

# Chapter 1: Base Rules

Kaurath will be run using the base Accelerant rules. The world specific rules contained herein build on them to implement our vision of the Kaurath campaign.

Accelerant is a different system from the one Kaurath has been run under. One thing those coming from older rules may notice is that all the numbers are smaller and that most combat is silent or has very few game effects called. Most attacks are “uncalled”. No specific damage needs to be mentioned and the blow does one point. Combat is quiet enough to hear the incantations of spells and the orders of the field commanders.

## Welcome

You are preparing to enter a game world using the Accelerant system. The system is designed to be simple in concept and execution yet have a rich and varied set of skills and abilities with which to develop characters and stories. To do this we have created a set of Core Rules that defines all of the effects of the game and presents them to you within the first chapter of the rule book. All skills and special abilities refer back to these Core Rules, so once you have learned the Core Rules you know how to react to effects from any Accelerant game, even though the skills or abilities that allow a character to use those effects may be very different.

## Rules of Etiquette

In an activity as fluid and full of unexpected circumstances as live action games, it is important that each player attempt to follow the spirit as well as the letter of the rules. Although we have tried to create a set of rules that is as cut and dry as possible, there are certain rules that are difficult or impossible to quantify that are necessary to promote atmosphere or safety. These rules are marked as Rules of Etiquette. These rules are difficult or impossible to quantify. We know this, and if players abuse them or become less than graceful when using them the game will suffer. We trust the player to follow the intent of the rules, and to be particularly careful to be graceful when dealing with Rules of Etiquette.

-The first rule of etiquette is that abusive language or actions are not tolerated, whether they are in game or not. Language or actions that are derogatory or that are deemed to be harassment are not allowed.

-References to explicit sexual behavior or concepts, particularly violent ones, are not allowed. In game threats should be worded so they are clearly in game.

-Whenever you are required to roleplay an effect you must always do so in a safe manner. If you must adjust your roleplay or position slightly to make the game safer for you or another player we ask you to do so. You should take care before moving in crowded areas even if you must play out the effect in a slightly different manner. You are encouraged to take the extra step or two when playing out an effect if it removes you from an area that is detrimental to your health such as a puddle or an area with too many other players.

-To encourage the use of good costuming and add a little more realism, we have the Costume Rule. If a packet attack clearly misses a target and passes by the body, yet that packet hits a cloak or costuming piece after it has gone past, the defender can call out "costume." This rule cannot be used if the costuming is in front of the defender or if the packet has not already passed the body. The rule is in place to encourage cloaks, back banners, and some directed character costuming such as wings without adding an unacceptable disadvantage to the character in combat.

-If a character using Concentrate is in a swirling fight where new combatants are coming into fighting range, then the caster should call out "Concentrate" each time they willingly switch targets so everyone in the fight knows what is going on.

-Players who are unconscious close to combat may open their eyes to watch for out of game danger if the battle moves too close. It is important for players to be able to protect themselves during these times. If you open your eyes for safety reasons then we ask that anything you see during that time remain outside the normal knowledge of the game.

-Players with bad knees or physical impairments may be given plot permission to stand with their arms raised and their hands behind their head to indicate they are resting on the field.

-Delivering a Disarm effect against a weapon requires an attack against the opponent's weapon. You must finish the verbal and move your weapon forward, attacking with the legal striking surface. You cannot call Disarm if you are simply blocking your opponent's attack, you must be making an effort to strike at the weapon.

**Please note, that these rules of etiquette are normally placed throughout these base rules, but we have collected them in one spot for convenience so you can read them all at once and the rules can flow. The areas these have come from will state: "\*\*\* See Rules of Etiquette."**

## **Game Actions**

The system is designed to keep the game running as smoothly and fluidly as possible. The game takes place in a site full of props, buildings, and other players. The rules define how you interact with the environment and other players. The game has removed actions and effects players cannot actually perform from the gameplay. There are no creatures stepping through solid walls, no flying creatures, and no activities that cannot be played without interrupting the flow of the game. Characters that step into rifts and turn to spirit, or characters that die and rise as spirits are still visible as they walk off. You cannot attempt actions such as chopping up bodies or breaking down doors that cannot be performed for logistical or safety reasons.

## **Always In Game**

Players stay in game and in character from the start of the event to its end. There is no "out of game" except during emergencies. There are no out of game indicators such as white

headbands, and no people should be wandering about unless they are there in the actual game. The idea is to keep the game flowing so players can stay in character and be immersed in the story. If you have a question, attempt to word it and ask it in game. If you feel you must leave the game, walk to the edge of the game area in character and leave the game for a time. You should never interrupt the flow of the game.

The system is also designed to minimize the times you cannot act on what you see, hear and feel. You are always in game, even if your character is unconscious, dead, or affected by a game condition that incapacitates you. Your spirit is still with you and can experience the game world around you. You do not need to pretend you did not experience the game even under these conditions. If your eyes are closed then you might not see what is going on, but you will remember everything you hear, smell, and feel. Your character also will realize this and knows that sometimes dead men do tell tales.

There is no information that is out of game. If you don't want other players to know something in game, don't talk about it out of game. Keep your in game secrets to yourself, and if you talk out of game about something other players can decide they learned that information in game if they feel that the conversation unfairly inflicts knowledge upon them they did not want to know. If you want in game secrets, keep out of game secrets.

The only caveat is that sometimes players experienced with a game play different characters altogether. Perhaps you have lost a previous character to death and are playing a new character. Perhaps, as a change of pace, you are participating as a non-player character or you are playing a plot character for a time. If you play a different character, creature, or plot role within the same game world we ask you not transfer anything you learn to other characters.

To keep the game flowing as smoothly as possible, we have defined the following ways to handle issues and interruptions.

**We intend to use the always in game rule as written, but talk with people you want to share your excitement with before sharing if you want to keep it a secret. We understand how much you want to share your intrigue and secrets and encourage healthy ways to honor this rule, but still be able to discuss what has you excited. And we'd like you to be able to do that without in game consequences. So ask whoever you're talking to if they're "ok with you telling them about something you are doing in game that you don't want their character to talk about".**

## **Caution**

This phrase indicates some condition that may threaten the health of a player. A caution should never last more than 10 seconds. It indicates that those people who are close to or involved in that problem should pause so someone can get clear, get up, or move away from a threat. Only those people nearby need to pause until the problem resolves. Everyone involved in a caution is still responsible to the game, and should still be cautious of in-game threats. They may move away from the Caution or pause until the person has dealt with the problem.

## **Clarification**

This phrase works like Caution, but it indicates that someone needs a quick explanation of what happened. People directly involved pause for up to three seconds while someone repeats a verbal or quickly indicates a condition or result of something. This should be used infrequently, if ever. It is present for new players who may be overwhelmed and confused during their first game or two.

## **Let Me Clarify**

This phrase, which can only be used by plot approved non-player characters, indicates that any encounter information that follows should be considered true. There are times when your character may not trust another character. This phrase indicates that the information that the character, trustworthy or not, will impart is important and true information about how some specific encounter works. This phrase cannot be used unless the player has plot approval for that specific encounter, and the information imparted must be a clarification of some specific game effect or encounter.

## **Emergency**

This phrase should come up rarely. This means there is a medical emergency that needs attention. The game play stops, and everyone who hears the emergency should drop to a knee to indicate that a real problem exists. Emergency should only be called if there is a real problem and someone could be hurt. It is critical that when Emergency is called you stop moving. You could step on a person or a pair of expensive glasses if you move after this call.

## **Safety Restrictions**

There are a number of basic safety restrictions in the Accelerant system to ensure the safety, comfort, and enjoyment of all.

## **No Physical Contact**

You have no reason to touch another player in the Accelerant system. Physical contact is not allowed. You may contact another player with a boffer weapon in a legal attack area and you may contact another player by touching a packet to their arm or shoulder to deliver a "touch cast" effect. Violators will be asked to leave the game.

## **Searching a Character**

Because the game does not allow physical contact, you may not physically search someone else. Instead you approach within searching distance, roleplay the searching motion with both hands held out above their body, and tell them in a low voice "I am searching you." You may have items in your off hand during this process, but may not block with weapons. The player

reveals items you have found. The player may make a pouch available for you to reach into and take items.

### **Search For...**

Some skills can give you the ability to use a special searching effect on a dead or helpless creature after you have finished your normal search. This searching attempt is represented by the verbal "Search for <Item Type>" where the item type is specified in the skill. You cannot use this effect unless you have a skill or ability that allows you to do so. Using a skill with this Search effect might reveal additional items, or it might trigger a response effect targeted on you. The Search effect is the name for the special search attempt, and the Search response is a resulting effect the targeted character calls out when you search them.

As an example, after you search an elemental you might have a skill that allows you to call out "With elemental harvesting, Search for True Elements." That NPC might give up additional items, it might reply "You find nothing," or it might even use a counter effect such as "Refresh 1 Fire." If searching some creatures is dangerous, the creature might even reply with a detrimental search response.

It is also possible for games to create skills that let you use a defense against some or all search responses.

### **Carrying a Character**

Because the game does not allow physical contact, you may not physically carry or drag another person. Instead you simply tell the person you are picking them up and roleplay carrying them along. They must get up and walk with you while you pretend to hold their shoulders. You cannot move faster than a walk while carrying someone else. If you are unable to move while being carried you walk with your head bowed and arms at your sides.

If you are carrying a character and that character is struck by an effect from a melee, missile, or packet attack that is not beneficial, you will also take that effect unless you "drop" the character immediately. If you are being carried and someone "drops" you then you roleplay falling to the ground. If you are being carried, you must roleplay an effect with a moan or grunt even if you are paralyzed or dead to indicate you have been struck. If you are carrying someone who role plays an effect, and you do not know what the effect was, you must drop them. You may pick up a body after dropping it as soon as that body stops moving.

**\*\* See Rules of Etiquette.**

### **No Alcohol or Drugs**

You cannot consume alcohol or drugs on the premises of the game unless the drugs are for medical use. You cannot be under the influence of these while on the premises of the game. Violators will be asked to leave the game. If any drug or substance appears to inhibit a player's judgment a staff reserves the right to ask that player to rest, away from the action, or to leave the game.

## **Rules Restrictions**

As you play the game and wander around the world, there is a lot you can do to affect the game environment around you. Conversely, there are lots of effects that can change how you play the game, for both good and bad. Other characters may attempt to inflict unpleasant fates upon you, and you might attempt to do the same to them.

There are three restrictions on your activities.

The first is an environmental restriction. When you come across props that represent certain environments, such as tarp walls representing solid walls, you must play as if that condition was real. You cannot move tarp walls, you cannot walk across black pits, and you cannot enter areas marked out of game.

The second is an effect restriction. If an effect has been inflicted upon you, you must abide by the restriction of that effect until it is removed. If you have a Slow effect you cannot run. If you have the Maim effect you cannot use the maimed limb. Effects can be inflicted upon you in a variety of ways.

The third is a skill restriction. If there is a skill that specifically allows you to manipulate a prop or perform some action, you cannot attempt to perform that action or manipulate that prop unless you have that skill. You cannot pick up weapons and try to fight unless you have the skill to do so. You cannot manipulate traps unless you have the skill to do so, although you can attempt to avoid them.

## **Prop Restrictions**

You are not allowed to bring to an event any prop that resembles or could be mistaken for common or unique game items provided by plot without the express permission of the game staff. You cannot attempt to duplicate or forge game money, item props, tags, or logistical documents such as character or monster cards. Any attempt to use in game means to create fakes of any items must be approved by the plot committee.

You are not allowed to break, destroy, or take apart any prop. If a prop is attached to a wall by a chain, for example, you cannot attempt to break or detach that chain in any way. The Destroy effect does not change the basic structure of a prop; it just makes the item unusable for any game related purpose.

