

Curses are vengeance itself, a cruel and ironic punishment placed by an especially clever and cruel adversary. Curses rarely kill, unlike poisons. Killing would be too easy, too quick, and would not give the curse's victim a chance to truly appreciate their fate.... And the cleverness of whatever nemesis engineered it. These two dozen new curses represent 24 new ways to introduce terror into your <u>Pathfinder</u> <u>Roleplaying Game</u> home campaign.

CANDLEMAKER'S CURSE

This curse is contracted by the nightfolk- the robbers, and night watchmen, pimps and prostitutes, smuggler and gamblers who prowl the night. Spending too long without seeing the sun can generate this curse spontaneously, and elder vampires and liches fear its effects as much as they do holy fire. **Type** curse; **Save** Will DC 22 negates, Will DC 18 partial

Effect Anytime the cursed character is in an area of dim illumination or worse for more than one round, he or she suffers 2d6 points of damage (Will DC 18 half).

CLANKINGCURSE

A mild curse that often afflicts soldiers and militiamen, the Clanking Curse is usually a result of a bar brawl or a loss at cards. Hedge wizards will place this curse on a client's rivals for a nominal fee.

Type curse; Save Will DC 18 negates, no save to avoid effect

Effect While so cursed, the armor check penalty of any armor worn by the character is tripled!

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LPJ9542

CRITICALUNLUCK

Only those who have directly opposed a god- not a mere offense, like defiling a temple, not even an atrocity as great as murdering or violating a cleric, but actually striking a god- ever fall victim to this deadly curse. The threads of fate become a noose, binding and slowly killing the transgressor

Type curse; Save Will DC 24 negates, no save to avoid the effects

Effect Each and every time the cursed characters must roll a d20 for any reason, roll 2d20 and take the worse of the two rolls. If the character ever rolls double ones on 2d20, this curse is passed to all allies within 30 ft.

Cure A *bestow curse* spell must be cast by a Cleric of 20th level or greater in order to end the curse.

CURSE OF THE BARREN WOMB

This foul curse is usually laid down by undead that died during pregnancy or childbirth. The curse afflicts only women, but men can unknowingly be carriers. With a touch, a man exposed to this curse can spread its dark magic.

Type curse; **Save** Will DC 18 negates; Fortitude 16 partial **Effect** Female victims of this curse must make a DC 16 Fortitude save during pregnancy or miscarry. The close association with death means all undead receive a +2 morale bonus on attack rolls against any woman afflicted with this curse.

Cure A woman afflicted with this curse can only be cured by successful casting of a *bless* spell and *remove curse* within one minute of each other. Men afflicted by this curse cannot be cured, and remain carriers until they die.

CURSEOF CONSCIENCE

This curse is an old and potent one, first recorded in old wives tales. Like the curse of the unforked tongue, this magical affliction is a lawful tool for punishment of liars and betrayers.

Type curse; Save Will DC 22 negates, no save to avoid effects

Effect Each time the cursed character lies, he or she suffers 1 point of permanent Charisma damage, as their features deform strangely.

CURSEOF DISEASE

Often contracted by those who disturb the resting places and charnel pits of those who have died of plague, the curse of disease has ended the careers of many adventurers. This curse commonly afflicts gravediggers and morticians, as well as grave robbers, archeologists and adventurers. **Type** curse; **Save** Fortitude DC 22 negates, no save to avoid effects

Effect A character afflicted with this curse receives no saving throw against any disease while she suffers its effects, from a simple cold to the deadliest plague. **Cure** A *remove curse* and a *cure disease* spell must be cast within one minute of each other to permanently rid a sufferer of this curse.

CURSEOFFORGOTTENSKILLS

A surprisingly mild curse often cast by ill-tempered but merciful magic users and clergy to punish young rogues and minor annoyances. This curse is often placed upon craftsmen of all sorts by jealous rivals, if they can afford the casting.

Type curse; Save Will DC 18 negates

Effect Until this curse is somehow lifted, the +3 bonus provided to class skills is lost permanently.

CURSE OF THE FOOL'S SWORD

This supposedly divine curse punishes warriors whose hubris overwhelms their common sense, especially those who insult their social betters without cause. More than one arrogant sell-sword has felt the sting of this curse after insulting a local king or feudal lord, confident that he alone was more than a match for the entire local militia.

