# ONE SESSION KITS<sup>©</sup>



# K3: TO BRING DOWN THE SKY

An adventure for level 4 characters Pathfinder/5e compatible with conversion notes for OSR

> Ben Gibson With maps by Dyson Logos

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### With Cartography by Dyson Logos

Special thanks to play testers: Ben A, Karen, and Katie

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Pathfinder Roleplaying Game Core Rulebook. Copyright 2009, Paizo Inc.; Author: Jason Bulmahn, based on material by Jonathan Tweet, Monte Cook, and Skip Williams. The Book of Experimental Might. Copyright 2008, Monte J. Cook. All rights reserved. Tome of Horrors. Copyright 2002, Necromancer Games, Inc.; Authors: Scott Greene, with Clark Peterson, Erica Balsley, Kevin Baase, Casey Christofferson, Lance Hawvermale, Travis Hawvermale, Patrick Lawinger, and Bill Webb; Based on original content from TSR. The overcast sky and dusty road are working in concert to make for a truly dismal day. It's almost a relief to hear something out of the ordinary, like a wailing cry of panic and a harsh, coughing roar. Looking up to the clouds, a thin human figure hurtles down, chased by a savage beast with reptilian wings. But looking up past the two is an even stranger sight...three mighty isles loom out of clouds, impossible and yet somehow real.

#### **Adventure Introduction**

To Bring Down the Sky is a site-base adventure built for characters of 4<sup>th</sup> level, where the players roam three small islands in the sky formerly owned by powerful wizard, Gerlia of the Winds. As the players travel they are witness to a wyvern savaging the wizard's apprentice as he falls. Either talking to the apprentice Hugo or looting his corpse brings the players up to the sky. The islands there are slowly coming down, panicking the servants of the wizard as her machines and former allies run rampant.

If the players want to get down from the sky islands safely, they will need to recharge the artifact that has come into their possession, the *Sky Feather*. To do so, they will first have to uncover the secrets of the islands and how to unlock the full powers of the artifact. However, while they explore the falling isles the players must not only dodge the Wizard Gerlia's traps and constructs and an angry pack of wyverns, but also deal with the emergence of one of Gerlia's worst enemies, the two-headed ogre sorcerer Pogwog, who has long been trapped in a horrifying state of unreality.

Pogwog the Quantum Ogre will offer the players advice on how to empower the Sky Feather while keeping back the fact that each time the players drain energies from the sky islands' arcane machinery the isles further destabilize and Pogwog himself comes closer to freedom. Upon fully charging the Sky Feather the mad ogre breaks free and will attempt to slay the players for the artifact. This final battle takes place while the land beneath everyone's feet begins to shred to bits and fall to the ground.

Although designed as a one-shot this adventure is setting-agnostic and can be added to almost any campaign in the midpoint of some travel. Granting the players a powerful artifact that allows party-wide flight can open up the world, and rather than make the hook coincidental the sky isles can be used as a foreshadowed place within the world specifically sought out as the Sky Feather's location.

Regardless of the outcome of the final battle the islands' break-up should be a spectacular set-piece at the end of the session, as glowing crystals shatter out of the ground and players desperately attempt to survive their downfall. The last few servants of the wizard will seek rescue from the players as everything falls, giving the party a chance for heroism.

#### About ONE SESSION© kits

Sometimes, you just need an instant adventure.

Perhaps your usual GM got sick. Perhaps you are introducing new friends to the game. Perhaps you want to try out a new system, to shake things up a bit, or maybe just blow off some steam. That calls for a one shot; a self-contained adventure where people can sit down at the table with no prior knowledge of the setting or plot, and wrap up after four hours satisfied with the ending of their story. That's what the adventures in the ONE SESSION series are designed for; insert them into your ongoing game or play them with strangers at a con. Bring your own ideas, equipment, and props into them and mix and match all you like. But ONE SESSION kits are designed to give you not just an adventure, but also everything you need to *run* the adventure besides the dice.