Most props have no in game worth. Costuming, jewelry, weapons, and area props cannot be moved from the area they are placed in except by the owner. These props provide no in game benefit and disallowing their removal ensures these props are not broken or lost. Props may be handled but must be put back where they are found unless they have a sticker.

Small circular stickers indicate special rules about handling an item. If an item has a red circle, it cannot be moved at all. It cannot be picked up or touched. It will not move. If an item has a yellow or green sticker, it seems to be valuable. A small, yellow, circular sticker means the

prop may be taken but it must be turned in at checkout. A small green circular sticker means you can take the prop and hold on to it. Special items may also have a red sticker with a rune or number on it. These stickers indicate that characters may not pick up or touch the item unless they have a skill or ability that allows them to manipulate objects marked by that symbol or number.

Items may also be marked by attaching a short green, yellow, or red ribbon to indicate the item's in game status. These ribbons replace stickers and have the same meaning. A ribbon can be used to mark small items that don't have room for a sticker, such as rings, or on items where plot feels that a ribbon would look better or be more evident to the players. This ribbon may have codes or markings on it in the same manner that stickers can have markings for players with specific skills to recognize.

Some game effects will enhance an object such as a weapon or a piece of armor. When an item has been enhanced by a game effect, an effect sticker will be placed upon it so long as the enhancement is in place. Items with effect stickers are treated as if they were yellow stickers. If you have an effect sticker upon your weapon, that prop can be stolen from you. You should bring back up props if you want to use item enhancements.

## **Game Environment**

Games take place at a site, usually a campground. This site defines the boundaries of the game. During game play, a player may attempt to enter any area within the game boundaries unless the area is marked with a yellow information sign. Areas marked with information signs are either special areas with additional rules described by the sign or they are out of game and impassable.

## **Out of Game Areas**

Areas that are out of game are marked by the yellow or hazard orange signs with text marking it Out of Game. You may not enter these areas. The text of the sign indicates why, in game, this area cannot be entered. Some areas might be described as collapsed and ruined piles of rubble that have no real interior. Other areas might be marked as impassable swamp.

## **Special Areas**

Areas with special restrictions or rules will be marked by the yellow or hazard orange signs with game information printed on it. This sign will have game information written upon it that will describe the circumstances that make the area special.

## **Gates**

Portals ringed with strings of decorative light are magical portals. These portals lead to other places. Some lead to other places in this world, some lead to places beyond this world. If a portal is ringed with lights and they are not lit then you cannot go through that portal.

The areas beyond gates are often marked with yellow information signs, so you should always look around after going through a gate. Gates have a disorienting effect to compensate for the time it takes to spot and read a yellow sign.

White gates are open portals. If the lights are on, anyone may step through the gate. White gates will always appear in ruined areas.

Colored gates are special. Only special staff characters that control the gate may bring you through a gate with colored lights. If there is no guide you cannot enter the gate. Some colored gates are free standing, with no actual area on the other side. If you enter such a gate at the request of a staff character then you will become a spirit. You will not be affected by any attacks and you must reply "Spirit" to any attack that strikes you. You cannot use any game skills or converse with anyone else. You are visible to others, but you cannot converse with them and you can only enter an area indicated by the spirit guide who leads you. You must follow the spirit guide until you exit through another gate and your guide indicates you have assumed your normal form.

### **Turn Back Markers**

Some games have locations in a game site that are normally accessible to players, but are sometimes closed for specific encounters or modules. While this is usually handled with yellow information signs, it is often difficult to spot and read information signs without entering the encounter area to read them, especially at night. To make this easier, areas can be marked with circular information signs (rather than the usual octagonal signs) and at night these signs are lit with circular rings created with looped glow bracelets. If you spot these Turn Back Markers hanging in the area, it means that the area is inaccessible and you should stay away unless you are led to the area by a spirit, a scout, or a similar guide.

It is often left to the player to explain why they cannot proceed when they spot Turn Back Markers. One common reason is that the area ahead is an impassable swamp. Another is that a mist has risen and players cannot find their way through the area. Sometimes players simply state that the area ahead looks uninteresting and turn back. It is left to you and your companions to come up with a plausible reason that you cannot proceed when you spot a Turn Back Marker.

### **Combat**

During the game, you can be the subject of various attacks. Each attack will affect you. Some effects can benefit you, and some will deliver unpleasant effects upon you. Each attack has a verbal that describes what the attack does and a delivery that determines how the attack is used against the target.

### **Verbals**

A verbal is a short phrase that is called out when an ability is used to explain the effect of that attack. Each verbal can have an effect and a trait for that attack. The trait indicates the flavor of the attack so you may roleplay the effects and perhaps use a defense to negate the attack if it strikes you. The effect indicates what the attack does to you.

A verbal is an out of game phrase. You must call your verbal even if you are affected by Silence. If you hear the beginning of a verbal you must listen to the phrase and play out the effect.

Verbals for melee attacks are called as you swing your weapon. Verbals for missile and packet attacks are called out before you release the projectile from your hand. You call a phrase that takes the form of [Effect] by [Trait]. For example, a poison that freezes you in place would use the verbal "Paralyze by Poison" and a bolt of fire that causes 5 points of damage would use "5 Damage by Fire" as the verbal.

If you hear a verbal, your character knows what happened. The verbal not only tells you the effect out of game, but it represents the sight, sound and feel of the attack in game. You never have to play it dumb. The verbal "4 Damage by Fire" might represent a roar of flame. The verbal "Maim by Lightning" might represent a flash of light. The verbal "Paralyze by Fear" might represent the hairs rising on the back of your neck. However you imagine it, the verbal tells you what happened both in and out of the game.

Verbals should not be confused with incantations. Incantations are magical words that are used to cast a spell. These are in game magical phrases that are required for all but the most powerful mages to cast magic. Spells usually have incantations, but they also end with a verbal. Remember there are two rules that apply to all called attacks.

★ You must finish the verbal for a called attack before launching a packet or missile attack. You call out the verbal as you swing a melee attack. If there is an incantation, which is an in game phrase associated with an attack, then that must be clearly spoken before the verbal. This is true for melee, missile and packet attacks.

★ All called hits must be acknowledged with roleplay. Many skills are consumed only if the recipient calls out a defense or role-plays the effects of the attack. If you don't roleplay the effect, the attacker may assume that you were not struck and the skill not used.

## **Traits**

A trait is a label that is given to a character, an attack, a defense, or an item. Traits help describe the flavor of game effects and define how abilities interact with each other. There are four types of traits. A character trait is any trait that is somehow given to a character. An attack trait is added to an attack verbal and defines the flavor of that attack. A defense trait is added to a defense call. An item trait is added to a tagged item and gives that trait to anyone carrying that item.

An attack trait tells you which defenses can be used against that attack. A character or item trait can be used to determine if certain effects worked against you. If you had the "Undead" trait, for example, then an attack that caused "5 Damage to Undead" would be effective against you. A defense trait is generally used for flavor, but it is possible to have skills or abilities that can be used only if a defense with an appropriate trait is used.

**A character's heritage, culture, and headers are always considered traits.**

## **Deliveries**

Each ability must be delivered to its target in some way. These deliveries are the physical action needed to determine whether an ability has been successfully used on an opponent.

There are several different ways to deliver game effects, but there are three basic attack deliveries that are used most often in combat. Melee attacks are delivered with a successful strike with a hand held weapon. Packet attacks are delivered by throwing a bean bag like projectile and striking an opponent. Missile attacks are delivered by throwing or firing a special foam weapon prop, although some games use packet based arrows and bolts that are firing by aiming a missile weapon prop at an enemy and then throwing a packet prop and striking that opponent with the projectile.

It is always up to the defender to make the final decision whether an ability has struck or affected them, and thus whether the ability has been delivered. It is important that players do not abuse this honor system. If a player does not count legal hits, the game breaks down. Individuals that are reported for not counting hits will be reviewed and if necessary asked to leave the game.

## **Melee Attacks**

Melee attacks require special hand held padded weapons to deliver an attack. Melee weapons cannot be thrown. You must have both hands on a two handed weapon to use it in combat unless some game ability specifically states otherwise. These padded weapons have a strict set of creation rules and must pass a safety inspection at each and every event where you intend to use them.

To add to the atmosphere of roleplaying, we expect our players to roleplay in combat. Although we allow light weapons for safety and comfort, we ask that players keep the pace of their swings in line with what a heavier weapon might require. Melee swings that are entirely generated by snapping or rotating the wrist or forearm are discouraged. Although you are expected to roleplay full weapon swings where the weapon moves at least 45 degrees, the actual contact cannot be too hard. A tap from a weapon is sufficient to deliver an attack. Melee attacks that are blocked by another weapon or shield wielded by a character with the appropriate skill to do so are not counted. Attacks to the head and neck, hands or groin are illegal and are not counted.

If you are unskilled with a melee weapon you cannot make attacks with that weapon. If someone strikes that weapon or you try to parry with that weapon, you must either take the blow or the weapon is ripped from your hand. If you do not take the blow, you must drop the weapon as if you had been affected by the Disarm effect.

You may hold only one weapon or shield in your hand during combat. If you are holding more than one item in a hand, and a melee attack strikes one of those items, then you will take the blow or be disarmed of both items as if you were unskilled in their use.

A melee attack that has no verbal causes 1 point of damage. These are known as "uncalled attacks." If an uncalled attack removes your last point of Vitality you will fall unconscious but you will remain stable as described in the Vitality section below. A melee attack with a verbal is known as a "called attack." A successful attack delivers the effect in the verbal to the recipient.

Skills and abilities that allow you to use called melee attacks are only used up, as a default, if the attack strikes a legal target area and the recipient acknowledges the hit by roleplaying the effect or calling out a defense to negate the attack. The melee attack is not used up if the attack misses or the target blocks the attack with a weapon or a shield.

Some skills work only on limb hits. A limb hit is a strike to the arm or leg. A torso hit includes the chest from the belt up to the top of the chest. Any hit to the leg or buttock is a leg hit. Any hit to the arm or outer shoulder is an arm hit. Hits that come down on the shoulder or that come down between the shoulder and the neck are also arm hits.

## **The Flurry Rule**

A flurry is a series of melee swings delivered at an enemy in combat with little or no pause. You can make no more than three consecutive attacks against a particular enemy where your weapon contacts an opponent or their weapons, including their shield, before you must reset. To reset your flurry you must step out of weapon range between you and your opponent and stop all attacks on your previous target for at least a second.

Players pursuing enemies need not interrupt pursuit by stepping back to reset their Flurry. The pursuer needs only to pause for a second while at a distance just within their maximum weapon range.

That's all you need to remember, everything else are clarifications and answers for specific questions.

★ Blocked swings that contact a weapon or shield and successful hits that contact the body are counted as flurry swings. Feints and swings that do not make contact against weapons, shields, or body do not count as a flurry swing. You must reset your flurry after you have made three swings with contact before resuming attacks on that opponent.

★ An opponent can't try to prevent you from resetting your flurry by advancing. If you have retreated in an attempt to get out of weapon range but your opponent's advance has prevented you from doing so then you may reset your flurry after a full second pause.

★ Incidental weapon contact and aggressively engaging an opponent's weapon with beat attacks or offensive parries can make flurry determination confusing. We realize it is difficult to determine if these types of weapon maneuvers count as a strike in a flurry. As a Rule of Etiquette, if both your elbow and the weapon tip move forward and contact an opponent's weapon then count that as one of your flurry strikes even if it was not your intention to launch an attack. This might mean that both combatants use up a Flurry swing during incidental weapon contact.

## **The Proximity Rule**

You must maintain a safe distance from any active opponent. If you can reach out and touch the torso of an opponent with your hand then you are too close and you must back away. If there is a significant difference in the reach of two opponents, the opponent with the shorter reach may approach close enough so that they can strike their opponent with their weapon so long as they cannot touch the torso of the opponent.

