

THE PRODIGY

NAME: _____

BACKGROUND

- ☐ Military ☐ Outlaw ☐ Urban
☐ Monastic ☐ Privileged ☐ Wilderness

DEMEANOR

- ☐ Curious ☐ Resolute
☐ Proud ☐ Direct
☐ Defensive ☐ Stubborn

FIGHTING STYLE: _____

YOUR TRAINING



STATUSES

- POSITIVE** ☐ Empowered ☐ Favored ☐ Inspired ☐ Prepared
NEGATIVE ☐ Doomed ☐ Impaired ☐ Trapped ☐ Stunned

STATS

Add +1 to one stat

- ☐ CREATIVITY [-1]
☐ FOCUS [+2]
☐ HARMONY [0]
☐ PASSION [0]

FATIGUE



BALANCE

At character creation, shift your balance once if you like



CONDITIONS

- ☐ **AFRAID**
-2 to intimidate and call someone out
- ☐ **ANGRY**
-2 to guide and comfort and assess a situation
- ☐ **GUILTY**
-2 to push your luck and +2 to deny a callout
- ☐ **INSECURE**
-2 to trick and resist shifting your balance
- ☐ **TROUBLED**
-2 to plead and rely on your skills or training

See the back of this sheet for more on clearing conditions

EXTRAORDINARY SKILL

You aren't just capable in your area of skill and training; you're astonishing. A true prodigy, excelling and learning far more quickly than anyone would expect. You start play with one additional mastered technique.

Choose two areas in which your mastery is particularly impressive:

- ☐ Shaping ☐ Maneuvering ☐ Breaking
☐ Sensing ☐ Forcing ☐ Guarding

When you **rely on your skills and training**, use a combat stance, or otherwise trigger a move while using your mastery, ignore penalties from conditions or statuses.

When you see someone use an unknown technique, if it is available to your skills and training, you may mark fatigue to shift your balance towards Excellence and take the technique as learned. **You can only do this if your balance is at +1 Excellence or higher.** You must still get a mastery condition from a master of the technique in order to move the technique from practiced to mastered.

When you study with a teacher to learn a new technique, shift your balance towards Community and automatically learn the technique at the practiced level (skipping learned). **You cannot learn techniques by studying with a teacher if your Balance is +0 Community or lower.**

When you spend time teaching a fellow companion a technique available to their skills and training, roll with Community. On a hit, you teach well enough; they learn the technique. On a 7-9, you get impatient or frustrated; choose to either take it out on them and inflict 2 conditions, or take it out on yourself and suffer 2 conditions. On a miss, you get too frustrated with their inadequacies; both of you suffer 2 conditions, and you can never try to teach them this technique again.

MOVES CHOOSE TWO

☐ JUDGING A RIVAL

When you size someone up, roll with **FOCUS**. On a 7-9, ask one. On a 10+, ask two.

- what are your weaknesses / strengths?
- how can I show you dominance / submission?
- what do you intend to do next?
- what do you wish I'd do right now?

On a miss, they notice you watching them; they may ask you 1 question from the list.

☐ AN OPEN MIND

You can learn techniques from other skills and trainings, as long as you have a teacher. You can learn up to three such techniques, total. Take a +1 on the training move to learn such techniques.

☐ WAIT AND LISTEN

When you **assess a situation** while taking the time to use your extraordinary skills to absorb hidden or deep information, mark 1-fatigue, roll with **FOCUS** instead of **CREATIVITY**, and become **Prepared**.

☐ CHALLENGE

When you throw a boastful challenge at an opponent before a fight, roll with **PASSION**. On a hit, the challenge lands; if you win the fight, choose 1 from below. But your challenge goads them to impressive heights; they may choose 1 extra technique in every exchange for the duration of the fight. On a 10+, clear all fatigue at the end of the fight if you are victorious.

If you win, choose 1: your opponent must...

- teach you a technique of theirs, or help you master one you already know
- give you answers or an item of your choice
- acknowledge your superiority; shift your balance twice towards Excellence
- take your side in a future conflict

On a miss, they dismiss your challenge and refuse to fight; they inflict a condition on you.

☐ SURPRISING ENTRANCE

When you **trick someone** by using your skills to disappear and reappear somewhere else within the same scene, roll with **FOCUS** instead of **CREATIVITY**.