The map(s) where the adventure takes place are provided at the end of this PDF broken up into 11x8.5 sections designed to fit into the PF/5e 1 inch=5ft scale, either pre-gridded or with handy 30/20ft rulers provided for tactical maneuvers. Pregenerated characters are given on printable sheets with all their abilities and spells outlined, while another sheet is provided with print-and-play miniatures for characters and monsters appearing in the adventure. Handouts, notes, and item cards are printed as player aids. An optional sheet holds quick-reference rules explaining the basics of d20 resolution, action economy, and other common play terms, designed for the new player or GM's convenience at a home table or at a con, or even online imported to your virtual tabletop of choice.

Even if you intend to use your own aids or just run a game entirely theatre-of-mind, Coldlight Press is committed to designing adventures that are easy to run at the table; the game master should never have to have more than two pages open at a time, with everything needed to run the game seen on those two pages. Character sheets and stats are likewise designed so that either in combat or just having tea, all the role player needs to look at is a single piece of paper. Naturally, given the amount of rules even the simplest versions of the world's oldest roleplaying game has, we're not about to attempt to replace a core rulebook, but as long as at least one person at the table has a good handle on the game being played, printouts of the ONE SESSION kit should be all you need to look at for the session.

## The Sky Islands

The adventure begins with the players in cavalcade on a cloudy day when Hugo the apprentice makes his appearance, hurtling down to the earth holding on to the <u>Sky Feather</u> while a brutal **wyvern** toys with him. The players are to be put into initiative order immediately; Hugo is 240ft up and descends at a rate of 60ft per round. The wyvern will just seek to sting the apprentice at first but if the players challenge it the wyvern will turn to hunt the players with swift flyby attacks at first, only landing to full attack if it is confident of killing one. The wyvern will seek to flee at 20% health, leaving to warn the pack. Hugo, if he survives, begs the players' aid with his master's realm, currently falling from the sky and overrun by his enemies. With the <u>Sky Feather</u>, players are transported to the entry hole in the sky...

#### Wyvern:

7HD Dragon 19AC, 72hp 20ft move, 60ft fly (poor, +5 Fly) sting tail +10 (1d6+4 plus poison) bite +10 (2d6+4 plus grab) 2 wings +5 (1d6+2) Special: rake (2 talons +10, 1d6+4) Poison: Fortitude DC17, 1d4 Con Flyby Attack: Can make standard attack in the middle of a move.



Disk Swarm: Swarm (tiny); 18AC, 18hp hardness 5. 30ft fly (perfect, +8 fly) swarm (2d6) This swarm of magically animated disks bashes intruders without the command words "Tali bless you."

Clockwork Servant: Medium Construct; 15AC, 12hp Hardness 5 slam: +4 (1d6+4)

Tocktick, Clockwork Familiar Tiny Construct; 18AC, 33hp DR5/adamantine, Resist 10 cold, fire Slam: +9 (1d3+1d6 electric) Cantrips: Detect Magic: Can see magic in 30ft Mending: Repairs object 1d4 hp Scrolls (treasure and cast): Make Whole: Repairs object 5d6 hp Control Construct: Can control a construct or disk swarm once. Admonishing Ray: Two rays of nonlethal force, 30ft range, 4d6 each. Stoneskin: Gain DR10/adamantine.

