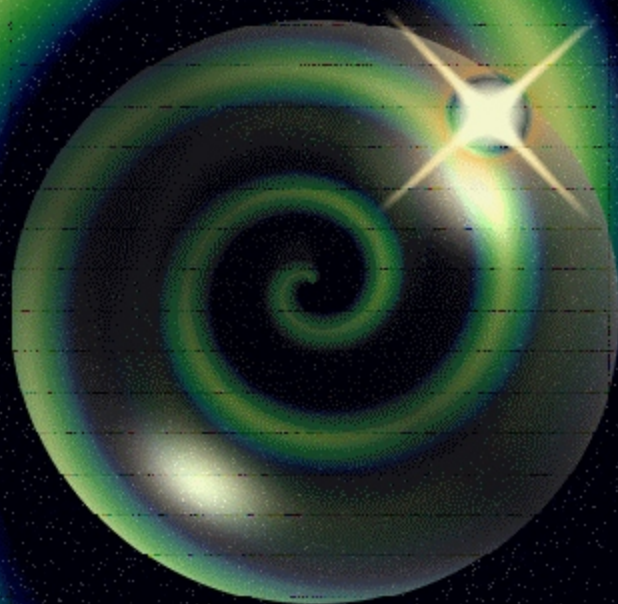


GENERAL FANTASY SERIES

STUPID FANTASY LAWS, VOL. 1



Top Fashion Games

STUPID FANTASY LAWS, VOL. 1:

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Published By Top Fashion Games

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EXPLORING THE MOST WONDROUSLY STUPID AND QUITE CERTAINLY PERHAPS THE MOST OPPRESSIVE LAWS OF THE LAND:

While murder, rape, exploitation, theft, and abuse are certainly novel selections for crimes appropriately punished these infractions against society are rather... well, terribly bland and a bit too straight to the point. So straight to the point, in fact, that any true, red blooded village wracked with superstitious idealizations should have little to fear from the threat of such obvious crimes. Real villages and communities need crimes rooted from pathetic inner fears. Real villages need stupid, oppressive laws.

Based on both the superstitions of the past and the inactive laws still written on the books throughout the real world comes Stupid Fantasy Laws, Volume 1. In this role playing product you will find a dozen different laws that are based on the erratic judgment of rulers, the irrational fears of villagers, oppressive social customs, and the unusual outcomes of very seldom occurring situations. From the black cat possession law to the fines of shaving or trimming one's hair during a full moon there are a dozen laws in this volume of Stupid Fantasy Laws designed to cause local villagers and adventuring characters alike a considerable amount of trouble, grief, and hardship. So much trouble, grief, and hardship, in fact, that it is liable to keep the adventurers from wandering into a nearby village or town for weeks to come.

THE SYSTEM:

The laws are presented in a manner that makes them truly universal with most role playing products of a fantasy nature. For the most part actual game statistics are avoided. For fines where a currency value is set, consult the below notes regarding the relative values of listed currency amounts.

1copper= a small amount of money, equal in value to the purchase of a simple torch, a very small loaf of bread, or the petty offering to a beggar.

1silver= a staple monetary sum, equal to a poor, unskilled laborer's work for one day or a plain, simple meal at a small inn. One silver coin is worth around ten copper coins.

1gold= a sum of money mostly used by skilled craftsmen, merchants, and aristocrats. One gold coin is worth around ten silver coins.

In addition to monetary fines, various forms of punishment are also listed. This might range from a day in the stocks to execution or exile. Also provided in the notes is a section called Probable Cause. This area reflects upon a possible reason as to why the law might have been established. If desired the game master should feel free to develop their own reasoning for the establishment of such a law.

THE LAWS:

Below are the dozen laws presented in Stupid Fantasy Laws, Volume 1.

Black Cat Possession:

It is deemed illegal for any individual, citizen or otherwise, to be in knowing or unknowing possession of a black cat or kitten. Possession of such a creature is a violation no matter whether or not the cat is alive or dead, tame or wild. Likewise, it is illegal for any individual to bury a black cat or have a black cat buried on property established within the boundaries of the ruling government.

Punishment: Possession or determined burial of a deceased black cat is punishable by no less than twenty lashings and a fine equal to that of three day's wages. Such a fine is not to exceed an amount greater than 30 gold coins and must be a bare minimum of 1 silver coin. Should the guilty party be in possession of a live black cat then the guilty party shall be punished with no less than thirty lashings and a fine equal to that of five day's wages. The party guilty of possessing a live black cat shall also be required to spend up to two weeks of imprisonment for such possession.