## **Claws and Natural Weaponry**

Some characters have the ability to use claws or natural weaponry instead of, or in addition to, weapons. These weapon props are red, though some plot creatures may have props that are constructed to appear to be part of that creature.

Claws are considered to be melee weapons and can be used to block melee attacks. Disarm does not affect claws. Destroy effects delivered to such weaponry will cause a Maim effect to the limb using the weapon.

Claws and natural weaponry are not bladed weapons, and cannot be used with skills or effects that require bladed weapons. If you are holding a claw that is struck by a melee or missile attack, and you cannot legally block with the claw due to some game effect, you will be affected by the attack since you cannot drop the claw in response to the strike.

## **Packet Attacks and Spell Attacks (Packet)**

A packet is a small bean bag filled with bird seed that represents some sort of mystical, psychic, or supernatural ranged attack form. Packets have strict construction guidelines (current copies kept on the web site). You call a verbal and throw a packet at a target to deliver the attack. If the packet hits the target, or any direct possession of the target, then the effect is delivered to the target. You cannot throw packets too hard. If you are winding up to throw the packet, then you are throwing too hard.

Packets are not solid objects and cannot be affected by Disarm or Destroy, but they are a visible in game effect. If someone is carrying packets and you see the packets, you can assume they have some sort of aura that makes you realize they are capable of something special. Because of this, you cannot carry or throw packets unless you have the power to use them for something.

If a packet clearly strikes a target and they do not acknowledge the hit with roleplay or by negating it with a defense, the attributes or their equivalent are not exhausted. If the packet misses, or you cannot tell whether the packet hit, then attributes or resources are exhausted normally.

To deliver a packet attack, the arm that is delivering the packet must be free and the hand

empty except for the packet itself. A free arm cannot have props tucked under it or tied to it other than armor. You cannot deliver packet attacks if you cannot use game skills, or with an arm that is affected by something that prevents its use such as a Maim effect or shackles. Some packet based skills also have additional requirements.

Packet attacks cannot be used while you are being hit. Successful melee attacks interrupt your ability to throw packet attacks, forcing you to wait for one full second before attempting to throw again. It is impossible to get off packet attacks during the Flurry pause. Missile and packet attacks will also interrupt your verbal if they land while you are speaking it. You may begin a new verbal immediately and do not have to wait for one second in these cases. An interrupted ability is not used up and attributes or their equivalent are not wasted, but you must begin the verbal again.

Like melee attacks, any packet attack that has no verbal causes 1 point of damage. Packet attacks with no verbal are "uncalled strikes" and cause someone to fall unconscious but stable when they reduce Vitality to zero. Packet attacks that use called damage effects cause enemies to become unstable when they fall unconscious just like called melee attacks.

**\*\* See Rules of Etiquette.**

## **Spell Attacks ( Weapon )**

Specific headers may permit you to cast attack spells using your weapon. You must still meet the spell casting requirements.

### **Spell Attacks through Weapon as an Accommodation for Medical issues**

Player's unable to throw packets for medical reasons may be permitted to deliver the spell using their weapons instead. They are required to have the normal skills to perform packet magic and when they would cast a spell through their weapon they:

- call the incantation, then
- promptly swinging the weapon with the same effect call as the spell that would be delivered by the thrown packet, including
- by any trait that could otherwise deliver that spell.
- You may repeat this swing without incantation until a defense is called or the blow is acknowledged or you use a different skill.
- You must still pay the casting cost for the spell in question.
- In exchange you can no longer cast spells via Thrown packet although touch packages are still permitted.

## **Concentrate**

Concentrate is a special plot verbal that indicates the caster who called it can throw packet attacks while being hit. The caster calls out Concentrate and can throw a number of follow up

packet attacks, including spells, while being hit by incoming attacks. You do not have to call Concentrate before every spell; one call covers a number of attacks. Each skill or special ability that allows the use of Concentrate requires you to call out "Concentrate" when you use it.

**\*\* See Rules of Etiquette.**

### **Missile Attacks (Packet)**

For many games, missile attacks typically use packets that represent arrows or crossbow bolts. To differentiate missile attacks from normal packet attacks, the attacker has two additional requirements when attacking. First, you must have a prop in your free hand that is aimed at the target. Second, you must go through a firing motion for each missile attack. Bows require you to make a drawing motion and bring the packet to your cheek before throwing. Crossbows require that you pull the packet along the stock of the crossbow and pull it up to aim. After your motion you throw the attack while still pointing at the target with your free hand.

Although this system is typically used for bows and crossbows, games can use this system for thrown weapons, wands, or other ranged attacks that can be, in that setting, blocked with weapons or shields.

Like melee attacks, any missile attack that has no verbal causes 1 point of damage. Missile attacks with no verbal are "uncalled strikes" and cause someone to fall unconscious but stable when they reduce Vitality to zero. Missile weapons that use called damage effects cause enemies to become unstable when they fall unconscious just like called melee attacks.

Like packet attacks, missile weapons cannot be used while you are being hit by a melee weapon unless you have the ability to use the Concentrate ability as described above.

Some skills that allow you to use a weapon or shield to block melee attacks also allow that defender to block missile attacks.

### **Missile Attacks (Props)**

Some games require special props for missile attacks. Foam balls for arrows and bolts, foam thrown weapons, nerf arrows, and other non-packet systems are possible in Accelerant games. Foam balls used as arrows or bolts require the attacker to point the launcher or implement at the target as described when using missile attacks with packets. Foam thrown weapons only need to be thrown at the target. Other missile props such as nerf bows, are aimed and fired when they are used.

Foam weapons are always blockable by those skilled with weapons or shields in a manner similar to melee attacks. Like melee attacks, any foam missile attack that has no verbal causes 1 point of damage. Missile attacks with no verbal are "uncalled strikes" and cause someone to fall unconscious but stable when they reduce Vitality to zero. Missile weapons that use called damage effects cause enemies to become unstable when they fall

unconscious just like called melee attacks.

## **Touch Delivery**

If a skill or ability is delivered with a touch, then the effect is delivered by touching a packet to the shoulder or arm of a willing or helpless recipient.

## **Special Attacks**

Special attacks are delivered in unusual ways rather than using the regular melee, missile, and packet combat system. They represent large scale effects and atmospheric conditions. Special attacks always begin with the person or area that the attack affects and that is followed by a verbal. If you have a defense that works against the verbal of a special attack you can use it to negate that attack. Once the verbal of these attacks has begun the effect is already delivered. You cannot, for example, retroactively turn to a spirit during the verbal to negate it. The individual types are detailed below.

## **Affliction**

Someone delivers an effect to your immobile or unconscious form by touching a weapon or packet to your torso and stating "Affliction One, Affliction Two, Affliction Three" clearly and slowly followed by a verbal. This works like a Death Strike and can be interrupted in the same manner as a Death Strike.

The verbal may be a standard effect, or it may deliver an Inflict effect in which case the player will give you an effect card.

**We will normally be using an inflict effect instead and give you an inflict card.**

## **Gaze**

Someone who has met your gaze for a full three seconds calls out or whispers "By My Gaze" followed by a verbal. A vampire might whisper "By My Gaze, Paralyze by Will." Other creatures might cause fear or other effects.

## **Gesture**

Someone points at you with a hand or a weapon and calls out "By My Gesture" followed by a verbal. If the effect has a **duration that is not instantaneous**, then instead of the normal duration, the effect lasts **so long as they point** at you.

## **Name**

Someone calls out "By Your Name," states your name, part of your name, or some pseudonym that you have used and calls out a verbal. The attack is delivered to you if you

recognize that name as a name you have used or a name that person might use to refer to you. Basically if you know they are talking about you then you take the effect.

## **Room**

Someone calls out "In This Room" and an effect and everyone in that room will be affected by it. Doorways and gates act as room dividers. This delivery is commonly used for traps and performances. The attack only works in an enclosed room with normal doorways and corridors leaving it. The attack will affect you if any part of you is within the room when the verbal is called.

## **Search Response**

Someone calls out an effect after you search them or use a special Search effect upon them. If multiple people are currently searching a creature (for some reason) then all searching characters take the effect.

## **Voice**

Someone calls out "By My Voice" and an effect and everyone who hears it will be affected by it. You cannot defend against Voice attacks by intentionally obscuring the sound of the verbal with loud noise or by plugging your ears.

## **Vitality**

Vitality is a count of how much damage you can take before you collapse. As you take damage, your Vitality points are exhausted. These points can never drop below zero. Healing refreshes Vitality, and these points are also refreshed at the beginning of each event. If your Vitality ever reaches zero you will collapse and become unconscious. Unconscious characters that are taken down by uncalled melee or missile hits are stable. Characters taken down by any other kind of damage, from called melee or missile hits, from firearms, from traps, from packets, or from anything with a verbal become unstable.

If you fall unconscious but you are stable, you will remain unconscious for five minutes. After that time you will wake up with 1 point of Vitality. If someone hits you with an attack for called damage while you are unconscious and stable you will become unstable and begin your 1 minute count. Other effects can be inflicted upon you while you are unconscious and stable and those effects will still be active when you wake up. If healing raises your Vitality above 0 then you will become conscious. A death strike successfully delivered to your torso will kill you.

If you are unconscious and you are unstable you are dying from blood loss and shock. You will linger for one minute before dying. A Stabilize effect will change your condition to stable and you will begin your 5 minute count. Other effects can be inflicted upon you while you are unstable and those effects will still be active if you wake up. If healing raises your Vitality above 0 then you will become conscious. A death strike successfully delivered to your torso will kill you. If someone begins to use First Aid on you, your count will be suspended until they

stop the First Aid. If they call Stabilize you become stable and start your five minute count. If they do not finish the First Aid, your one minute death count will continue where it was before they started using the skill.

When you die, all active effects on your person end unless an Imbue or Inflict effect specifically says otherwise on the effect card. Your remains will linger for five minutes before you change to a spirit of the dead and begin to walk to the gate of death. Only effects with "to Spirit" or with "to Dead" traits will affect a spirit of the dead.

### **Unconscious**

You are incapacitated and must collapse to the ground. You must close your eyes and you cannot move or speak while you are unconscious. You cannot use game skills unless a skill explicitly explains that it can be used while unconscious.

**\*\* See Rules of Etiquette.**

### **Death**

There are four ways you can die in this game. First, you can be knocked unconscious and unstable and remain that way for a full minute. This is referred to as "bleeding out" and is described above. Second, you can be killed if someone delivers a successful death strike to your torso. Third, you will be killed by an attack with a Death effect that you cannot negate. Finally, special areas might cause your death if you have a mishap.

### **Death Strike**

A death strike is used to kill an unconscious or immobile victim. You must touch a weapon to the torso of the victim while saying "Death strike one, death strike two, death strike three". This verbal must be spoken clearly and at a normal speaking pace. You do not need to have skill with the weapon to inflict a death strike.

To inflict a death strike, the victim must be unmoving. The victim can be unconscious or unmoving because of a game effect, but you cannot inflict a death strike on a body until it comes to rest after an attack, nor can you inflict a death strike on a helpless but struggling victim. If the victim can move, the victim can prevent a death strike. First you must render the victim unconscious or unmoving, and then you may inflict a death strike.

To interrupt a death strike, you must strike the person attempting to deliver the death strike with melee, missile or packet attack. You may also interrupt the death strike by striking the weapon used to perform the death strike with a weapon of your own. You do not have to force the weapon away. A death strike that is interrupted is canceled and has no effect.

### **The "Death" Effect**

Any effect that successfully inflicts a Death effect kills you immediately. Of all the various game effects, only the Death effect will kill you outright. The Death effect may be nullified by an

appropriate defense.

## **Mishaps**

There might be large scale traps, challenges, and mishaps in special areas that can cause you to perish if you are unfortunate enough to stumble into them. Closing walls, deep pits, and other deadly traps might kill you outright. These areas will be marked or made clear to you during the course of the game.