Pogwog, the Quantum Ogre Sorcerer 4; 14AC 98hp +1 scythe (medium): +9 (1d6+3) wand of acid splash: +5 (1d4+1)  $2^{nd}$  level spells (3/day): Mirror Image: Creates 1d4+1 decoy duplicates of self. Create Pit: A 20ft deep, 10ft wide interdimensional pit forms, DC16 Reflex to avoid. Lasts 4 rounds. 1<sup>st</sup> level spells (5/day): Glue Seal: 5ft square or one object. DC15 Reflex or become stuck. Shield: +4 AC for 4 minutes. Quantum Escape: React to an attack by phasing, gaining DR10/-**Supernatural Ability:** Displacement: As a swift action, Pogwog can set himself up to displace into one of three locations, which show as shimmering ghostly images. A swift action teleports to an image. Two headed: Pog and Wog, the two heads of the ogre, each get an initiative count. **Hugo, Lost Apprentice** Wizard 2; 12AC, 18hp (9 temporary) Ray of Frost: +3 (1d3 cold)

Hugo, Lost Apprentice Wizard 2; 12AC, 18hp (9 temporary Ray of Frost: +3 (1d3 cold) 1<sup>st</sup> level spells: Burning Hands: 15ft cone does 2d4 fire damage. DC12 Reflex halves. Magic Missile: Missile does 14+1 force damage. False Life: Already cast\* Cantrips: Paged Magic Con road magic acrollo

Read Magic: Can read magic scrolls Mage Hand: Telekinetic hand

#### Key:

**Farm Isle:** This isle is reached by the bridge, but is drifting slowly away.

A. The Farm -This is the most stable of the isles, occupied by the kindly old halfling couple, Jim and Ertha Kneebles. They're barricaded within their farmhouse as two wyverns sleep in the barn, gorged on four cows. A terrified and adorable calf, Bessie, hides in the corner. The Kneebles won't want to leave without Bessie.
B. Bridge -The stone bridge here is windy and cracking. Within half an hour of the players' arrival the bridge begins to fall, leading to the farm island spinning away.

**Main Isle:** This isle is slowly descending through the clouds, taking the others down with it. Clouds cover the place (as *fog cloud*) for a few minutes each hour. **C. Copse of Trees** -This peaceful little copse of thick trees protects from large flyers like wyverns, the only such safe place outdoors.

**D. Levitation Crystals** -Erupting from the ground, these crystals hold up the isles, and are pulsing in slow time. The Sky Feather will take energy from the crystals to become empowered, but once it draws it in the isles will begin regular shaking.

E. Gerlia's Keep -This big stone keep was the main residence of the Skymage.
E1. Entry -The little gatehouse is wrecked. The door is locked with a good-quality lock and the entryway is empty. Two malfunctioning clockwork servants twitch within the waiting room to the right while a disk swarm sits on the stairway.
E2. Quarters -These tastefully appointed rooms have velvet and silk carpets and tapestries, bulky but worth 2d100gp per room larger than 10ft<sup>2</sup>.

**E3. Wrecked Roost** -This level is filled with a reptilian stench; a massive pile of shiny loot, covered in wyvern urine, sits in the central room. Most of it is worthless bits of glass and frippery, but searching through pile yields 1,000 gp in various coins and gems. The searcher(s), covered in stink, enrage any wyverns who smell them. Each minute spent in this level, there is a 5% chance a **wyvern** flies in.

**E4. Prison** -Each door has an arcane lock that the Sky Feather fits in like a key, and locked within are ghostly captives trapped in quantum states. The captives are human and make ghostly whisper sounds, not understandable. Draining the locks makes each captive disappear with peaceful looks on their faces.

**F. Skymage's Watch** -This tower here has vivid splashes of blood visible outside of the windows. A **disk swarm** and a hostile **clockwork servant** patrol from door to door. Within the tower itself two **disk swarms** guards the stair, while **Tocktick**, Gerlia's old clockwork familiar, is assisted by two more **clockwork servants** in the upstairs room trying to reconstruct the Skymage's old <u>cloak of featherfall</u>. The familiar knows the command words for the disk swarms.

G. Docks - The Skymage's flying allies and visitors arrived and stayed here.
G1. Skydock - Two wyverns have claimed the main dock as their roost. Three gryphon skeletons lie scattered; a <u>wand of cat's grace</u> (14) lies amidst the bones.
G2. Quarters - These abandoned guest quarters are echoing and cold. Each room has a 10% chance of containing an active disk swarm.

