

TREASURES OF NEOEXODUS:

ÆGIS OF MAKASH

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1

Service in the Imperial blockade of Unthara is a difficult and thankless job. Danger threatens many directions: the Brotherhood, grim and greedy mercenaries lured by Khaynite gold to break the blockade, and—perhaps worst of all—the foul necromancer Xon and his quickslaver allies. Despite this, the commander of the marines aboard the Imperial Alliance warship *Cassandra's Smile* received a blessing both familial and divine in the form of an enchanted trident, imbued with powers that give the quickslavers pause.

HISTORY

The House of Vianden is no more. Political machinations by rivals put the Viandens out of favor with Empress Cassandra. The heads of the house were accused of withholding proper tribute to the crown and bureaucratic maneuvering that fall just this side of treason. Their titles were stripped, their properties confiscated by the Imperial Crown, and their lands distributed to satisfied rivals. Only two scions of the former noble house remain: Klaus and his younger sister Anna. Klaus, at the verge of manhood, took to service in the army to prove his loyalties to the Empress and the Alliance. Anna, still a child, was sent to a convent.

Ten years later, Klaus Vianden was thriving, having been accepted as a recruit in the Imperial Men-at-Arms. Once his training was completed, it took him only three years to attain the rank of Commander. However, the enemies of his former house were ever watchful, and manipulated events so that he was given a most dangerous command. Commander Vianden was sent to the worst assignment of the Untharan blockade in the Primax Sea.

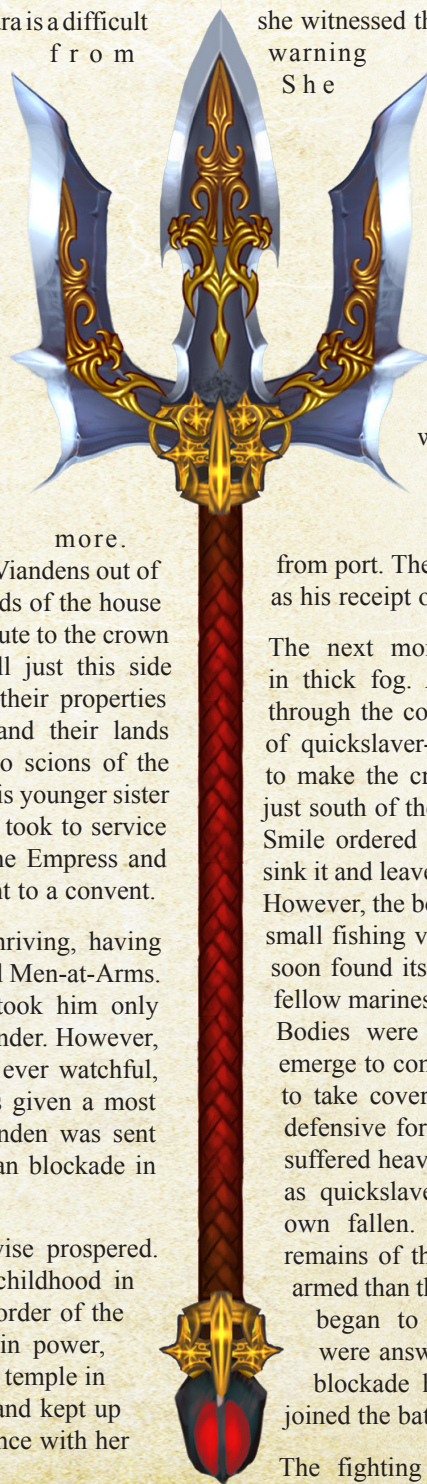
Meanwhile, his sister Anna had likewise prospered. After spending the remainder of her childhood in the convent, she took her vows in the order of the Venerate Makash. She grew swiftly in power, attaining the rank of High Priestess of a temple in Perahta. She managed to locate Klaus and kept up regular, if infrequent, mail correspondence with her remaining family member.

One night, during an unseasonal storm, she had a terrible dream in which

she witnessed the death of her brother. Anna took it as a warning from Makash and the Sanguine Lord. She went to the finest smith in Perahta and commissioned the forging of an unusual weapon—a bladed trident. When it was completed, she laid it upon the altar of the temple and prayed over it, beseeching her Venerate to imbue it with power. When the weapon was ready, she arranged to have it delivered to Klaus the next time he put into port. In her letter that accompanied it, she prayed that “the aegis of Makash” would guard him from harm—a blessing that Klaus mistook for the name of the weapon. He did as she bid, taking the trident with him when he next cast out from port. The Venerate was surely watching over him, as his receipt of the weapon proved timely.

The next morning dawned with the sea shrouded in thick fog. As *Cassandra's Smile* wended its way through the concealing mists, it intercepted a boatload of quickslaver-infested bodies. They were attempting to make the crossing from Unthara to a remote shore just south of the Caneus-Reis border. The captain of the *Smile* ordered the boat intercepted, thinking to simply sink it and leave the invaders to be swallowed by the sea. However, the boat was merely one in a fleet of dozens of small fishing vessels headed for shore, and the warship soon found itself swarmed by attackers. Klaus and his fellow marines were hard-pressed to fend off the attack. Bodies were felled, only to have the quickslavers emerge to continue the fight. Klaus ordered the sailors to take cover belowdecks, arraying his marines in a defensive formation around the hatches. The marines suffered heavy losses, their position further threatened as quickslavers began to infest the bodies of their own fallen. Faced with the horrifically animated remains of their fellow marines—better armored and armed than the initial invaders—the defenders' morale began to flag. Anna's prayers for her brother were answered, however, as another ship from the blockade happened on the fighting, and its crew joined the battle.