## **Spirits of The Dead**

After 5 minutes of death, a dead character becomes a spirit of the dead. Your spirit and everything you still carry is drawn to a special area of the game marked as a Death area. Your spirit will even pick up your own weapons if they are within reach unless someone else possesses them. When you rise as a spirit you must proceed directly to the Death area. You must walk with your head bowed and your arms at your side. You cannot interact with any other character unless they use an ability that allows you to do so. You cannot drop items. You cannot use any game ability. If someone tries to interact with you, reply "Spirit" and continue on your way.

While you are a spirit of the dead, there are very few effects that will work on you. The only effects that will work are effects with "to Spirit" or "to Dead" in the verbal. These are Bane effects specifically designed to affect spirits. The most common is a "Speak to Dead" effect. This type of "Speak" effect will allow you to converse quietly with the character who used the effect. You cannot stray from your path or use any game skills while talking. You are not compelled to communicate, but you may do so. Other effects might include "Imbue to Spirit" and "Inflict to Spirit." If the description on the effect card states that it works on a spirit of the dead then you must follow the instructions given therein. You may use Resist and Purge defenses while you are a spirit of the dead if they are appropriate for an attack that strikes or affects you.

## **Attack Effects**

The effect of an attack describes how that attack benefits or impairs you. The effect is the first part of any verbal. Some effects target items rather than characters. Each effect has a duration, but curing or removing that effect will end it.

## **Game Time**

As the game progresses during an event, players generally spend time interacting with other characters, moving from place to place, and engaging in combat and other game activities. Some skills or game effects require a specific passage of time as a requirement of their use or removal. Players are expected to count out this time. This counted time is spent either to Rest or to Focus.

Time spent to rest or focus is interrupted if you use a game skill. This includes attacking or

blocking an attack with a weapon or shield. Spending time to rest or focus must be obvious to those observing you; you cannot spend time, for example, to rest or focus if you are standing in a combat stance or otherwise appear to be participating in active combat.

When spending time as a requirement of using game skills, interruptions require you to begin the process at the start. But these interruptions don't generally exhaust the costs of using the skill or ability unless that ability explicitly says otherwise in its description. If you begin, for example, to Focus for one minute to use a skill which can only be used once per event, or which uses an attribute point, the skill or attribute is not generally used up if you are interrupted while trying to use the skill.

Many games have a set of skills or attributes that can be refreshed when you have a chance to rest. Some games also define skills or resets that require you to be within a safe zone, workshop, haven, or sanctuary while you focus or rest. This prevents you from using these resets or skills while you are out in the field or away from these areas.

## **Rest**

Resting involves spending time out of action where you have a chance to regain your energy and composure. Rest requires you to be sitting, lying, or kneeling. It must be obvious that you are resting. You cannot walk or run. You can interact with those nearby while resting. You are resting if you are dead, paralyzed, stunned, or unconscious. Paralyzed characters are resting even if they are standing or in some other paralyzed position.

Resting is not generally interrupted by game effects, regardless of delivery. Although you cannot use optional defenses without interrupting your rest, calling out mandatory defenses does not interrupt rest. Calling out "Spirit," "No Effect," "Guard," "Elude," or "Shield," for example, would not interrupt rest unless the specifics of the skill or ability you were using somehow made the call optional.

**\*\* See Rules of Etiquette.**

Effects which require rest can overlap. What this means is that a single rest time can be used for multiple effects. If you had a game skill that allowed you to reset some kind of magical defense after a minute of rest, and you were affected by a Root effect, and you were affected by a Weakness effect you could rest for five minutes and apply the time to all three benefits. The Root would end, the Weakness would end, and the skill could be used to reset the defense.

Game skills will instruct you by saying "Rest for," followed by a time period, followed by the results of the rest.

*"Rest for one minute to end this effect."*

*"Rest for ten seconds and call out "Heal 2 to Self" to use this skill."*

## You Are Well Rested

If you are in the process of resting, particularly when resetting skills or attributes, and a game character tells you "You Are Well Rested" then your rest time is considered completed. Effects that end with rest are removed, and attributes and skills that require rest are refreshed. This will not end Imbue or Inflict effects, or effects that last for an entire event or more. If a reset has, in addition to the rest time, costs associated with it then you are still responsible for paying those costs to gain the benefit of the rest.

## Focus

Focusing represents some task that requires your concentration. Focusing might be required to repair armor, mend wounds, or meditate to remove an effect. You must spend the time roleplaying in a manner appropriate for the skill or ability you are using. You may talk with others during this roleplay time if you wish so long as the skill or ability description does not have additional restrictions which prevent this. Focusing requires that you stay in one area as you roleplay the activity. You cannot walk or run. Using other game skills, using called attacks, or using called defenses interrupts your focus time. Skills and abilities which require Focus do not overlap. What this means is that if you have two different skills with a Focus requirement the Focus time spent on one ability cannot be applied to any other activity. You have to roleplay each Focus time separately to use the associated ability. Effects that prevent you from using game skills also prevent you from spending time to Focus to use or refresh abilities. You cannot Rest while you Focus; the times do not overlap.

Game skills will instruct you by saying "Focus for," followed by a time period, followed by the roleplay needed to act out the skill, followed by the result of the Focus.

*"Focus for one minute, repairing your armor at a forge, to refresh your armor points."*

*"Focus for one minute, binding the limb of the wounded character" and call "Cure Maim" to tend to the broken limb.*

*"Focus for three seconds, shaking off your fear, to purge one Fear effect."*

Focusing is interrupted if any game effect that is not beneficial affects you regardless of the delivery. While you do not exhaust any costs associated with the skill or ability (unless the description explicitly states otherwise) you must start the entire process from the beginning. This means that calling any defense, optional or otherwise, interrupts your focus.

*Travis and Gerard, for example, each have a skill that provides armor points. Travis has a skill that requires Rest for one minute to refresh his armor points. Gerard has a skill that requires Focus for one minute, where he roleplays repairing his armor, to refresh his armor points. Both sit down to rest off a Weakness effect. During that time, Travis may also refresh his armor points. Gerard would still have to focus for one minute to refresh his armor.*

## Beneficial Effects

Effects that are intended to aid, bolster, or benefit a character are marked as Beneficial effects. If, for some reason, the recipient does not want to receive the benefit of one of these effects they may say "Refuse" to negate the attack or delivery.

**Spells require focus while saying the incantation. This is also interrupted by non-beneficial effects.**

## Effect Listing

### Agony

You are wracked with pain. You cannot attack or use most game skills. You may run, defend yourself by blocking with weapon skills and can use called defenses. Agony lasts for 10 seconds.

### Cure, Remove...

#### Beneficial Effect (Cure only)

Cure removes one effect on the target. A Cure [Effect] will remove one instance of the specified effect. A Cure [Trait] will remove one effect with the appropriate trait except Imbue and Inflict unless the Imbue or Inflict card specifically says otherwise. If the Cure verbal is followed by "All" then all appropriate effects end. If you have more than one appropriate effect, you may choose which will end when a Cure effect is applied to you. Cure will never restore Vitality. Cure is a beneficial effect.

*Travis, for example, has been affected by the following attacks: Slow by Disease, Slow by Will, and Drain by Will. A Cure Slow will remove either the Slow by Disease or the Slow by Will, and Travis can choose which one will end. A Cure Will would remove either the Slow by Will or the Drain by Will since they both have the Will trait. A Cure All Slow will remove both the Slow by Disease and the Slow by Will.*

If a "Cure Maim" effect references a specific limb, the effect will only remove Maim effects on that limb. If the Cure Maim effect does not specify a limb, it will cure one Maim effect active upon the target. If an ability or skill allows you to use the "Cure Maim" effect on a specific limb, you touch a packet to the specified limb to indicate which limb. A "Cure All Maims" effect will remove all Maim effects upon you regardless of limb.

A "Cure Death" effect will restore a dead target to life and leave them with 1 Vitality unless that target has transformed to a Spirit of the dead.

Once a character has transformed to a Spirit of the dead, only the rare "Cure Death to Spirit" effect can restore them to life, and only if it is used before the Spirit reaches its destination.

A "Cure [Trait Name] Trait" effect will remove a trait given to you by an Inflict, Imbue, or other

effect that is temporary. It has no effect on a permanent trait granted by heritage, skill, or the like.

Remove is used to simulate dispels or forced removal of effects. Remove works just like Cure except it is not a beneficial effect. This has several side effects. Where Cure can be touch cast, Remove cannot be touch cast. Where Cure can be refused because it is beneficial, Remove cannot be refused. Where Cure will not interrupt Focus, Remove will interrupt Focus. Where Cure is not negated by and does not consume Shield, Elude and Guard defenses, Remove will be stopped by and consume Shield, Elude, and Guard. Otherwise Remove works like Cure.

## **Damage**

This effect removes Vitality points as described in the section on Vitality. Unlike typical effects, Damage is instantaneous. It removes Vitality points and then the effect ends. You cannot remove or dispel damage. Vitality points must be restored through healing.

## **Death**

An attack with this effect kills you. You fall down dead, as if you had been struck with a death strike. All temporary effects upon you end when you are killed except for Imbue and Inflict effects that are not specifically removed by death. Death lasts for 5 minutes, after which you will rise as a spirit and travel to the Death area. This process is detailed in the Spirits of the Dead section.

Cure Death and certain special abilities can affect you while you are dead. Some strengthen your spirit so it is not weakened by the presence of Death. Some might even revive you. Others might cause unpleasant effects. All these will be handled using an Imbue or Inflict effect. In these cases you will be given an effect card that explains the results of the Imbue or Inflict effect.

## **Destroy...**

An item is destroyed and cannot be used for any game skill or effect until it is repaired. For most melee delivered effects, the verbal is simply "Destroy" and the strike will destroy the weapon it hits. For missile and packet attacks the verbal will include the name of the item and any strike will destroy that named item. A melee attack that strikes your shield and uses the "Destroy Shield" verbal will render your shield unusable. The effect is permanent until the item is restored with a Repair effect. Some items may be truly destroyed if no Repair effect exists in the game to restore them. The item does not crumble away or disappear. The prop represents the broken item.

An attack that uses the "Destroy Armor" verbal will exhaust all of your armor points. The armor points can be refreshed or repaired normally as if they had been removed by damage. Melee attacks must successfully strike you to deliver a Destroy Armor effect. Some creatures might take some kind of detrimental effect when struck by this attack. If you want to attempt to harm

a construct directly with this effect you would call out "Destroy Form" as the verbal.

Items without tags or safety stickers (such as clothing, belts, pouches, and the like) cannot be affected by Destroy.

## Diagnose

This effect is used to determine if the recipient is inflicted with a specific effect, trait, or game condition. Skills with the Diagnose effect allow you to use Diagnose to determine the presence of specific effects or traits except for Imbue or Inflict effects. A skill might also allow you to use Diagnose to determine if the recipient is currently Stable, Unstable, Dead, or Damage. To use Diagnose, touch the recipient with a packet and say "Diagnose" followed by an effect, trait or game condition. The recipient says "Yes" if they are afflicted with the named effect or an effect with the named trait, or if they suffer the game condition. Otherwise they say "No."

*Travis, for example, is lying on the ground unstable and has been inflicted by a Slow by Disease and a Paralyze by Will. Another player leans over, touches him with a packet and says "Diagnose Stable."*

*Travis says "No." She says "Diagnose Unstable" and Travis says "Yes." She uses a Heal effect on Travis but he still doesn't move. Puzzled, she says "Diagnose Stun." Travis says "No." She says "Diagnose Paralyze." Travis says "Yes." She has the ability to Cure Poison, so she says "Diagnose Poison." Travis says "No." She decides to wait until the Paralyze wears off.*

If someone uses "Diagnose Damage" on you, you may choose, for the sake of expediency, to include in your reply the current number of Vitality points that have been removed by Damage. If, for example, you have taken two damage that has not been healed and someone uses "Diagnose Damage" on you, you may reply with a simple "Yes" or you may reply with a "Yes, two." The choice of how to respond is up to you.