**Least Isle:** Reaching this island requires climb checks on the ropes, DC varies between 5-15 as this island goes up and down relative to the other two.

**H. High Church** -This crumbling chapel is at the confluence of a minor ley line. The church is empty, formerly dedicated to Tali, minor god of air. Murals show a dying phoenix shedding a single feather, the Sky Feather, which is then blessed by the god Tali. Texts in the chapel indicate the graveyard is the confluence; planting the Sky Feather will drain the ley line, which stops this isle from floating entirely. **I. Old Tower** -This old tower has two paranoid and glitchy **clockwork servants** guarding it's door. The middle level was Hugo's own lab, where two <u>scrolls of</u> <u>infernal healing</u> and a <u>scroll of scorching ray</u> are stowed. A very gravid **wyvern** in the top level working on making herself a nest using two smashed clockwork servants (her eggs worth 1,000gp). Pass to second isle exit is behind secret door.

# Venturing in the Sky

#### **Hugo's Request**

The poor apprentice Hugo is hapless and desperate. It's been the worst day. First his mistress dies. Then his home begins to fall. Finally, as the sky islands descend to the level of the clouds a rowdy pack of wyverns investigate the strange intrusion into their hunting territory.

If Hugo survives his introduction to the players, he'll implore them to return to the sky isles to rescue the Skymage's servants, Jim and Ertha Kneebles. He'll promise more mercenary characters the impressive magical possessions of the wizard if their rend aid.

If Hugo is slain by the wyvern, upon his corpse along with the Sky Feather there is a hastily scrawled note: "My mistress, Gerlia of the Winds, has died, and her home is slowly falling. Please use this feather to reach her home and rescue her faithful servants; help yourself to her magics by all means but please help them."

-Hugo, Apprentice to Gerlia

Touching the Sky Feather manifests powerful winds that transport all creatures up to the sky islands; players should be given the map handout as they see all of the three isles. Upon arriving at the Entry Hole the winds dissipate and the players are free to move around. Noisy or colorful displayed out in the open on the isles have a 5% chance of attracting the attention of a wandering wyvern.

#### Where do we go from here?

As this adventure is designed to be played as a one shot, the players can leave afterward without any lasting repercussions. But if the players wanted further adventures to follow up:

- The Sky Feather is from a fallen phoenix. Now reborn, and the vast fiery bird will hunt down those who possess its lost plumage.
- More subtle than Pogwog, the fallen wizard Geverlosh the Sanguine was also freed from his ethereal entrapment. He's been impressed watching the heroes, and now he wants them to help him plunder other caches of the dead Skymage.
- Hugo isn't very magical, but that may change if he can retrieve the Skymage's backup spellbook, hidden in a vault within the Iron Bank of Cairnvale. As rumors of the Skymage's death spread, however, other parties race to retrieve the fabled book.

Once the Sky Feather is repowered, the levitating energies that hold of the islands together begin to fail. The isles shake and slew as they each begin crumbling; every round standing on the isles requires acrobatics or other justifiable skill checks to maintain balance and not fall prone, with a DC beginning at 5 but incrementing by 1 more per round. After two minutes, the islands shatter.

#### **Charging the Sky Feather**

The Sky Feather after transporting the party to the sky isles is completely drained, appearing dull and faded. To empower the Sky Feather the players will need to bring the artifact to several different locations; draining power from each will further destabilize things on the isles but bringing it back to full is the ticket to getting off the isles safely. Four of the potential charges must be drained to re-empower the feather:

- The crystals naturally running through the isles levitate by their nature, and the biggest outcropping
   (D) can be drained for power.
- The bottom level of the keep (E4) has the prison locks heavily enchanted; four of them channeled into the Sky Feather will count as one of the power-ups.
- Going to the upper room of the tower (**F**) grants players access to the *cloak of featherfall*. The Sky Feather can be wrapped within the cloak to be further empowered.
- The ley-line alongside the chapel (**H**) can empower the feather if the artifact is buried in the ground.
- Draining <u>three</u> of the four releases **Pogwog**, who assaults the players for the Sky Feather. If he is slain, his corpse twists and warps; bathing Sky Feather in his energetic blood empowers it.

