg water

Effect: Rice Pouch Grass Gu fills itself with 5 kg of long blades of rice.

### Stealth Rock Gu

*Rank 1 Concealment*

Cost: 1 portion

Range: Self

Health: 18

Food: 100 g of hard stone (1/4 primeval stone)

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, your body is invisible, but anything you are wearing or carrying remains visible.

### Stone Aperture Gu

*Rank 1-3 Catalyst*

Cost: 1 portion

Range: Self

Health: 16

Food: {1kg, 10kg, 100kg} of talc ({1, 10, 100} primeval stones)

Effect: As long as your aperture is of the same rank as the Stone Aperture Gu, your aperture walls shatter and are replaced with an unbreakable stone wall. Your cultivation immediately rises to peak stage, but you can no longer raise your rank through cultivation.

### Tremor Sense Gu

*Rank 1-3 Divination*

Cost: 2 portions

Range: {5, 10, 20} meters

Health: 12

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, you can sense the exact square a creature within range moves to as long as they are touching the ground.

## **Thousand-Li Earthwolf Spider Gu**

*Rank 5 Celerity*

Cost: 1 portion

Range: Self

Health: 500

Food: 1000 kg of ordinary soil

Keywords: [Large], [Steed], [Sustained]

Effect: Thousand-Li Earthwolf Spider Gu has a base movement of 10 meters and can climb on walls and ceilings without making an **Athletics** test. Additionally, Thousand-Li Earthwolf Spider Gu has a digging speed of 3 meters in stone or soil. While sustained, Thousand-Li Earthwolf Spider Gu's movement becomes 50 meters and its digging speed becomes 15 meters.

## Enslavement Path

*Enslavement Path involves the enslavement of many beasts and controlling them to overwhelm an enemy. An army of beasts can be a nearly unstoppable force, but this path notably has 2 weaknesses; the huge logistical cost of feeding the beasts, and the fact that the enslavement path Gu Master will often times be targeted for assassination.*

### [Beast] Enslavement Gu

*Rank 1-5 Carver*

Cost: {5, 15, 40, 90, 200} portions

Range: 20 meters

Health: 8

Food: {10, 30, 90, 300, 1000} kg of [Beast] Flesh

Keywords: [Expendable]

Effect: Target a [Beast] that you can see within range. This Gu flies from your aperture in a straight line towards the target. This action is reactable and the Enslavement Gu can be hit with attacks while en route. If the Enslavement Gu successfully reaches its target, you attempt to dominate its mind, as long as the target's beast classification is at or below the rank of the Enslavement Gu:

- Rank 1: Ordinary Beasts
- Rank 2: Hundred Beast Kings
- Rank 3: Thousand Beast Kings
- Rank 4: Myriad Beast Kings and Mutated Beasts
- Rank 5: Beast Emperors and Mutated Hundred Beast Kings

You and the target have a battle of souls. If your current soul value is greater than the beast's, subtract the beast's current soul value from your own and you successfully permanently enslave it. You can now control its actions with your mind from a distance of up to (Maximum Soul) meters, as long as you can see it.

If the target is willing to be enslaved, they fail the battle of souls automatically and your soul takes no damage.

If your current soul value is less than or equal to the beast's, you fail to enslave it, the beast's current soul value is reduced by your current soul value, and then your current soul value is reduced to 1.

### Chain of Command Gu

*A queen ant connected via fleshy tendrils to 10 smaller soldier ants.*

*Rank 3-4 Catalyst*

Cost: 15 portions

Range: 10 Meters

Health:

Food: A living creature kept as a pet for more than 10 days.

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, a chain bursts from your fingertips and latches to a willing creature within range. When you activate this Gu and at the start of each of your turns while sustained, you may activate a Gu from your aperture of rank {3, 4} or less without using an activation, treating the effect as if it were activated by the chosen creature. Alternatively, the creature performs a melee attack against a creature you can see within range without using a combat action. Afterwards, the creature takes 3 damage to its soul.

### Powerful Presence Gu

*A scorpion, too fat for its legs to reach the ground.*

*Rank 2 Carver*

Cost: 40 portions

Range: Self

Health: 3

Food: A self-portrait of the owner of the Gu

Keywords: [Expendable], [Dao]

Effect: You find it easier to find the right words in conversation and manipulate others to your point of view. Your Attitude attribute is increased by 10 points.

### Slavery Gu

*Rank 1-5 Carver*

Cost: {20, 50, 120, 250, 400} portions

Range: Touch

Health: 4

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Expendable]

Effect: Touch a Gu Master of rank {1, 2, 3, 4, 5} or less. You both have a battle of souls. If your current soul value is greater than the Gu Master's, subtract the Gu Master's current soul value from your own and you successfully permanently enslave them. You can now directly control their actions with your mind from a distance of up to (Maximum Soul) meters, as long as you can see them. They are still the same person, retaining their memories and general personality, but become wholly devoted to you, willing to do whatever you command to the highest possible standard. While directly controlling them, you can choose to take the

target's turns for them; otherwise they act in whatever way they think is most helpful to you.

If the target is willing to be enslaved, they fail the battle of souls automatically and your soul takes no damage.

If your current soul value is less than or equal to the Gu Master's, you fail to enslave it, the Gu Master's current soul value is reduced by your current soul value, and then your current soul value is reduced to 1.

### **Unfinished Business Gu**

*A purple monarch butterfly.*

*Rank 1-2 Catalyst*

Cost: 5 portions

Range: 8 Meters

Health: 7

Food: 1 g of determination glass (2 primeval stones)

Effect: This Gu can only be activated as a reaction to a creature making a **Perseverance** attribute test. You stare into the creature's eyes, forcing it to keep going. That creature gains a {-10, -20} bonus to its **Perseverance** attribute test.

## Fire Path

*Explosive and very offensive. Movement type Gu use quick bursts of movement, and attacks often apply burning or ablaze to bypass shield gu.*

### Boiling Blood Gu

*Rank 2 Tonic*

Cost: 10 portions

Range: Self

Health: 8

Food: 1 liter of blood from a fire path beast

Effect: You immediately regain 10 hit points and 2 soul strength.

### Blazing Lotus Gu

*Rank 3 Carver*

Cost: 60

Range: Self

Health: 6

Food: 1 blazing lotus petal (150 primeval stones)

Keywords: [Expendable 3]

Effect: The dao marks carved into your body by Gu with the [Dao] keyword are set ablaze. For 1 hour, you are assailed with a burning pain and have a +40 penalty to all skill tests. When the duration elapses, you lose all permanent effects granted by Gu with the [Dao] keyword, unless that Dao belongs to Water Path or Ice Path.

### Blazing Shield Gu

*Rank 2 Manifestation*

Cost: 7 portions

Range: Self

Health: 14

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained], [Medium]

Effect: While sustained, a shield of obsidian and magma appears in an unoccupied square adjacent to you. If a projectile passes through the shield's square, the shield negates the attack entirely, taking the damage of the attack to its hit points (if the attack deals damage). If the projectile was created by a Gu of rank 3 or higher, the shield is destroyed and does not negate the attack. The shield has 20 hit points and is invulnerable to heat damage.

### Burning Heart Gu

*Rank 2 Carver*

Cost: 10 portions

Range: Self

Health: 12

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Dao], [Expendable]

Effect: You permanently etch fire path dao into your heart. You no longer suffer ill effects from cold temperatures and are invulnerable to cold damage. Whenever you take heat damage to your hit points, reduce it by 15.

### Changbai Clouds Gu

*Rank 2 Manifestation*

Cost: 6 portions

Range: 6 meters

Health: 3

Food: 1 kg of obsidian (1/2 primeval stone)

Effect: Choose a square that you can see within range. All squares within 2 meters of the chosen square are covered in a scalding, dense, unbreatheable smog. Creatures cannot see through the smog, and attacks made against creatures hidden by smog are made with disadvantage. If a creature starts its turn inside the clouds, they take 8 heat damage.

At the start of each of your turns, the smog spreads to nearby squares, increasing its radius by 2 meters, to a maximum of 10. When the radius reaches 10 meters, the smog no longer deals damage. The smog dissipates over the course of 10 minutes, and strong winds can disperse the smog early.

### Clearing Heat Gu

*Rank 2 Tonic*

Cost: 40 portions

Range: Self

Health: 4

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Immediately remove all instances of the *poisoned* condition from yourself inflicted by a Gu of rank 2 or lower. You may activate this Gu as a reaction to gaining the *poisoned* condition.

## Eight Burning Eyes Gu

*Rank 1-3 Divination*

Cost: 8 portions

Range: {5, 15, 50} meters

Health: 12

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: Six white orbs appear on your face in a spider-eye pattern. While sustained, you can sense all heat signatures within range, even through barriers.

## Ember Armor Gu

*Rank 3 Guard*

Cost: 11 portions

Range: Self

Health: 80

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Defensive], [Sustained], [Shield]

Effect: A flaming carapace covers your body. While sustained, you are immune to the *burning* and *ablaze* conditions. Fire and rending damage dealt to Ember Armor Gu are reduced by 30, to a minimum of 0.

## Ember Butterfly Gu

*Rank 1 Attack*

Cost: 16 portions

Range: 5 meters

Health: 8

Food: 1 kg of smoldering coals

Effect: You lob a burst of embers at a square within range. Creatures within 1 meter of the square take 3 heat damage and gain the *burning* condition. Ignites flammable objects in its radius.

## Eruption Salamander Gu

*Rank 2 Catalyst*

Cost: 70 portions

Range: 10 meters

Health: <!-- TODO -->

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: All creatures within range with the *burning* condition immediately take 10 heat damage directly to their hit points and gain the *ablaze* condition.

All creatures within range with the *ablaze* condition immediately explode, taking 20 heat damage directly to their hit points. Creatures adjacent to a creature that explodes take 10 heat damage.

## Fire Arrow Gu

*Rank 2 Attack*

Cost: 8 portions

Range: 12 meters

Health: 11

Food: 1 liter of pitch (2 primeval stones)

Keywords: [Piercing]

Effect: Shoot a flaming arrow at a target within range. Make an attack roll; on a hit, deal 10 heat damage and 10 force damage. Ignites flammable objects it hits.

## Fire Curtain Gu

*Rank 2 Manifestation*

Cost: 10 portions

Range: 8 meters

Health: 20

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: Manifest a wall of fire up to 8 meters long and 2 meters high. Creatures starting their turn in or passing through the fire take 25 heat damage and gain the *ablaze* condition.

## Fire Discharge Gu

*Rank 1-2 Celerity*

Cost: 20 portions

Range: Self

Health: 8

Food: {1, 5} liters of pitch ({1, 5} primeval stones)

Effect: An explosion thrusts you {5, 20} meters in a straight line in a direction of your choice. If a creature is in the square directly opposite the line when you activate this Gu (i.e. behind you if you are traveling forward), that creature takes {10, 30} heat damage. **Dodge** skill tests made to avoid this attack are made with a +10 penalty.

If you collide with a creature during this movement, you stop at the square before theirs and you both take {3, 10} force damage. As a reaction to colliding with a creature, you may make a melee attack against that creature or activate a Gu with a range of touch, targeting that creature.

### Fire Lance Gu

*Rank 2 Attack*

Cost: 15 portions

Range: 5 meters

Health: 16

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Piercing]

Effect: Launch a lance of fire at a target. Make an attack roll; on a hit, deal 10 heat damage, or 20 heat damage if the target is *burning* or *ablaze*.

### Fire Pulse Gu

*Rank 2 Attack*

Cost: 20 portions

Range: 8 meters

Health: 13

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Release a pulse of fire in a straight line. All creatures in a 1 meter wide, 8 meter long line take 10 heat damage and gain the *burning* condition.

### Fire Spark Gu

*Rank 1 Attack*

Cost: 8 portions

Range: 5 meters

Health: 7

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: You shoot a small spark of fire at a target within range. Make an attack roll; on a hit, deal 8 heat damage. Ignites flammable objects it hits.

### Fire Step Gu

*Rank 1 Celerity*

Cost: 5 portions

Range: Self

Health: 9

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, your movement is increased by 2 meters and you leave scorched earth in your wake. Every square you pass through while this Gu is active becomes covered in flames until the start of your next turn, causing any creature that starts their turn in or passes through an affected square to take 5 heat damage and gain the *burning* condition. Ignites flammable objects.

### Fireball Gu

*A glimmering red icosahedron that dimly radiates heat.*

*Rank 2 Attack*

Cost: 40 portions

Range: 10 meters

Health: 8

Food: 100 g of bat guano mixed with sulfur

Keywords: [Expendable]

Effect: A sphere with a 4 meter radius blossoms into a roiling fireball. All creatures in the sphere take 8d6 heat damage and gain the *ablaze* condition.

### Firebrand Gu

*Rank 2 Carver*

Cost: 60 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 10

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Carve fire path dao into a weapon or creature for 1 hour. The weapon (or the creature's fists) catches fire and deals an additional 10 heat damage on a successful melee attack as well as inflicting the *burning* condition.

### Firefly Swarm Gu

*Rank 1 Manifestation*

Cost: 5 portion

Range: 25 meters

Health: 8

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: Manifest a swarm of fireflies in 2x2 square area within range while sustained. The swarm gives off bright light for 25 meters, and can occupy the space of other creatures. If a creature is in the same square as the swarm, they have a +10 penalty to all skill tests. You can move the swarm up to

10 meters to a point within range as a bonus action on your turn.

### [Upgrade Path: Five Door Fire Pagoda Gu]

#### Charcoal Gu

##### *Rank 1 Manifestation*

Next Rank: Double Decker Stove Gu

Cost: 1 portion

Range: Self

Health: 12

Food: 1 kg charcoal

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, you radiate a comfortable heat in a 1 meter radius around you.

#### Double Decker Stove Gu

##### *Rank 2 Attack*

Previous Rank: Charcoal Gu

Next Rank: Three Door Fire Hut Gu

Cost: 10 portions

Range: 2 meters

Health: 15

Food: 10 kg charcoal (1/2 primeval stone)

Keywords: [Sustained], [Defensive]

Effect: While sustained you take 10 heat damage directly to your hit points at the start of each of your turns, and heat damage dealt to you is negated and stored inside Double Decker Stove Gu. At the end of each of your turns, some stored heat bursts from your body, dealing 1/2 the stored damage (rounded down) to all creatures within range. Double Decker Stove Gu can store up to 100 heat damage, but negates heat damage dealt to you even if it is full. When you stop sustaining Double Decker Stove Gu, the stored damage reverts to 0.

#### Three Door Fire Hut Gu

##### *Rank 3 Attack*

Previous Rank: Double Decker Stove Gu

Next Rank: Four Door Fire Tower Gu

Cost: 10 portions

Range: 10 meters

Health: 15

Food: 1 kg ever-burning coals (300 primeval stones)

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: A blazing hut with 3 closed doors manifests around you. While sustained, a door opens at the start of each of your turns. You may use an activation to unleash a wave of heat from an open door at a target within range. On a hit, deal heat damage equal to 20 times the number of open doors and apply the *burning* condition. Each door can only attack once per turn.

#### Four Door Fire Tower Gu

##### *Rank 4 Attack*

Previous Rank: Three Door Fire Hut Gu

Next Rank: Five Door Fire Pagoda Gu

Cost: 10 portions

Range: 20 meters

Health: 15

Food: 10 kg ever-burning coals (300 primeval stones)

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: A translucent square tower with a closed door on each side manifests around you. While sustained, a door opens at the start of each of your turns. You may use an activation to unleash a wave of heat from an open door at a target within range. On a hit, deal heat damage equal to 40 times the number of open doors and apply the *burning* condition. Each door can only attack once per turn.

#### Five Door Fire Pagoda Gu

##### *Rank 5 Attack*

Previous Rank: Four Door Fire Tower Gu

Cost: 20 portions

Range: 50 meters

Health: 15

Food: 100 g imperial phoenix feathers (15,000 primeval stones)

Keywords: [Sustained], [Undodgeable]

Effect: While sustained, a magnificent pagoda with 5 closed doors manifests around you. If at least one door is unopened, target a creature within range at the start of each of your turns. A door opens, and that creature is engulfed in flame, taking heat damage equal to 200 times the number of open doors and gaining the *ablaze* condition. While all 5 doors are open, multiply heat damage you deal from any source by 5.

[END]

## Flame Binding Gu

*Rank 2 Attack*

Cost: 15 portions

Range: 3 meters

Health: 10

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: You attack with a whip of fire. Make an attack roll; on a hit, deal 16 heat damage and the target gains the *burning* and *restrained* conditions. As a bonus action on their turn, the affected creature can make an **Athletics** test with a -10 bonus. On a success, they lose both conditions applied by this Gu.