## Disarm...

You must drop everything in the hand indicated by the verbal. You can pick up items immediately after they have come to rest. You may pick up an item as soon as it stops moving. The verbal will contain either "Disarm right hand" or "Disarm left hand." If you are holding a fragile or breakable prop, including an air gun, you may put it down rather than drop it, but in this case you cannot pick it up for a full five seconds.

Delivering this effect with a melee attack requires you to strike that weapon while calling the Disarm effect. You do not need to specify a hand. The hand that is holding the weapon will be affected. A melee delivered Disarm will not affect a shield unless the "Disarm Shield" verbal is used. You cannot disarm a shield unless a skill or ability specifically allows the use of "Disarm Shield."

**\*\* See Rules of Etiquette.**

## Disengage

To initiate this ability either take a step back or plant your feet for 3 seconds. Gesture at any number of opponents with your weapons. You cannot move towards any target. Everyone who is attacking you and everyone indicated by the gesture of your weapon must move back out of weapon range so that you cannot cross extended weapons. Targets that are rooted or cannot move back may cross their arms and lean away from the effect instead of backing up. Once the distance has been increased and the space indicated by the Disengage has been cleared by all targets (or everyone has crossed their arms and leaned away) the effect ends.

Disengage will not force a target into a dangerous area. A target may choose to cross arms and lean back rather than stepping back into an area that will cause them some detrimental effect. Disengage is not a melee delivered attack and cannot be negated by defenses that stop melee attacks.

**Please note that all NPCs in Kaurath will have disengage as an at will skill to use when they are feeling unsafe in a fight. We encourage player safety and if you feel the need to have people off of you for safety you may use this call and immediately leave the unsafe area. This should not be used as an opportunity for an offensive use for free, but please use this when you are feeling overcrowded. Safety for our players and npcs is paramount to game balance. This skill is not intended to be used tactically and an opponent pushed back can step forward right afterwards if appropriate but it is impolite not to give both sides a chance to catch a breath and settle in a safe and stable manner.**

## Drain

For a simple Drain effect, you cannot run or use any game skill, including weapon and shield skills. If the verbal is followed by a skill or ability name then you cannot use that particular skill. Drain can also be used to prevent entire skill headers. If a header is drained, you cannot use any skill that falls under that header. Drain can be used in this manner to suppress racial abilities and empowered named items. If an item is named after a Drain effect then no abilities from that item can be used until the Drain ends. Only simple Drain effects prevent you from running. The Drain effect will last until you rest for five minutes.

## Expose...

The Expose effect is followed by one trait. If you have that trait and are subjected to this effect, you must cry out, revealing the fact that you have the trait and revealing your position. You must cry out as loudly as the Expose effect was called.

Although you may cry out softly if the Expose was called softly, you still must make every effort to ensure that you are revealed to the person who called the effect. The Expose effect is audible and you must cry out even if you are unconscious or under the effects of a Silence, Stun, Paralyze, or other disabling effect.

You are not affected if you are Dead or have the Spirit defense unless the Expose effect targets those specific traits. This effect is one of the few that will commonly be delivered by

voice.

## **Frenzy**

This effect causes you to attack the closest creature to you, regardless of recognition or consequence. You may attack with any standard skill that is not beneficial, though you are not forced to use consumable skills in this attack. If you are affected by a Repel effect, or if you are not affecting the creature in question, or if you cannot find a way to reach the creature for 10 seconds you will move on to the next closest creature. If someone else attacks you and that creature is more convenient than your current target then that creature will become your new target. The effect ends when you are rendered dead or unconscious. **Note: Short Frenzy ends automatically after 10 seconds of play, not 10 seconds of rest, unlike other "Short" effect.**

## **Grant...**

### **Beneficial Effect**

You receive a boon, blessing or magical buff that enhances you in some way. There are a number of specific Grant effects, each with their own benefit. All Grant effects end if you die, and when the event ends.

**Grant effects are confusing. Keep the restrictions below in mind, and do your best to follow the rules here, but don't worry about making mistakes on the use of this call. If you make a mistake with it, keep having fun. We won't penalize honest mistakes on this one.**

Grant effects have some restrictions.

- ~ As a default you can have no more than three Grant effects at one time.
- ~ Each type of Grant listed below has its own additional restriction.

Grant effects are negated with the Remove effect. A "Remove Grant" effect will negate one Grant effect of your choice, while a "Remove All Grants" will remove all existing Grant effects. Remove effects can also specify a type, such as "Remove Armor Grant" or "Remove All Defense Grants." In addition, a Remove <Trait> effect will negate any Grant effect that also used that trait.

There are five types of Grant effects.

### **... Armor**

"Grant Armor"

"Grant 2 Armor by Inspiration"

This Grant adds additional armor points to either physical armor or armor from other abilities. These points are refreshed when your armor points are refreshed. If no number is indicated then this effect boosts your armor points by 1. The effect might indicate a higher number in the verbal such as "Grant 2 Armor" to indicate that a greater number of armor points have been

granted.

You may only have one Grant Armor effect active.

**... Attribute**

"Grant Aegis"

"Grant 2 Vitality by Blood"

"Grant 2 Karma by Inspiration"

This Grant adds to the total of one numeric attribute. Any points added with this effect are available immediately for use. Effects which refresh that attribute can also refresh these additional points. These extra points can be exhausted to fuel skills and abilities in the same manner as regular attribute points.

If the attribute indicated is Vitality then Heal effects will also restore these additional points. Vitality calculations and other secondary attribute calculations are not affected by points added by the Grant effect to another attribute used in that calculation.

No attribute can be modified by more than one Grant effect.

**... Protection**

"Grant Protection"

"Grant 3 Protection by Inspiration"

This Grant adds additional protection points that negate points of damage. These protection points work in a manner similar to armor, negating the indicated amount of damage regardless of the source. The number of points is indicated after the "Grant" in the verbal, and if no number is indicated then the ability grants a single protection point. Protection points are always lost after armor points. Protection points are not affected by Waste Vitality effects. Protection points cannot be refreshed or renewed. Once they are used to negate damage the effect ends.

You may only have one Grant Protection effect active.

**... [Type] Defense**

"Grant Poison Defense, Shield"

"Grant Defense by Inspiration, Elude by Blur"

"Grant Melee Defense by Stone, Parry"

"Grant Packet or Missile Defense, Avoid"

This Grant gives you a called defense that works against the Trait or Effect indicated in the [Type] portion of the verbal. The first half of the verbal is information about the Grant itself, and it can include a trait. The second half of the verbal tells you what to call when you use the defense. If no [Type] is specified then the defense can be used against any melee, missile, or packet attack.

Once this defense is used the Grant effect ends. Grant effects which give you Elude, Guard

or Shield effects must be used against the first appropriate attack that strikes you. Grant effects which give you Avoid, Parry or Resist defenses can be used against any appropriate attack and you can choose whether or not you will use the defense. The Purge defense requires you to roleplay for three seconds and call Purge to end an appropriate effect. Elude, Guard, and Shield defenses that protect against melee attacks must be used against the first melee attacks that strikes you, even if uncalled.

Once you have a Grant that protects against a specific [Type] of attack you cannot have another Grant that also defends against the type. You must choose which one to keep. This restriction also applies to a Grant Defense call which has no specified type; you cannot only have one Grant Defense effect that is unspecified.

A "Grant Defense by Shadow, Avoid by Shadow" would give you one defense against any melee, missile, or packet attack. You could choose to take an attack and save the defense for later. You would call out "Avoid by Shadow" when you used the ability.

A "Grant Poison Defense, Shield" would give you one defense against any attack with the Poison trait. You would have to use this defense against the first Poison attack that strikes you. You would call out "Shield" when you used the ability.

A "Grant Missile Defense by Wind, Avoid by Air" would give you one Avoid defense against a missile attack. You could choose to take the attack and save the defense for later. You would call out "Avoid by Air" when you used the ability.

*Sylla has an active grant effect with the verbal "Grant Poison Defense, Shield" on her. She receives a new Grant effect with the verbal "Grant Poison Defense by Faerie, Resist." Sylla cannot have two Grant Defense effects with the same type, so she must choose one and decides to take the resist and let the shield end. Later, Sylla receives a new Grant effect with the verbal "Grant Disease Defense, Resist." Sylla can accept that Grant effect since her current Grant works against Poison and the new Grant effect works against Disease.*

*Travis has an active Grant effect with the verbal "Grant Defense, Avoid." He knows he can call out "Avoid" to negate one melee, missile or packet attack because the type isn't specified. Travis receives a "Grant Defense, Shield" but decides to keep the Avoid and the new Grant effect is lost. Later, Travis receives a "Grant Packet Defense, Avoid." He can keep that defense and his previous Grant because the type in the Grant verbal is not the same as one is unspecified and thus defaults to "Melee, Missile and Packet" and the other is specified as a "Packet" defense.*

### **... [Delivery] Attack**

"Grant Melee Attack, 2 Damage"

"Grant Missile Attack by Venom, Agony by Poison"

"Grant Packet Attack by Magic, Stun by Fear"

"Grant Attack by Arcane, 5 Damage by Fire"

"Grant Touch Attack, Heal 2"

This Grant gives you one called attack that uses the appropriate delivery. If the delivery is omitted the recipient may choose melee, missile or packet for the delivery when they receive the effect. You may use a melee or missile attack only if you have a skill that allows you to make such attacks and the props on hand to make an attack with the specified delivery. You may use a packet attack only if you have a packet on hand to make the attack. For melee and missile attacks, the attack is exhausted and the Grant effect ends only if the strike lands and the opponent acknowledges it with roleplay or negates it with a defense. For packet attacks the Grant effect ends when you use the attack whether it hit or missed. If the attack has a beneficial effect the delivery can also be specified as "Touch."

As a default you can have no more than one Grant Attack effect.

A "Grant Melee Attack by Shadow, Weakness by Shadow" would give you one melee attack with the Weakness by Shadow effect. You would call out "Weakness by Shadow" when you used the ability.

A "Grant Packet Attack, 2 Damage by Fire" would give you one packet attack and you would call out "2 Damage by Fire" when you used the ability.

A "Grant Attack, Paralyze by Will" would allow you to choose melee, missile, or packet as the delivery and you would gain one attack of that type with "Paralyze by Will" as the verbal.

"Grant Touch Attack by Divine, Cure Poison" would allow you to touch a packet to a willing subject to cure a poison effect. Like any beneficial effect, the recipient could refuse the effect.

### **Grant Extra...**

Grant effects that begin with "Grant Extra" can overcome stacking in the following ways:

- ~ An attribute modified by a Grant effect can also have one "Grant Extra" effect that stacks.
- ~ Armor modified by a Grant effect can also have one "Grant Extra" effect that stacks.
- ~ You can have both a "Grant ... Protection" and one "Grant Extra ... Protection" effect and the effects stack.
- ~ You can have both a "Grant ... Defense" and one "Grant Extra ... Defense" at the same time.
- ~ You can have both a "Grant ... Attack" and one "Grant Extra ... Attack" at the same time.
- ~ Grant Extra effects do not count towards your three Grant effects.

If you already have an active "Grant Extra" effect, you can accept one regular Grant effect. You need not receive the "Grant Extra" effect after a regular Grant effect to allow them to stack. You cannot accept two "Grant Extra" effects, even if you have no Grant effect that did not include "Extra" in the verbal.