The methods of charging the artifact are not supposed to be hidden from the players. Hugo should know about the methods, if he survives he can guide them. Pogwog, appears as a ghostly specter and will also advise the players, growing more substantial each time they empower the artifact, confusing Hugo, who has never seen the orge. Of the NPCs that the players will meet:

### **Interaction Map**



Generally at the low levels seen here, Pathfinder monsters can be directly put in to 5e without things completely breaking. A rule of thumb would be to drop the Pathfinder AC by -1 per 2x challenge rating, upping the HP by 50% at the same time; this brings combat in line with the "hit more, more hits" shift between versions. Saves should be assumed to drop at about -1 per 2 CR, with Fortitude, Will, and Reflex going to roughly Con, Wis, and Dex. Common sense can be used, and given the levels covered here, not changing the numbers at all for DCs should be perfectly fine.

Example quick-converted statblocks:

Tocktick, Clockwork FamiliarTiny Construct; 14AC, 50hpResists cold, fire, piercingSlam: +9 (1d3+1d6 electric)Cantrips:Detect Magic: Can see magic in 30ftMending: Repairs object 1d4 hpScrolls (treasure and cast):Make Whole: Repairs object 5d8 hpControl Construct: Control a construct.Admonishing Ray: Two rays of nonlethal force,<br/>30ft range, 4d8 each.Stoneskin: Gain resistance to all physical<br/>damage.

Wyvern:

7HD Dragon 16AC, 110hp 20ft move, 60ft fly (poor, +5 Fly) sting tail +8 (1d6+4 plus poison) bite +8 (2d6+4 plus grab) 2 wings +5 (1d6+2) Poison: DC13 CON or poisoned Flyby Attack: Can make sting or bite attack in the middle of a move.

> Clockwork Servant: Medium Construct; 13AC, 20hp Resists piercing, cold slam: +4 (1d6+4)

**Pogwog, the Quantum Ogre** Sorcerer 4; 12AC 150hp scvthe (medium): +7 (1d6+3) wand of acid splash: +7 (1d4+1) 2<sup>nd</sup> level spells (3/day): *Mirror Image:* Creates 1d4 decoy duplicates of self. Create Pit: A 20ft deep, 10ft wide interdimensional pit forms, DC13 DEX to avoid. Lasts 4 rounds. 1<sup>st</sup> level spells (5/day): Glue Seal: 5ft square or one object. DC12 DEX or become stuck. Shield: +4 AC for 4 minutes. Quantum Escape: React to an attack by phasing, gaining resistance to physical damage **Supernatural Ability:** *Displacement*: As a bonus action, Pogwog can set himself up to displace into one of three locations, which show as shimmering ghostly images. A bonus action teleports to an image. Two headed: Pog and Wog, the two heads of the ogre, each get an initiative count.

> Disk Swarm: Swarm (tiny); 14AC, 30hp 30ft fly (perfect, +8 fly) swarm damage (2d6)

### **CONVERSION NOTES, OSR**

Confident game masters versed in the old school should have little difficulty converting hit boni and AC numbers to THAC0 and descending AC; hit die totals for most of the monsters included in this adventure correspond to class levels. So for example:

Disk Swarm - AC 4 (15), HD 1, #AT 1, D 1-6

Clockwork Servant - AC 5 (14), HD 1, #AT 1, D 1-6

Wyvern - AC 2 (17), HD 5, #AT 2, D 2-7 / D 1-4

Tocktick - AC 6 (13), HD 4, #AT 1, D 1-6, Spells

Pogwog - AC 8 (12), HD 4, #AT 2, D 1-4, Spells

### **Printouts and Aides**

- Player Handout page 9
- Rules Reference page 10
- Assumed Gear List page 11
- Printable Minis pages 11, 13
- Character Sheets pages 15-16
- Pre-generated Characters pages 17-24