## Flame Tongue Gu

*Rank 3 Attack*

Cost: 20 portions

Range: 5 meters

Health: 15

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: You lash out with a tongue of flame. Make an attack roll; on a hit, deal 30 heat damage and the target gains the *burning* condition.

## Flame Veil Gu

*Rank 1 Guard*

Cost: 1 portion

Range: Self

Health: 10

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: A thin veil of flame surrounds you. While sustained, reduce all heat damage dealt to your hit points by 10, to a minimum of 0.

## Immolate Gu

*Rank 2 Attack*

Cost: 10 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 11

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: A creature you touch gains the *ablaze* condition.

## Kerosene Gu

*Rank 1 Manifestation*

Cost: 15 portions

Range: 5m

Health: <!-- TODO -->

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords:

Effect: You lob a ball of kerosene to a square within range. Creatures within 1 meter of the square become splattered in oil until it gets washed off. If a creature covered in oil takes heat damage or gains the *burning* condition, it gains the *ablaze* condition.

## Lightning Charged Potato Gu

*Rank 2 Attack*

Cost: 5 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 4

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Unreactable]

Effect: Lightning Charged Potato Gu must be buried in any kind of soil before activation. It sprouts roots into the nearby earth and becomes firmly lodged in place. After 1 minute of growth, Lightning Charged Potato Gu is armed. If any creature, including you, steps on a square within 1 meter of Lightning Charged Potato Gu, Lightning Charged Potato Gu explodes, instantly dying and dealing 10 force damage, 10 heat damage, and 10 shock damage to creatures within 2 meters of Lightning Charged Potato Gu, increased to 20 force damage, 20 heat damage and 20 shock damage to creatures within 1 meter.

## Lightning Charged Potato Mother Gu

*Rank 3 Manifestation*

Cost: 60X

Range: Self

Health: 25

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Lightning Charged Potato Mother Gu sprouts, creating X Rank 2 Lightning Charged Potato Gu.

## Scorch Palm Gu

*Rank 2 Attack*

Cost: 10 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 12

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Your palm ignites with intense heat. Make an unarmed attack against a creature within range; on a hit, deal the damage of the attack plus 10 heat damage.

## Smoldering Cloak Gu

*Rank 1 Guard*

Cost: 6 portions

Range: Self

Health: 20

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Defensive], [Sustained], [Shield]

Effect: While sustained, a cloak of smoldering embers surrounds you. Any creature that hits you with a melee attack takes 8 heat damage and gains the *burning* condition. You gain immunity to the *burning* and *ablaze* conditions, and any heat damage dealt to Smoldering Cloak Gu is reduced by 10, to a minimum of 0.

## Sprinting Drake Gu

*Rank 2-3 Attack*

Cost: 20 portions

Range: Self

Health: {25, 80}

Food: 1 kg ever-burning coals (30 primeval stones)

Keywords: [Steed], [Medium]

Effect: This Gu has a speed of 4 meters. While riding it, you can move through hostile creatures' space (but cannot end your turn in their space). If you do, they take 10 heat damage and gain the *burning* condition. When you activate Sprinting Drake Gu while riding it, it immediately sprints up to {5, 20} meters in a straight line; moving through a creature's space with this movement deals 20 heat damage instead of 10 and applies *ablaze* instead of *burning*.

## Temper Soul Gu

*Rank 3 Carver*

Cost: 25 portions

Range: Self

Health: 7

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Dao], [Expendable]

Effect: Your maximum soul is permanently increased by 8.

[Upgrade Path: Vengeful Sun Gu]

## Flaming Fist Gu

*Rank 1 Attack*

Next Rank:

Cost:

Range:

Health:

Food:

Keywords:

Effect: While sustained, your punching attacks deal an additional 4 heat damage.

## Coiled Flame Snake Gu

*Rank 2 Attack*

Previous Rank: Flaming Fist Gu

Next Rank: Springing Dragon Gu

Cost:

Range:

Health:

Food:

Keywords:

Effect: This Gu can only be activated as a reaction to being hit by an attack made by a creature within 3 meters of you. You immediately counterattack with a springing jump and chop. Make a **Close Combat** test with a -20 bonus against the creature that attacked you. On a hit, deal 15 force damage and 15 heat damage, and an additional 1 force damage for every 10 points you have in Strength.

## Springing Dragon Gu

*Rank 3 Attack*

Previous Rank: Coiled Flame Snake Gu

Next Rank: Vengeful Sun Gu

Cost:

Range:

Health: Previous Rank: Springing Dragon Gu

Food: Cost:

Keywords: Range:

Effect: This Gu can only be activated as a reaction to taking  
damage from an attack

**Vengeful Sun Gu**

*Rank 4 Attack*

Keywords: Effect:

[END]

## Human Path

*Very rare and mysterious. The Legends of Ren Zu, a common myth, is a Human Path inheritance of deep profundity.*

### Lifespan Gu

*Lifespan Gu are extremely rare, produced by Heaven's Will according to the current deficits and surpluses in the world. Lifespan Gu are impossible to refine, and even a rank 1 Lifespan Gu is worth great fights between mortals and immortals alike.*

#### Rank 1-5 Catalyst

Cost: 3 portions

Range: Self

Health: 1

Food: Naturally occurring Heaven Qi (does not need fed)

Keywords: [Expendable]

Effect: Your lifespan is increased by {50, 100, 300, 500, 1000} years.

### Primeval Elder Gu

*Primeval Elder Gu appears to be an old man sitting on a cloud meditating. When it contains few primeval stones, it has a frown that slowly grows into a smile as stones are added.*

#### Rank 3-4 Container

Cost: None

Range: Self

Health: 3

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: You take or stow any number of primeval stones into or out of Primeval Elder Gu. Primeval Elder Gu can hold up to {100,000, 1,000,000} primeval stones.

### Relic Gu

*A star shaped polyhedron that glints in the light. The color of Relic Gu corresponds to the color of primeval essence of the same rank: Green copper, red steel, white silver, yellow gold, and purple crystal. Relic Gu are extremely valuable, allowing for rapid advancement in cultivation.*

#### Rank 1-5 Catalyst

Cost: 5 portions

Range: Self

Health: 5

Food: (Rank) portions of primeval essence

Keywords: [Expendable]

Effect: If your rank is the same as the rank of this Gu, and you are currently at initial, middle, or upper stage, your aperture walls immediately shatter as your cultivation rises by one small realm. If not, there is no effect.

## Ice Path

*Chilling and freezing enemies is of course included, but the true use of Ice Path is to control and move heat. Most methods deal cold damage and apply fatigued, but a few Gu deal heat damage and can even set people on fire. Blend of offense and defense.*

### Heat Sap Gu

*Rank 3 Attack*

Cost: 10 portions

Range: 10 meters

Health: 8

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, you sap the heat of nearby creatures; if a creature starts its turn within range, it takes 20 cold damage. If this damage was dealt to their hit points, they gain the *fatigued* condition.

### Heat Transference Gu

*Rank 2 Attack*

Cost: 12 portions

Range: 3 meters

Health: 6

Food: 100 g of smoldering stone (1 primeval stone)

Keywords:

Effect: You transfer the heat from your own body into a target within range. You take 4 cold damage directly to your hit points.

Creature: They take 15 heat damage directly to their hit points.

Flammable object: It bursts into flames, inflicting the *burning* condition on a creature holding or wearing it.

Metal object: It glows red hot for 1 minute. A creature holding the object must succeed a **Perseverance** attribute test or else drop the object. If the object is worn or carried by a creature, that creature takes 8 heat damage at the start of each of their turns.

### Hibernation Gu

*Hibernation Gu is a 1 foot tall bear. If it is sleeping, that means someone is under its effects.*

*Rank 3 Tonic*

Cost: 40 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 16

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Small]

Effect: You touch a willing creature and their body chills to subzero temperatures. They fall *unconscious* and Hibernation Gu curls up and goes to sleep. After 24 hours, the creature in hibernation fully restores its hit points, and all of the target's ailments caused by Gu of rank 3 or lower are cleansed. You may reactivate this Gu at any time to awaken the target. If you are the target, the only action you may take while unconscious is to activate Hibernation Gu and wake yourself up. A target under the effects of Hibernation Gu remains loosely aware of their surroundings. If Hibernation Gu dies, the target awakens immediately.

### Ice Muscles Gu

*Rank 2 Carver*

Cost: 50 portions

Range: Self

Health: 9

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Dao], [Expendable]

Effect: You are assailed with a piercing pain for 1 hour while your muscles are transfigured into ice muscles. For the duration, you can take no actions except to speak. When the ritual completes, you are permanently immune to the *Fatigued* condition if it is being applied to you by an Ice Path Gu. Additionally, your Strength attribute is permanently increased by 10, and any rending or force damage dealt to your hit points is reduced by 5.

**[Upgrade Tree: Icicle Gu]** *The signature attack of Ice Path. Rank 1 Icicle Gu launches a sharp chunk of ice at an enemy that deals damage and saps heat from the target. It can be upgraded to the devastating single-target Spiral Ice Lance Gu or to the crowd-slaughtering Spiral Icicle Storm Gu*

### Icicle Gu

*Rank 1 Attack*

Next Rank: Spiral Icicle Gu

Cost: 15 portions

Range: 5 meters

Health: 8

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: You launch a sharp icicle at a target within range. Make an attack roll; on a hit, deal 5 force damage and 5 cold damage. If this damage is dealt to the target's hit points, they gain the *fatigued* condition.

### Spiral Icicle Gu

*Rank 2 Attack*

Previous Rank: Icicle Gu

Next Rank: Spiral Icicle Spear Gu, Spiral Icicle Swarm Gu

Cost: 10 portions

Range: 10 meters

Health: 8

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: You launch a spinning icicle at a target within range. Make an attack roll; on a hit, deal 10 force damage and 10 cold damage. If this damage is dealt to the target's hit points, they gain the *fatigued* condition.

### Spiral Ice Spear Gu

*Rank 3 Attack*

Previous Rank: Spiral Icicle Gu

Next Rank: Spiral Ice Lance Gu

Cost: 15 portions

Range: 25 meters

Health: 10

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: You launch a spear made of ice at a target within range. Make an attack roll; on a hit, deal 30 force damage and 20 cold damage. If this damage is dealt to the target's hit points, they gain the *fatigued* condition. As long as the target is smaller than [Large], they are pushed backward 3 meters. If they collide with a wall, they are pinned to it and *restrained*. The spear can be removed by a creature as a combat action with a successful **Athletics** test.

### Spiral Ice Lance Gu

*Rank 4 Attack*

Previous Rank: Spiral Ice Spear Gu

Cost: 10 portions

Range: 50 meters

Health: 10

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: You launch a large lance of ice at a target within range. Make an attack roll; on a hit, deal 100 force damage and 50 cold damage. If this damage is dealt to the target's hit points, they gain the *fatigued* condition. The target is pushed backward 10 meters. If they collide with a wall, they are pinned to it and *restrained*. The lance can be removed by a creature as a combat action with a successful **Athletics** test.

### Spiral Icicle Swarm Gu

*Rank 3 Attack*

Previous Rank: Spiral Icicle Gu

Next Rank: Spiral Icicle Storm Gu

Cost: 10 portions

Range: 10 meters

Health: 8

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: You launch 5 spinning icicles, each at a creature of your choice within range. Make an attack roll for each; on a hit, deal 10 force damage and 10 cold damage.

### Spiral Icicle Storm Gu

*Rank 4 Attack*

Previous Rank: Spiral Icicle Swarm Gu

Cost: 10 portions

Range: 15 meters

Health: 8

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: Pick a square that you can see within range. While sustained, a storm of razor sharp icicles and cutting winds is manifested around it. Any creature that starts its turn within 5 meters of the chosen square takes 40 rending damage, 40 force damage, and 40 cold damage.

[END]

## Information Path

Used to create binding agreements between parties as well as to store and display information, whether that be writing or even videos and memories. Very few offensive or defensive methods and typically regarded as a logistical path.

### Assessment Gu

A hairless grey jumping spider.

*Rank 1-5 Catalyst*

Cost: 10 portions

Range: {2, 5, 10, 25, 50} Meters

Health: 4

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: You open your aperture, allowing this Gu to see the target. Roll a d100 with a {+20, 0, -20, -40, -60} modifier; you immediately gain knowledge on the target based on the result:

- **100-81:** You know what it looks like.
- **80-61:** You know how much HP the target has remaining.
- **60-41:** You know the target's maximum and remaining primeval essence.
- **40-10:** You identify how many Gu the target has and what ranks they are.
- **9-1:** You identify any weaknesses and all damage dealt by you to the target ignores up to 5 damage reduction.

You gain all the information from lower results as well.

### Inscription Blade Gu

*Rank 1 Manifestation*

Cost: 5 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 11

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Carves a message or image into a surface, up to a square meter in area. Can be used on living beings to inflict great pain and scar the image into tissue. The image can be of anything you've seen or imagined, but will have less detail if you do not remember the scene perfectly.

### Known Variable Gu

A wispy grey house spider.

*Rank 2-3 Attack*

Cost: 5 portions

Range: Self

Health: 4

Food:

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, whenever a creature that you can see makes an attack roll, you may use a reaction to give them an **Analysis Token**. Skill tests made against creatures gain a {-5, -10} bonus for each **Analysis Token** they have. Creatures lose 1 **Analysis Token** at the end of each day.

### Paper Crane Gu

*Rank 1 Manifestation*

Cost: 12 portions

Range: 10 kilometers

Health: 5

Food: 1 kg of wood pulp (1/4 primeval stone)

Effect: Summon a paper crane. Speak a message of up to 50 words. The paper crane records the spoken words before flying up to 10 kilometers in a direction of your choice.

### Photo-audio Gu

*Rank 2 Manifestation*

Cost: 2 portions

Range: 5 meters

Health: 9

Food: Light and sound

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, Photo-audio Gu records the surroundings within range. When you stop sustaining this Gu, the recorded scene is stored within Photo-audio Gu permanently. While sustaining a Photo-audio Gu with a stored recording, the recording is projected onto the wall in front of you.

The camera angle of the stored scene is always angled from above and behind the user.

## Light Path

Speed is the theme of light path, with many Gu providing excellent movement or being unreactable. Light path also has superior cleansing methods, but its attacks are not very powerful and its defensive methods are few and far between.

### Bright Pearl Gu

*Rank 1-3 Container*

Cost: 8 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 8

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Bright Pearl Gu flies around a Gu of rank {1, 2, 3} or lower that you touch, sealing it. While sealed by Bright Pearl Gu, the Gu's feeding threshold does not tick down. If the seal is attacked, the Gu inside is destroyed. Any Gu Master can infuse 1 portion of primeval essence into the seal to deactivate it. The Bright Pearl Gu remains under the original Gu Master's ownership.

### Flash Blink Gu

*Rank 1 attack*

Cost: 2 portions

Range: Self

Health: 14

Food: Natural light

Keywords: [Expendable], [Unreactable]

Effect: You explode with a blinding flash of light. All creatures that can see you immediately become *blinded* until the end of their next turn.

### Flash Inspiration Gu

*Rank 3 Divination*

Cost: 15 portions

Range: Self

Health: 10

Food: A handful of fine shattered glass (4 primeval stones)

Keywords: [Deductive], [Expendable]

Effect: You instantly perform a deduction on a subject of your choice with a -50 bonus.

### Footprint Gu

*Rank 1 Divination*

Cost: 4 portions

Range: Self

Health: 3

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, you can see footprints where any creature has stepped in the last hour. Different creature's footsteps appear as different colors.

### Moonlight Gu *Rank 1 Attack*

Cost: 6 portions

Range: 10 meters

Health: 2

Food: 3 moon orchid petals (3 primeval stones)

Effect: You hurl a flat, crescent-shaped beam of light. Make an attack roll with a -10 bonus. On a hit, deal 6 rending damage.

### Moonshadow Gu

*Rank 4 Attack*

Cost: 40 portions

Range: 3 meters

Health: 9

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Make an attack roll against a Gu Master within range. On a hit, their primeval sea is tainted and has only a quarter effectiveness, costing them 4 times as many portions to activate Gu as normal. To remove this effect, the defending Gu Master must empty their primeval sea completely.

