

# GLOSSARY

## THE FALLEN GODS, THE FIRMAMENTS, AND BEYOND

**The Abyss:** A realm of infinite darkness and cold, thankfully separate to the mortal realm. Home to unimaginable horrors, of which the Condemner is only one.

**The Condemner:** A powerful, eldritch entity of legend. Bestowed two cosmic gifts upon Our Lady: the knowledge of glyphs, and insanity.

**The Firmaments:** A celestial paradise in the sky. Domain of Oldrac, Our Lady, and their elusive kin.

**Oldrac:** A mythic, godlike being, titled Our Lord by his worshippers. Fell to earth many centuries ago to restore Our Lady to the firmaments.

**The Choir:** The dominant religious organization of the Commonwealth, governed by the teachings of Oldrac and Our Lady. Responsible for the invention and distribution of non-lethal pulp physicks.

**Oldsfall Festival:** An annual celebration of Oldrac's arrival on earth, the second of two Fall Days in the Commonwealth's calendar.

**The Radiant Principles:** The core tenets of Oldrac's teachings – honour, compassion, prudence, courage, honesty, loyalty, faith, and

most importantly, oneness – and the religious text that elaborates upon them.

**The Prelate:** The Choir's revered leader, a precious relic from Oldrac's earthly rule.

**Our Lady:** A mythic, godlike being who fled from the firmaments to study glyphs on earth. Her true name, Eero, is so rarely used as to be forgotten.

**Ersfall Festival:** An annual celebration of Our Lady's arrival on earth, the first of two Fall Days in the Commonwealth's calendar.

**The Reunion War:** A centuries-long war between Glimwick and Preyburn, driven by the fallen gods.

## GRAVERS

Practitioners of sorcery that comprise the Commonwealth's military. Gravers transform corpses into undead monsters for use in battle. Once a derogatory term coined from 'grave robbers', now a mark of status.

**Atrophers:** Metal plates carved with *ezorbox*, the glyph of atrophy. Used by gravers for the rapid destruction of unwanted effigies.

**Conjunctions:** Glyphs that connect eerians to the Eternal Spite, and vice versa.

**Donations:** Corpses donated for use in graving. Donation is a privilege afforded to every Commonwealth national from birth, except for scions; Oldracian flesh is worthless in graving.

**Eerians:** Wild monsters made of pulp and corpse-flesh. Although eerians were originated by Our Lady, the Eternal Spite recreates her designs most faithfully.

**Effigies:** Undead monsters made from human corpses, created and controlled by gravers.

**Epitaphs:** Glyphs arranged in sequence to create and control eerians and effigies.

**The Eternal Spite:** A fundamental force in nature created by Our Lady, also called the Blood of Preyburn. It replicates her eerians from corpses and pulp, while gravers channel its power to create effigies. *Our Lady is gone, but her spite is eternal.*

**Glyphs:** Expressions of eldritch power represented as symbols, bearing some manner of sentience. They possess many wonderful abilities, most of which relate to dead flesh.

**The Compendium of Glyphs:** A discursive record of every glyph known to gravers, of which there are currently 1,063. A #1 bestseller in Preyburn.

**Graphium:** A pen-shaped hand tool used in graving. Creates sorcerous heat, with which to inscribe glyphs onto corpses.

**Grave Pulp:** A valuable medium of the Eternal Spite, exclusively and naturally produced in the soil of Preyburn. Empowers gravers when certain conditions are met, but poisons scions without fail.

**Pulp Physicks:** Pulp mixed into liquid for ingestion. Only the Choir knows the formula for non-lethal physicks.

**Pulpmoth:** A pulp-corrupted moth species whose larvae feed on necrotic flesh. A perfect nuisance to gravers.

## SPIRERS

Professional eerian-slayers who perform for crowds in arenas. Their sport, known as the Hallowed Game, is by far the most beloved in the Commonwealth.

**Acclaim:** Divine lightning granted by Oldrac. Fortifies scions who follow his Radiant Principles. Ravages glyphs, pulp-flesh, and electrical gadgetry.

**The Grand Mêlée:** A spiring competition held every five years to determine the Commonwealth's greatest champion.

**The Might of Our All-Glorious Lord, and the Cunning of Our Dark-Crowned Lady:** A duality of spires forged by Ivo Helel, esteemed spire-maker. Like all spires, they are designed to channel Acclaim.

**Scions:** Distant derivatives of the mythical Oldrac, according to common belief. Each one stands to inherit otherworldly traits, such as enhanced strength, healing, and dexterity.

**Stage:** A violent performance of spirer versus eerian in an arena.

**Stage Warders:** Senior spiring pupils, duty-bound to supervise their juniors' training and stages. Will only intervene in cases of mortal peril.

## LOCATIONS

**The Commonwealth:** The united provinces of Glimwick and Preyburn. Sequestered from the rest of the world by its people's dangerous and unnatural abilities.

- **Glimwick:** A formerly minor nation, partial to snow, that rose to prominence when Oldrac endowed its people with godlike abilities. Formed of five regions: the Winter Grounds, the Ascent, the Verge, the Storm Grounds, and the Cradle.
  - **Balver:** The capital of the Winter Grounds in southern Glimwick.
    - ◆ **St Penderghast:** The most prestigious of the five regnant colleges, where spirers and gravers train.
      - ◇ **Dunchester campus:** Where spiring preceptors and students board and train. St Penderghast's arena is located here.
      - ◇ **Thumbarrow campus:** Where graving preceptors and students board and train.

- **Copperfont:** The location of the Faultons' ancestral home, and much-contested site of Oldrac's arrival.
  - **The Embankment:** The city that joins Preyburn to Glimwick. This thriving hub of entertainment, not *all* of it sordid, is a popular destination for Glimwickian tourists.
  - **The Fenlands:** Uninhabited wetlands that cover vast swathes of Preyburn and beyond, saturated with pulp and lousy with eerians.
  - **Preyburn:** The once-home of Our Lady, the province of Preyburn is synonymous with graving and sullen weather.
    - **Burymeadow:** A tiny rural town, where Withersham Hall is the highlight.
    - **Crippleditch:** A slightly larger rural town, where Hal's parents live.
    - **Withersham Hall:** A military school that trains gravers from the ages of 11–18.
    - **Wutherweir:** The capital city of Preyburn.
- Our Lady's Last Stand:** The site of Our Lady's final battle with Oldrac many centuries ago, and of pilgrimage by spirers in the modern day. The deadliest eerians can be found here, for those brave or silly enough to go looking.
- Zsietian Ascendancy:** The closest nation to the Commonwealth, and one it is currently at war with. Possesses formidable technology, at least by the Commonwealth's standards.

#### OTHER TERMS

- Abettors:** Personal stewards to the provosts. Scions gifted with a fraction of Oldrac's divine foresight.
- The Council of Provosts:** The Commonwealth's leadership. Each

provost governs one of the five regnant colleges and the region that hosts it.

**Gilt:** The currency of Glimwick.

**Pud:** The currency of Preyburn. Whilst originally slang, short for 'pudding', the term was eventually ratified by the Council.