*Travis has a "Grant 2 Armor" effect that brings his armor total to 4. A servant of his divine patron visits him before a big battle and gives him a "Grant Extra Armor" effect on him. He now has an armor total of 5, but he could not have an additional "Grant Armor" nor another "Grant Extra Armor" active.*

*Sylla has only a "Grant Extra Magic Defense, Resist" upon her. A friendly wizard gives her a "Grant Magic Defense, Shield" to her. She can accept this effect because her other "Grant ... Defense" effect is an "Extra" Grant effect.*

### **Double and Triple**

Grant effects with the Double or Triple qualifier will provide multiple uses of the specified attack or defense but only count as a single Grant effect. In other words, you can have a "Triple Grant Melee Attack by Skill, 2 Damage" effect that grants you three melee attacks each which do "2 Damage" even though you are normally allowed only one Grant effect with the Skill trait. Since numeric effects do not stack this is only relevant for Grant Attack and Grant Defense effects.

### **Heal...**

#### **Beneficial Effect**

This effect restores one point of Vitality. If the effect is followed by a number, then it restores Vitality equal to the indicated number. If the effect is followed by the term "All" then all of your Vitality is restored. Otherwise it restores one point. If you are unconscious with no Vitality then healing will restore one or more Vitality points and you will wake immediately unless some other effect is preventing you from doing so.

### **Imbue...**

#### **Beneficial Effect**

This effect can be used one of two ways. An Imbue effect with the verbal "Imbue [Trait Name] Trait" will give you the specified trait for the remainder of the event.

Otherwise, this effect is some enhancement or extra ability that is described on an effect card that is given to you after the effect is used upon you. An Imbue effect with no trait will not take effect until you have read the effect card. Imbue will usually give you some ability that can be used during the current event, although the effect card might describe some effect that lasts beyond the current event.

Imbue effect cards can have a variety of long term plot effects. Examples include granting a defense against certain types of attack, strengthening the spirit of a dead character, and similar exceptional abilities.

If a player can use an Imbue effect, that ability will always have some in-game action that must be accomplished before you can use the ability. You might need to gather and mix components. You might need to construct some items from strange parts. These actions earn you the effect card needed to use this effect. You can never use an Imbue ability without the appropriate effect card to represent the properly prepared components.

### **Inflict...**

This effect can be used one of two ways. An Inflict effect with the verbal "Inflict [Trait Name]

Trait" will give you the specified trait for the remainder of the event.

Otherwise, this effect is some affliction or detrimental effect that is described on an effect card that is given to you after the effect is used upon you. An Inflict effect with no trait will not take effect until you have read the effect card, so a character engaged in combat may not be affected by Inflict effects described on Inflict cards immediately. They have time to retrieve the effect card and read it when it is convenient and unobtrusive to do so. Unconscious or dead characters must read the card immediately. Inflict cards will give you some unusual detriment that will have an effect and a duration described on the effect card.

Inflict effect cards can have a variety of long term plot effects. Examples include causing death after a certain amount of time, causing you to transform into some type of creature, inflicting you with a disease that cannot be healed normally, weakening the spirit of a dead character, and similar exceptional abilities.

Defenses can be used to negate Inflict attacks if those defenses will stop an attack with the appropriate delivery or trait.

If a player can use an Inflict effect, that ability will always have some in-game action that must be accomplished before you can use it. You might need to gather and mix components. You might need to construct some items from strange parts. These actions earn you the effect card needed to use the ability. *A player can never use an Inflict ability without an effect card to represent the properly prepared components.*

## **Maim**

One limb becomes useless. An arm must hang at your side and cannot be used for any game ability. A leg becomes unusable. You must go down on one knee - you cannot hop. You may crawl using your other limbs. A Maim effect will last for the duration of the event. If a Maim effect is delivered by a melee or missile attack, the limb struck will be affected. If a Maim effect delivered by a melee or missile attack strikes the torso then the Maim effect is ignored. If a Maim effect is delivered by a packet, the attacker can include the limb in the verbal. For example, a caster might call out "Maim Right Leg by Fire." If the limb is not specified, then the subject may choose one limb that is not already affected by a Maim. Maim only works on arms and legs. *While a Maimed leg might leave a sword and shield fighter kneeling on the ground so well protected they expose no legal target areas from the front but if two are attacking them they are not going to be able to block both well.*

## **Paralyze**

You must stand frozen. You cannot move, but you are aware of what is happening around you. If you are rendered unconscious, or if someone tries to change your pose, you will collapse to the ground. Paralyze will last until you rest for five minutes. You are resting while you are paralyzed even if you are standing.

## **Refresh...**

### **Beneficial Effect**

Refresh is always followed by either an attribute or a skill that has a limited number of uses. You recover one or more uses of the named skill or one or more points of the named attribute. If you do not have the named skill or attribute then the Refresh has no effect. As a default, Refresh restores one point or use of a skill. If a number is placed before the attribute or skill name then you will restore more attribute points or uses of a skill. Skills that require attributes cannot be restored directly and are unaffected by a Refresh effect. Refresh will never raise you above your maximum attribute or give you more uses of a skill than you would have at the start of an event.

Refresh can also be used to restore abilities of an empowered item. If the item has a unique name and Refresh is followed by that name then the abilities of the item are restored.

## **Repair...**

### **Beneficial Effect**

You restore one item that has been rendered unusable by a Destroy effect. For an item you are touching you need not specify a target in the verbal. For other types of abilities you specify a target after the Repair verbal. Repair may also be used to refresh armor points. A "Repair Armor" effect will restore one armor point of your current active armor. A Repair <Number> Armor effect will restore a number of armor points equal to the indicated amount, or all armor points if the number of exhausted armor points is lower than the indicated amount. "Repair All Armor" will restore your armor to its maximum value.

## **Repel**

This effect prevents you from using melee, missile, or packet attacks on the attacker. You will also attempt to stay 10 feet away from the attacker unless doing so would endanger you. If this is the case you may move to a safer position even if it takes you within 10 feet, so long as you then attempt once again to stay 10 feet away from the attacker. You cannot use melee, missile, or packet attacks on the attacker in any case. The Repel effect will last until you rest for five minutes unless the attacker strikes you with a melee attack that does not cause a Repel effect. If the attacker strikes you with a melee attack using an effect that is not Repel then this effect ends immediately.

The attacker is not immune to attacks from a character affected by the Repel. That character is free to launch attacks at other creatures so the attacker should be careful to stay clear of other potential targets and avoid attacks launched at other characters.

## **Root**

You cannot move your right foot from its spot. You may pivot on that foot, and you may move your left foot. A Root effect will last until you rest for five minutes.

## **Silence**

You cannot talk or make any in game verbal noise. You cannot use game skills that require incantations. You must still call out during Expose effects. You must still use out of game phrases as normal. A Silence effect will last until you rest for five minutes.

## **Slam**

Some great force knocks you back and off your feet. When you are struck with this effect you roleplay an extremely forceful blow or blast. You may take up to three steps backwards and fall down. The steps backward are optional. The effect ends when your chest or back touches the ground. If falling to the ground is an issue due to ground quality, crowding or health you may opt to instead take your steps, drop to a knee and place both hands palm down on the ground as you shake your head for three seconds.

**If you can not take a knee, we allow you to put your head down and shake it with hands at your side and any whatever drop you can.**

Some Slam effects are so powerful they knock you back through a shield. If you hear "Shield Slam" it works even if it strikes your shield. This attack can be blocked by a weapon and would count as a strike to the limb holding the shield.

## **Slow**

You cannot run. You may only walk at a normal pace. The Slow effect will last until you rest for five minutes.

## **Stabilize**

### **Beneficial Effect**

If you are at 0 Vitality and unstable this effect makes you stable. You start your 5 minute count. Otherwise you call "No Effect."

## **Stricken**

You are unaffected by any beneficial effect unless it removes the Stricken effect from you. Call "No Effect" to any other beneficial effect used on you.

There is one exception; if someone uses First Aid on you then the Stabilize effect will work. Only a "Cure Stricken" effect or a Cure effect applied to the trait of this attack will remove this effect. An effect that removes the Stricken effect from you will not remove other effects. Stricken does not work on items you carry or wear and items may be affected by Repair or Imbue effects. The Stricken effect will last until you rest for five minutes.

*For example, if you have a Stricken by Poison and a Paralyze by Poison effect upon you, a Cure Poison effect will remove the Stricken effect but it won't also remove the*

*Cure Paralyze effect. A second Cure Poison would be needed to remove the Paralyze by Poison effect.*

## **Stun**

You are knocked unconscious. Stun will last until you rest for five minutes. You are resting while you are stunned. Another character may take a full minute of roleplay to revive you and end this effect.

## **Speak**

### **Beneficial Effect**

This effect allows you to converse with a creature or being that cannot otherwise communicate with you. It is usually used with the Bane trait, allowing you to speak with specific types of creatures. The subject is under no obligation or compulsion to speak with you, but it may do so if it wishes. The Speak effect will last until a participant uses another game skill or until a participant moves out of reasonable conversation range.

## **Waste...**

Waste is always followed by either an attribute or a skill that has a limited number of uses. You lose one or more uses of the named skill or one or more points of the named attribute. Waste has no effect if you have no attribute points or skill uses left. If you do not have the named skill then Waste to that skill has no effect. As a default, Waste removes one point or use of a skill. If a number is placed before the attribute or skill name then you will lose more attribute points or uses of the skill. Skills that require attributes cannot be wasted directly and are unaffected by a Waste effect.

Wasted attribute points and skill uses can be refreshed. A Cure Waste effect will restore points or skill uses lost to Waste effects unless they have already been refreshed or restored by some other means. Once a wasted attribute or skill use has been refreshed a Cure Waste effect will have no effect on you. Attributes and skills lost to a Waste effect are always refreshed before points lost through normal use.

Waste can also be used to remove abilities of an empowered item. If the item has a unique name and Waste is followed by that name then any charged abilities of the item are removed as if they had been used.

A Waste Vitality effect will reduce your current Vitality total. This effect ignores armor points, but is otherwise treated as a called Damage effect and will render you unstable if it removes the last of your Vitality points.

## **Weakness**

Your ability to strike with melee attacks is severely weakened. You cannot deliver any called effects with your melee attacks. Weakness does not affect uncalled strikes or any other weapon skill. The Weakness effect will last until you rest for five minutes.

## **Attack Traits**

Most attacks include a descriptive trait. This trait is indicated by the second part of the verbal. The trait of an attack adds flavor to the attack and determines whether certain defenses can be used to negate the attack. If an attack is "5 Damage by Fire" then the trait of the attack would be Fire.

The "by Weapon" trait is dropped from the verbal of normal melee attacks to reduce noise. Any melee or missile attack with no trait is assumed to have the "Weapon" trait.

Most attack traits allow you to roleplay the effect. You may step back or cry out in reaction to the attack. If you are surprised by an attack, however, you cannot add additional roleplay to the effect. For example, if you were hit by a "Stun by Force" from a visible enemy then you could add the roleplay of crying out or staggering back. But if someone sneaks up behind you and calls out "Stun" with a melee attack then you should just go down. If someone sneaks up and surprises you with a spell that you honestly did not see coming, you should not cry out to warn your friends.

## **Bane**

This is a unique attack trait that works against another specific trait, and targets only those creatures that have that trait. Instead of saying "by" you would say "to" and state the trait that is targeted. An attack that stated "10 Damage to Undead" would be an example of an attack with the Bane trait, and the attack would only affect creatures with the Undead trait. If you somehow lose the trait that a Bane effect targets while under that effect, then the effect ends immediately. So, if you had a "to Dead" effect upon you and you were brought back to life then the "to Dead" effect would end. Remember that a character's heritage is always considered a trait of that character. Bane attacks allow no additional roleplaying; you will suffer the effect of a Special attack immediately.

Some effects may have both a normal trait and a bane trait. In this case the attack affects only those targeted by the Bane effect but it may be resisted by defenses that work against the normal trait. An attack that stated "Paralyze by Fear to Elf" would only affect characters with the Elf trait but it could be negated by a Resist Fear defense.

## **Self**

This trait indicates that the effect works only on the person using it. Instead of saying "by" you would say "to Self" after the effect. This indicates that you are the only target of the called effect.