### One-stretch Golden Light Gu

*Rank 1 Guard*

Cost: 2 portions

Range: Self

Health: 3

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, a 1 meter radius sphere of light surrounds you and blocks attacks, creatures, and objects from entering (but not exiting). When an attack from outside the sphere hits a creature inside the sphere, the sphere takes the damage instead, though the defender can still dodge the

attack. For every point of damage the sphere takes, you lose 1 portion of primeval essence. If the sphere takes more than 20 damage from a single attack, it breaks, the remainder of the damage is dealt to the defender, and One-stretch Golden Light Gu takes 2d6 damage as backlash. The sphere does not block sonic damage.

### Shimmer Gu

*Rank 2 Concealment*

Cost: 3 portions

Range: Self

Health: 7

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: Light bends around your body, making you invisible while sustained.

### Sunspot Gu

*Rank 3 Attack*

Cost: 10 portions

Range: 8 meters

Health: 4

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: This Gu must be activated outdoors. While sustained, a sunbeam envelopes a 2 meter square within range. If a creature starts its turn within the area, it takes 40 heat damage. You may move the sunbeam up to 5 meters to another area within range as a bonus action.

### Two-stretch Golden Light Gu

*Rank 2 Guard*

Cost: 2 portions

Range: Self

Health: 12

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, a 3 meter radius sphere of light surrounds you and blocks attacks, creatures, and objects from entering (but not exiting). When an attack from outside the sphere hits a creature inside the sphere, the sphere takes the damage instead, though the defender can still dodge the attack. For every 2 points of damage the sphere takes, you lose 1 portion of primeval essence. If the sphere takes more than 50 damage from a single attack, it breaks, the remainder of the damage is dealt to the defender, and Two-stretch Golden Light Gu takes 2d6 damage as backlash. The sphere does not block sonic damage.

## Lightning Path

An offensive path with focus on high speed attacks.

### Chain Lightning Gu

*Rank 3 Attack*

Previous Rank: Self Strike Gu

Cost: 25 portions

Range: 10 meters

Health: 10

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Undodgeable]

Effect: A bolt of lightning streaks from your outstretched hand towards a creature within range. Make an attack roll; on a hit, deal 80 shock damage. The lightning then chains to the closest creature within 3 meters for 40 shock damage. It chains again to the closest creature within 3 meters of the second target (this can be the first target again), dealing 20 shock damage.

### Jolt Gu

*Rank 1 Attack*

Cost: 10 portions

Range: 10 meters

Health: 2

Food: 100 g of combustion leaves (1 primeval stone)

Keywords: [Unreactable]

Effect: You shoot a thin beam of electricity at a creature within range. Make an attack roll; On a hit, deal 8 shock damage.

### Lightning Eye Gu

*Rank 3 Divination*

Cost: 1 portion

Range: Self

Health: 3

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: To activate Lightning Eye Gu, the user must remove their eye and place Lightning Eye Gu in the socket. Upon

activation, Lightning Eye Gu replaces the lost eye permanently, and you can see out of it with perfect vision whether or not it is activated.

While you sustain Lightning Eye Gu, your lightning eye can see through obscuring effects such as smoke and illusions produced by Gu of the same or lower rank, and can see any object within 150 meters in fine detail. You become immune to the *blinded* condition, and you can react to [Unreactable] Gu so long as the Gu Master is within your line of sight.

### Self Strike Gu

*Rank 2 Attack*

Next Rank: Chain Lightning Gu

Cost: 20 portions

Range: 6 meters

Health: 4

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Unreactable]

Effect: Choose a creature you can see within range. That creature takes 20 shock damage, and a streak of lightning shoots from them to the nearest creature within 2 meters of the target, dealing 10 shock damage. This process repeats from the second and each subsequent target, dealing 5 shock damage, then 2, and finally 1 before the attack ends (for a total of 5 unique targets). If the attack is not able to chain to a target that has not yet been struck by this activation of Self Strike Gu, it instead chains to you, regardless of distance.

### Thunderdome Gu

*Rank 4 Manifestation*

Cost: 15 portions

Range: 20 meters

Health: 18

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: A sphere of electricity is formed in a 10 meter radius centered on you. Creatures inside remain trapped while you sustain Thunderdome Gu. Creatures trapped inside can still act as normal, but the effects of Gu of equal or lesser rank cannot permeate outside the barrier. A creature that touches the sides takes 250 shock damage and can leave the sphere.

## Luck Path

*Luck path was created by Giant Sun Immortal Venerable, and exploits a profound “Luck”, a formless component of Human Qi that defies the influence of Fate Gu. The existence of luck path is not common knowledge, with what few practitioners exist cultivating in the Northern Plains.*

### Amplify Luck Gu

*Rank 2 Catalyst*

Cost: 20 portions

Range: 3 meters

Health: 2

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Can only be activated as a reaction to you or another creature within range expending a luck point on a skill test. If the luck point was used to force a reroll, the target gains advantage on the reroll. If the luck point was used to give a -50 bonus on the skill test, it is instead made with a -80 bonus.

### Dumb Luck Gu

*A brown cricket with golden wings.*

*Rank 2 Catalyst*

Cost: 25 portions

Range: Self

Health: 3

Food: 1 object used for gambling (die, lotto ticket, etc.)

Effect: Can only be activated as a reaction to rolling a fumble. You may spend 1 luck point to have the roll succeed with 1 degree of success.

### Extend Luck Gu

*Rank 2 Catalyst*

Cost: 10 portions

Range: Self

Health: 2

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Can only be activated as a reaction to succeeding a skill test after expending a Luck Point to reroll it. You may reroll your next failed skill test before the end of your next turn.

### Luck Cauldron Gu

*Rank 2 Carver*

Cost: 10 portions

Range: Self

Health: 3

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Dao], [Expendable]

Effect: Your luck point maximum is increased by 1.

### Manifest Luck Gu

*Rank 3 Manifestation*

Cost: 8 portions

Range: 7 meters

Health: 4

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, a tarnished bell appears in an unoccupied square that you can see within range, with 0 [Karma]. Whenever you or an ally within range succeed a skill test, the bell gains 1 [Karma], to a maximum of 3. Whenever you or an ally within range fail a skill test, the bell loses 1 [Karma], to a minimum of -3. At the start of each of your turns (even if you decide to stop sustaining this Gu), you may target a creature within range and reset the bell's [Karma] to 0. The creature gains a modifier to the next skill test they make equal to the bell's [Karma] times 10. The bell has 25 hit points and reduces all damage dealt to it by 30, but it cannot be moved from its square by force.

## Metal Path

Similar to Earth Path, but with much more focus on defensive and especially offensive methods.

### Aperture Lock Gu

*Three golden locks linked together, with their shackles open until the Gu is used. The first locks the aperture walls, preventing cultivation progression. The second locks their Human Qi, preventing the recovery of primeval essence. The last locks the aperture, disabling their use of Gu.*

*Rank 3 Carver*

Cost: 75 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 14

Food: 150 portions of primeval essence. Once attached, feeds off the target's primeval essence.

Effect: You touch a Gu Master with the *restrained* condition, and Aperture Lock Gu hovers above the target's chest. At the end of each of your turns, a lock snaps shut. If the target loses the *restrained* condition at any point, Aperture Lock Gu deactivates and takes 7 damage as backlash.

When the third lock closes, Aperture Lock Gu burrows into the target's aperture, and the target gains the following features while Aperture Lock Gu remains attached.

- Their aperture walls become indestructible.
- Their primeval essence recovery is reduced to 0.
- They cannot activate or refine Gu.

### Bleeding Bismuth Gu

*Rank 2 Attack*

Cost: 10 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 10

Food: 100 g of bismuth (3 primeval stones)

Effect: Make an attack roll against a creature within range. On a hit, cubes of bismuth pierce their flesh and skin from inside their body, dealing 8 force damage directly to their hit points. If this damage is dealt to their hit points, they gain *bleeding* 4.

### Beast Maddening Bullet Gu

*Rank 2 Attack*

Cost: 3 portions

Range: 15 meters

Health: 3

Food: 100 g of will grass ashes (5 primeval stones)

Keywords: [Unreactable]

You fire a tiny shard of metal infused with your will at a beast within range. Make an attack roll with advantage; on a hit, it embeds itself deep into their muscle layer and maintains a semi-permanent link with the user.

If the target was unaware of your attack, they must succeed an **Awareness** test with a +10 penalty or else remain unaware of the beast maddening bullet under their skin. The beast maddening bullet can be physically extracted, at which point it loses its effect. If the beast dies, the effect ends.

While a creature is implanted by the beast maddening bullet, activating this Gu has the following effect:

The implanted beast immediately uses a reaction to make a melee attack against another creature of your choice within range.

### Beast Tag Bullet Gu

*Rank 2 Attack*

Cost: 5 portions

Range: 20 meters

Health: 4

Food: 100 g of feather soil (2 primeval stones)

Keywords: [Unreactable]

You fire a tiny shard of metal at a target within range. Make an attack roll with advantage; on a hit, it embeds itself deep into their muscle layer and maintains a link with any beasts enslaved by you.

If the target was unaware of your attack, they must succeed an **Awareness** test with a +10 penalty or else remain unaware of the beast tag bullet under their skin. Any beasts enslaved by you can sense the targets exact location as long as they are on the same continent. The beast tag bullet can be physically extracted, at which point it loses its effect. If the target dies, the effect ends.

While a creature is implanted by the beast tag bullet, activating this Gu has the following effect:

Any beasts enslaved by you that can see the target use a reaction to immediately move up to half of their movement towards the target before making a melee attack against the target if they are within range.

## Bullet Gu

*Rank 1 Attack*

Cost: 10 portions

Range: 25 meters

Health: 9

Food: 100 g of smoldering stone (1 primeval stone)

Keywords: [Unreactable]

Effect: You fire a small orb at incredibly high speed at a target within range. Make an attack roll with advantage. On a hit, deal 4 force damage. If this damage is dealt to the target's hit points, they gain *bleeding 1*.

## Copper Tendons Gu

*Rank 1 Carver*

Cost: 20 portions

Range: Self

Health: 10

Food: 100 g copper ore (1/2 primeval stone)

Keywords: [Dao], [Expendable]

Effect: Your tendons permanently harden into copper. Reduce all rending and force damage dealt to your hit points by 2.

## Chainsaw Golden Centipede Gu

*Rank 3 Attack*

Cost: 12 portions

Range: Self

Health: 24

Food: A handful of sharpened iron shards (1/4 primeval stone)

Keywords: [Sustained], [Large]

Effect: Your arm goes down the Chainsaw Golden Centipede Gu's throat, turning your arm into a long spinning blade. While sustained, you may use this Gu to make melee attacks with a range of 3 meters, dealing 100 rending damage on a hit. If Chainsaw Golden Centipede Gu has 12 or fewer hit points, it instead deals 40 rending damage on a hit.

## Golden Aurora Gu

*Rank 3 Manifestation*

Cost: 5 portions

Range: Self

Health: 14

Food: 10 g of golden phoenix feather (20 primeval stones)

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, you are surrounded by a shimmering golden aurora. You gain a flying speed of 10 meters and can execute 2 Maneuvers each turn.

## Golden Bell Gu

*Rank 1 Guard*

Cost: 30 portions

Range: 2 meters

Health: 9

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Defensive]

Effect: A bell rings, and all creatures within range are surrounded in golden light until the start of your next turn. All non-sonic damage dealt to affected creatures is reduced by 4.

## Golden Breeze Gu

*Rank 4 Tonic*

Cost: 90 portions

Range: 25 meters

Health: 12

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, a calming breeze flows around you. All creatures within range regain 20 hit points at the end of each of your turns.

## Golden Needle Gu

*Rank 2 Attack*

Cost: 25 portions

Range: 15 meters

Health: 9

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Piercing]

Effect: A cloud of golden needles shoots from your sleeve in a line 15 meters long and 3 meters wide. Creatures in the area take 10 force damage. If this damage is dealt to their hit points, they gain *bleeding 1*.

## Grounded Beetle Gu

*Rank 1-3 Guard*

Cost: 4 portions

Range: {Self, 1 meter, 3 meters}

Health: 12

Food: 1 kilogram of dirt

Keywords: [Defensive], [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained and standing on solid ground, creatures and Gu within range gain invulnerability to shock damage.

## Heatsink Gu

*Rank 1-2 Guard*

Cost: 8 portions

Range: Self

Health: 10

Food: 1 kg copper ore, heated to at least 100 degrees

Keywords: [Defensive], [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, this Gu negates and stores all heat damage dealt to your hit points, to a maximum of {20, 50}. If you hit a creature with an unarmed melee attack, deal additional heat damage equal to the damage stored inside Heatsink Gu to the target. When you stop sustaining Heatsink Gu, its stored damage reverts to 0.

## Ironfist Grappling Gu

*Rank 3-5 Attack*

*Previous Rank:* Iron Hand Gu

Cost: 15 portions

Range: 5 meters

Health: 6

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, you manifest a [Medium] hand made of black iron in an unoccupied square within range. Pick a creature within range. At the end of each of your turns, the hand moves up to 10 meters towards the target and attempts to grab them. If the target does not successfully dodge the grab, they are *restrained* by the hand. A creature can break free by succeeding an **Athletics** test with a {+30, +70, +120} penalty.

## Iron Hand Gu

*Rank 2 Manifestation*

*Next Rank:* Ironfist Grappling Gu

Cost: 3 portions

Range: Self

Health: 5

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, your hands are made entirely of a dense and hard iron. They are incredibly durable; if you would take damage to your hit points and that damage is being dealt specifically to your hands (a called shot, or touching something very hot, for example), reduce the damage taken by 80.

You have advantage on **Athletics** tests resulting from the **Grapple** combat action, and your punching attacks deal an additional 5 force damage.

## Iron Hook Silver Slash Gu

*Rank 5 Attack*

Cost: 8 portions

Range: 25 meters

Health: 12

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Piercing]

Effect: You launch a silver and a steel blade, each at a target within range. On a hit, silver blades deal 140 rending damage, and steel blades deal 70 rending damage directly to the target's hit points.

## Iron Needle Gu

*Rank 1 Attack*

Cost: 15 portions

Range: 10 meters

Health: 21

Food: 200 g of needles (1 primeval stone)

Keywords: [Piercing]

Effect: A cloud of needles bursts from your hand towards a creature within range. Make an attack roll with a -10 bonus. On a hit, deal 2d10 force damage.

## Iron Veins Gu

*Rank 2 Carver*

Cost: 30 portions

Range: Self

Health: 12

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Dao], [Expendable]

Effect: Your blood vessels and arteries permanently harden into iron. Whenever you gain the *bleeding* condition, reduce the number of *bleeding* stacks you receive by 2, to a minimum of 0.

## Metal Skin Gu

*Rank 1-3 Carver*

Cost: 70 portions

Range: Self

Health: 16

Food: 10 g of {iron, steel, titanium} soaked in blood

Keywords: [Dao], [Expendable]

Effect: You are assailed with a horrendous pain for 1 hour while your skin molts and is replaced with {iron, steel, titanium}. You are incapable of taking any actions except to speak for the entire duration. When the process is complete, your skin is permanently transmuted into a flexible membrane as strong as the respective metal. Whenever you take damage to your hit points, except shock or sonic, reduce it by {5, 12, 25}, to a minimum of 0. You have vulnerability to shock damage.

## Polished Gold Gu

*As is the case with most cultivation improving Gu, Polished Gold Gu is exceptionally valuable. Despite only being rank 3, Polished Gold Gu's refinement recipe requires the sacrifice of a precious rank 4 Relic Gu.*

*Rank 3 Carver*

Cost: 40 portions

Range: Self

Health: 5

Food: 1 kg of solid gold (5 primeval stones)

Keywords: [Expendable]

Effect: Your aptitude is permanently increased by 5%.

## Silver Bullet Gu

*Rank 2 Attack*

Cost: 20 portions

Range: 25 meters

Health: 5

Food: 100 g of silver (10 primeval stones)

Keywords: [Unreactable]

Effect: You launch a silver orb at incredibly high speeds. This attack always hits. Deal 10 force damage on a hit. If this damage is dealt to the creature's hitpoints, they gain *bleeding* 1.

[**Upgrade Tree: Silver Lining Gu**] *Silver Lining Gu can be refined into several different rank 2 Gu. Quicksilver Lining Gu provides a speed boost, Steel Lining Gu provides physical defense, and Resurgence Gu pivots to Wood Path to provide additional healing to surrounding allies.*

## Silver Lining Gu

*Rank 1 Tonic*

Next Rank: Quicksilver Lining Gu, Resurgence Gu, Steel Lining Gu

Cost: 5 portions

Range: Self

Health: 16

Food: 5 g of silver soaked in tears (1 primeval stone)

Effect: Can only be activated as a reaction to getting hit by an attack or missing an attack against another creature. Regain 4 hit points.

