

Tempting Tephra



An Anti-Canonical
Pentolan Chrestomathy

By Michael T Lombardi

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|----|---|----|--|
| 11 | <p>SILVERTHORN GECKO'S EYE</p> <p>The vertically slitted pupil of this gecko's lacquered eye has a silver rune inscribed on the back; when picked up, a small jolt sparks into the bearer's body.</p> <p>If the bearer replaces one of their own eyes with this one, they can see in vibrant color, even in low light. They can also see through the eye of any gecko which has licked the eye in the last day.</p> | 21 | <p>FOUNTAIN OF FORGIVENESS</p> <p>This granite statue of a woman in a tunic with bronze plates sewn into it holds a moon-shaped blade of pale marble, water flowing from her other hand in a trickle, pooling in a basin at her feet..</p> <p>If you spill your blood into the basin it will be sucked up and flow from her hand, causing anyone hostile to you nearby to feel their hostility ebb.</p> |
| 12 | <p>SMOKESOUND SHIELD</p> <p>This pale linen shield is held together by ironoak withies that twirl and warp like rippling smoke, blackened by flame. Fire of all sizes gutters in the presence of it, seemingly afraid of the burnt wood.</p> <p>While holding it, the bearer's hearing is heightened, thought their ears are hot to the touch; if they lean in, they can hear <i>through</i> flames, as if connected.</p> | 22 | <p>MARINE'S LAST STAND SANDALS</p> <p>This pair of simple drakeleather sandals hearkens back to the iconoc panoply of those who fended off the Gray Sharkfleet of the Gascons, though buckled in gold rather than bronze.</p> <p>Whenever a blow would otherwise kill or incapacitate you, you find the strength in you for one last desperate action, so long as you're wearing these sandals.</p> |
| 13 | <p>WINTER'S WORKER</p> <p>This small, heavy pewter statue of a broad backed figure hoisting a block of ice is set into a mirrored-silver disk. On the figure's feet a pale bluish mold grows, reaching up towards their knees.</p> <p>Whilst carried, the bearer finds even the slickest ice easily traversible. Ingesting or inhaling the mold causes the breath to freeze solid in one's lungs.</p> | 23 | <p>EARTHFORGE BOWL</p> <p>This heavy, unglazed clay bowl is rimmed with small volanic stones, in the shape of a circling mountain range; on one peak, a bloody smudge has dried.</p> <p>When a piece of metal of metal is placed in the belly of this bowl it will slowly heat until it melts, keeping it at it's melting temperature and no hotter until it is poured out.</p> |
| 14 | <p>SWEETWATER'S GIFT</p> <p>This violet ceramic ladle's bowl is carved from perfectly clear and smooth sapphire, catching and reflecting the light endlessly when not submerged.</p> <p>When used to serve a meal or drink, those served find themselves wanting for nothing, content for today, at least, and entirely nourished.</p> | 24 | <p>GOLDTHUMB SHEARS</p> <p>This pair of bronze garden shears is utterly unremarkable save that the handles are capped with golden thumbs, each with a strange rune etched into the fingernail roughly, as if an addition.</p> <p>When used to prune, future growth will be twice as productive and fast as might otherwise be expected. Placing your own blood into the cut doubles this effect.</p> |
| 15 | <p>YOUTHFLAME TABLET</p> <p>This clay tablet shows a child in the heart of an inferno, unburnt, with black spirals extending from an outstretched hand. On closer inspection, those spirals are inlaid mageglass. The clay smells like a cinnamon dessert, freshly baked.</p> <p>While carried the bearer finds that they have an instinctive talent for fire magic, making all related tests one step easier.</p> | 25 | <p>ETCHED ORATOR</p> <p>On a piece of flexible bronze, an etching of a tall woman speaking to a crowd. In the grooves, a deep orange mold has grown, furring the details further.</p> <p>Gazing on it for a few moments causes viewers to hear an unintelligible but impassioned speech which fills them with confidence and ambition for the day. The mold deafens any who ingest it.</p> |
| 16 | <p>MOONDRAKE BANGLE</p> <p>This silver bangle is marvelously wrought in the shape of three young drakes trying to devour a thin sliver of pale lavender Pentolan marble worked into the shape of the watchful moon.</p> <p>When presented, drakes who can see the bangle will treat the bearer like a dear friend. Whenever the bearer steps into moonlight, the drakes will instead turn on and attempt to devour the bearer.</p> | 26 | <p>THICKBLOOD HAIRPIN</p> <p>A long, slender piece of bone wrapped in delicate iron wire, the twin components of blood according to Pentolan thinking. At the blunt end the iron rises from the bone in tendrils, as if smoking.</p> <p>A wearer is nearly impossible to kill or critically injure. If they remove the pin and place it in the flesh of a fallen friend, the friend is revived, though the wearer's body turns to ash mere moments later.</p> |

31

BLOODFOUNT BLADE

This small, thin copper dagger is always covered in soot no matter how much it is cleaned, the surface coloring again in moments. Dangling from the hilt, three small iron charms in the shape of flames.

