Performing Magic

Powerful. Infinite. Unpredictable.

Magic is commonplace in the Hundred Realms, though use of it differs from Realm to Realm. Some Realms encourage all those who reside to study magic, others consider it an abomination against nature. Some see it as a gift, though one to be used wisely, others see it as a curse and a scourge. Magic cares not, and persists, ready to be used by whoever is willing to pay the price.

Magic is also unpredictable. Its effects can vary wildly, leaving even the most prepared Mage surprised. Knowing what magic to cast and what it costs can be a tricky game, with some Mages choosing only to risk casting when the effects are known and prices certain (publicised here), while others are more willing to experiment. It's a dangerous game, but can reward the bold just as easily as it can punish them.

Quick Guide

- All magic is cast from Scrolls by opening it, reading the effect and following the instructions.
- Anyone can open and read a scroll to use it in this way
- Opening a Scroll uses the Scroll up
- Only Mages can create Scrolls and must do so at the Fonts of Magic
- All Scrolls have a cost in a number of Beans and other components. Curses in particular require some Blood
- If the Scroll cost is incorrectly paid, the Scroll's effect and/or target will be chosen at random
- Blessings are a type of Magic that confer a benefit so long as the target abides by some condition
- Curses are a type of Magic that impose a detriment to the target until they meet some condition
- Mages can only have at most one Blessing and at most one Curse active at any time
- Scrolls may not be destroyed by any means but may be annotated on

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Scrolls

All Magic created is unleashed upon the world through Scrolls. These are created at the Font of Magic and are sealed once created until they are used, whereupon whoever opens them should read the instructions and follow them to the letter. For Blessings and Curses this is slightly different: Blessings and Curses will be enacted immediately, and the effects on both the Creator and Target will be made known to them at once.

Using Scrolls

To use a scroll you must open it and read its full effect before continuing. Reading a scroll takes your full attention and you cannot fight or defend yourself during this time. If the Scroll states that it must

be shown to the target then they must read it instead.

Sealed Scrolls may be written on, if you so wish, or affixed with other markers to help you remember what is inside them (or what you think is inside them). Scrolls may not be destroyed by any means.

Creating Scrolls

Scrolls are created by Mages at the Font of Magic. There, Mages should approach with a clear idea of the magic they wish to create, and the components that they are going to put into it. They should have a clear **Target** and **Effect** in mind, and know the **Price** of the magic they are going to cast. The Target and Effect will be imprinted on the Scroll, the Price will not.

Any Target or Effect can be described by the Mage, and changing these will change the Scroll's Price. If the correct Price is paid then the Scroll will be created. If not, it will be Miscast. If you Miscast, you will get an idea of which component of the Price was incorrect, and in which direction (overpaid or underpaid).

Price

Magic comes with a Price. All magic requires at least ONE (1) **Magic Bean** to cast, but most known Scrolls require multiple Beans, and all known Curses require a component of **Blood**. It is rumoured that more powerful Scrolls have other material requirements, but these are closely guarded by the Mages who have created them.

Beans

Magic Beans are generated automatically by Mages and can be collected every 6 hours from the Font. Some territories also create Beans and these can be collected from the Conquest table by the appropriate Monarch. These appear to be crucial to the casting of magic and appear to occur spontaneously around Mages, defying current explanation.

Blood

Blood is required to perform darker magic, alongside Magic Beans. The cost of 1 Blood can be provided by a character presenting themselves at the Font of Magic and paying the cost, reducing their maximum body hits by 1 for the next 12 hours. Hits gained from Armour Use cannot be sacrificed in this way. Any character reduced to a maximum 0 body hits in this way will suffer a Mortal Wound

Other Components

Magic is capricious and occasionally will require other components. These are generally more unpredictable, and vary across more esoteric magic. If a Mage attempts to create a Scroll with such an additional component but does not have it, the Mage creating the Scroll will get an impression of

what additional component they need in order to cast correctly and will have around 5 minutes to find and bring it to the Font of Magic. If they fail to do so, the Scroll is miscast as the Price is not paid.

Miscasting



Magic is volatile and if the effect or target is badly specified, or the Price is paid incorrectly, then the magic will misfire. It will still be cast, but the effects of the magic may vary wildly as Magic draws components in seemingly at random. Some Mages consider this a cheap way to get useful effects, and will stockpile spells known as “Wild Magic”. Such irresponsible use of Magic is often frowned upon by their more careful colleagues.

Didn't Pay The Price

All magic has a specific Price. That cost comes as a number of Beans and other components (commonly Blood for curses). The Price of a Scroll must be paid in full and correctly upon creating the Scroll. If it is not, the magic will be miscast at random, either selecting a random target or producing a random effect (or both!). There is much scholarly dispute over whether spells that are *overpaid* are less catastrophic than spells which are *underpaid*, but it is usually the case that an *overpaid* spell will have the desired effect, but hit a wider and uncontrollable number of targets.

Badly Specified Spells

If a Mage fails to specify the Target or Effect of their spell in good time or fail to specify these clearly, these parts of the spell will be drawn randomly regardless of whether the Price of the desired spell was paid correctly.

Spells, Curses and Blessings



Magic generally takes one of three forms: **spells**, **curses**, and **blessings**, all of which are created as Scrolls. Every Scroll is labelled with its Creator's name, the cost that was paid for the Scroll, and two components: a **target**, and an **effect**. A Blessing or Curse has a **condition**. Publicly known examples of all types of Magic can be found on the Spell List.