## Quicksilver Lining Gu

*Rank 2 Tonic*

Previous Rank: Silver Lining Gu

Cost: 5 portions

Range: Self

Health: 16

Food: 5 g of silver soaked in mercury (10 primeval stones)

Effect: Can only be activated as a reaction to getting hit by an attack or missing an attack against another creature. Regain 8 hit points. Until the end of your next turn, your movement is increased by 2 meters and you gain a -10 bonus to all **Dodge** skill tests.

## **Steel Lining Gu**

*Rank 2 Tonic*

Previous Rank: Silver Lining Gu

Cost: 5 portions

Range: Self

Health: 12

Food: Rank 1 Metal Skin Gu

Effect: Can only be activated as a reaction to getting hit by an attack or missing an attack against another creature. Regain 10 hit points. Until the start of your next turn, your body is covered in a metallic sheen. Reduce any damage except mental or poison dealt to your hit points by 15, to a minimum of 0.

[END]

## **Transmute Tungsten Gu**

*Rank 1 Attack*

Cost: 25 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 7

Food: 1 cubic centimeter of tungsten (2 primeval stones)

Effect: Transmute an object you touch into tungsten. The object must fit within a cube 1 meter on each side. Tungsten is incredibly dense, so this may cause less sturdy surfaces to collapse. When attempting to transmute an object another creature is holding or wearing, you must make an attack roll. Transmuted clothes become armor for the target with the following stats:

**Tungsten Armor DT: 8**

HP: 10

Dodge Penalty: +40

Movement Penalty: -4

A creature can expend its combat action to doff the armor.

## Poison Path

*Applies debilitating conditions to enemies. They may just deal damage or cause extreme symptoms. Some can even spread between creatures.*

### Decorum Erosion Gu

*A fluorescent blue and green pillbug.*

*Rank 2 Attack*

Cost: 10 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 5

Food: 1 cup of rice wine

Effect: You touch a creature or edible object; The creature touched by this Gu or any number of creatures that eat affected food gain the *poisoned* condition for 1 day with the following effects:

You suffer a +10 penalty to **Awareness**, **Deduction**, and **Dodge** skill tests.

Creatures gain a -10 bonus to **Persuasion** and **Haggle** skill tests made against you.

### [Single Gate Poison Gu]

### Close Gate Gu

*Rank 3 Catalyst*

Cost: None

Range: Touch

Health: 10

Food: None

Effect: A creature you touch has the *poisoned* condition removed if it was inflicted by Single Gate Poison Gu.

### Single Gate Poison Gu

*When Single Gate Poison Gu is successfully refined, a rank 3 Close Gate Gu is also refined. Close Gate Gu costs no primeval essence and has no effect other than to remove the poisoned condition inflicted by Single Gate Poison Gu.*

*Rank 3 Attack*

Cost: 30 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 11

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: You touch a creature and they gain the *poisoned* condition. If this condition remains on them for 7 days, the target dies.

[END]

## Refinement Path

*Improves any aspect of gu refinement. Refinement path Gu Masters are often well respected, since they act as factories producing Gu for the clan. Cultivators can often be hired to produce Gu for a significant price.*

### [Path] Refinement Gu

*Rank 1-5 Catalyst*

Cost: 4 portions

Range: Self

Health: 8

Food: 1 m^3 of plant matter belonging to [Path]

Keywords: [Expendable]

Effect: When following a Gu refinement recipe for a rank {1, 2, 3, 4, 5} Gu of [Path], activate this Gu to gain advantage on the **Refinement** test.

## Rule Path

Very uncommon, rule path Gu have very narrow use cases but can be very helpful for augmenting killer moves.

### Aura Filter Gu

*Rank 4-5 Guard*

Cost: 20 portions

Range: Self

Health: 9

Food: 100 portions of rank {4, 5} primeval essence

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: Upon activation, choose any number of ranks {4, 5} or below. While sustained, you are surrounded by an invisible 2 meter radius sphere. Gu Masters of the chosen ranks cannot pass through the bounds of the sphere either way, but attacks can still pass through like normal.

### Millimeter Gu

*Rank 1 Catalyst*

Cost: portions

Range: <!-- TODO -->

Health: <!-- TODO -->

Food: 1 cubic millimeter of gold

Keywords: [Supplementary]

Effect: Change the range of your next Gu activation to a millimeter. Has no effect on Gu with a range of *self*.

### Meter Gu

*Rank 2 Catalyst*

Cost: portions

Range: <!-- TODO -->

Health: <!-- TODO -->

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Supplementary]

Effect: Change the range of your next Gu activation to a meter. Has no effect on Gu with a range of *self*.

### Hundred Meter Gu

*Rank 3 Catalyst*

Cost: 30 portions

Range: Self

Health: 3

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Supplementary]

Effect: Change the range of your next Gu activation to 100 meters. Has no effect on Gu with a range of *self*.

### Sacrifice Gu

*Rank 4 Catalyst*

Cost: 40 portions

Range: Self

Health: <!-- TODO -->

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Expendable]

Effect: Can only be activated as a reaction to yourself using an [Expendable] Gu. That [Expendable] Gu is not destroyed in the process of activation.

## Soul Path

*Difficult to cultivate, soul path methods power is largely reliant on the user's soul strength. Stronger offensively, with few options when it comes to support.*

### Burial Soul Toad Gu

*Rank 3-4 Container*

Cost: 30 portions

Range: 3 meters

Health: 50

Food: {1, 5} human souls

Keywords: [Large]

Effect: Burial Soul Toad Gu must be removed from your aperture to be activated. When activated, Burial Soul Toad Gu draws in the souls of all dead creatures within range that have been dead for less than an hour. Absorbed souls burst through the skin on Burial Soul Toad Gu's back, appearing as smooth white eggs 5cm in diameter. Soul eggs can be plucked from Burial Soul Toad Gu's back, but once separated any amount of damage will break the soul egg and release the soul within. Burial Soul Toad Gu can hold up to {100, 1000} souls at a time, not counting any souls removed from its back.

### Beast Soul Gu

*Rank 3 Carver*

Cost: 45 portions

Range: Self

Health: 12

Food: 1 pound of the respective beast's flesh

Effect: Variants exist for most types of beasts; Wolf Soul Gu, Bear Soul Gu, etc. Your soul requires 1 day between activations. When activated, slightly refines the soul and transforms it into a beast soul. After 15 activations, you have the beast soul, and henceforth take only half the regular damage to your soul when enslaving or controlling beasts of the same type as your soul. Additionally, you may now safely increase your soul's maximum hit points beyond 1,000.

### Soul Sense Gu

*Rank 3 Divination*

Cost: 2 primeval essence

Range: Self

Health: 11

Food: 5 maximum soul strength from a creature with a soul

Effect: You immediately sense the precise location of any creature with a soul, so long as the creature is within {creature's current soul strength} meters of you.

### Soul Strength Gu

*Rank 2 Carver*

Cost: 15 portions

Range: Self

Health: 12

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Dao]

Effect: Your Strength attribute is permanently reduced by 5. Your maximum Soul is permanently increased by 20. If your Strength attribute is reduced to 0, you die.

### Spirit Incubating Flea Gu

*Rank 3 Catalyst*

Cost: 5 portions

Range: Self

Health: 9

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: You transfer your soul into Spirit Incubating Flea Gu. Your body enters a catatonic state and effectively dies. If another Gu Master places Spirit Incubating Flea Gu into their aperture, you may converse with them in their head.

## Sound Path

Sound based investigative methods and attacks make up much of sound path. Its attacks are weaker than other offensive paths, but many shield Gu are unable to block sonic damage.

### Clairaudience Gu

*Rank 1 Divination*

Cost: 20 portions

Range: 250 meters

Health: 10

Food: 100 g Autumn Voice Grass (4 primeval stones)

Keywords: [Low Vitality] (Must play music or sing for 1 hour per hit point)

Effect: While sustained, your hearing grows extremely sensitive. You can hear all noises made within range and judge their exact location. You have vulnerability to sonic damage.

### Copper Warhorn Gu

*Rank 1 Manifestation*

Cost: 4 portions

Range: 1 km

Health: 10

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: The deafening sound of a horn fills the area within range for a few seconds. The sound is harmless.

### Heaven and Earth Magnificent Sound Gu

*Rank 5 Attack*

Cost: 10 portions

Range: 25 meters

Health: 3

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Your voice erupts with a beautiful but ear-piercing melody. All creatures within range take 100 sonic damage.

### Tripwire Gu

*An infinitesmally thin worm that attaches itself to the wall and alerts the user when a creature passes through. Its biggest weakness is that there is no way to know which one was tripped if the user has multiple Tripwire Gu set up.*

*Rank 1 Divination*

Cost: 10 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 10

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: You attach one end of Tripwire Gu to a wall, and the other end to another wall within 1 meter, forming a tripwire. Tripwire Gu becomes invisible and intangible, and if a creature passes through it you hear the sound of a bell in your head that wakes you up if you are sleeping.

## Space Path

*Teleportation is the essence of space path, but some offensive and defensive methods exist.*

### Archer's Paradox Gu

*A cockroach, continuously folding in on itself*

*Rank 3, 5 Celerity*

Cost: {10, 35} portions

Range: {10, 100} Meters

Health: 3

Food: {1, 100} kg of honey from a black pitch bee hive ({100, 10,000} primeval stones)

Effect: This Gu can only be activated as a reaction to a projectile being used. Using your reaction to activate this Gu ignores the [Unreactable] keyword.

- **Rank 3:** The projectile takes twice as long to hit, giving reacting creatures a -40 bonus to **Dodge** skill tests made to dodge it.
- **Rank 5:** The projectile is locked in place in the square of the user and is frozen. At the end of your next turn, the projectile continues as if it were just used, in a line towards the square its target was in when it was used, hitting the first creature in the line.

### Dimensional Lock Gu

*Rank 4-5 Manifestation*

Cost: 200 portions

Range: Self

Health: 24

Food: {10, 100} kg Emptiness Iron ({250, 2500} primeval stones)

Effect: For {1 hour, 1 day}, a {5, 15} meter cube, centered on the square you activated this Gu on, becomes dimensionally locked. Creatures cannot teleport to any space inside the cube from outside of it. Creatures inside the cube cannot teleport at all. The cube is barely visible, and awareness checks made to see its edges have a +30 penalty.

*One of the signature methods of space path, the Dimensional Lock Gu is very effective at preventing escapes and attacks. No teleportation Gu below rank 6 can pierce its effects. It appears as a floating glass box containing within the starry sky of black heaven.*

### Formless Space Gu

*A hand-sized bowl made of wood. Looking inside reveals an inky black expanse.*

*Rank 1-4 Container*

Cost: None

Range: Self

Health: 4

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Formless Space Gu cannot be activated. Items smaller than 50 cubic centimeters can be placed inside Formless Space Gu, shrinking to fit if they are larger than the bowl. Formless Space Gu can contain up to {2, 5, 15, 40} kilograms of items. When a creature reaches inside Formless Space Gu, they immediately know exactly what items are inside and can withdraw an item as a bonus action.

## Strength Path

*Strength Path is a dying path, with little advancement being made as time passes. Despite it being a bit weaker than other paths at higher ranks, many Gu Masters choose to cultivate it due to its relatively cheap cost. Gu Masters that are skilled at hand-to-hand combat will typically get the most out of strength path, but some longer-range methods do exist.*

### All Out Effort Gu

*A Rhinocerous Beetle with a long, black carapace, All Out Effort Gu is an extinct Gu from the Olden Antiquity Era, when Strength Path flourished. Now, only a few still exist in the world.*

#### Rank 1-5 Catalyst

Cost: 15 portions

Range: Self

Health: 15

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, whenever you roll to activate a beast phantom from a Strength Path Gu of rank {1, 2, 3, 4, 5} or lower, you may forego the roll and trigger the beast phantom automatically.

**[Beast Strength]** Many Gu of Strength Path belong to the beast strength archetype; Gu that, over many uses, permanently grant the user the strength of a particular beast. Here are some of the more common Gu of this archetype in Southern Border.

### Bear Strength Gu

#### Rank 1 Carver

Cost: 40 portions

Range: Self

Health: 11

Food: 10 kg of bear flesh

Keywords: [Dao]

Effect: Your strength attribute permanently increases by 10. For 24 hours, you cannot gain strength from Bear Strength Gu. Once you've gained 50 strength from Bear Strength Gu, activating Bear Strength Gu further has no effect on you, but you permanently gain the following feature:

Whenever you deal damage to a creature with an unarmed melee attack, roll 1d10. If you roll a 1, a bear phantom appears behind you, increasing the damage of the attack by 10 force damage.

### Blobfish Strength Gu

*A fat pink grub.*

#### Rank 1 Carver

Cost: 40 portions

Range: Self

Health: 9

Food: 10 kilograms of blobfish flesh

Keywords: [Dao]

Effect: Your Strength attribute permanently decreases by 4 and you reduce all force damage dealt to your hit points by 1. For 24 hours, you cannot reduce strength or gain damage reduction from this Gu. Once you have lost 20 Strength and gained 5 damage reduction, further activations have no effect, but you permanently gain the following feature:

Whenever you deal damage to a creature with an unarmed melee attack, roll 1d10. If you roll a 1, a blobfish phantom appears behind you, increasing the damage of the attack by 1 force damage.

### Boar Strength Gu

#### Rank 1 Carver

Cost: 40 portions

Range: Self

Health: 9

Food: 10 kg of boar flesh

Keywords: [Dao]

Effect: Your strength attribute permanently increases by 5. For 24 hours, you cannot gain strength from Boar Strength Gu. Once you've gained 25 strength from Boar Strength Gu, activating Boar Strength Gu further has no effect on you, but you permanently gain the following features:

Whenever you deal damage to a creature with an unarmed melee attack, roll 1d10. If you roll a 1, a boar phantom appears behind you, increasing the damage of the attack by 5 force damage.

If you have enough movement to put yourself into a square adjacent to a target at least 3 meters away, you gain the following unarmed attack option:

**Charge:** You move at least 2 meters in a straight line towards a target. You and the target make an opposed **Close Combat** test. If you win, the target takes 1 force damage, +1 damage for every 10 points you have in Strength, and the target is knocked *prone*.

## Crocodile Strength Gu

*Rank 1 Carver*

Cost: 40 portions

Range: Self

Health: 9

Food: 10 kg of crocodile flesh

Keywords: [Dao]

Effect: Your strength attribute permanently increases by 5. For 24 hours, you cannot gain strength from Crocodile Strength Gu. Once you've gained 25 strength from Crocodile Strength Gu, activating Crocodile Strength Gu further has no effect on you, but you permanently gain the following features:

Whenever you deal damage to a creature with an unarmed melee attack, roll 1d10. If you roll a 1, a crocodile phantom appears behind you, increasing the damage of the attack by 5 force damage.

Your bite attacks deal an additional 10 rending damage.

## Deer Strength Gu

*Rank 1 Carver*

Cost: 40 portions

Range: Self

Health: 9

Food: 10 kg of deer flesh

Keywords: [Dao]

Effect: Your strength attribute permanently increases by 4. For 24 hours, you cannot gain strength from Deer Strength Gu. Once you've gained 20 strength from Deer Strength Gu, activating Deer Strength Gu further has no effect on you, but you permanently gain the following features:

Whenever you deal damage to a creature with an unarmed melee attack, roll 1d10. If you roll a 1, a deer phantom appears behind you, increasing the damage of the attack by 5 force damage.

Your movement is increased by 2 meters.

## Tanuki Strength Gu

*A squirming brown worm with leather-like skin*

*Rank 2 Carver*

Cost: 40 portions

Range: Self

Health: 4

Food: 10 kilograms of Tanuki flesh

Keywords: [Dao]

Effect: Your Strength attribute permanently increases by 3. Once you've gained 15 Strength from Tanuki Strength Gu, further activations have no effect, but you permanently gain the following features:

When you spend a luck point to reroll or gain a bonus to an unarmed attack, you gain an additional -20 bonus to the roll.

Whenever you deal damage to a creature with an unarmed melee attack, roll 1d10. If you roll a 1, a Tanuki phantom appears behind you, increasing the damage of the attack by 5 force damage.