YOUR CHARACTER

LOOK:

HOME TOWN:

HISTORY

- When did you first accomplish something your teachers thought would be impossible for you?
- Who gave you the lessons and support you needed to discover your incredible abilities?
- Who cares for you greatly but doesn't understand your talent?
- What strange talisman or detail of your clothing plays a role in your talents?
- Why are you committed to this group or purpose?

CONNECTIONS

_____ could use training from someone who knows what they're doing; I suppose I am up to the task.

I'm not sure if the overtures of friendship from _____ make me happy, mad, or both.

MOMENT OF BALANCE

You've always struggled to rely on other people—it feels like it makes you weak. But in this moment, connection to others is the very source of your strength. You call upon your commitment to the group to push yourself beyond your limits and do the impossible. Tell the GM how you accomplish a feat no one ever has before to help or save your friends.

CLEARING CONDITIONS

- **Afraid:** run from danger or difficulty.
- **Angry:** break something important or lash out at a friend.
- **Guilty:** make a personal sacrifice to absolve your guilt.
- **Insecure:** take foolhardy action without talking to your companions.
- **Troubled:** seek guidance from a mentor or powerful figure.

GROWTH ☐☐☐☐

GROWTH QUESTION

At the end of each session, answer this question with the other growth questions:

- Did you express gratitude to a companion for their presence, support, or teaching?

GROWTH ADVANCEMENTS

- Take a new move from your playbook ☐☐
- Take a new move from another playbook ☐☐
- Raise a stat by +1 (maximum of +2 in any given stat)
- Shift your center one step ☐☐
- Unlock your Moment of Balance ☐☐

FIGHTING TECHNIQUES

STEADY STANCE

DEFEND & MANEUVER

L ⊗ P ⊗ M ⊗

Assume a strong, steady stance; any foes engaged with you who chose to **advance and attack** this exchange must mark 1-fatigue. Negate the first condition or negative status inflicted on you in this exchange. If no conditions or negative statuses were inflicted on you in this exchange, become *Empowered* for the next exchange.

NAME:

L O P O M O

☐ DEFEND & MANEUVER ☐ ADVANCE & ATTACK ☐ EVADE & OBSERVE

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BASIC MOVES

ASSESS A SITUATION

When you **assess a situation**, roll with **CREATIVITY**. On a 7–9, ask one question. On a 10+, ask two. Take +1 ongoing when acting on the answers.

- What here can I use to _____?
- Who or what is the biggest threat?
- What should I be on the lookout for?
- What's my best way out/in/through?
- Who or what is in the greatest danger?

PLEAD

When you **plead with an NPC** who cares what you think for help, support, or action, roll with **HARMONY**. On a 7–9, they need something more—evidence that this is the right course, guidance in making the right choices, or resources to aid them—before they act; the GM tells you what they need. On a 10+, they act now and do their best until the situation changes.

HELP

When you take appropriate action to **help a companion**, mark 1-fatigue to give them a +1 to their roll (after the roll). You cannot help in a combat exchange in this way.

BALANCE MOVES

LIVE UP TO YOUR PRINCIPLE

When you **take action in accordance with the values of a principle**, mark 1-fatigue to roll with that principle instead of whatever stat you would normally roll.

CALL SOMEONE OUT

When you **openly call on someone to live up to their principle**, shift your balance away from center, then name and roll with their principle. On a hit, they are called to act as you say; they must either do it or mark a condition. On a 7–9, they challenge your view of the world in turn; mark 1-fatigue or they shift your balance as they choose. On a miss, they can demand you act in accordance with one of your principles instead; mark a condition or act as they request.

DENY A CALLOUT

When you **deny an NPC calling on you to live up to your principle**, roll with that principle. On a hit, act as they say or mark 1-fatigue. On a 10+, their words hit hard; you must also shift your balance towards the called-on principle. On a miss, you stand strong; clear a condition, clear 1-fatigue, or shift your balance, your choice.

RELY ON YOUR SKILLS & TRAINING

When you **rely on your skills and training** to overcome an obstacle, gain new insight, or perform a familiar custom, roll with **FOCUS**. On a hit, you do it. On a 7–9, you do it imperfectly—the GM tells you how your approach might lead to unexpected consequences; accept those consequences or mark 1-fatigue.