In the event that the guilty party has raven or very dark brown hair then it is also required that the guilty party's head be shaven and their hair burnt in the center of the village square under the direction of an authorized cleric or other such member of clergy. This addition of punishment applies to possession of either a live or dead black cat, and also applies to a guilty party with raven or dark colored hair and who has buried a black cat or has a buried black cat on their personal property.

Probable Cause: Black cats have maintained a popular place of unluckiness amongst the superstitious. Combined with

the fact that many wizards and witches choose such a creature for their personal familiar, the black cat symbolizes an image of wickedness, deception, and treachery for many a simple villager.

Black Cloak Law:

It is unlawful for any individual other than an authorized member of the governing authority to be found wearing or in the immediate possession of a black cloak or cape.

Punishment: Upon discovery of such an item the black cloak or cape shall be removed from the guilty party's possession and burnt in the center of the village square under the guidance of a local official. The guilty party shall then be fined an amount equal to five day's worth of wages. The total amount of this fine shall not be less than 2 silver coins or greater than 50 gold coins. Individuals who are deemed impoverished and thus unable to provide the amount of such a fine within reasonable fine shall be sentenced to either three days in the stocks or two days worth of hard labor.

Probable Cause: Black cloaks and capes have often been popularly symbolized with the dark arts of magic.

Breath Of Wild Onions:

It is considered to be unlawful for an individual's breath to reek of wild onions when such an individual happens to be within a public accessible location.

Punishment: Individuals found guilty with their breaths reeking of wild onions shall be fined an amount equal to 3 copper coins. Should an individual not be able to pay such

a fine then the individual will be ordered to spend a day in the stocks.

Probable Cause: This “hygiene” law was most likely passed under the interests of the wealthier folk of the community. While having a breath reeking of wild onions would seem to be an offense suffered only by those forced to gather their simple meals in the wild many an adventurer has been charged with this offense as well. The reason for such charges usually roots from the fact that many cheaper taverns and inns have been known to flavor up their meals and broths with chopped wild onions.

Coughing In The Moonlight:

It is considered to be unlawful for an individual to be found coughing under the open, outdoor moonlight within the grounds of the community.

Punishment: Individuals found guilty of this offense shall be charged a set fine equal to 2 copper coins per offense. Should an individual be found guilty of coughing under the moonlight for more than three different offenses then the individual shall be given no less than five floggings with a whip.

Probable Cause: It is believed by many superstitious individuals that the moon, particularly a full moon, empowers the arts of evil. Likewise, such superstitions also imply that many diseases are the cause of evil beings. If one is found coughing under the direct light of the moon then it is believed that one is attempting to aid the spread of disease and evil corruption by passing out the diseases sent down through the moon’s glow. Coughing at night indoors or underneath the shade of a leaf bearing tree, however, is not considered to be an offense as the tree’s leaves or the roof of the building block out the moon’s evil glow.

Dancing During A New Moon:

It is considered to be unlawful for an individual to be caught dancing during the time of a new moon.

Punishment: Individuals found guilty of dancing during this time will be sentenced to a punishment consisting of no less than ten lashings and two days of time in the stocks.

Probable Cause: It is quite probable that the law forbidding one to dance during a new moon is related to the superstitious beliefs that dancing during a full moon encourages infertility within the community, as well as the encouragement of prostitution. Many villagers also believe that witches and warlocks dance during this time in an effort to encourage the return of the full moon, which most superstitious feel gives evil entities and creatures their power.

Drinking From An Uncovered Vessel:

It is considered to be unlawful for an individual to drink any potable substance out of an uncovered vessel while physically within an area that is immediately and/or freely accessible to the general public.

Punishment: Individuals found guilty of drinking from an uncovered vessel in such a location shall be fined a set fee of 1 silver coin. Should an individual be charged with this offense more than three times then the individual shall also be confined to the stocks for a period of one day per offense.

Probable Cause: With the rampant spread of terrible diseases it was required for anyone visiting a tavern or otherwise drinking in an open, public place to drink their beverages from a vessel with a lid, such as stein.

Drinking Alcohol Before Lunch:

It is considered to be unlawful for an individual to be caught drinking any form of

alcoholic beverage at an hour before deemed reasonable for the consumption of a lunchtime dinner.