Target

The Target of a Scroll will indicate who the magic affects. This could be a named individual, a territory, or it could be a more general description, e.g. “Ethelred the Green”, “The next ally you see”, “All monsters within 5m of you”, “Nearest Ally”, “The Stronghold of Aelaria”. If you open a Scroll and are unclear as to who it targets, ask a Ref at your earliest convenience.

Magic that targets elements of the Conquest Table will only have effect if handed in to the Conquest Ref: if opened otherwise the effect will be wasted.

Targets that require a judgment call on your part (for example “NEAREST FRIEND” or “YOU LOT CONTAINING AT LEAST ONE ENEMY”) are yours to call. If you count someone as a friend or enemy then you can target the spell at them.

If you open a Scroll with no valid Target (for example, “NEAREST ENEMY” with no enemies in sight) then the Scroll is wasted.

Effect

This details the effect of the Scroll. You should read this carefully before announcing what happens. Some effects may grant abilities to the target, others may do damage. Curses and Blessings will bestow an effect of some sort upon the target, some may cause major alteration to the Conquest table.

Effects will either be listed as IMMEDIATELY or SOON.

- **IMMEDIATELY** effects must be read and acted on immediately, such as “IMMEDIATELY - call STRIKEDOWN on the target”
- **SOON** effects may be delayed until you are out of Combat to read (since it takes your full concentration to do so, you may choose to do this in Combat if you wish but on your own head!), such as “SOON - For the next 30 minutes you gain the ability to once call YOU

> STRIKEDOWN at a target within 10m". Once you have read the effect it will take effect: this is not a means of delaying an effect but rather a convenience tool.

Some effects will detail that you should SHOW THIS SCROLL TO THE TARGET. You may still read the Scroll to find out what magic you have cast on the Target, but must show the Scroll to the Target regardless of what it says.

Some effects will last for a duration (e.g. "For the next 30 minutes you gain the ability to once call YOU STRIKEDOWN at the nearest ally") - such Scrolls should be kept on your person until they are no longer valid (and ideally the time you opened the Scroll noted on the Scroll itself).

OC Note: attempting to make an effect which we cannot feasibly represent (e.g. "Targets hair suddenly turns pink" or "Gravity reverses") will usually result in failure. You will be given the option to change your mind if the scroll you are making would fail due to implausibility.

Condition

This details the conditions under which a Blessing or Curse will be broken. The condition for a Blessing will always be a rule that the source must abide by (while something is true), whereas the condition for a Curse will be a condition that the target will attempt to break (until something is true). At any point where the condition for breaking the Blessing or Curse is broken, the effect will no longer affect either the source or the target. A Ref should be informed so that the other party may be informed also.

Conditions cannot be literally or essentially impossible to meet or abide by, and cannot be universally applicable. For example, "while the target draws breath" or "while the target walks on their hands" are not valid conditions for Blessings, since the first is always true while the target is alive and the second is essentially impossible to maintain; "Until one means two" or "Until you fold a piece of paper 10 times" are not valid conditions for Curses since both are impossible. If you specify such an impossible condition, the spell will fail and the components will be refunded.

It is not required, but players are encouraged to create conditions that can be interpreted in multiple ways.

Example valid conditions:

- While the target tells only truths (valid Blessing condition)
- While the target does not engage in combat (valid Blessing condition)
- While the target speaks in rhyme (valid Blessing condition)

- Until the Queen of Aelaria no longer draws breath (valid Curse condition)
- Until you make a True Love bond (valid Curse condition)
- Until Roderick is no longer a Monarch (valid Curse condition)

Spells

Are the standard way magic is cast. They are generally considered neutral and cover most general uses of magic from combat to healing to conquest. A number of commonplace spells are listed on the Spell List.

Blessings

- Blessings are beneficial to the target
- Blessings are more powerful than Spells
- Blessings always confer at least one RESIST
- Blessings require a condition that the Target must maintain else the Blessing is broken
- If you break the condition of a Blessing you must inform a Ref as soon as possible and they will inform the person who Blessed you
- The target of a Blessing will know who has Blessed them.
- You may only be Blessing one target at a time

Blessings are “Good” magic that provide a powerful benefit to a target so long as the caster abides by a condition. Casting a blessing takes a lot of effort and focus on a target by the casting mage, and so each Mage can only cast one Blessing at a time. Once created, a Blessing will be delivered to its beneficiary immediately.

Curses

- Curses are detrimental to the target.
- Curses are more powerful than Spells.
- Curses require Blood to be cast.
- Curses require a condition to be specified that if met will break the Curse
- The target of a Curse will know who has Cursed them.
- If you believe you have successfully broken the condition of a Curse, inform a Ref and they will tell you whether you have succeeded and if so inform the person who Cursed you.
- The creator of a Curse will suffer a side-effect from the Curse while it remains unbroken.
- You may only be Cursing one target at a time.

Curses are “Dark” magic that cast a powerful negative effect on a target until some condition is met to break the curse. Casting a curse takes a lot of effort and emotion from the caster and as such each Mage can only cast one Curse at a time. Curses that are active at the start of an Event will also have a deleterious side-effect upon the caster. Once created, a Curse will be delivered to its victim immediately.

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