PUSH YOUR LUCK

When you **push your luck** in a risky situation, say what you want to do and roll with **PASSION**. On a hit, you do it, but it costs you to scrape by; the GM tells you what it costs you. On a 10+, your boldness pays off despite the cost; the GM tells you what other lucky opportunity falls in your lap.

INTIMIDATE

When you **intimidate an NPC** into backing off or giving in, roll with **PASSION**. On a hit, they choose one. On a 10+, first, you pick one they cannot choose.

- They run to escape or get backup.
- They back down but keep watch.
- They give in with a few stipulations.
- They attack you, but off-balance; the GM marks a condition on them.

RESIST SHIFTING YOUR BALANCE

When you **resist an NPC shifting your balance**, roll. On a hit, you maintain your current balance in spite of their words or deeds. On a 10+, choose two. On a 7–9, choose one.

- Clear a condition or mark growth by immediately acting to prove them wrong
- Shift your balance towards the opposite principle
- Learn what their principle is (if they have one); if you already know, take +1 forward against them

On a miss, they know just what to say to throw you off balance. Mark a condition, and the GM shifts your balance twice.

LOSE YOUR BALANCE

If your balance shifts past the end of the track, **you lose your balance**. You obsess over that principle to a degree that's not healthy for you or anyone around you. Choose one of the following:

- Give in or submit to your opposition
- Lose control of yourself in a destructive and harmful way
- Take an extreme action in line with the principle, then flee

Afterward, when you've had some time to recover and recenter yourself, shift your center one step towards the principle you exceeded and clear all your conditions and fatigue. Reset your balance to your new center.

GUIDE AND COMFORT

When you try to honestly **guide and comfort** another person, roll with **HARMONY**. On a hit, they choose one:

- They embrace your guidance and comfort. They may clear a condition or 2-fatigue, and you may ask one question; they must answer honestly.
- They shut you down. They inflict a condition on you, and you shift their balance in response.

On a 10+, if they embrace your guidance and comfort, you may also shift their balance.

TRICK

When you **trick an NPC**, roll with **CREATIVITY**. On a hit, they fall for it and do what you want for the moment. On a 7–9, pick one. On a 10+, pick two.

- They stumble; take +1 forward to acting against them.
- They act foolishly; the GM tells you what additional opportunity they give you.
- They overcommit; they are deceived for some time.

GROWTH QUESTIONS

At the end of each session, each player answers the following questions:

- Did you learn something challenging, exciting, or complicated about the world?
- Did you stop a dangerous threat or solve a community problem?
- Did you guide a companion towards balance or end the session at your center?

Each player also answers their playbook's unique personal growth question. For each yes, mark growth. When you have marked four growth, you take a growth advancement.

CLEARING CONDITIONS

- **Afraid:** run from danger or difficulty.
- **Angry:** break something important or lash out at a friend.
- **Guilty:** make a personal sacrifice to absolve your guilt.
- **Insecure:** take foolhardy action without talking to your companions.
- **Troubled:** seek guidance from a mentor or powerful figure.



COMBAT EXCHANGES

EXCHANGE STEPS

1 The GM chooses an approach for each NPC or group of NPCs in the exchange; the GM keeps their choice secret.

2 Each player of a PC in the exchange chooses an approach for their character. If multiple players have PCs in the exchange, they can talk and coordinate. Their choices can be public, but if the PCs oppose each other, they keep their choices secret and reveal in the next step.

3 The GM reveals what they chose for each NPC, and PCs opposing each other reveal their previously secret approaches.

4 All combatants who chose **defend and maneuver** resolve their approach.

5 All combatants who chose **advance and attack** resolve their approach.

6 All combatants who chose **evade and observe** resolve their approach.

7 All characters who lost their balance or were taken out now resolve those results.

After the Exchange

- The full effects of a character **being taken out** or **losing their balance** resolve outside of fight exchanges.
- **When a PC is taken out**, they are unable to act any more. The exact details of how they are taken out can be set up outside of fight exchanges—but almost always, a PC being taken out is a golden opportunity for the GM to make another move.
- **After an exchange ends**, there is no requirement to go right into another exchange.
- If **multiple combatants want to keep fighting**, then another exchange ensues. This also covers situations in which one side wants to only defend or evade.
- If **only one combatant (or one side of combatants) wants to keep fighting**—to the extent that their targets won't even resist incoming blows—then no exchange is needed; the attackers simply inflict fatigue or conditions on their targets.
- If **no combatants are engaging each other**, then there's no need for an exchange at all!
- If **all combatants on one side of the conflict are defeated**, unable to continue fighting in any way, then no more exchanges are needed!