## **Defenses**

These abilities allow you to negate abilities used against you. Although there are a large number of possible defenses that can be used against specific causes and effects, all defenses can be summarized as one of the following types.

When it is possible to apply multiple defenses to an attack the defender decides which defense to use. Although Elude, Guard, and Shield defense must be used if an attack would affect you, it is possible, for example, to use a skill that provides a Resist defense when an appropriate attack strikes you to "protect" a Shield type defense. You could, for example, use

a Resist against Fear to save a Shield against any Mental trait.

### **Elude, Guard, Shield**

You negate the first attack of the appropriate type that strikes you, cal. Although different verbals are used to indicate the nature of your defense and to add flavor to the game, all of these defenses work the same way. You must call out the defense when it is used.

**While these calls all work the same, they exist for flavor in the game. In Kaurath 2.0 we will be using Elude for fast defenses, Guard for strength based defenses, and Shield for defenses against magical sources. This is not a hard rule, but a conceptual rule.**

### **Avoid, Parry, Resist**

You choose one attack of the appropriate type to negate when it strikes you. You can allow an attack to affect you and negate a later attack. Although different verbals are used to indicate the nature of your defense and to add flavor to the game, all of these defenses work the same way. You must call out the defense when it is used.

**While these calls all work the same, they exist for flavor in the game. In Kaurath 2.0 we will be using Avoid for fast defenses, Parry for strength based defenses, and Resist for defenses against magical sources. This is not a hard rule, but a conceptual rule.**

### **Purge**

You may negate an attack after it has affected you. You must spend three seconds to roleplay this defense as you shake off the effect, during which time you must remain relatively still. You cannot use game skills while roleplaying the purge. You cannot use Purge while unconscious unless doing so would wake you. You cannot use Purge when you are dead unless the skill specifically allows you to use "Purge Death" in the verbal.

### **No Effect**

You are unaffected by the attack in question. This indicates a defense that is not consumable. The attack does not affect you, nor will it ever affect you.

### **Reduce, Absorb**

You are affected by the attack in question, but the effect has been mitigated, lessened, or changed entirely. The actual reduction is determined by the skill or ability that allows you to use this defense. Reduce is often used to indicate the effect has been lessened while Absorb often indicates that the attack had a different effect entirely. The verbal for this defense might be followed by "to" and the modified effect such as "Reduce to Maim" or "Absorb to Heal 2." You must roleplay the new effect appropriately.

## **Increased**

While not exactly a defense, this call indicates that the effect had a greater than normal effect on the target. If the target calls "Increased" in response to a beneficial effect, the target might have an ability or skill that allows them to receive additional benefit from the effect in question. If the target calls "Increased" in response to an attack, the target might have a weakness or vulnerability to the effect or trait that was used against them. Some games might use "Increased to..." followed by an effect to specify extra information about the game effect.

## **Reflect**

You choose one melee, missile, or packet attack of the appropriate type to rebound back at the attacker when it strikes you. Call this defense to negate the effects of the attack. If your attack is reflected then you must take the attack as if your melee, missile or packet had struck you. The attack retains all of the original traits so it might not actually affect you. You may use defenses to negate the attack, including using Reflect to bounce it back on the original target.

## **Spirit**

You are insubstantial and are unaffected by most attacks. You call "Spirit" to any attack that you negate for this reason. You cannot use game abilities unless specifically allowed to do so. You cannot speak or converse with other characters unless they use an ability that allows you to do so. If someone tries to talk with you, you may call "Spirit" to inform them that you cannot speak. You cannot drop any items. No one may search you, nor can items that you carry be removed from your person. Nothing can be thrown over you. You cannot rest while in spirit form, and effects that last until you rest will not be removed. You cannot block doorways or portals. If someone tries to move through a portal that you are blocking then you are forced to move.

Characters who have died and are traveling to the Realm of Death are spirits. If you gain the Spirit trait because you have died and you have become a Spirit of the Dead then you also gain the Dead trait. Effects with the trait "to Spirit" affect all spirits, while effects with the trait "to Dead" affect only spirits of the dead. You must walk with your head bowed and your hands at your side.

Some abilities allow a living character to become a spirit for a time, but these abilities usually have special restrictions or will not be absolute in their protection. You might gain a trait and become vulnerable to attacks with that trait even though you are a spirit. Some of these skills last until you move. In these cases you cannot move or speak without ending the effect. If you turn into a spirit in a place which blocks a portal or doorway then you are forced to move to allow someone through. Since this can end the effect you must be careful to use these types of skills so as to not block confined areas.

## **Defense Traits**

A defense might have a trait associated with it. The verbal should include the defense and the trait with a "by" between them. This can be done to add flavor to an ability, to differentiate two

similar skills, or to allow other skills to key off certain defenses.

### **Chained Defense**

A chained defense has an effect that is called immediately after the defense. The verbal should include the defense and the additional effect with an "and" between them. If the additional effect is an attack then that attack must be launched immediately as the defense is called. Using the additional effect could be optional or required. If the additional effect affects the character using the chained defense then the ability must use the Self trait and the character must roleplay that effect as if they had been struck by it.

*For example, a Fire based attack strikes a Fire Elemental. The creature calls out "Resist and Heal to Self" to indicate that the attack was negated and the creature was healed by using the defense.*

*For example, a strong creature can tear out of some physical effects but it takes damage doing so. The creature is struck by the appropriate attack, roleplays for 3 seconds, calls out "Purge and 2 Damage to Self" and then roleplays the damage effect.*

*For example, a character has an ability that simulates a Riposte. The character is struck by a successful melee attack, calls out "Parry and 3 Damage," and immediately swings at the person who attacked her.*

*For example, a creature has an ability that can shoot attacks with the Magic trait back at the attacker. The creature is struck by a "Paralyze by Magic." The character calls "Resist and Paralyze by Magic" and throws a packet back at the attacker.*

### **Armor**

Armor provides points of protection that act as a buffer against damage effects. Armor points are removed by damage in a manner similar to Vitality. Armor points are lost before Vitality points. The method by which exhausted armor points are restored varies depending on the type of armor you are using and the skills and abilities of the Accelerant game you are playing.

You may only have one base type of armor active at a time. If you try to restore or activate or wear one type of armor while you have active points from another type of armor, the armor type with the lower number of active armor points will be exhausted. If there is a tie, then the new armor points will be immediately exhausted. Exhausted armor points are gone and must be restored just as if they were exhausted by Damage.

*For example, Travis is wearing a 2 point suit of armor. He roleplays and activates a skill that gives him 3 points of armor. The armor points from the suit of armor are exhausted and he has 3 armor points from his skill. If he wants to use the armor points from his suit of armor later, he will have to have the armor suit repaired.*

## **Traps**

Traps are devices or substances set to deliver an effect to anyone who disturbs them or attempts to get past them. Anyone can avoid a trap, but no one can attempt to manipulate a trap by moving it, disarming it, or affecting the individual components unless they have a skill that allows them to do so.

Most traps will cause an effect to the person who set them off. If someone manages to trigger a trap with a thrown object, then the object will take the effect instead. If the trap affects the entire room or corridor, then this trick will not provide much help. Some traps will work multiple times, while some will work once. If an item is causing a trap to go off continuously then anyone who touches the item will take the effect.

If a trap is set in a small box, chest, or other enclosed area no larger than 3 feet in any dimension then setting it off will destroy everything inside the area. Coins, items, paper, and everything else inside will be destroyed and cannot be removed from the box. If any living creature has somehow crawled into an enclosed area no more than 3 feet in any dimension with a trap and the trap goes off then that fool will be killed instantly. There are five types of traps.

### **Snap Trap**

These traps make a snap sound when they go off. They are represented by mousetraps, party poppers, and snaps. These traps cause 2 Damage to whoever sets them off.

### **Buzzer Trap**

These traps make an electronic sound of some kind when they are set off. Sounds used for these traps include beepers, buzzers, and electronic sound effects like the moaning of a rigged welcome mat you might find at Halloween. These traps cause 5 Damage to whoever sets them off.

### **Verbal Trap**

When these traps are set off, you will hear a trap sound, and a voice will call out a verbal associated with them. Whoever set the trap off must take the effect of that verbal. If no verbal is present, then the sound determines the type of trap as described above.

### **Gas Trap**

As a magical trap, the verbal will begin with the words "In This Room..." Everybody in the room will take the effect. This trap only works in an enclosed room with normal doorways and corridors leaving it. The trap will affect you if any part of you is within the room when the trap goes off.

### **Contact Poison**

This attack is represented by petroleum jelly. If you touch the jelly with bare skin, you will take an effect of "5 Damage by Poison." A character with the appropriate skill may apply such a substance directly from the vial it was created in.

Once applied to a surface, the jelly cannot be scraped off onto another object. Only a

character with an appropriate skill may wipe the substance off a surface with a cloth or cloth-like substance, but the contact poison is destroyed in the process.

An item with contact poison is considered a Red Sticker item. The fumes and burning of the poison are overwhelming, even to a character who is immune to it. The object cannot be moved from its place or handled until the poison is removed by a character with the appropriate skill to do so.

**While this effect exists, Kaurath 2.0 will not be using this effect during any events without a player notification.**

## **Shackles**

Shackles are a prop that binds a character's wrists or legs. An in game lock is affixed to each prop to represent the locking mechanism of that prop. The prop must be loose enough to remain comfortable and, for safety, the player must be able to easily remove the prop if an out of game need arises.

Shackles can only be placed on a helpless or willing character if the lock is open. You place the shackle prop on the helpless or willing target and close the lock. Shackles placed on the arm restrict movement and make it impossible to use any skill that requires that the arms must be free, including using weapons, using packet attacks, and using First Aid. You may use a skill that allows you to attempt to open a game lock on your own shackles. Shackles placed on the legs make it impossible to run and restrict movement to the extent of the shackles. A prop placed on the ankles must be constructed to allow the player to stand and walk slowly.

Shackles can be removed by opening the lock or by using an appropriate skill to remove them. Each game will have a skill assigned to destroy and remove shackles by taking a minute and using the appropriate props and roleplaying. Skills that allow a character to slip out of bonds are also possible.

## **Verbal Modifiers**

There are certain phrases that can be added to verbals to change the effect. These can modify the duration or add additional effects to an attack. For simplicity, a single attack can only be modified by one of the verbal modifiers.

## **Short**

Someone precedes an attack verbal with "Short" and calls out an effect that lasts until you rest or lasts for the entire event. This effect lasts until you rest for 10 seconds. If used with Frenzy then the effect will only last 10 seconds.

## **Permanent**

Someone precedes an attack verbal with "Permanent" and calls out an effect with a duration. The effect will last at least the remainder of the event. Permanent effects may not be removed by resting, but may still be removed by the Cure effect.

**In Kaurath, Permanent effects might last indefinitely. If you end the event with a Permanent effect submit to plot a description of the effect and how you received it.**

## **Ambient**

Someone precedes an attack verbal with "Ambient" to indicate that the effect is a result of an environmental or a plot condition and not an effect that originates from the creature that calls it. Although the effect itself remains unchanged, this indicates to the players that disabling the creature calling the effect will not prevent the effect. This modifier is usually used with plot deliveries to indicate plot driven effects.

If, for example, someone from the plot team called out "By My Voice, Ambient Agony by Fire" then the players would know that throwing a Silence effect or trying to Paralyze the creature calling the effect would not prevent the plot person from calling the effect. A plot person could also call something like "By Your Name, Travis, Ambient Agony by Disease" to indicate that some plot condition is causing Travis pain but it isn't related to the creature calling the effect.

## **Double and Triple**

One delivery causes multiple attacks to affect the target. "Double" causes two of the specified attacks to be delivered, while "Triple" causes three attacks to be delivered. Each attack requires a separate defense.