## Tortoise Strength Gu

*A washed out green beetle with a dense exoskeleton.*

*Rank 1 Carver*

Cost: 40 portions

Range: Self

Health: 5

Food: 10 kilograms of turtle flesh

Keywords: [Dao]

Effect: Your Strength and Fortitude attributes permanently increase by 1. For 24 hours, you cannot gain Strength or Fortitude from Tortoise Strength Gu. Once you have gained 5 Strength and Fortitude from this Gu, further activations have no effect, but you permanently gain the following features:

When not in combat and struck by an attack, you may use a reaction to turn your back and reduce the damage of the attack by 5.

Whenever you deal damage to a creature with an unarmed melee attack, roll 1d10. If you roll a 1, a Tortoise phantom appears behind you, increasing the damage of the attack by 5 force damage.

## Wolf Strength Gu

*Rank 1 Carver*

Cost: 40 portions

Range: Self

Health: 9

Food: 10 kg of wolf flesh

Keywords: [Dao]

Effect: Your strength attribute permanently increases by 5. For 24 hours, you cannot gain strength from Wolf Strength

Gu. Once you've gained 25 strength from Wolf Strength Gu, activating Wolf Strength Gu further has no effect on you, but you permanently gain the following features:

Whenever you deal damage to a creature with an unarmed melee attack, roll 1d10. If you roll a 1, a wolf phantom appears behind you, increasing the damage of the attack by 5 force damage.

Your movement is increased by 1 meter.

[END]

## Big Strength Gu

*Rank 2 Catalyst*

Cost: 25 portions

Range: Self

Health:

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Your Strength attribute is increased by 50 for 3 turns.

## Bitter Strength Gu

*Bitter Strength Gu is a beetle with a oval and palm-sized body. Lumps grow on its back.*

*Rank 2-4 Catalyst*

Cost: 8 portions

Range: Self

Health: 4

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, your Strength attribute is increased by  $\{5, 10, 25\} * \text{your missing hit points}$ .

## Brute Force Longbeetle Gu

*Rank 1 Catalyst*

Cost: 30 portions

Range: Self

Health: 7

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Until the end of your next turn, your Strength attribute is increased by 100. If your Fortitude attribute is lower than 40, your Strength attribute is permanently reduced by 5 at the end of this effect.

## Exert Strength Gu

*Rank 2 Catalyst*

Cost: 10

Range: 10 meters

Health: 15

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: You immediately make an **Athletics** test to lift, push, or pull an object within range, or you immediately make a **Grapple** combat action against a creature within range.

## Ivory Armor Gu

*Rank 2-4 Guard*

Cost: 5

Range: Self

Health: {40, 100, 350}

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Shield], [Sustained]

Effect: Ivory armor begins to grow around your body. This Gu has no effect until the start of your next turn. Any damage dealt to Ivory Armor Gu is reduced by 10% of your Strength attribute, rounded down. The armor remains when you stop activating this Gu and has the following stats:

**Ivory Armor DT: 6**

HP: 12

Dodge Penalty: +10

Movement Penalty: -1

The armor can be broken with a bonus action.

## Normal Force Gu

*Rank 3 Catalyst*

Cost: A number of portions equal to the total damage of the triggering attack

Range: Self

Health: 9

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Unreactable]

Effect: Can be activated as a reaction to dealing damage with a punching or kicking attack. The force of the target's body that would resist your attack is instead redirected back towards the target. Double the damage dealt by the triggering attack. If the triggering attack was a kicking attack, the distance the target is knocked backwards is doubled.

### [Path] Strength Gu

*A series of Gu worms that exists for most paths, save for Human and Heaven. Used to augment attacks from other paths with your own strength.*

#### Rank 3 Catalyst

Cost: 10 portions

Range: Self

Health: 4

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Supplementary]

Effect: If the next Gu you activate before the end of your turn belongs [Path], add 10% of your Strength attribute, rounded down, to any damage dealt by it. When used as a supplementary Gu for a killer move with a core [Path] Gu that deals damage, add 10% of your Strength attribute, rounded down, to the damage dealt by the killer move.

### Self Reliance Gu

*A black cockroach with buzzing wings on its back*

### Rank 1-3 Tonic

Cost: 30 portions

Range: Self

Health: 16

Food: Natural primeval essence (none)

Effect: Immediately regain hit points equal to {2, 5, 10}% of your Strength attribute, rounded down.

### Toughen Up Gu

#### Rank 3 Carver

Cost:

Range:

Health:

Food:

Keywords: [Dao], [Expendable]

Effect: Your maximum hit points are increased by 25.

## Sword Path

Pioneered by the legendary pseudo-venerable Bo Qing, sword path boasts some of the strongest attacks in the Gu world. Sword path's defensive methods are by comparison very weak.

### Aegis Gu

*Rank 2-3 Guard*

Cost: 20 portions

Range: Self

Health: {20, 50}

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Defensive], [Sustained], [Shield]

Effect: While sustained, a spectral sword and shield manifest in front of you. Whenever a creature makes a **Close Combat** roll against you, you may use a reaction to have the sword swing at the attacker, dealing {35, 80} rending damage on a hit. Reduce all rending damage dealt to Aegis Gu's hitpoints by {5, 15}.

### Flash Sword Gu

*Rank 4 Celerity*

Cost: 18 portions

Range: Self

Health: 11

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, your movement is increased by 8 meters and you gain a -40 bonus to **Dodge** skill tests. You may forego your movement to instead fly in a straight line of up to 30 meters. If you move through an occupied square, that creature takes 120 rending damage. **Dodge** skill tests made to avoid this attack are made with a +40 penalty.

### Pierce Gu

*Rank 1-3 Attack*

Cost: 25 portions

Range: {5, 10} meters

Health: 6

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Piercing]

Effect: A piercing light shoots from your finger at a target within range. Make an attack roll; on a hit deal {5, 10, 30} force damage directly to their hit points.

### Separate Gu

*Rank 1 Attack*

Cost: 8 portions

Range: Touch

Health:

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Splits an inanimate object of up to 1 cubic meter in volume perfectly in half. You can pick what direction it splits as long as splitting it that way would create 2 halves of equal volume.

### Sole Sword Gu

*Rank 4-5 Carver*

Cost: 4 portions

Range: Touch

Health:

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Carves sword dao into a weapon or Gu that deals rending damage. If an attack made with the weapon or Gu is blocked by a Gu of rank {4, 5} or less with the [Shield] Keyword, the defending [Shield] Gu takes rending damage equal to its hit points before the damage of the attack is assigned. After 24 hours, the weapon or Gu affected by Sole Sword Gu crumbles into dust.

[Upgrade Path: Split Mountain Gu]

### Cut Gu

*Rank 1 Attack*

Next Rank: Slash Gu

Cost: 10 portions

Range: 3 meters

Health: 2

Food: A handful of ordinary grass

Effect: You throw an invisible and sharp crescent at a creature within range. Make an attack roll. On a hit, deal 5 rending damage. If this damage is dealt to a creature's hit points, they gain *bleeding 1*. **Dodge** skill tests to avoid this attack are made with a +20 penalty.

## Slash Gu

*Rank 2 Attack*

Previous Rank: Cut Gu

Next Rank: Rend Gu

Cost: 10 portions

Range: 8 meters

Health: 5

Food: 1 kg of shattered glass (1/4 primeval stone)

Effect: You throw a 1 meter wide curved blade in an 8 meter long line. All creatures in the area take 15 rending damage. If this damage is dealt to a creature's hit points, they gain *bleeding 2*.

## Rend Gu

*Rank 3 attack*

Previous Rank: Slash Gu

Next Rank: Split Hill Gu

Cost: 10 portions

Range: 20 meters

Health: 7

Food: 1 kg of sharpened blades of any size (1/2 primeval stone)

Effect: You throw a 2 meter wide curved blade in a 20 meter long line. All creatures in the area take 60 rending damage. If this damage is dealt to a creature's hit points, they gain *bleeding 3*. **Dodge** skill tests to avoid this attack are made with a +10 penalty.

## Split Hill Gu

*Rank 4 Attack*

Previous Rank: Rend Gu

Next Rank: Split Mountain Gu

Cost: 15 portions

Range: 100 meters

Health: 9

Food: 10 Slash Gu

Effect: You throw a 5 meter wide blade of supercondensed sword qi in a 100 meter long line. All creatures in the area take 200 rending damage. If this damage is dealt to a creature's hit points, they gain *bleeding 5*. **Dodge** skill tests to avoid this attack are made with a +20 penalty.

## Split Mountain Gu

*Rank 5 Attack*

Previous Rank: Split Hill Gu

Cost: 40 portions

Range: 500 meters

Health: 11

Food: 50 Rend Gu

Effect: You launch an enormous burst of sword qi; select an area 10 meters wide, 10 meters tall, and 500 meters long. All creatures in the area take 800 rending damage. If this damage is dealt to a creature's hit points, they gain *bleeding 20*. **Dodge** skill tests to avoid this attack are made with a +40 penalty.

*Discovered by Lord of Swords Jin Chang, Split Mountain Gu is named for his sundering of Mount Cao. To this day, a great ravine splits the mountain in two, with the Jin and Cao clans living on either side.*

[END]

## Sharpen Gu

*Rank 2-5 Carver*

Cost: 35 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 11

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Expendable]

Effect: Carves sword dao into a weapon or Gu that deals rending damage. If damage from an attack made with the weapon or Gu is assigned to a Gu of rank {2, 3, 4, 5} or less with the [Shield] Keyword, the defending [Shield] Gu takes rending damage equal to its hit points before the damage of the attack is assigned. If this Gu is used on a weapon, the effect is permanent. If used on a Gu, the effect lasts until the next time you activate the Gu.

## Sword Sheath Gu

*Rank 2-4 Guard*

Cost: 8 portions

Range: 3 meters

Health: 12

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Whenever you are targeted by an attack from a Sword Path Gu or a physical weapon within range, you may activate this Gu as a reaction to cover the Gu or weapon in a formless

sheath, negating the triggering attack. The Gu or weapon cannot be forced out or used and the sheath has {10, 30, 120} hit points. It remains sheathed until the sheath is broken.

## Theft Path

*Theft path was invented by Thieving Heaven Demon Venerable, and contains great profundities of heaven. Mortal Theft Path methods are dangerous and hard to counter, but in return theft path has poor offensive capabilities.*

### Gu Laundering Gu

*A shiny green dung beetle.*

*Rank 1-5 Catalyst*

Cost: 10 \* target Gu rank

Range: Touch

Health: 5

Food: Activating this Gu counts as feeding it.

Effect: This Gu devours a target Gu of equal or lower rank. Over the course of an hour, it spins a silk sac and implants it with a number of primeval stones based the the devoured Gu's rank:

Rank 1: 50 primeval stones

Rank 2: 200 primeval stones

Rank 3: 1000 primeval stones

Rank 4: 5000 primeval stones

Rank 5: 25,000 primeval stones

### Leech Life Gu

*A vibrant orange and black carrion beetle.*

*Rank 2 Tonic*

Cost: 5 portions

Range: 3 Meters

Health: 6

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: When you inflict the final blow on a creature, you may activate this Gu as a reaction to regain hit points equal to 10% of the dead creature's maximum HP.

### Plagiarism Gu

*A pillbug with gold leaf skin.*

*Rank 2 Catalyst*

Cost: 5 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 8

Food: 5 written Gu recipes (not made by you)

Keywords: [None]

Effect: When following a Gu refinement recipe, you may activate this Gu to destroy another Gu of the same rank as the one you are attempting to refine. Gain a -10 bonus to the **Refinement** test, stacking up to 5 times.

### Plunder Gu

*Rank 2 Attack*

Cost: 5 portions

Range: 4 meters

Health: 8

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, you attempt to pull a random Gu from the aperture of a Gu Master within range at the start of each of your turns. You and the target make an opposed **Agility** test. If you win, you pull a random Gu from their aperture and into your own. If you leave your current square for any reason while sustaining this Gu, it deactivates and takes 1d4 damage.

### Steal Luck Gu

*Rank 1 attack*

Cost: 30 portions

Range: 10 meters

Health: 8

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Unreactable]

Effect: Choose a target you can see within range. If the target currently has a luck point and your luck points are below their maximum, you steal 1 luck point from the target.

## Time Path

*Manipulates the River of Time to speed up, slow down, and even stop the passage of time.*

### Split Second Gu

*A fuzzy old Mayfly.*

*Rank 1-5 Celerity*

Cost: 10 portions

Range: Self

Health: 2

Food: 1 lb of fine sand

Keywords: **[Low Vitality]**

Effect: Use in response to an **[Unreactable]** Gu being activated. You make a reaction against it as normal. Skill tests made as part of the reaction have a  $\{+80, +60, +30, +10, -10\}$  modifier.

### Third Watch Gu

*Rank 3 Carver*

Cost: None

Range: Self

Health: 3

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: **[Dao]**, **[Expendable]**

Effect: A silver triangle tattoo permanently appears on your chest. Your body and aperture now flow 3 times as quickly down the River of Time. Your natural primeval essence recovery speed is tripled, the required time to break through large realms through cultivation is divided by 3 (rounded up), and every year that passes, your remaining lifespan is reduced by 3 years.

:::

## Transformation Path

*Changing the users body temporarily. Transformation Path Gu Masters rely on acquiring a full set of Gu for a particular transformation. When using all component Gu together, they form a killer move that the Gu Master does not need to deduce. Transformation Path is very balanced, but each transformation has strengths and weaknesses.*

### [Transformation: Azure Wolf]

*Azure wolves are a nearly extinct mutated beast that grow more energetic the longer they battle.*

While you are sustaining all Gu included in this transformation, you gain the following feature:

At the end of each of your turns, your movement increases by 1 meter, to a maximum of +5 meters, and you gain a -5 bonus to all **Close Combat** tests, to a maximum of -25.

#### Azure Wolf Bite Gu

*Rank 4 Catalyst*

Cost: 5 portions

Range: Self

Health: 2

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: Your head transforms into an Azure Wolf head. While sustained, you gain the following features:

Your sense of smell is vastly improved, and you can now make **Awareness** tests to identify and follow scents.

Your bite attacks deal an additional 50 rending damage.

#### Azure Wolf Claw Gu

*Rank 4 Catalyst*

Cost: 4 portions

Range: Self

Health: 3

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: Your hands and feet become paws, complete with razor sharp claws. Your movement is increased by 4 meters while on all fours and your punching and kicking attacks deal an additional 30 rending damage. If this damage is dealt to the target's hit points, they gain *bleeding* 5.

#### Azure Wolf Skin Gu

*Rank 4 Guard*

Cost: 6 portions

Range: Self

Health: 250

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Defensive], [Shield], [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, thick Azure Wolf hairs sprout all over your body, covering you in a protective coat. Azure Wolf Skin Gu cannot block sonic damage.

[End]

### **Black Mane Gu**

*Rank 2 Guard*

Cost: 4 portions

Range: Self

Health: 40

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: **[Shield]**, **[Sustained]**

Effect: Your body is covered in a dense thicket of black fur. Using this Gu dyes your hair black, which slowly fades over the course of a month. Black Mane Gu cannot block sonic damage.

### **Bone Wings Gu**

*Rank 4 Manifestation*

Cost: 25 portions

Range: Self

Health: 3

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: **[Dao]**

Effect: Over the course of an hour, your vertebrae sprout new bone that pierces your back and forms wings made of bone. You have a flying speed of 10 meters and can execute 4 Maneuvers each turn.

### **Frog Legs Gu**

*Rank 1 Carver*

Cost: 35 portions

Range: Self

Health: 12

Food: 1 kg of frog legs

Keywords: **[Dao]**, **[Expendable]**

Effect: Your legs grow thick and fibrous muscles. Whenever you jump, double your jump distance upwards or forwards. You no longer take fall damage from falls of 15 meters or less. Falls of more than 15 meters deal 3 damage for every meter you fell more than 15.

### **Jade Skin Gu**

*Rank 1-5 Guard*

Cost: 8 portions

Range: Self

Health: {25, 50, 120, 400, 1000}

Food: {1, 4, 9, 16, 25} jade stones

Keywords: **[Sustained]**, **[Defensive]**, **[Shield]**

Effect: Your body is shrouded in jade while sustained. Foreign objects are blocked from entering as well.

## **Longarm Gu**

*Rank 1 Catalyst*

Cost: 5 portions

Range: Self

Health: 8

Food: 5 kg of monkey flesh (1 primeval stone)

Keywords: **[Sustained]**

Effect: Your arms grow dramatically in length, increasing the range of all your melee attacks by 1 meter while sustained. Your touch range also increases by 1 meter.

