

TREASURES OF NEOEXODUS: RAINDROP

The name of Varelina Fetema Sara was infamous among law enforcers and government officials throughout the Imperial Alliance. A human born to a gevet mother, she was a notorious spy. A gleaner of many secrets, she long evaded the pursuit of Protectorate Peacekeepers, Imperial men-at-arms, and even Janissaries. The many powerful figures preyed upon by Sara pointed fingers at the Dominion, the Phoenix Guard, and the Confederacy as the powers behind the spy's activities. All have denied any connection to the woman. She may have worked for all or none of them. A few even claim she served the First Ones or Xon. Some wild rumors say that she still gathers information for the Isle of Silk and Iron in preparation for an invasion. Whatever the truth, part of the spy's success was due to the properties of Raindrop, a powerful combined sword and shield disguised as a simple umbrella.

HISTORY

Raindrop's history begins and ends with Varelina Fetema Sara, the item's original owner. Both were unknown until 83 AU, when imperial guards stumbled upon an intruder in private senatorial chambers. After the guards raised the alarm, they fought a running battle with the intruder, who used her unusual weapon to wound several of them and deflect crossbow attacks from guardsmen on the walls, before leaping headlong off a parapet and floating away from pursuers, avoiding capture. Over the next two years, Sara was implicated in several break-ins at key government locations throughout the Imperial Alliance, including the Archprelate's private offices in Nyssa. On the rare occasions she was spotted, the spy always managed to elude capture through skill, cunning, and the powers of her unusual weapon.

Finally, in 88 AU, the Senate's demands for action produced results. Sara was lured into a trap. Several janissaries—working in cooperation with a team of id hunters graciously loaned to the operation, courtesy of Director Taysnita—leaked word of secret senate meetings and rumors of coming conflict with the Confederacy, as well as documents of war drawn up for the occasion. The bait proved worthy and the spy once again infiltrated the Senate. This time the janissaries were ready. Sara was able to slip away before the trap closed completely, but the id hunters trailed her. This allowed the janissaries to ambush

her later, taking her two days later when she thought she had made good her escape.



Returned to Aremyhk amid much pomp and circumstance, Sara was imprisoned. The Senate arranged for a trial. Interrogation of the clever spy provided nothing of use, as she resisted both conventional and magical means of information extraction. Her equipment, including Raindrop, were held as evidence. Three days before the trial began, Varelina Fetema Sara escaped and vanished without a trace. Two days later, it was discovered that Raindrop was missing from the lock-up where it had been held. Whether the spy reclaimed her weapon, or whether it was claimed by another thief, is unknown. Sara is still one of the criminals most wanted by the Imperial Senate, but neither she nor her weapon have been seen since her capture, nor has there been any evidence linking her to later crimes.

DESCRIPTION AND CONSTRUCTION

At first glance, this appears to be nothing more than a finely crafted umbrella with a canopy of silk—painted in swirls of crimson, violet, and aquamarine—stretched over thin wooden ribs. Its handle is crafted of darkwood, wrapped in raw silk, with a silk ribbon tied to its base. With a twist and a pull, a two-foot blade of fine, razor sharp steel is revealed.

Aura strong abjuration and transmutation; **CL** 12th
Slot none; **Price** 96,000 gp; **Weight** 4 lbs.

DESCRIPTION

The handle of this silk parasol hides a +1 *keen dueling wakizashi*. When the weapon is drawn, the rest of the umbrella, while open, functions as a +1 *animated light steel shield*. The shield, either in hand or animated, allows the wielder to function as if she has the Missile Shield feat. Once a day, the wielder may twirl the open umbrella to create a *hypnotic pattern effect* (CL 12), the effects of which remain in place until the end of that round. The wielder continues to spin the umbrella as a free action each round with the effect in place until the end of that round. When the parasol is open and in hand, whether the blade is sheathed or not, the wielder gains the benefit of a *glide* effect when falling.


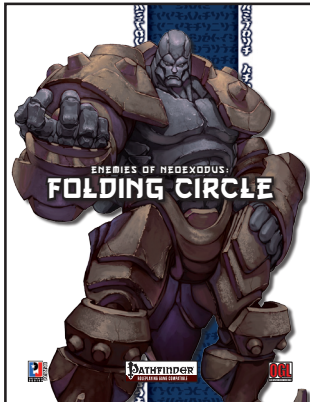

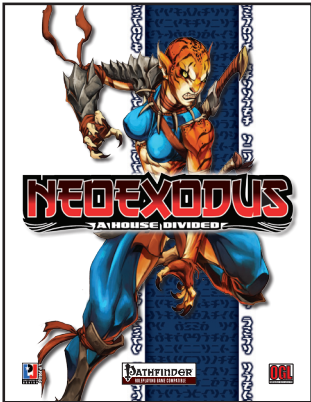
CONSTRUCTION

Craft Magic Arms and Armor, *animate object*, *cat's grace*, *glide*, *hypnotic pattern*, *keen edge*, *shield*; **Cost** 48,000 gp

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Item Code

RAINDROP WEAPON CARDS

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