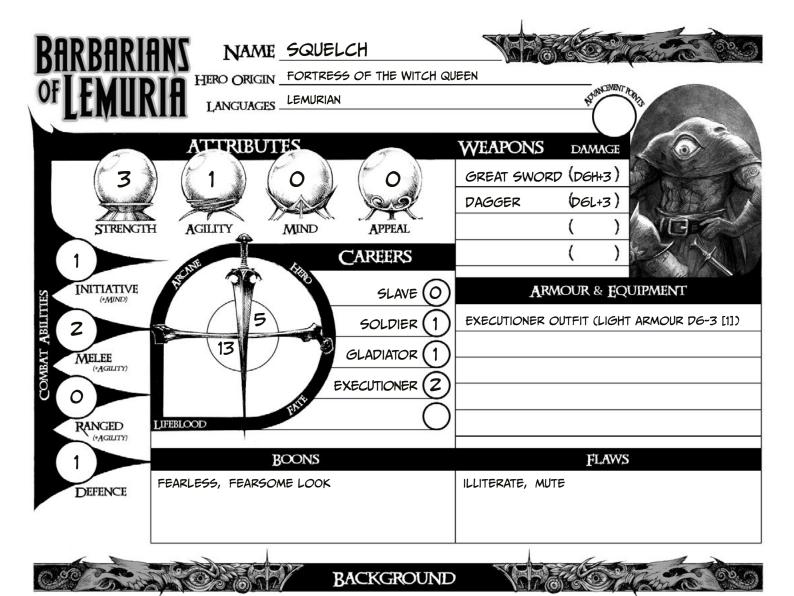
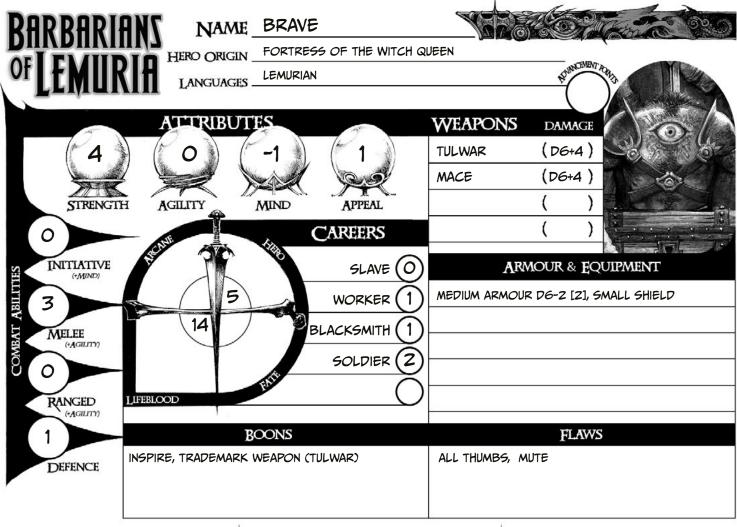


DART HAS GAINED QUITE A REPUTATION AT THE COURT OF METHYN SARR FOR ITS PROWESS WITH A BOW AND ARROW. MANY TALES ABOUND ABOUT ITS EXPLOITS: IT'S SAID THAT DART CAN BRING DOWN A KYPHUS AT 200 PACES AND THAT ITS ARROWS ARE FLETCHED WITH MYTHUNGA FEATHERS.

IN ITS QUIVER, IT KEEPS FIVE "ARROWS OF ZAGGATH" WITH SERRATED TIPS SHAPED LIKE FLAMES (ALCHEMIST WEAPON, COMMON PREPARATION; ROLL AGAIN ON A DAMAGE ROLL OF 1).

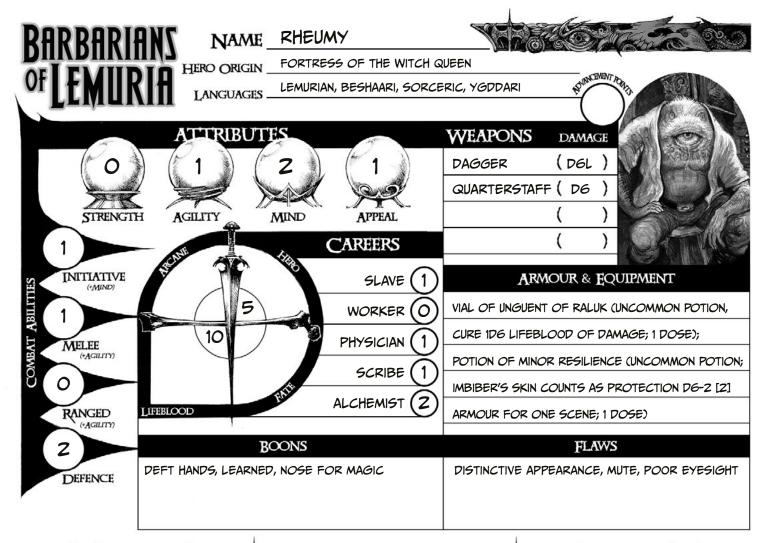


THE SQUAT AND BURLY SQUELCH IS ONE OF THE WITCH QUEEN'S TRUSTED EXECUTIONERS. IT PROUDLY BRANDISHES A GREAT TWO-HANDED SWORD - THE SYMBOL OF ITS LONG AND DEDICATED SERVICE. IT TAKES GREAT PRIDE IN THE FACT THAT IT'S NEVER NEEDED MORE THAN A SINGLE STROKE TO LOP OFF THE HEAD OF ONE OF ITS MISTRESS'S ENEMIES. DISCIPLINE AND EFFICIENCY ARE SQUELCH'S WATCHWORDS AND IT HAS LITTLE PATIENCE FOR IDLE CHITCHAT AND PALAVERING, WHICH IT CONSIDERS TO BE A WASTE OF BREATH.