For example, a wizard calls out "Triple 10 Damage by Fire" and throws a packet that hits you. You must take three "10 Damage by Fire" attacks. "Resist Fire" would negate one of these attacks and you would still take two attacks. You may use multiple defenses against these attacks.

## **Chained Effects**

Two effects can be chained in one attack. The verbal should name the effects with an "and" between them. If both effects have the same trait then the trait is called only at the end of the attack. If both effects have different traits then a trait is called for each effect. A defense that negates one of the effects or one of the traits if they are different would only affect that portion of the attack. In the case where both effects have the same trait, however, a defense that negated the appropriate trait would negate all effects. The attack is still considered a single melee, missile, or packet attack so a defense that negates a hit from a specific delivery such as melee, missile, or packet will negate the entire attack.

*For example, a spider calls out "Drain and Slow by Poison" and hits a player with a*

*packet. The defense "Resist Poison" would negate the entire attack. The defense "Resist Slow" would negate the Slow effect, but the character would still be affected by the Drain effect. If the character had both "Resist Slow" and "Resist Drain" defenses then both could be used to negate the effects of the attack.*

*For example, a wraith calls out "Paralyze by Fear and 2 Damage" and hits the player with a melee attack. The defense "Resist Fear" would negate the Paralyze effect. The defense "Resist Weapon" would negate the Damage effect. A skill that negates one melee strike would negate the entire attack.*

Characters are built with character points. You spend these points to buy headers and skills. Skills allow you to use weapons and armor, deliver called effects, use information skills, use beneficial effects on other characters, and create special game items.

### **Traits**

Each character has the following traits:

- You have the **Living** trait, unless you are currently dead.
- You have your heritage as a trait.
- You have your culture as a trait.
- Each skill header that you purchase is a trait. A character who has purchased the Rogue header, for example, has the Rogue trait.
- You may have status traits such as Bloodied which gain as long as your Vitality is below its Maximum.

### **Equipment**

Characters start with whatever props for normal weapons, armor, and tools that they bring with them to the game. If you purchase weapon or armor skills, or skills that require specific tools then you are expected to bring the props needed to use those skills.

Players cannot forge game documents or produce replicas of game props or tags without plot approval. These items must be acquired in game. If players encounter a similar prop or series of props outside of game that is used for a storyline or a treasure we ask that players not bring these items to the game.

More extensive notes on items appear under the Base Header Crafter.

### **From Behind**

There are some skills that can only be used from behind a foe. These skills can only be used if you can see both shoulder blades of your opponent and you are in the rear 180 degree arc of the opponent as defined by the line of their shoulders. You cannot deliver these attacks by reaching around or over an opponent even if you can reach their back.

### **Spell-Like Ability**

These abilities aren't spells, but they require the same type of concentration as spells. As with any packet attack, you cannot use these abilities while you are actively being hit. In addition,

Spell-Like Abilities typically require that both your hands be free. Skills that allow you to cast spells while carrying a weapon or a shield in your off hand also work with Spell-Like Abilities.

## Information Skills and In Between Game Actions

Some skills allow you to pursue answers to questions between events. These skills are called information skills. Each information skill has a specifically defined source from which answers are drawn.

Some of these answers come from otherworldly beings, some from spirits, some from contacts, and some from hands on or library research. Your question is answered from the perspective and in the best manner that your source can pursue it. To use an information skill you must maintain a good relation with these sources.

Using your sources you make a request for knowledge. You submit the question you are pursuing among your sources to plot between events. Give plot at least two weeks before an event or your answer will very likely be delayed.

The use of information skills doesn't cost anything, but if the query is relevant to a skill or profession you possess you may receive an enhanced answer.

Information skills will always yield some information, but the complexity and detail of that information will vary based on the source of the information. All information will be accurate and truthful as far as the source is concerned, though in rare cases the source may be incorrect or misleading. If no information on your specific topic is available, then your source may attempt to fill in information that they feel is pertinent or helpful to your situation.

If you submit a new question before you get an answer, then the old question will be forgotten and the sources will begin to instead pursue the new question. Your answer will come in one of three ways; you might get a written response between events, you might get a verbal or written response at the opening of an event before it starts, or a contact might come to find you in game to deliver some piece of knowledge related to your question. If you are seeking answers to difficult or obscure questions you may have to use the skill more than once to pursue the answers.

The best way to submit questions is to **submit them as your In Between Game Action (IBGA) on a Post Event Letter form. But you can also email** the question as plain text in the body of the message to plot. Info skills must be submitted within two weeks after an event to be considered for the next one. A character may only **use one information skill** between events even if they know multiple types. It may take more than one event to receive a response.

**During long breaks the plot team will solicit two in between game actions to represent the longer time available. Similarly if someone must skip an event due to COVID they can submit a special IBGA to address things they might have addressed during play and the team will do what they can to act on it.**

**Do not confuse these with requested modules which are simply ideas for the writing team to consider adding to the mix while writing an event.**

**Once all submitted IBGA and module requests are processed, if the plot team has free time, they will look at additional emails on a time and inspiration available basis.**

### **Other In Between Game Actions (IBGA/BGA)**

Even without a relevant information skill you can submit an in-between game action (or two during a long break) telling the plot team what your character is trying to do. The plot team will judge the progress you make based on the resources you have to apply. Our commitments and efforts described above apply to such activities as well, they are all one pool of work for the team.

Not all in game resources are represented as in game skills but we hope over time to represent many as things that you can spend CP on to ensure a level of balance and to memorize role playing in ways that all team members can view.

This is an area where professional skills also shine -- for example if you are a farmer as your professional skill and your IBGA has to do with expanding your farm land or cultivating new and interesting seeds you acquired from an evil vegetable monster you killed - those are natural IBGA to let plot know about and ones which might or might not have a significant impact later..

### **Hidden Skills**

Once you have begun to play a character, you will accumulate more character points and may purchase additional skills. You can purchase additional skills from this book. Skills that are not listed in the rules, or skills that you are normally restricted from learning, sometimes become available from teachers or as the results of research during the game. These are called hidden skills. As a rule, once players have started learning a hidden skill information about it leaks out, often from others motivated to research the same topic, and the skill becomes unhidden after a time, though it may still require you to be taught by someone who already knows the skill.

## One Page Effect Summary

- Agony** - Intense pain. 10 seconds. Can defend. Can run.
- Cure...** - Remove one named effect or trait. If unnamed choose one NOT imbued or inflicted.
- Remove...** - Force remove an effect. No touch cast. Can defend.
- Damage** - Removes Armor, then Protection, then Vitality. Can't be removed or dispelled.
- Death** - An attack with this effect kills you. 5 minutes, then Spirit.
- Destroy...** - Target is destroyed and cannot be used until repaired.
- Diagnose** - Used to determine if called effect exists on a person. Yes/no answers; damage #
- Disarm...** - Must drop until it stops moving or place down for 5 seconds.
- Disengage** - Plant feet 3 seconds. Gesture with weapons everyone who is attacking you and gestured at must move back out of weapon range so that you cannot cross extended weapons.
- Drain** - No running. No Skills. If specified, can't use thing specified. Rest 5 Minutes.
- Expose...** - Call out if you have the specified trait, unless dead/unconscious.
- Frenzy** - Attack closest creature. Can use skills. Dead or Unconscious to end.
- Grant...** - You receive a boon. Limit 3 unless it is Grant Extra (limit 1). 1 per thing affected. Protection drops after armor, before health.
- Double and Triple** - Effect lands 2 or 3 times. Defend separately. Take what's left.
- Heal...** - Restores Vitality
- Imbue...** - Effect described on card.
- Inflict...** - Effect described on card.
- Maim** - Arm or leg. No effect on torso. Called or must hit the area affected. If leg, can't hop. No resting off.
- Paralyze** - You cannot move, but can hear. If posed or fall unconscious, fall down immediately. 5 minutes
- Refresh...** - Restores attribute or trait.
- Repair...** - Repairs armor up to max.
- Repel** - Prevents all attacks from the target. Stay 10 ft away. Rest 5 minutes.
- Root** - Right foot cannot move. May pivot on foot. Rest 5 minutes.
- Silence** - Can't talk. No incants. Out of Game verbals still happen. Rest 5 Minutes.
- Slam** - 3 steps back and fall down or take knee for 3 seconds.
- Slow** - No running. Rest 5 minutes.
- Stabilize** - Sets unstable to 0 vitality and stable.
- Stricken** - Cannot take positive effects until removed
- Stun** - Unconscious. Incapacitated. Rest while effected. 5 minutes.
- Speak** - Talk to target even if normally not able. May still not work.
- Waste...** - Consumes target effect/attribute. Can be refreshed or cured to restore. Ignores armor
- Weakness** - No called melee weapon attacks. Rest 5 minutes.
- Elude, Guard, Shield** - Dumb defense. Stops first valid attack. Must call when used. (M,W,S)
- Avoid, Parry, Resist** - Smart defense. Stops chosen valid attack. Must call when used. (M,W,S)
- Purge** - End an effect after it's affected you. 3 seconds to use.
- Reduce, Absorb** - Affected by effect, but take less of it, or stop it and turn into something else.
- Increased** - The effect used is more effective than normal.
- Reflect** - Sends effect back at source and negates effect. Can defend against returned effect.
- Spirit** - Insubstantial. No effect to all calls not "to Spirit". Eyes down, hands at side. Walk slow.
- Short** - Effect lasts until you rest for 10 seconds.
- Permanent** - Effect lasts until event ends, might continue next event. Tell plot. May be cured.
- By My Voice (BMV)** all who can hear **By My Gesture (BMG)** while pointed at, **By My Gaze** 2 Secs.

# Chapter 1.1: Core Rules Notes

This Chapter includes two areas -- for all of our players we are including any clarifications and notes on the Core Accelerant rules in Chapter 1 which highlight our choices, resolve ambiguities people find, and point to things later in the rules to keep in mind.

## Ranged Weapons and Thrown Spells

We do not use "LARP safe" arrows for missile combat.

- Standard LARP style "packets" (limited to Green or brown by Campsite rules) can be used for Spells, Missile weapons, and thrown item attacks).
- Specific coreless LARP safe throwing daggers can be used to self represent throwing daggers.
- NERF darts are used for Rune Projectors and Handgunnes when they appear in the game.
- Packet bows are permit with the Draw Limiter.

All of these tools must be checked and approved by a Weapons Marshal before the start of play.

Because it is hard in the heat of battle to tell the difference between uncalled spells and uncalled missiles we choose to use the most conservative (NERF weapon) rule for all of them:

Weapons and Shields safely stop **uncalled** attacks from all of these.

NOTE! This is for **Uncalled** attacks. Called attacks against a player can be blocked by a weapon unless that attack is specifically targeting the weapon. So if I swing or throw "3 Damage by Lightning" and your sword stops my sword or jacket from hitting you, you take no damage but I still spend the cost to cast. If I swing or throw "Destroy Sword" and you block it with your sword, your sword will be destroyed in game and you need to drop the sword rep and can not attack with it until it is **Repair**-ed.

Shields stop normal weapon attacks but do not block the strong magics of a called spell. If you hit my shield with a spell packet and are calling a spell such as "This is eight magic syllabl's, 3 Damage by Lightning" it takes effect but not if its just a shocking arrow calling just the "3 Damage by Lightning." The presence of the mages unique incant (in our example 'this is eight magic syllable's' ) and them holding up their Arcane focus symbol or wand, instead of a large bow is the clue.

## Stunned

All character are assumed to have the special skill to prevent **Death Strikes** while they are Stunned:

**No You Don't:** When Stunned: **Absorb Deathstrike to Cure Stun** (Free)

If you are Stunned due to a stunn effect either short or full and someone wants to deathstrike you due to your being immobile the shock of tht attack snaps you out of the situation, with the call "**Absorb** Death Strikee to **Cure Stun to Self**". This is specific to Stun and does not affect other similar attacks like Paralyze (which is usually more expensive as a result of that different.)

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