STANCE MOVE

FOR PCs

When you resolve your approach, roll with the appropriate stat:

- **Defend and maneuver** rolls with **FOCUS**
- **Advance and attack** rolls with **PASSION**
- **Evade and observe** rolls with **CREATIVITY** or **HARMONY**, the PC's choice

On a 7–9, use one basic or mastered technique. On a 10+, choose one from this list instead:

- Mark 1-fatigue to use a learned technique
- Use one practiced technique
- Use two basic or mastered techniques

On a miss, you stumble, but you can shift your balance away from center to use one basic technique.

FOR NPCs

NPCs always use a number of techniques equal to 1+ their balance rating, chosen by the GM.

STATUSES

Some techniques within a combat exchange assign statuses to characters based on the fiction, such as a character getting *Trapped* by ice or metal. Techniques may assign the following:

NEGATIVE STATUSES

- **DOOMED:** You're in grave danger—mark 1-fatigue every few seconds (or each exchange) until you free yourself.
- **IMPAIRED:** You're slowed or off-balance—mark 1-fatigue or take a -2 to all physical actions (PCs) / choose one fewer technique (NPCs).
- **TRAPPED:** You're completely helpless—you must mark a combination of 3-fatigue or conditions to escape.
- **STUNNED:** You're caught off-guard—you can't act or respond for a few seconds until you steady yourself.

POSITIVE STATUSES

- **EMPOWERED:** Your abilities are naturally stronger in this moment—clear 1-fatigue at the end of each exchange.
- **FAVORED:** You're buoyed by circumstance—choose an additional basic or mastered technique in the next exchange, even on a miss.
- **INSPIRED:** You're ready to stand for something—clear *Inspired* to shift your balance toward a principle of your choice.
- **PREPARED:** You're ready for what's coming—clear *Prepared* to take +1 to an appropriate roll (after the roll) or avoid marking a condition.

BASIC TECHNIQUES

DEFEND & MANEUVER

ROLL WITH FOCUS

READY

Mark 1-fatigue to ready yourself or your environment, assigning or clearing a fictionally appropriate status of nearby characters or yourself.

RETALIATE

Steel yourself for their blows. Each time a foe inflicts fatigue, a condition, or shifts your balance in this exchange, inflict 1-fatigue on that foe.

SEIZE A POSITION

Move to a new location. Engage/disengage with a foe, overcome a negative status or danger, establish an advantageous position, or escape the scene. Any foe engaged with you can mark 1-fatigue to block this technique.

ADVANCE & ATTACK

ROLL WITH PASSION

STRIKE

Strike a foe in reach, forcing them to mark 2-fatigue, mark a condition, or shift their balance away from center, their choice. Mark 1-fatigue to instead choose to hammer them with your blows, forcing them to mark 2-fatigue, or strike where they are weak, inflicting a condition.

PRESSURE

Impress or intimidate a foe. Choose an approach—your foe cannot choose to use that approach in the next exchange.

SMASH

Mark 1-fatigue to destroy or destabilize something in the environment—possibly inflicting or overcoming a fictionally appropriate positive or negative status.

EUVADE & OBSERVE

CLEAR 1-FATIGUE & ROLL WITH CREATIVITY OR HARMONY

TEST BALANCE

Mark 1-fatigue to challenge an engaged foe's balance. Ask what their principle is; they must answer honestly. If you already know their principle, instead shift their balance away from center by questioning or challenging their beliefs or perspective.

BOLSTER OR HINDER

Aid or impede a nearby character, inflicting an appropriate status.

COMMIT

Recenter yourself amidst the fray. Shift your balance toward one of your principles; the next time you live up to that principle, do not mark fatigue.