Type curse; Save Will DC 18 negates

Frequency each time the target confirms a critical hit **Effect** While cursed, anytime the target successfully confirms a critical hit, he does the same amount of damage to himself that he does to the enemy. To those watching the disaster, it's a comedic opera of failure, as a wild sword swing somehow loops back around to slash the attacker at the same time the blade bites into the defender.

CURSEOFHATRED

This curse is often place on criminals and exiles as part of their sentence, and may also be divinely bestowed upon those who violate the rules of hospitality, either by denying a needy traveler shelter, or by stealing from or harming a host.

Type curse; Save Will DC 20 negates, no save to avoid effects

Effect All NPCs have their starting attitude towards the curse's victim worsened by one step.

CURSE OF PREDICTABILITY

For a fighter, being predictable is a death sentence. Warriors only survive by changing their tactics often, and those who become easy to predict soon become easy to bury. This curse often afflicts those especially proud of their tactical genius, or those who depend too much on surprise to win battles.

Type curse; **Save** Will DC 19 negates, Will DC 17 partial **Effect** Each time you roll Initiative while afflicted by this curse, you are treated as if your Initiative score is zero, ensuring you act last in a round, unless you succeed at a DC 17 Will Save at the beginning of combat.

CURSEOF REVERSE AGING

A strange effect caused by powerful magic or the manipulation and twisting of time itself, this curse devolves a man back to childhood, to infancy, and then to non-existence, as he becomes something that cannot survive outside a womb.

Type curse; Save Will DC 21 negates

Frequency 1/day

Effect Each day, the target de-ages by 2d4 years. When the target reaches 12 he is considered a Young Adult, and is considered a Child at 8. When the target's age is reduced to 0 he dies, rapidly devolving from newborn to fetus to a rapidly shrinking puddle of blood and vestigial organs.

CURSEOF WILLFULIGNORANCE

This curse punishes those who destroy spellbooks, mistreat scribes or burn libraries.

Type curse; Save Will DC 18 negates

Effect The victim gains only 50% XP while the curse is active.

CURSEOF WOUNDS UNHEALING

This curse may pass to anyone who robs a barrow, or wields a weapon taken from the honored dead. Only restoring what was taken will end this curse.

Type curse; **Save** Fortitude DC 18 negates, Fortitude DC 15 partial

Frequency each time the target is injured

Effect Each time the target suffers Hit Point damage, he or she must succeed at a DC 15 Fortitude Save or 1d3 points of the damage becomes a permanent loss of Hit Points instead, lowering the character's maximum HP total. Cure Before a remove curse spell will be effective, the curse's target will have to return the stolen weapon or treasure of at least equal value to the tomb it was taken from.

DRAGON'S RANCOR

This curse is a punishment upon those who slay dragons, and it's claimed that any adult or older dragon can call down this retributive curse with their dying breath.

Type curse; Save Will DC 25 negates

Effect A character afflicted with Dragon's Rancor suffers a -10 penalty on attack and damage rolls against any creature of the Dragon type, and cannot naturally heal damage inflicted upon them by any creature with the Dragon type. Anyone casting a *cure* spell to heal damage inflicted by a dragon upon the character must succeed at a caster level check (DC equal to 10 + the dragon's CR) or the spell is lost without effect.

FISHERFOLK'SCURSE

This curse is said to befall anyone stupid enough to kill an albatross, a bird beloved by sailors of many nations and culture as a symbol of good luck.

Type curse; Save Will DC 20 negates, no save to avoid effects

Effect Anytime the target is touched by more than a few ounces of water, he or she becomes *paralyzed* for one round. Being splashed with a vial of holy water or a mug of booze won't affect the character, but having a wash basin overturned on his head or immersion in water will. The character can easily drown in a half full wash tub.

FLESHSLIDECURSE

This strange curse warps the body and mind, transforming beautiful women into hideous abominations and mutating courageous warriors into the very monsters they face. The curse spreads through sexual contact with the afflicted.