## **Ram's Head Gu**

*A red and off-white reindeer horn beetle.*

*Rank 3 Manifestation*

Cost: 10 portions

Range: Self

Health: 4

Food: 1 Skull of a horned mammal (3 Primeval Stones)

Effect: You temporarily grow blunt horns and gain the following melee attack:

- **Ram's Horns:** You headbutt a creature in an adjacent square. Make a **Close Combat** skill test. On a hit, deal 10 force damage, +1 damage for every 10 points you have in Strength. If the target is under the effect of a Gu with the **[Shield]** keyword, this damage is doubled. After using this melee attack, your horns fall off.

## **[Upgrade Path: 5 Great Flying Zombie Gu]**

## **Roaming Zombie Gu**

*Rank 2 Carver*

Next Rank: Hairy Zombie Gu

Cost: 10 portions

Range: Self

Health:

Food: 4

Keywords: **[Dao]**, **[Sustained]**

Effect: While sustained, your body transforms into that of a roaming zombie, granting you the following effects:

Your maximum hit points are increased by 50. When you start sustaining this Gu, regain 50 hit points.

You regain 8 hit points at the start of each of your turns.

Your brain becomes your only vital organ.

You gain immunity to the *bleeding*, *fatigued*, and *poisoned* conditions.

You gain vulnerability to heat and shock damage.

While exposed to direct light, you suffer a +20 penalty to all skill tests.

Your lifespan is not consumed over time.

At the start of each of your turns, make a **Perseverance** attribute test. On a failure, you gain a **Roaming Zombie Token**. If you ever have 10 **Roaming Zombie Tokens**, your body is permanently transformed into a mindless zombie and you die.

As long as you have 9 or fewer **Roaming Zombie Tokens**, every month you go without activating Roaming Zombie Gu reduces the number of **Roaming Zombie Tokens** you have by 1.

### Hairy Zombie Gu

*Rank 3 Carver*

Previous Rank: Roaming Zombie Gu

Next Rank: Hopping Zombie Gu

Cost: 10 portions

Range: Self

Health: 4

Food:

Keywords: **[Dao]**, **[Sustained]**

Effect: While sustained, your body transforms into that of a hairy zombie, granting you the following effects:

Your maximum hit points are increased by 100. When you start sustaining this Gu, regain 100 hit points.

You regain 15 hit points at the start of each of your turns.

Your brain becomes your only vital organ.

You gain immunity to the *bleeding*, *fatigued*, and *posioned* conditions.

You gain vulnerability to heat and shock damage.

While exposed to direct light, you suffer a +20 penalty to all skill tests.

Your lifespan is not consumed over time.

At the start of each of your turns, make a **Perseverance** attribute test. On a failure, you gain a **Hairy Zombie Token**. If you ever have 10 **Hairy Zombie Tokens**, your body is permanently transformed into a hairy zombie. Your natural primeval essence recovery rate is reduced to 0.

As long as you have 9 or fewer **Hairy Zombie Tokens**, every month you go without activating Hairy Zombie Gu reduces the number of **Hairy Zombie Tokens** you have by 1.

### Hopping Zombie Gu

*Rank 4 Carver*

Previous Rank: Hairy Zombie Gu

Next Rank: Asura Zombie Gu, Blood Wight Zombie Gu, Earth Chief Zombie Gu, Heavenly Demon Zombie Gu, Nightmare Zombie Gu, Plague Zombie Gu

Cost: 10 portions

Range: Self

Health: 4

Food:

Keywords: **[Dao]**, **[Sustained]**

Effect: While sustained, your body transforms into that of a hopping zombie, granting you the following effects:

Your maximum hit points are increased by 250. When you start sustaining this Gu, regain 250 hit points.

You regain 25 hit points at the start of each of your turns.

Your jumping distance is doubled.

Your brain becomes your only vital organ.

You gain immunity to the *bleeding*, *fatigued*, and *posioned* conditions.

You gain vulnerability to heat and shock damage.

While exposed to direct light, you suffer a +20 penalty to all skill tests.

Your lifespan is not consumed over time.

At the start of each of your turns, make a **Perseverance** attribute test. On a failure, you gain a **Hopping Zombie Token**. If you ever have 10 **Hopping Zombie Tokens**, your body is permanently transformed into a hopping zombie. Your natural primeval essence recovery rate is reduced to 0.

As long as you have 9 or fewer **Hopping Zombie Tokens**, every month you go without activating Hopping Zombie Gu reduces the number of **Hopping Zombie Tokens** you have by 1.

### **Asura Zombie Gu <!-- TODO -->**

*Rank 5 Carver*

Cost:

Range: Self

Health:

Food:

Keywords: **[Dao]**, **[Sustained]**

Effect: While sustained, your body transforms into that of an Asura Zombie, granting you the following effects:

Your maximum hit points are increased by 500. When you start sustaining this Gu, regain 500 hit points.

You regain 50 hit points at the start of each of your turns.

You gain 6 additional arms.

Your brain becomes your only vital organ.

You gain a flying speed of 10 meters and can execute 4 Maneuvers each turn.

You gain immunity to the *bleeding*, *fatigued*, and *posioned* conditions.

You gain vulnerability to heat and shock damage.

While exposed to direct light, you suffer a +20 penalty to all skill tests.

Your lifespan is not consumed over time.

At the start of each of your turns, make a **Perseverance** attribute test. On a failure, you gain an **Asura Zombie Token**. If you ever have 10 **Asura Zombie Tokens**, your body is permanently transformed into an Asura Zombie. Your natural primeval essence recovery rate is reduced to 0.

As long as you have 9 or fewer **Asura Zombie Tokens**, every month you go without activating Asura Zombie Gu reduces the number of **Asura Zombie Tokens** you have by 1.

## Blood Wight Zombie Gu

*Rank 5 Carver*

Cost:

Range: Self

Health:

Food:

Keywords: [Dao: Blood], [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, your body transforms into that of a Blood Wight Zombie, granting you the following effects:

Your maximum hit points are increased by 500. When you start sustaining this Gu, regain 500 hit points.

You regain 100 hit points at the start of each of your turns.

Your brain becomes your only vital organ.

You gain a flying speed of 10 meters and can execute 3 Maneuvers each turn.

You gain immunity to the *bleeding*, *fatigued*, and *posioned* conditions.

You gain vulnerability to heat and shock damage.

While exposed to direct light, you suffer a +20 penalty to all skill tests.

Your lifespan is not consumed over time.

At the start of each of your turns, make a **Perseverance** attribute test. On a failure, you gain a **Blood Wight Zombie Token**. If you ever have 10 **Blood Wight Zombie Tokens**, your body is permanently transformed into a Blood Wight Zombie.

As long as you have 9 or fewer **Blood Wight Zombie Tokens**, every month you go without activating Blood Wight Zombie Gu reduces the number of **Blood Wight Zombie Tokens** you have by 1.

## Earth Chief Zombie Gu

*Rank 5 Carver*

Cost:

Range: Self

Health:

Food:

Keywords: [Dao: Earth], [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, your body transforms into that of an Earth Chief Zombie, granting you the following effects:

Your maximum hit points are increased by 1000. When you start sustaining this Gu, regain 1000 hit points.

You regain 30 hit points at the start of each of your turns.

Your brain becomes your only vital organ.

You gain a flying speed of 10 meters and can execute 2 Maneuvers each turn.

You gain immunity to the *bleeding*, *dazed*, *fatigued*, *posioned*, and *stunned* conditions and cannot be knocked prone.

You gain vulnerability to heat damage.

While exposed to direct light, you suffer a +20 penalty to all skill tests.

Your lifespan is not consumed over time.

At the start of each of your turns, make a **Perseverance** attribute test. On a failure, you gain an **Earth Chief Zombie Token**. If you ever have 10 **Earth Chief Zombie Tokens**, your body is permanently transformed into an Earth Chief Zombie.

As long as you have 9 or fewer **Earth Chief Zombie Tokens**, every month you go without activating Earth Chief Zombie Gu reduces the number of **Earth Chief Zombie Tokens** you have by 1.

### **Heavenly Demon Zombie Gu**

*Rank 5 Carver*

Cost:

Range: Self

Health:

Food:

Keywords: **[Dao: Light]**, **[Sustained]**

Effect: While sustained, your body transforms into that of a Heavenly Demon Zombie, granting you the following effects:

Your maximum hit points are increased by 250. When you start sustaining this Gu, regain 250 hit points.

You regain 30 hit points at the start of each of your turns.

Your brain becomes your only vital organ.

You gain a flying speed of 25 meters and can execute 3 Maneuvers each turn.

You gain immunity to the *bleeding*, *fatigued*, and *posioned* conditions.

You gain vulnerability to heat and shock damage.

While exposed to direct light, you gain a -20 bonus on all **Dodge**, **Flying**, **Close Combat** and **Ranged Attack** skill tests.

While not exposed to direct light, you gain a -20 bonus on all **Awareness**, **Cultivation**, **Deduction**, and **Refinement** tests.

Your lifespan is not consumed over time.

At the start of each of your turns, make a **Perseverance** attribute test. On a failure, you gain a **Heavenly Demon Zombie Token**. If you ever have 10 **Heavenly Demon Zombie Tokens**, your body is permanently transformed into a Heavenly Demon Zombie.

As long as you have 9 or fewer **Heavenly Demon Zombie Tokens**, every month you go without activating Heavenly Demon Zombie Gu reduces the number of **Heavenly Demon Zombie Tokens** you have by 1.

### **Nightmare Zombie Gu**

*Rank 5 Carver*

Cost:

Range: Self

Health:

Food:

Keywords: **[Dao: Dark]**, **[Sustained]**

Effect: While sustained, your body transforms into that of a Nightmare Zombie, granting you the following effects:

Your maximum hit points are increased by 150. When you start sustaining this Gu, regain 150 hit points.

You regain 30 hit points at the start of each of your turns.

Your brain becomes your only vital organ.

You gain a flying speed of 15 meters and can execute 3 Maneuvers each turn.

You gain immunity to the *bleeding*, *fatigued*, and *posioned* conditions.

You gain vulnerability to heat and shock damage.

While exposed to direct light, you suffer a +20 penalty to all skill tests.

When you hit a creature with a melee attack, they take 50 damage to their soul.

Your lifespan is not consumed over time.

At the start of each of your turns, make a **Perseverance** attribute test. On a failure, you gain a **Nightmare Zombie Token**. If you ever have 10 **Nightmare Zombie Tokens**, your body is permanently transformed into a Nightmare Zombie.

As long as you have 9 or fewer **Nightmare Zombie Tokens**, every month you go without activating Nightmare Zombie Gu reduces the number of **Nightmare Zombie Tokens** you have by 1.

### **Plague Zombie Gu**

*Rank 5 Carver*

Cost:

Range: Self

Health: 20

Food:

Keywords: **[Dao: Poison]**, **[Sustained]**

Effect: While sustained, your body transforms into that of a Plague Zombie, granting you the following effects:

Your maximum hit points are increased by 250. When you start sustaining this Gu, regain 250 hit points.

You regain 30 hit points at the start of each of your turns.

Your brain becomes your only vital organ.

You gain a flying speed of 5 meters and can execute 3 Maneuvers each turn.

You gain immunity to the *bleeding*, *fatigued*, and *posioned* conditions.

You gain vulnerability to heat and shock damage.

While exposed to direct light, you suffer a +20 penalty to all skill tests.

Your lifespan is not consumed over time.

If a creature starts their turn within 15 meters of you, they gain the **posioned** condition. While **posioned** in this way, they take 50 poison damage directly to their hit points at the end of each of their turns.

At the start of each of your turns, make a **Perseverance** attribute test. On a failure, you gain a **Plague Zombie Token**. If you ever have 10 **Plague Zombie Tokens**, your body is permanently transformed into a Plague Zombie.

As long as you have 9 or fewer **Plague Zombie Tokens**, every month you go without activating Plague Zombie Gu reduces the number of **Plague Zombie Tokens** you have by 1.

**[END]**

## **Wide Knuckle Gu**

*Rank 1 Catalyst*

Cost: 7 portions

Range: Self

Health: 12

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, your hands grow to double their original size. You gain a -10 bonus to **Close Combat** tests on punching attacks and your punching attacks deal an additional 2 force damage.

:::

## Water Path

*Manipulates water and fluids. More defensive, but water path attacks can still be devastating.*

### Carapace Gu

*Rank 2 Guard*

Cost: 2 portions

Range: Self

Health: 6

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Defensive], [Sustained]

Effect: A sleek turtle shell forms around your torso. Whenever you are hit by a single-target attack roll that was not a called shot, there is a 50% chance it hits your torso. Reduce all damage dealt to your torso by 40. If your torso takes more than 40 damage from a single attack, Carapace Gu deactivates and takes 1d6 damage as backlash.

### Faucet Gu

*Rank 1 Manifestation*

Cost: 4 portions

Range: Self

Health: 10

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: 5 liters of fresh water pours from your fingertip.

### Geyser Gu

*A white horsefly with oversized wings.*

*Rank 3 Manifestation*

Cost: 25 portions

Range: 10 Meters

Health: Food: 10 lbs of waterfall water

Effect: A 1 meter radius geyser, centered on a square you can see within range, spouts 15 meters high. [Large] or smaller creatures in the area are thrown 15 meters up and become Airborne. If already Airborne, they must pass an **Athletics** or **Flying** test with a +25 penalty or fall as if they failed a Dive.

### Fish Scales Gu

*Rank 1-3 Guard*

Cost: 5 portions

Range: Self

Health: {22, 45, 100}

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Defensive], [Shield], [Sustained]

Effect: Your skin turns into layered scales while sustained. Reduce all cold damage dealt to Fish Scales Gu by {5, 12, 30}. Fish Scales Gu cannot block sonic damage.

## **Flow Gu**

*Rank 2-4 Celerity*

Cost: 3 portions

Range: Self

Health: 10

Food: 1 liter of distilled water

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, your movement is increased by {2, 5, 10} meters. You no longer consider swimming in water to be *Difficult Terrain*.

## **Jelly Bubble Gu**

*Rank 2 Guard*

Cost: 3 portions

Range: Self

Health: 90

Food: 1 kg of mashed fruits (1/4 primeval stone)

Keywords: [Defensive], [Shield], [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, you're surrounded by a bubble of viscous jelly that shields you from outside attacks. You cannot move, dodge, or make melee attacks, and you gain immunity to the *burning* and *ablaze* conditions. Reduce all force damage dealt to Jelly Bubble Gu by 30.

## **Land Becomes Sea Gu**

*Rank 3-4 Manifestation*

Cost: 160 portions

Range: {15, 50} meters

Health: 12

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: All earth, soil, and stone within range is transmuted into an equal volume of water.

## **Stream Gu**

*Rank 1 Attack*

Cost: 2 portions

Range: 10 meters

Health: 7

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: You fire a pressurized stream of water from your index finger at a target within range. Make an attack roll with a -30 bonus. On a hit, deal 3 force damage.

## **Undertow Gu**

*An upturned helmet, full of sloshing mud*

*Rank 2-3 Manifestation*

Cost: 20 portions

Range: {4, 8} Meters

Health: 3

Food: 1 lb of River Moss

Effect: Water rushes from the earth in a line {4, 8} meters long and {4, 8} meters wide. This puts out fires, deals {0, 4} force damage, and forces creatures standing in *Difficult Terrain* to pass an **Athletics** test or be knocked prone. If the ground in the line is made of soil, it becomes a thick mud and is considered *Difficult Terrain*.

:::

## Wind Path

*Manipulation of air currents and storms. Wind path methods usually need to be sustained several turns before they reach full strength. It is very rare for a wind path Gu Master to not also be a master of flying.*

### Air Resistance Gu

*Rank 2 Catalyst*

Cost: <!-- TODO -->

Range: Self

Health: <!-- TODO -->

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, your movement makes no sound, including jumping, climbing, and sprinting. You also fall at a rate of 10 meters per turn (at the start of each of your turns) and take no damage from falling. If you have a flying speed greater than 10 meters, it is reduced to 10 meters.

### Feather Step Gu

*Rank 1 Celerity*

Cost: 2 portions

Range: Self

Health: 8

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, your movement makes no sound.

### Free Spirit Gu

*A small blue gnat.*

*Rank 2 Carver*

Cost: 5 portions

Range: 10 Meters

Health: 2

Food: 1 kg honey cactus flesh (15 primeval stones)

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, your movements are implacable and flow easily. Your movement doesn't trigger attacks of opportunity and you gain advantage on skill tests made against enemy **Grapple** combat actions.

### Fierce Wind Gu

*Rank 2 Guard*

Next Rank: Hurricane Gu

Cost: 20 portions

Range: Self

Health: 3

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Defensive]

Effect: Winds pick up in a 2 meter radius, centered on the square you were in when you activated Fierce Wind Gu. **Ranged Combat** attack rolls made against any creature within the area are made with a +20 penalty. The winds disperse after one minute.