# **Quick Rules Reference**

**D20 Resolution:** The basic resolution mechanic for **Rounds of Combat:** Timekeeping in d20 games is Pathfinder and all modern editions of D&D is the d20 mechanic; basically, to perform any action that has a chance of both success and failure, the player rolls a twenty-sided die (d20) against a given number. If the roll matches the number, the action succeeds, and if it is less than the number, the action fails. Various bonuses and negatives apply to each roll based on the character's skill and abilities, and the target number changes based on how difficult the action is. Thus, to climb a ladder the difficulty class (DC) is 5, while to hit a knight in plate armor his armor class (AC) is 20. In both cases, having a higher strength adds to the roll to climb or to attack. All skill checks, saving throws, and attacks resolve using this single mechanic.

Ability Scores: From the first edition of D&D and onward characters have been defined by six main "ability scores", numbers that represent the character's innate capabilities. In all cases, a score of ten is considered to be "average". For every two points lower or higher than ten, the character gains a penalty or and bonus while performing an action related to the score. The scores are described typically as follows:

- **Strength:** The character's muscular might; strength is what you use to lift a giant tomato.
- **Dexterity:** The character's agility and fine control; dexterity is used to accurately throw a tomato.
- **Constitution:** The character's toughness and ability to resist damage and disease; constitution is how to survive eating a rotten tomato.
- **Intelligence:** The character's knowledgeableness; intelligence is knowing a tomato is a fruit.
- **Wisdom:** The character's good sense and perception; wisdom is knowing a tomato doesn't belong in a fruit salad.
- **Charisma:** The character's force of personality and attractiveness: charisma is the ability to sell a tomato-based fruit salad.

Initiative and Combat Rounds: When combat or other conflicts are begun, the game master will call for an initiative roll; all actors in the combat will roll a d20 and add their modifier(s); highest result goes first, then the next highest, and so on until the lowest result plays. Then the next round begins and the highest initiative result takes another turn. This continues until there is no longer a conflict at hand, typically when one side is defeated or flees.

generally performed by the game master, who decides how long a given action should take. In combat, though, the game is broken into **rounds**; each round is assumed to be about six seconds. In each round, every individual involved goes in turn and gets single a **standard** action, a **move** action, and a **swift** action (action, move, and bonus action in 5e parlance) each.

- **Standard Actions (5e, action)** are things like casting a spell or making an attack.
- Move Actions (5e, move) are things like moving up to your speed in feet or standing up from prone.

Swift Actions (5e, bonus) are typically called out as character skills or abilities done quickly. Each individual also has a single **reaction**, typically used for things like making an attack of opportunity against an adjacent enemy casting a spell. Finally, some actions are so minor as to be considered free actions, like making a 5-foot step (PF) or reloading a bow (PF, 5e)





Flanking and Conditions: In combat both sides will maneuver to gain advantage. Although there is no facing in d20 combats when a participant is flanked (enemies on both sides) the flankers gain advantages on their attack rolls to hit the victim. Numerous spells and conditions also impose penalties or boons upon combatants.

Combat Maneuvers: Combatants will often attempt to grapple, trip, or otherwise impede one another during combat. To attempt a maneuver, roll a check adding combat maneuver bonus against a defense number (PF) or an opposed strength roll (5e). Success means the winner inflicts the chosen condition upon the loser.























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### ONE SESSION KITS.



### K2: ASSAULT ON MISTRUNNER VILLAGE

An adventure for level 2 characters Pathfinder/5e compatible with conversion notes for OSR

> Ben Gibson With maps by Dyson Logos