THE MUSCULAR BRAVE STANDS OUT FROM THE OTHER GUARDS DUE TO ITS MASSIVE FRAME, WHICH IS IMPRESSIVE EVEN BY KALUKAN STANDARDS. IT'S A PROMINENT FIGURE AT THE FORTRESS ON THE FIRE COAST, KNOWN FOR ITS GREAT PHYSICAL STRENGTH AND PROWESS. BRAVE HAS NATURAL AUTHORITY AND THE OTHER GUARDS HAVE LEARNED TO RESPECT IT. BRAVE AND DART HAVE OFTEN VALIANTLY FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE AND HAVE PROVEN TO BE A LETHALLY EFFECTIVE TEAM. BUT AWAY FROM THE WITCH QUEEN'S COURT, BRAVE OPENLY DISPARAGES THE ELITE BOWMAN. IT SCORNS ARCHERS, WHO KILL THEIR ENEMIES FROM A SAFE DISTANCE INSTEAD OF PARTAKING IN THE NOBLE TRIAL OF HAND-TO-HAND COMBAT (IT'S ALSO JEALOUS OF DART'S INCREDIBLE DEXTERITY, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD NEVER ADMIT IT).

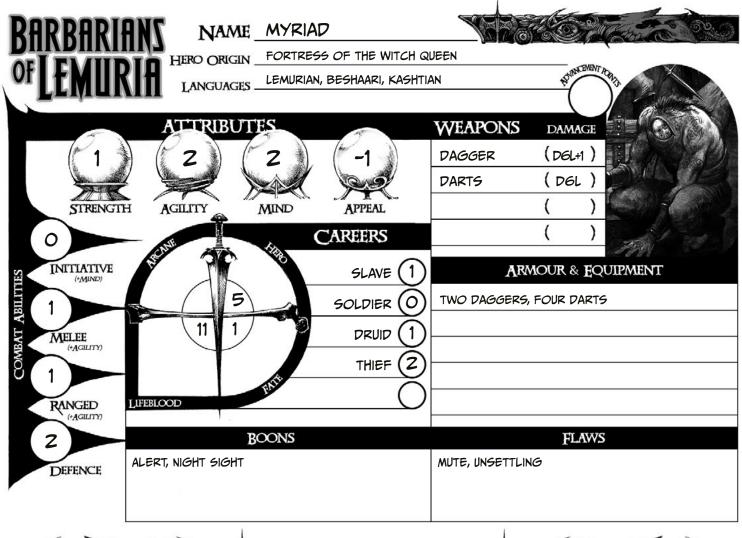




RHEUMY IS AN ELDERLY KALUKAN WHO'S SPENT MANY YEARS TOILING IN THE LABORATORIES OF THE WITCH QUEEN. IT'S EARNED ITS MONIKER DUE TO THE CONSTANT FLOW OF WATER FROM ITS RHEUMY EYE. IS IT BECAUSE OF OLD AGE, OR BECAUSE OF THE CAUSTIC VAPOURS FROM THE ALCHEMISTIC CONCOCTIONS IT'S HANDLED OVER THE YEARS? NO ONE CAN SAY FOR SURE. RHEUMY HAS SPENT LONG HOURS READING THE EXTENSIVE COLLECTIONS IN THE FORTRESS LIBRARY AND IS VERY LEARNED, EXTREMELY METICULOUS, AND SURPRISINGLY NIMBLE WITH ITS FINGERS.

THE CYNICAL AND GRUMPY OLD RHEUMY HAS NOTHING BUT CONTEMPT FOR ITS FELLOW GUARDS, WHOSE UNCOUTH BEHAVIOUR ONLY REINFORCES THE POPULAR MISCONCEPTION OF KALUKAN AS A BUNCH OF VIOLENT, KNUCKLE-DRAGGING OAFS.

GRATUITOUS AND SENSELESS VIOLENCE MAKES RHEUMY LIVID, AND IT WON'T HESITATE TO LASH OUT WITH ITS ACERBIC TONGUE.





DOES IT EVEN MAKE SENSE TO TALK ABOUT A CREATURE AS BIZARRE AS A KALUKAN HAVING A "PHYSICAL DEFORMATION"? IN ANY CASE, THE SINGLE, WHITE GLOBE OF MYRIAD'S EYE IS COVERED WITH ABOUT A DOZEN SMALL IRISES. THE STRANGE, DARK-BROWN DOTS DILATE AND CONTRACT EXACTLY LIKE NORMAL PUPILS, DEPENDING ON THE SURROUNDING BRIGHTNESS. THE OTHER KALUKAN ARE PUT OFF BY THIS STRANGE TRAIT AND TEND TO SHY AWAY FROM MYRIAD. HOWEVER, THIS DEFORMITY HAS GIVEN IT REMARKABLE EYESIGHT, AND MYRIAD IS ONE OF THE WITCH QUEEN'S TOP SPIES. COULD THIS STRANGE EYE BE A SIGN THAT MYRIAD IS ONE OF THE "CHOSEN FEW"? HARD TO SAY, BUT IT'S TRUE THAT MYRIAD IS PASSIONATELY DEVOTED TO ZAGGATH, THE LORD OF FIRE, AND WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE GAINED A CERTAIN ESTEEM AMONGST THE RED DRUIDS WHO RESIDE IN THE FORTRESS ON THE FIRE COAST.