### Hurricane Gu

*Rank 3 Manifestation*

Pervious Rank: Fierce Wind Gu

Cost: portions

Range: 500 meters

Health: 5

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Galeforce winds begin spinning within range. While sustained, all **Ranged Combat** attack rolls made by creatures within range are made with a +30 penalty. If the attack roll originates from a Gu of wind path, it instead gains a -30 bonus. If used in conjunction with large volumes of water, such as over a lake or using a Gu that produces large amounts of water, that water is spread over the area causing flooding.

### Strength Gust Gu

*Rank 1 Attack*

Cost: 12 portions

Range: 5 meters

Health: 3

Food: 100 g of feather soil (2 primeval stones)

Effect: A huge gust of wind forces all [Large] or smaller creatures in a 3 meter wide, 5 meter long line to make an **Athletics** test. On a failure, they are pushed 10 feet away in the direction of the line and land *prone*.

:::

##

*Invented millions of years ago by Star Constellation Immortal Venerable, wisdom path is scarce in the modern Gu world. Inheritances are few in number and kept out of reach, for the strength of Wisdom path is to subdue your enemy without them knowing you even made a move.*

## Wisdom Path

### Armchair General Gu

*A winged ant with large mandibles.*

*Rank 3 Catalyst*

Cost: 30 portions

Range: 6 Meters

Health: 4

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, you project your plan into the head of a willing creature within range. They gain a bonus to attack rolls made against creatures within your line of sight equal to -(your Cognition attribute)

### Awake Gu

*Rank 1-3 Catalyst*

Cost: 6 portions

Range: 3 meters

Health: 7

Food: Consumes dreams when the owner sleeps

Effect: Awaken a sleeping target. Can be activated as a reaction to you or a creature within range falling to 0 hit points to give them a -{20, 40, 60} bonus to their **Perseverance** attribute test.

### Awaken Cloud Gu

*Rank 4 Catalyst*

Cost: 40 portions

Range: Self

Health: 15

Food: 1 liter of pure water

Keywords: [Deductive]

Effect: A cloud of thoughts rumbles above your head, granting you Advantage on a Deduction skill test.

### Awaken Soul Gu

*Rank 2 Catalyst*

Cost: 10 portions

Range: Self

Health: 4

Food: 100 g of soul stricken grass (6 primeval stones)

Keywords: [Expendable]

Effect: Your maximum soul is increased by 3.

### Battle Will Gu

*Rank 3 Catalyst*

Cost: 15 portions

Range: 5 meters

Health: 8

Food: Battle Thoughts (Gu Master must think about fighting for 1 hour)

Effect: All creatures within range, including yourself, become agitated and more prone to violence, and gain a -30 bonus to **Perseverance** attribute tests for 10 minutes.

### Brain Explosion Gu

*Rank 4 Attack*

Cost: 55 portions

Range: 10 meters

Health: 12

Food: 1 Human Brain

Effect: Brain Explosion Gu flies towards a creature within range. This can be reacted to and attacked. If Brain Explosion Gu successfully reaches the target, it burrows into their mind and becomes dormant, no longer requiring food to sustain itself. If the creature makes a Cultivation, Deduction, Knowledge, or Refinement test, the Brain Explosion Gu detonates, instantly killing Brain Explosion Gu and the creature. If the creature is forced by some other effect to make one of these tests, they may elect to automatically fumble it and not detonate the Brain Explosion Gu.

### Careful Gu

*Rank 3 Catalyst*

Cost: portions

Range: Self

Health: 7

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Expendable]

Effect: Activate before rolling the failure die of a refinement recipe. Increase the die by one stage (d2 -> d4 -> d6 -> d8 -> d10 -> d12 -> d20 -> d100) to a maximum of a d100.

### Enamor Gu

*Rank 2 Attack*

Cost: 25 portions

Range: Touch

Health: <!- TODO ->

Food: <!- TODO ->

Effect: Make an attack roll against a creature within range. On a hit, the creature feels a strong bond of love between themselves and you. The affected creature cannot make any attacks against you, and will try its best to protect you, even risking its own life. If you are being attacked by the creature's allies, the creature will try to protect you without harming either side. At the end of each of its turns, the affected creature can make an **Insight** test, ending the effect on a success.

### Human Secret Gu

*The mortal variant of Heavenly Secret Immortal Gu, Human Secret Gu resembles a roiling purple cloud.*

*Rank 3-5 Divination*

Cost: 40 portions

Range: {1, 5, 20} meters

Health: 9

Food: 10 g of clear minded jade (150 primeval stones)

Effect: If activated during a deduction, your deduction benefits from the combined knowledge of all humans and variant humans within range instead of just information available to you personally. Can also be used outside of deductions to read the thoughts of all humans and variant humans within range until the start of your next turn. While active, you may react to other creature's thoughts, including the activation of Gu, even if they are [Unreactable]. Additionally, you gain a -50 bonus to all tests made to parry, dodge, or attack creatures within range.

### Little Will Gu

*Rank 1-3 Catalyst*

Cost: 10 portions

Range: Self

Health: 6

Food: <!- TODO ->

Keywords [Expendable]

Effect: You take {1, 2, 6} damage to your soul and create {2, 8, 30} Little Wills. Little Wills are linked to you psychically and can help you multitask. When you take the *Activate Gu* combat action, you may consume any number of Little Wills to gain 1 Activation per Little Will consumed in this way.

When you activate or sustain a Gu with the [Sustained] keyword, you may expend a Little Will. The Gu will remain sustained until the start of your next turn and does not count towards your current number of sustained Gu.

Little Wills can also be left pretty much anywhere along with a Gu. When a condition, set by you when you leave the Little Will, is fulfilled, the Will consumes itself to activate the Gu in a manner of your choosing.

Little Wills can exist for up to 6 months before vanishing.

### Martial Art Mantis Gu

*Rank 2 Catalyst*

Cost: 12 portions

Range: Self

Health: 5

Food: 10 g of Purple Autumn Grass (3 primeval stones)

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, your unarmed strike **Close Combat** tests gain a  $(-5 \times \text{your maximum activations})$  bonus.

### Mind Fortress Gu

*Rank 1-5 Guard*

Cost: 15 portions

Range: Self

Health: {8, 25, 60, 150, 400}

Food: 5 hours of intense thinking; the thoughts are consumed and cannot be used for deductions.

Keywords: [Defensive], [Shield], [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, if an effect would manipulate your thoughts, emotions, or will, and originates from a source of equal or lower rank than this Gu, it is negated on you. This Gu cannot block any damage. Whenever you take damage to your soul while sustained, you may instead assign that damage to Mind Fortress Gu. This Gu can be activated as a reaction to taking damage to your soul, with the triggering damage being redirected to Mind Fortress Gu.

## One Mind Gu

*Rank 2 Catalyst*

Cost: 10X portions

Range: Self

Health: 12

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Expendable]

Effect: You gain X activations until the end of your turn. Once you use an activation before the end of your turn, your subsequent activations must be used for the same effect, i.e. activating the same Gu.

## Placebo Gu

*Rank 1 Tonic*

Cost: 5 portions

Range: 2 meters

Health: 8

Food:

Effect: A creature of your choice that you can see within range regains 2 hit points.

## Shared Sense Gu

*Rank 3 Divination*

Cost: 90 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 4

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: You touch a creature and implant Shared Sense Gu on their body. This process is painless and impossible to feel, and Shared Sense Gu is undetectable by divinations of rank 3 or below. While implanted, you may use your combat action to close your eyes and connect with Shared Sense Gu, immediately learning the exact location of the target and switching from using your senses to theirs. You can see, smell, hear, feel, and taste whatever the target is while sharing their senses, and can end the effect at any time.

## Sharp Intent Gu

*Rank 3-4 Manifestation*

Cost: 20 portions

Range: 3 meters

Health: 10

Food: {3, 15} blades of Cutting-Edge Grass

Effect: You condense your will into swords, taking {3, 10} damage to your soul and manifesting {1, 5} Intent Blades. As an Activation, you can make an attack roll against a target within range with an Intent Blade, dealing {35, 100} rending damage on a hit. Each Intent Blade can only be used for one attack every turn. They may also be wielded as a melee weapon with a range of 1 meter, dealing {35, 100} rending damage on a successful melee attack. Intent Blades vanish after 1 minute.

Whenever you make an attack roll from a Gu effect, you may consume an Intent Blade to gain a -30 bonus to that attack roll.

*The main recipe for Rank 3 Sharp Intent Gu combines Rank 2 Sabre Gu with many Rank 1 Little Will Gu*

## Space Thought Gu

*Rank 1-5 Catalyst*

Cost: 30 portions

Range: Self

Health: 12

Food: {1, 4, 9, 16, 25} cubic meters of Phantom Soil

Keywords: [Deductive]

Effect: Your thoughts appear as bubbles above your head, and you gain a {-10, -20, -30, -40, -50} bonus Deduction tests made to create a refinement recipe, so long as you have access to the Gu whose recipe you're attempting to deduce. You also gain a {-10, -20, -30, -40, -50} bonus on Knowledge (Gu) tests made to identify a Gu. Space thoughts vanish after 1 hour.

## {Two, Three, Four, Five} Tasks at Once Gu

*Rank 2-5 Catalyst*

Cost: 15 portions

Range: Self

Health: 10

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained you can sustain an additional number of Gu every turn equal to your activations multiplied by {1, 2, 3, 4} without incurring damage to your soul. Additionally, whenever you take damage to your soul due to giving orders to hordes, roll {1d10, 1d8, 1d6, 1d4} instead of 1d12.

## Vajra Arms Gu

### *Rank 2 Manifestation*

Cost: 5 portions

Range: Self

Health: 11

Food: 1 hour of thoughts related to punching or souls.

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, you have an additional two arms sprouting from your waist. They are a spectral blue color, and punching attacks made with them deal an additional 2 damage to the target's soul.

## Vajra Thought Gu

### *Rank 1-5 Manifestation*

Cost: 12 portions

Range: 25 meters

Health: 8

Food: {1, 4, 9, 16, 25} liters of Monkey Leaf Tea

Keywords: [Deductive]

Effect: Manifest {3, 6, 20, 50, 100} Vajra Thoughts. Vajra Thoughts appear as shining golden spheres, and can be manifested inside your mind or outside your body. Any number

of Vajra thoughts can be transferred between your mind and outside your body as a bonus action.

When making the Deduction action, you may consume a number of Vajra thoughts up to your Cognition attribute to gain a bonus equal to -(thoughts consumed) on your Deduction test. The thoughts consumed must be inside your mind.

As an Activation, you can shoot a Vajra thought at any target within range. You may only shoot Vajra thoughts that exist outside your body in this way. On a hit, each Vajra thought deals 2 force damage directly to the targets hit points.

Vajra thoughts vanish after 1 hour.

## Warrior's Intuition Gu

*A soldier ant with an a bulbous head and ridged thorax.*

### *Rank 1 Catalyst*

Cost: 10 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 5

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: After hitting a creature with an attack, you may activate this Gu without using an Activation. You gain a -10 bonus to the first skill test made as part of a reaction against that creature before the start of your next turn.

## Wood Path

*Wood path was discovered by Genesis Lotus Immortal Venerable. It generally encompasses methods involving plants, and excels at support and healing, having marginal defense and lower attack power than other paths. :: columns*

### Bark Skin Gu

*Rank 1 Guard*

Cost: 4 portions

Range: Self

Health: 15

Food: 5 kg of bark

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, your skin grows a thick bark as strong as stone. When you take rending or force damage to your hit points, reduce the amount of damage taken by 3, to a minimum of 0. Additionally, reduce any amount of damage taken from the *bleeding* condition by 1, to a minimum of 0. You have vulnerability to heat damage.

### Become Tree Gu

*A really convincing stick bug. Awareness tests made to discover it is not a stick are made with a +50 penalty*

*Rank 3 Concealment*

Cost: 5 portions

Range: Self

Health: 3

Food: A sapling

Effect: You stand still for one hour to transform into a tree of your height. You are rooted, blinded, and deaf, but can still feel. You are indistinguishable from a normal tree by Gu of rank 3 or lower. As a bonus action, you may transform back into your original form and end this effect.

### Branching Wings Gu

*Rank 2 Manifestation*

Cost: 75 portions

Range: Self

Health: 9

Food: 10 portions of rank 2 primeval essence

Effect: 4 huge wooden wings sprout from your back. They each have 25 hit points and vulnerability to rending damage. You gain a flying speed equal to 2 times the number of wooden wings you have and can execute 2 Maneuvers each turn. As a bonus action, you can quickly sprout a branch from one at a creature within 3 meters. If the creature is unwilling, make an attack roll. On a hit, the branch fuses with their spine or sternum, and you carry the creature with you while flying. Creature's attached to your wings this way have a +30 penalty to all attack rolls and are *restrained*.

Branching Wings Gu can carry 1 [Medium] or smaller creatures on each wing. If a wing is destroyed, it falls off your back and any creature attached to it is freed.

Creatures have to be cut off their branch as a combat action to be freed (or it can be destroyed as part of an attack, with 1 hit point). This leaves a wooden cap attached to the body that can be safely cut away over the course of an hour.

[Upgrade Path: Burning Canopy Blessing Gu]

## **Photosynthesis Gu**

*Rank 2 Tonic*

Next Rank: Clorophyl Armor Gu

Cost: 14 portions

Range: Self

Health: 12

Food: Direct sunlight for 1 hour

Effect: Can only be activated while in direct sunlight. At the end of each of your turns, you regain 12 hit points. This effect ends if you take damage to your hit points or leave direct sunlight. Photosynthesizing for 1 hour a day replaces your need to eat.

## **Clorophyl Armor Gu**

*Rank 3 Tonic*

Previous Rank: Photosynthesis Gu

Next Rank: Phoenix Mantle Gu

Cost: 6 portions

Range: Self

Health: 14

Food: Direct sunlight for 8 hours

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: A scaly green armor covers your body. While sustained, you regain 15 hit points at the end of each of your turns as long as you're in direct sunlight. Force and rending damage are dealt to the armor instead of your hit points. The armor has 80 hit points, and once it is broken, the effect ends.

## **Phoenix Mantle Gu**

*Rank 4 Tonic*

Previous Rank: Clorophyl Armor Gu

Next Rank: Burning Canopy Blessing Gu

Cost: 8 portions

Range: Self

Health: 14

Food: 10 g of Imperial Phoenix feathers (1,500 primeval stones)

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: A shawl of light wraps around your head, shedding sunlight in a 30 foot radius. While sustained, if your hit points would be reduced to 0, instead the shawl bursts into flames and your hit points are restored to their maximum. Phoenix Mantle Gu takes 13 damage and becomes unusable for 24 hours.

## **Burning Canopy Blessing Gu**

*Rank 5 Tonic*

Previous Rank: Phoenix Mantle Gu

Cost: 40 portions

Range: Self

Health: 18

Food: Direct sunlight for 6 months

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: A miniature sun manifests 5 meters above your head, illuminating a 250 kilometer sphere around it. The light does not pierce objects, but it is extremely bright. All creatures within 10 meters of the sun are *blinded*. All creatures within 1 kilometer of the sun are *blinded* while it is within their line of sight.

While sustained, you return to your maximum hit points, heal all diseases, and regenerate all missing body parts at the end of each of your turns. You are also immune to rending and force damage.

[END]

### Cactus Pointer Gu

*Rank 3 Divination*

Cost: 5 portions

Range: Self

Health: 5

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Expendable]

Effect: You pluck the flower atop Cactus Pointer Gu. Cactus Pointer Gu withers and dies, and a word appears on the plucked flower. The word is chosen by the GM, and will be related to your current goal, pointing you in the right direction. It can be a name, object, or place, but must be a single word, or a single name if the name is more than one word.

### Creamy Sap Gu

*Rank 1 Tonic*

Cost: 15 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 8

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: A creamy orange sap is secreted by your fingertips. You can rub it into a creature's wounds as a bonus action. Doing so heals them 6 hit points and removes the *bleeding* condition.

### Dark Moss Gu

*Rank 1 Concealment*

Cost: 4 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 6

Food: 5 kg of moss

Effect: You or a creature you touch sprout a thick moss for 1 hour that blends in with forestry. While in a wooded or grassy area, they are invisible.