Whilst sheathed, the bearer is twice as hard to kill; when drawn, this blade can kill with a single blow, but the bearer will also be killed by any strike.

32

RUMBLESTONE BELT

This thin, supple belt is made of pale pink drakeleather and capped in dark mageglass at both ends.

When removed from the body the ends can be inserted into any stone surface, anchoring there until the wearer pull three times in rapid succession.

33

CRAFTER'S PROMISE

On a plain wooden platter, a tube of vibrant red silk with two rings of perfectly smooth mageglass on either end.

When two people put a finger in each end of the tube it slices the proffered fingers off painfully. When the tube is removed, the pair have swapped fingers. Thereafter, they may also apply any dweomers to each other when targeting themselves.

34

SUNGULL STATUE

This statue of the famous good omen sought by sailors and coastal foragers alike is gilded in brilliant gold, flapping its wings and filling the room with the smell of a calm, sunlit day.

At every dawn, anyone touching the statue finds that their injuries ameliorate as if a full day had passed in those moments.

35

FLIGHT OF FANCY

This delicate glass pitcher has a handle of deeply polished ironoak, carved into a riot of workers building scaffolding towards the top of the pitcher.

When plain Sweetwater is poured from this pitcher the drinkers find that gravity barely binds them, enabling them to defy it for an hour. Drinking anything else from it crushes the drinkers in place for one minute, the liquid lead in their guts.

36

TOOTHGIVEN SPLENDOR

This pair of bronze pliers is studded with amethysts and engraved with an image of a rich and prosperous dentist. In the dark, it hums softly and each gem glows softly.

When used to pull your own tooth, the removed tooth turns into a perfect amethyst. When used to remove someone else's tooth, one of your fingernails turns to amethyst instead.

41

GEMSLINGER'S CAP

This violet drakeleather military cap is lined with pale blue silk and is studded with 2d6 sapphires shaped like oblong drake eggs.

In addition to providing protection from blows to the head, the "drake eggs" can be removed and slung at a target, sapping anyone struck by the missile of their will to fight.

42

ASHFLESH SPRION

This statue of a wealthy ruler of a spire is surprisingly detailed for being carved of pumice, holding their hands outstretched. On each palm, an arcane sigil which smells of smoke.

Holding the statues hand causes your own to burn painfully, but also burns any sickness from inside you, leaving you blistered but otherwise healthy.

43

FISHBAIT HARPOON

This fisher's harpoon is extravagant, the point made of porcelain and the oak shaft inlaid with a scroll of opal, delicately carved with tiny fish.

When placed into water no deeper than the harpoon itself all nearby fish flock to the point, swirling around it so long as it is submerged.

44

STORMTRAVEEL SPEAR

This long spear is tipped not with a bronze blade but a spike of wickedly sharp rose quartz, the base wrapped in black-and-azure silk ribbons.

The last person whose blood was spilled on the spearhead will, when the spear is next thrown into the ground, appear in a blast of lightning, riding it in without any warning.

45

BLOCK DEFENDER'S BREASTPLATE

This linen breastplate has pieces of blue-gray Pentolan marble threaded into it like a mosaic, depicting a happy and bustling neighborhood.

While in the depicted neighborhood, the wearer grows a foot in height and is half again as strong as normal. If they leave the neighborhood while wearing the armor, they shrink and are half as strong instead.

46

COMPANION'S FEASTSHIELD

This wide willow-boarded shield has a concave face thinly plated in bronze, etched with dozens of armored friends eating and drinking together around a flat stone where the shield's boss should be.

When placed on the ground and used as a platter, any food, no matter how stale or bland, tastes like the greatest repast by a culinary artisan.

TEMPTING TEPHRA

Explanation of *Tempting Tephra* in-world and what a chrestomathy is.

WHEN TO USE THESE TABLES

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