Type curse; Save Will DC 16 negates, no save to avoid effects

Frequency 1/day

Effect Each day the victim suffers 1d20 points of temporary Charisma damage. Unlike normal Charisma damage, the victim's Charisma score is returned to normal upon sunrise the next morning, when the curse takes affect again. If the victim's Charisma is reduced to 0 or below by this curse, the victim transforms into a monstrous humanoid under the game master's control. If the victim is 4 HD or less, he or she transforms into an *orc warrior*. If greater than 4 HD, the victim becomes a *bugbear*, and if above 12 HD the victim becomes a *troll*.

This transformation, like the Charisma damage ends at sunrise the next day.

FUMBLEFINGER'SCURSE

Never let anyone suffering this minor witchery handle anything valuable to you. Somehow, somebody afflicted with this curse can crack an anvil with a touch, snap a sword straight down the middle, but still has trouble pulling a stopper out of a stubborn potion vial.

Type curse; Save Will DC 18

Effect Anytime the recipient of this curse handles a nonmagical object, she inflicts her normal unarmed strike damage upon the object, ignoring hardness or non-magical damage reduction. Unfortunately, this curse never applies when the character intends to harm an object.

GOBLIN'S CLEVER CURSE

Goblins shaman use this curse to protect their tribes... and enrich them a little bit if everything goes as planned. It takes almost insane courage to magically blackmail powerful adventurers, but the cunning goblin races have courage in full measure.

Type curse; Save Will DC 22 negates

Effect A character afflicted by this curse suffers a -10 luck penalty on attack and damage rolls made against creatures with Challenge Ratings of 2 or less.

Cure Only a goblin cleric may effectively cast *remove curse* to end this affliction, and most of them charge a premium- four figures worth of gold and a promise of safe passage, at the very least.

GREED'S REWARD

Originally this curse was a result of a cataclysmically worded *Wish*, but now can be spread to any miser who hoards wealth and ignores the needs of the poor.

Type curse; Save Will DC 20 negates

Frequency Any time the target tries to eat

Effect Anytime the target attempts to eat, or even touches food, she must succeed at a DC 20 Will Save or watch as the food is transmuted to a glittering golden substance that, like pyrite, has no real value.

Cure The victim must donate a sum equal to 100 GP x her character level to the poor or a good aligned charity before a *remove curse* spell will be effective.

NECROMANCER'S LETHARGY

Necromancy is the study of the dead, and of the black negative light that animates them. Prolonged exposure to necromantic radiations can have debilitating effects on the body, and all veteran necromancers watch themselves carefully for the first signs of this curse, which always begin with muscular weakness and palsy in the hands.

Type curse; **Save** Will DC 22 negates **Frequency** 1/day

Effect The target suffers 1d4 Dexterity damage per day. A target reduced to 0 Dexterity by this curse suffocates, and returns to unlife as a ghoul.

SMITHY/SCURSE

Flame elementals are said to lay this curse upon careless blacksmiths, idiot arsonists and others who do not give flame the reverence and awe they feel it deserves.

Type curse; Save Will DC 15 negates

Effect If the target has any resistance or immunity to Fire, it is lost. The character now takes double damage from Fire.

THE VENGEANCE OF TOOTH AND CLAW

Trappers and hunters who poison their prey and leave them to die, unrecovered and wasted, or hunters who kill more than they need are punished by the gods of nature with this curse. Animals recoil in the presence of anyone afflicted by this curse and are poised on the edge of violence.

Type curse; Save Will DC 22 negates

Effect The cursed character is despised by the natural world and its creatures. The character suffers double damage from any successful melee attack made by a creature of the Animal or Vermin type. The cursed character suffers a -5 penalty on Ride and Handle Animal checks.

UNFORKED TONGUE CURSE

This curse is the bane of thieves, conmen and spies.

Type curse; **Save** Will DC 22 negates, Will DC 18 partial **Effect** Each time the character attempts to use the Bluff skill, she must succeed at a DC 18 Will Save or blurt out the truth at the top of her lungs.

WENDIGO'S HUNGER

This curse is visited upon anyone who willingly eats the flesh of their own kind.

Type; curse Save Will DC 25 negates

Frequency 1/day

Effect Each day the victim suffers 1d6 points of WIS and Charisma damage. While suffering from the curse, the victim gains no nutrition from ordinary food, no matter how much she eats. She must consume the flesh of members of her own species to prevent starvation.

Written by Chris A. Field

Artwork by Forge Studios

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