Punishment: Individuals found guilty of drinking alcohol before lunch shall be fined a set rate of 2 copper coins and ordered to spend one day in the stocks. Should the individual be found guilty of this offense more than three times then the individual's stock time shall be removed and replaced with an order require the individual to stroll up and down the streets of the community during day light hours for a time period of no less than three days. While walking up and down the streets during this ordered time the guilty individual must wear a sign that says in big, bold letters "I Am A Drunk".

Probable Cause: With alcoholism becoming a problem in many crowded communities it is quite likely that law was passed into order through the influence of the community's "better folk". The consumption of wine, ale, and other such beverages was still considered acceptable, but only after an appropriate time of day.

Drawing Water After Dusk:

It is considered to be unlawful for an individual to be caught drawing water from a well in the community after dusk and before the dawn of morning.

Punishment: Individuals caught drawing water from a well, public or private, after the time of dusk and before morning shall be fined an amount of 2 silver coins and imprisoned for three full days.

Probable Cause: This law must most likely passed as an effort to keep an eye on those who might just be out and about trying to poison the wells of the community after dark.

Horse Trading After Dusk:

It is considered to be unlawful for an individual to purchase or sell a horse or similar beast of burden after dusk and before dawn.

Punishment: Should the guilty party be the purchaser then the guilty party will be fined an amount equal to the agreed price of the horse or other beast of burden and will be ordered to spend two days in the stocks. Should the guilty party be the seller of the horse or other beast of burden then the guilty party will be fined an amount equal to twice the agreed price of the horse and will be ordered to spend five days in the stocks. In the case of either, the horse or beast of burden that was being sold in such unlawful hours will be turned over to the possession of the ruling government or slaughtered on the spot. In the case of slaughter the head of the horse or beast of burden will be removed from the carcass of the creature and hung by a post in the center of the village square.

Probable Cause: The horse trading after dusk regulation most likely arose from the fact that trading a horse or similar creature in dim light gave the purchaser a disadvantage over getting a fair deal. Not having sufficient light to examine the animal by, it was rather easy for traders to lure purchasers into buying old and sickly animals on the bait of a "good deal". Such trading after hours also provided a more discreet means of unloading stolen animals for a reasonable amount of sale.

Red Scarf Possession:

It is unlawful for any individual to be caught wearing or in the possession of a red colored scarf.

Punishment: Individuals found guilty of wearing or in the possession of a red scarf shall be ordered a set fine of 4 copper coins

and flogged for no less than ten lashings with a whip. The scarf shall be taken by an authorized local authority to the edge of the community and burnt between the time of the last meal of the day and the approach of midnight. The authorized authority shall be escorted by two members of the local guard for this procedure.

Probable Cause: It is believed by many superstitious individuals that wearing a red scarf promotes temptations of murder within the village. It is also felt that seeing someone with a red scarf on can lead to eventual madness. While no actual recorded documentation exists many feel that this belief came into establishment after a young prostitute wearing a red scarf had her throat slashed in a dark alley way under the light of a full moon.

Shaving Or Trimming During A Full Moon:

It is considered to be unlawful for an individual to either shave their beard and moustache or provide or accept any form of trimming or shaving during the time of a full moon.

Punishment: Should a guilty party be found shaving and/or trimming or receiving a shave or trim during the time of a full moon then the individual shall be fined an amount equal to two days wages and ordered up to five days of imprisonment. The fine regarding the wages shall be of a total amount no less than 1 silver coin and no greater than 20 gold coins.

Probable Cause: The shaving or trimming during a full moon law was most likely formed on the basis of superstition in regards to werewolves. Many individuals felt that the guilty werewolf would shave their human form clean during the time of a full moon as to throw off suspicious signs

that the individual might indeed be a werewolf.

Walking Backwards In Public:

No individual shall be allowed to walk backwards in the open public places or shops without the penalty of prosecution.

Punishment: Should a guilty party be found walking backwards in public then the individual shall be charged a set fine of 1 silver coin and ordered to remain in the stocks for one full day.

Probable Cause: The act of walking backwards in public most likely became a criminal offense due to the revival of an ancient custom that expressed one's disgust of a store or community. Individuals who were less than pleased with such a locale would leave an area walking backwards, as to show that they did not trust having their backs turned on such an area. Walking backwards has thus been found to be rather offensively amongst the common folk, and such a law prevents anyone, jesters and comics included, from walking backwards in the eyes of the public.