## **Earth Communication Ear Grass Gu**

*A large ear with roots growing from the eardrum. After a Gu Master replaces one of their ears with it, Earth Communication Ear Grass Gu slowly shrinks to fit their face and become more unassuming.*

*Rank 1 Divination*

Cost: 2 portions

Range: 20 meters

Health: 8

Food: 1 kilogram of grass and 1 kilogram of soil

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: Before being activated, the user of Earth Communication Ear Grass Gu must cut off one of their ears and allow Earth Communication Ear Grass Gu to take its place. While sustained, roots extend from the replaced ear and allow you to hear all noises, big or small, made within range. If you put the ear to the ground, the roots connect to it and extend the range to 100 meters, with the limitation being that you can only hear things on top of or in the earth.

## **Fragrant Daisy Gu**

*Rank 3 Concealment*

Cost: 10 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 5

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: A large daisy grow out of a chunk of soil or stone that you touch, emitting a powerful fragrance in a 1 km circle centered on the daisy. All **Awareness** tests and divination Gu that rely on smelling automatically fail if used within the area. Nothing inside the area can be located by scent either, except for the daisy emitting the fragrance. The daisy has a 20 hit points, and if it is killed or uprooted the effect ends. The fragrance does not cling to creatures that leave the area.

## **Growing Power Gu**

*A huge green striped brown grub.*

*Rank 3 Catalyst*

Cost: 5 portions

Range: Self

Health: 5

Food: 5 kg of seeds

Keywords: [Sustained]

Effect: When you activate this Gu and at the start of each of your turns while sustained, you gain 2 Fortitude, 20 Strength, and heal 2 hit points. At the end of each of your turns while sustained, your movement is reduced by 1. You lose all effects when you stop sustaining this Gu.

## **Healing Sprout Gu**

*Rank 1 Tonic*

Cost: 7 portions

Range: Self

Health: 7

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Healing Sprout Gu sprouts a healing leaf. The leaf can be plucked from Healing Sprout Gu. A creature can eat a healing leaf as a bonus action to regain 4 hit points.

### **Heavenly Essence Treasure Lotus Gu**

*To refine the Heavenly Essence Treasure Lotus Gu, a Gu Master must use 3 fresh spirit springs as refinement materials. Spirit springs produce vast amounts of primeval stones, so few are willing to make that sacrifice.*

*Rank 3 Manifestation*

Cost: None

Range: Self

Health: 14

Food: Natural primeval essence (none)

Effect: Cannot be activated. Passively sprouts 50 primeval essence stones every day at midnight. Up to 50 primeval stones can remain attached to Heavenly Essence Treasure Lotus Gu at a time.

### **Liquor Worm Gu**

*Rank 1-3 Catalyst*

Cost: 5 portions

Range: Self

Health: 7

Food: 1 kg wine (1/4 primeval stone)

Effect: This Gu has no effect unless you have rank {1, 2, 3} initial stage, middle stage, or upper stage cultivation. You immediately gain one refined portion of primeval essence of the stage above your own. Keep track of your current refined portions separately from your other portions of primeval essence. The sum of your natural and refined primeval essence can never exceed your maximum primeval essence.

Expending 1 portion of refined primeval essence is equivalent to expending 2 portions of unrefined primeval essence.

If your cultivation increases while you have refined primeval essence, it becomes unrefined primeval essence.

### **Paper Tiger Gu**

*Rank 2 Concealment*

Cost: None

Range: Self

Health: 3

Food: 1 kg wood pulp (1/4 primeval stone)

Keywords: **[Sustained]**

Effect: As long as you are rank 2, the aura of your primeval essence is increased to rank 3 and a stage of your choice while sustained. Your primeval essence's outward appearance remains as it was, however, so effects that glimpse inside your aperture will see your true cultivation. Sustaining this Gu does not count towards your number of currently sustained Gu.

## **Primeval Tree Heart Gu**

*Rank 1-5 Catalyst*

Cost: None

Range: Self

Health: 7

Food: Natural primeval essence (none)

Keywords: [Expendable]

Effect: You immediately regain 50 primeval essence. This essence is of the same rank as this Gu; if that rank is below your own, you instead gain only 1 primeval essence. If that rank is above your own, multiply the amount of primeval essence gained by 4 for each rank above your own.

## **Problem Nipped in the Bud Gu**

*Rank 4 Attack*

Cost: 20 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 4

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: You touch a Gu Master with the *restrained* condition between their eyes, and Problem Nipped in the Bud Gu attaches to their head. At the end of each of your turns, a random Gu is extracted from their aperture and the will inside is obliterated, turning the Gu wild. If the target loses the *restrained* condition, Problem Nipped in the Bud Gu deactivates.

## **Regrowth Gu**

*Rank 1 Tonic*

Cost: 60 portions

Range: Touch

Health: 11

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Touch a creature within range. That creature regrows a single severed limb instantaneously and regains 10 hit points.

## **Resurgence Gu**

*Rank 2 Tonic*

Previous Rank: Silver Lining Gu

Cost: 15 portions

Range: 3 meters

Health: 12

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Can only be activated as a reaction to getting hit by an attack or missing an attack against another creature. You and any number of creatures of your choice within range regain 15 hit points.

## **Rot Gu**

*Rank 2 Catalyst*

Cost: 10 portions

Range: 3 meters

Health: 22

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Target a corpse or undead creature within range. If it is a corpse, it quickly spoils and rots before the skin and flesh sloughs off the bones and the skeleton disintegrates. If an undead creature is targeted, it rots at a slower rate, and takes 1/3 of its maximum hit points (rounded up) in force damage directly to its hit points. While sustained, the target takes another 1/3 of its maximum hit points (rounded up) at the start of your turn.

## **Scarecrow Gu**

*Rank 1 Manifestation*

Cost: 15 portions

Range: 1 meter

Health: 12

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: A 1 meter tall scarecrow manifests in an unoccupied square adjacent to you. The scarecrow has 50 hit points and regains 10 hit points at the start of each of your turns. Hiding behind it counts as partial cover.

If within a 2x2 area there are 3 or more scarecrows, hiding behind them instead counts as full cover.

## **Stranglewood Gu**

*Rank 2 Attack*

Cost: 14 portions

Range: 5 meters

Health: 14

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Select a 2 meter radius circle within range. Roots and vines burst forth from the ground, and creatures in the area must succeed an **Athletics** test with a +20 penalty or else be *restrained* for 1 minute. A *restrained* creature can remake the test as a combat action on its turn to free itself.

## **Thorn Burst Gu**

*Rank 1 Attack*

Cost: 25 portions

Range: 5 meters

Health: 28

Food: 500 g of roses

Effect: A cloud of thorns bursts from your outstretched hand in a 5 meter long cone. Creatures in the area take 6 force damage.

**[Upgrade Path: Three Star Cave Gu]** This Gu appears to be an acorn of brown color at rank 1, getting darker as it is upgraded. Rank 3 Three Star Cave Gu is pitch black.

## **One Star Cave Gu**

*Rank 1 Container*

Cost: 50 portions

Range: Self

Health: 5

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: One Star Cave Gu must be planted in any kind of soil to be activated. A 3 meter radius tree containing a single room is manifested above One Star Cave Gu. It has a door on one side of your choice. The owner of One Star Cave Gu can touch any part of the tree and spend 1 portion of primeval essence as an activation to instantly revert One Star Cave Gu back to its original form.

The tree has 50 hit points and vulnerability to heat and rending damage. If the tree is reduced to 0 hit points, this effect ends.

## **Two Star Cave Gu**

*Rank 2 Container*

Cost: 50 portions

Range: Self

Health: 5

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Two Star Cave Gu must be planted in any kind of soil to be activated. A two-story tall, 3 meter radius tree is manifested above Two Star Cave Gu. It has a door on one side of your choice and a ladder leading to the second floor. Each floor has a single room, furnished in a manner of your choice. Two Star Cave Gu can only manifest basic wooden furniture such as tables, chairs, and cabinets. The owner of Two Star Cave Gu can touch any part of the tree and spend 1 portion of primeval essence as an activation to instantly revert One Star Cave Gu back to its original form.

The tree has 250 hit points and vulnerability to heat and rending damage. If the tree is reduced to 0 hit points, this effect ends.

## **Three Star Cave Gu**

*Rank 3 Container*

Cost: 50 portions

Range: Self

Health: 5

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Effect: Three Star Cave Gu must be planted in any kind of soil to be activated. A three-story tall, 5 meter radius tree is manifested above Three Star Cave Gu. It has a door on one side and a staircase leading to the second and third floors. Each floor has a single room, furnished in a manner of your choice. Three Star Cave Gu can manifest wood, cloth, and stone furniture such as counters, chairs, and beds. The owner of Three Star Cave Gu can touch any part of the tree and spend 1 portion of primeval essence as an activation to instantly revert One Star Cave Gu back to its original form.

The tree has 1000 hit points and vulnerability to heat and rending damage. If the tree is reduced to 0 hit points, this effect ends.

## **Wardrobe Gu**

*Rank 2 Container*

Cost: 1 portion

Range: Self

Health: 25

Food: 1 kg of silk (5 primeval stones)

Effect: Can store up to 50 kg of clothes and armor. Upon activation, a set of clothes stored inside Wardrobe Gu of your choice replaces whatever you are wearing, while the clothes you were wearing are stored within Wardrobe Gu. If you do not choose an outfit, you merely store the clothes you are wearing.

## **Wine Sack Flower Gu**

*Rank 1 Manifestation*

Cost: 15 portions

Range: Self

Health: 9

Food: 1 kg rice (1/4 primeval stone)

Effect: Wine Sack Flower Gu blooms, forming a bowl made of petals containing 3 kg of rice wine.

## **Wood Charm Gu**

*Rank 3 Carver*

Cost: 2 portions

Range: Self

Health: 8

Food: Natural primeval essence (none)

Keywords: [Dao], [Sustained]

Effect: While sustained, your skin becomes bark as you transform into a tree spirit and gain the ability to absorb primeval essence from the surroundings. At the end of each of your turns, you and any creatures in a square adjacent to you regain 10 portions of primeval essence. Your bark skin also reduces rending and force damage dealt to your hit points by 10.

At the start of each of your turns, make a **Perseverance** attribute test. On a failure, you gain a **Wood Charm Token** and your body becomes slightly more tree-like. If you ever have 10 **Wood Charm Tokens**, your body is permanently transfigured into a small tree and you die.

As long as you have 9 or fewer **Wood Charm Tokens**, every month you go without activating Wood Charm Gu reduces the number of **Wood Charm Tokens** you have by 1.

## **Wood Origin Gu**

*Rank 3 Carver*

Cost: 50 portions

Range: Self

Health: 15

Food: <!-- TODO -->

Keywords: [Dao], [Expendable]

Effect: You carve wood path dao into your body, gaining a **Wood Dao Token**. For every **Wood Dao Token** you have, you gain a -5 bonus to **Refinement** tests made to follow or improve wood path Gu recipes and reduce the amount of primeval essence used to activate wood path Gu by 1 portion (to a minimum of 1). Additionally, each **Wood Dao Token** you have reduces your base movement by 1 as your skin and flesh hardens into bark and wood. You cannot have more than 5 **Wood Dao Tokens**.

::: Talents [PATH] Epitome Cost: 50xp Requires: [Path] Attainment

Your body seems to agree with [Path] on a fundamental level.

Reduce any damage suffered from [Path] Gu by 10. Reduce activation costs of [Path] Gu by 5, to a minimum of 1.

# Cheat Sheet

- **Skill Test:** Roll d100
  - 99 or 100 = Fumble (auto-fail).
  - $\leq 1/10$  of skill value = Critical (auto-success).
  - Degrees of success/failure: Every 10 above/below skill value.
- **Penalties/Bonuses:** Add/subtract from roll.
  - +80: Nearly Impossible, 0: Challenging, -60: Trivial.
- **Advantage:** Roll extra d10, take lower tens. Stackable from different sources.

## Opposed Tests

- Both roll skill test; compare degrees of success/failure.
- Critical beats non-critical; fumble loses to non-fumble.
- Tie: Lower roll wins; if still tied, reroll.

## Combat

- **Initiative:** Roll Close Combat (if enemy  $\leq 3m$ ) or Ranged Attack. Most degrees of success acts first. In the case of ties, the lower number on the die goes first.
- **Turn:** 10 seconds.
  - Actions: 1 Combat Action, 2 Reactions, 1 Bonus Action, Movement.
- **Movement:** Move meters = movement stat. Jumping costs half movement.
- **Flying:** Use Flying skill for maneuvers (Take Flight, Fly, Dive, Evade, Land).
- **Melee Attack:** Roll Close Combat vs enemy in range. Damage = weapon + 1 per 10 Strength.
- **Grapple:** Opposed Athletics. Restrained if you win.
- **Absorb Primeval Stones:** 5 essence per stone, 1 stone per free hand.
- **Hold Action:** Specify action & trigger; use reaction when triggered.
- **Sprint:** Triple movement for turn.

## Reactions

- **Activate Shield Gu:** As reaction to being hit, before damage.
- **Dodge:** Dodge test; When you succeed a Dodge test, you MUST move at least 1 meter and at most 1/2 your movement (rounded down) in any direction. If you are unable to move, you are also unable to take the dodge reaction. If 1/2 of your movement is insufficient to escape an area of effect attack, you are struck by the attack regardless.
- **Parry:** Opposed Close Combat (+10 penalty); counterattack if successful.
- **Detonate Gu:** Instantly destroy any owned/refined Gu.
- **Trigger Held Action:** Use held action when trigger occurs.
- **Opportunity Attack:** Attack creature leaving melee range with melee attack.

## Damage & Status

- **Damage Types:** Force, Rending, Cold, Heat, Poison, Shock, Sonic, Direct.
- **Bleeding X:** X direct HP loss per stack at start of turn.
- **Burning:** 4 direct heat damage per turn. Remove by water or rolling as a combat action.

- **Ablaze:** 15 direct heat damage per turn. **Perseverence** test at the end of each turn they take damage or fall unconscious. Remove by being submerged.
- **Dazed:** 2 fewer activations per turn. Removed at the end of your turn.
- **Restrained:** Movement 0, auto-fail Dodge/Flying.
- **Stunned:** No actions or reactions. Is removed at the end of your turn and replaced with *dazed*.
- **Prone:** +30 penalty to all skill tests. **Close Combat** tests made to hit a *prone* creature gain a -10 bonus. **Ranged Attack** tests made to hit a *prone* creature gain a +10 penalty. Expend half movement to stand up.
- **Poisoned:** Poison can have any number of effects, and a creature can gain multiple instances of the *poisoned* condition so long as each is unique.
- **Final Stand:** Can only activate Gu or hold action. Any damage = Dying.
- **Dying:** Unconscious. Perseverance test each turn; 3 Perseverance Tokens (successes) = Final Stand, 3 Predicament Tokens (fails) = Death.
- **Instant Death:** Damage  $\geq 2 \times$  max HP from one source.

## Cultivation & Progression

- **Small Realm:** Spend primeval essence to reduce aperture wall health.
- **Large Realm:** Walls regenerate over time. Compare wall recovery to your primeval essence recovery; must be positive to break through.
- **Cultivation Test:** Roll once per hour with {-50, -40, -20, -10, 0} bonus; fail = soul damage equal to degrees of failure (min 1).

## Gu Basics

- **Rank:** 1–5 (higher = rarer, stronger).
- **Activation Cost:** If Gu rank > user, cost  $\times 4$  per rank above. If Gu rank < user, cost = 1.
- **Feeding Threshold:** {3 days, 7 days, 30 days, 250 days, 10 years}
- **Refinement:** Roll Refinement test (penalty/bonus by recipe). On success: Roll failure die (1 = fail). On failure: Soul and Gu damaged by (degrees of failure \* rank).
- **Vital Gu:** First refined Gu; if it dies, you die. Cannot die from refinement backlash.

## Gu Keywords

- **Deductive:** Unlocks Deduction action.
- **Dao:** User cannot be affected by [Dao] Gu of different paths at same time.
- **Defensive:** Can activate as a reaction.
- **Expendable X:** Destroyed after X uses (usually 1).
- **Low Vitality:** Does not heal when fed.
- **Piercing:** Ignores non-dao barriers.
- **Shield:** Absorbs damage meant to hit the user.
- **Size:** Tiny (Insect), Small (child), Medium (adult), Large (bear), Huge (elephant+).
- **Steed:** Can be ridden.
- **Supplementary:** Alters subsequent activations.
- **Sustained:** Pay cost each turn; soul damage if # sustained > Activations.
- **Unreactable:** Reactions delayed until after effect.
- **Vital:** If it dies, the owner dies.