The fighting was fierce and the marines suffered amazing defeats, but in the end they prevailed—in large part due to the powers of the trident. Klaus was given an Imperial commendation



LOUIS PORTER JR.
DESIGN



and offered a new command in the less perilous region of the Orin Sea. Klaus refused, feeling it proper to stay in the thick of things. He did request that his sister be allowed a transfer to a temple closer to his command, so that he might have closer contact with his family. This also allowed him to consult with her about producing more weapons of this type, as they may prove to be a turning point in the battle against the quickslaver menace.

DESCRIPTION AND CONSTRUCTION

Slaver's Defiance is a trident with a broad, bladed steel head, its tines decorated in worked gold. The haft is wrapped entirely in strips of red eelskin, and the butt of the weapon bears a red garnet the size of a hen's egg, held in a gold and steel fitting.

Aura strong abjuration and conjuration; **CL** 9th
Slot none; **Price** 27,315gp; **Weight** 6 lbs.

DESCRIPTION

The Aegis of Makash is a +2 ooze bane trident. Due to the construction of its razor-edged tines, it can deal slashing as well as piercing damage. As a full round action, the wielder may take a single attack, or melee touch attack, at any quickslaver infesting a body. On a successful hit, the body is suffused with a golden light and the quickslaver is expelled from the body and staggered for one round. The silver markings normally found on such a body turn golden. The body can never again be infested by a quickslaver thereafter. The wielder of Aegis of Makash also gains a +2 resistance bonus against diseases.

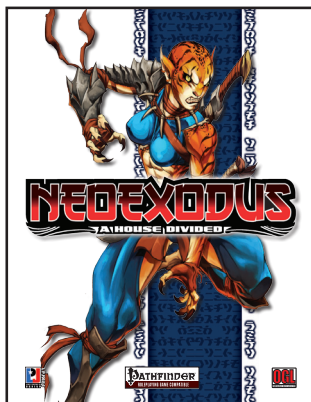
CONSTRUCTION

Craft Magic Arms and Armor, *dispel law*, *resistance*, *summon monster I*; **Cost** 13,815 gp

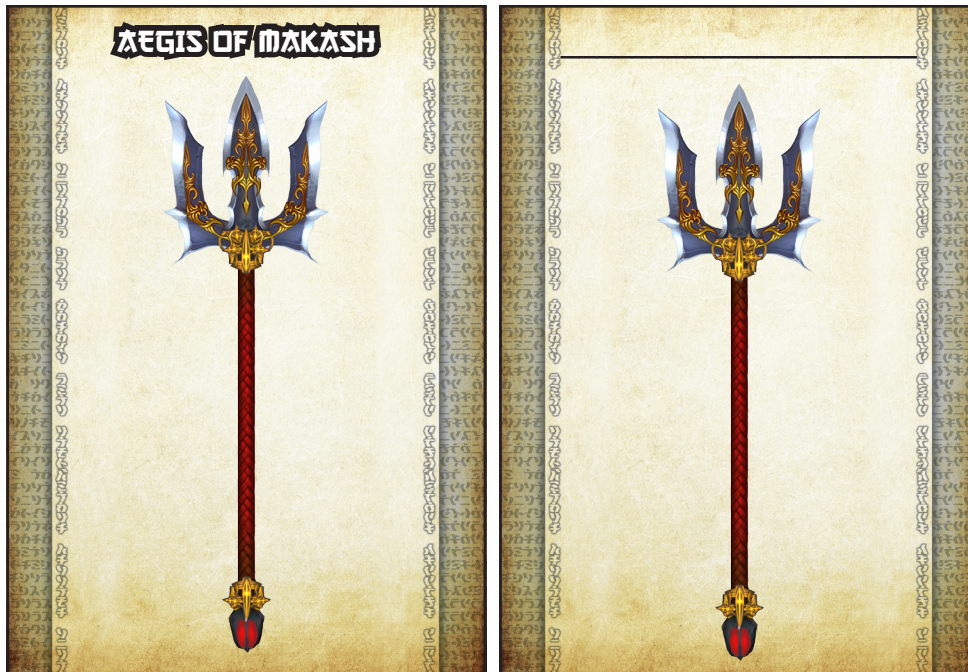
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Item Description	<p>Aura strong abjuration and conjuration; CL 9th</p> <p>Slot none; Price 27,315gp; Weight 6 lbs.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION</p> <p>The Aegis of Makash is a +2 ooze bane trident. Due to the construction of its razor-edged tines, it can deal slashing as well as piercing damage. As a full round action, the wielder may take a single attack, or melee touch attack, at any quickslaver infesting a body. On a successful hit, the body is suffused with a golden light and the quickslaver is expelled from the body and staggered for one round. The silver markings normally found on such a body turn golden. The body can never again be infested by a quickslaver thereafter. The wielder of Aegis of Makash also gains a +2 resistance bonus against diseases.</p> <p>CONSTRUCTION</p> <p>Craft Magic Arms and Armor, <i>dispel law</i>, <i>resistance</i>, <i>summon monster I</i>; Cost 13,815 gp.</p>
Notes:	
Item Code	

ÆGIS OF MAKASH **WEAPON CARDS**

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