ANGING DRA

Scattered across the face of Exodus are the Nexus Gateways, ancient magical portals that connect with each other as well as other worlds and dimensions. They cannot be controlled completely, though-on occasion they open without warning, sometimes bringing terrifying things from across the planes. One such occasion brought the wandering hero known as the Monkey Prince, who left behind tales of his madcap adventures and a powerful weapon known as the Dancing Dragons.

HISTORY

On a warm, mild night in 84 AU, the Nexus Gateway in Awenasa flared to life of its own accord. From the blazing energies of the gate sprang a single form-lean, spry, and robed-into the courtyard surrounding the gate. Its arrival did not go unnoticed. The gateway was always watched by a cadre of guards, as this occasion wasn't the first time a Nexus gate had let through something from beyond. The proud Panther Warriors at the gate demanded the being to surrender. With a laugh the creature instead attacked. The guards were soon put on the defensive as this lightning-quick creature set on them with flashing nunchaku, striking with blinding speed and leaping about the courtyard with ease. The guards, veterans all, found themselves engaged in a pitched battle against a single and seemingly untouchable foe.

The savage combat drew the attention of a young nobleman named Maroka, cousin and potential suitor to the Imperatrix Lolani, the latter desire stymied by her budding relationship with Bial Eland. Hurrying to see the source of the commotion, Maroka and his entourage found the carnage of fallen warriors and-fighting off the last desperate defenders-a single simian humanoid. The creature was covered in golden fur, clad in silken robes of royal blue. Its long, slender tail lashed the air as it fought. Whirling its weapon, it moved as fluidly as water and swiftly as the wind, ready to trip or disarm its few remaining opponents. However, the alarm had roused the rest of the garrison and more defenders were coming, likely enough to overwhelm the brash warrior. Maroka, struck by admiration for the stranger, felt determined to test his mettle against the strange being. The young nobleman warned his entourage back and strode forward, raising his Bal club and calling out a challenge. It's unclear whether the beast-man understood the man's words, but it recognized his intent. The creature leapt free



of its foes and beckoned the young nobleman on. The two engaged in an epic clash, fighting until they both collapsed from exhaustion.





Intrigued by this strange but honorable person, Maroka declared that the simian challenger had his personal protection, demanding the troops stand down and allow him to escort the simian to Lolani. After much convincing, the Imperatrix let the beast live, so long as Maroka took it from her city, eager to move the thing that embarrassed a squad of her elite troops as far away as possible.

Thus began a great friendship. The simian, whom Maroka dubbed the Monkey Prince, learned what he could of the local language, and taught Maroka some of his own tongue. The two roamed the expansive jungles of Bal, testing themselves against all the terrors of the wilds in great adventures. They fought together against savage beasts, caliban raiders, and wild enuka tribes. They explored ancient ruins swallowed by the jungle, great caverns in the depths of the earth, and lost shipwrecks off the coast. They would amass fortunes only to toss them away on hedonistic pursuits, piles of fine food, and buckets of ale, and then head back into the wilds to gain more. One dayafter five years of adventures and revelry-the Monkey Prince made clear his intention to return home. Maroka and the Prince returned to Awenasa, where they bade the

Imperatrix for permission to open the gate so the Monkey Prince could return home. She agreed,



and the gate opened. Before departing, the Prince gifted Maroka with his nunchaku, then he stepped through the gate. The two friends never met again.

Maroka continued his adventures, but some months later he vanished without a trace. His noble house loosened its purse-strings to hire diviners and expert trackers, who eventually located the young nobleman's body in the deep jungles. Though they returned him to his house, they could not find the Dancing Dragons among his possessions. The whereabouts of the potent weapons are currently a mystery.

DESCRIPTION AND CONSTRUCTION

These nunchaku are crafted of mithral and bound in some type of black, scaly hide. The caps of the rods are fashioned into roaring dragon-heads with eyes of red garnet. The exposed metal of the weapon is strangely cold to the touch, yet the hide is oddly warm.

THE DANCING DRAGONS

Aura strong evocation and transmutation; CL 15th Slot none; Price 30,802 gp; Weight 1 lb.

DESCRIPTION

Enchanted as +2 mithral countering nunchaku, the dancing dragons also have several other amazing attributes. The entire weapon is partially animate—the dragon-heads can snap and bite at opponents in combat. Before each attack, the wielder can choose for the weapon to deal bludgeoning, piercing, or slashing damage.

When the *dancing dragons* are used to disarm an opponent, their wielder may imbue the disarmed weapon with the *dancing* weapon ability, causing it to attack the disarmed opponent for 4 rounds as per the ability description. At the end of the fourth round, the effect ends and the weapon falls to the ground. This ability can be used three times per day.

Three times per day as a full-round action, the wielder can whirl the *dancing dragons* about, releasing a blast of cold in a 10-foot radius. All affected creatures must make a Reflex save (DC 10 + 1/2 wielder's character level or HD) or take 6d6 cold damage and be staggered for 1 round. A successful save halves the damage and negates the staggered effect.

CONSTRUCTION

Requirements Craft Magic Arms and Armor, *animate object, cat's grace, cone of cold*, crafter must be at least 15th level; **Cost** 15,802 gp









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