



Rite Publishing Presents

Sutra Magic

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Dedication: to **THILO GRAF**

for unending support and sacrifice that is truly appreciated.

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一圓之非羽率折言約

Sutra Magic

"I paint the symbols heaven, earth, wind, water, mountain, fire, thunder, and lake. The ancient child asks, 'What do you see?' I see a circle of jade." - From the Tao te Ching

Sutras are sacred stories, prayers, or other lessons and expressions of the universe. They are often written on paper charms, called ofuda, in order to ward against, reveal, bind, or punish otherworldly creatures referred to as infernals (see Infernals side bar). Ofuda (with the proper sutras) sanctify places and can also be used as good luck charms. The power granted to an ofuda comes from the sutra written on it by its creator. The sutra is a universal truth expressed as a prayer; as such, sutras are tied to both the runes of creation and the Green.

Ofudas let sutras draw on the power of these universal forces to produce a variety of effects. It is not enough to simply know how to write a sutra to make its power work; one must also understand it and believe in its principles and in what it teaches before the power of the sutra will empower an ofuda. What's more is that not just any believer can find themselves with the ability to use a sutra. The power of the universe reveals itself only through the self. Even then, not many sutras can be learned or comprehended until one experiences life through the fullness of time and exposure to the world.

Sutras are used by those versed in the theological practices that gave rise to them. Over time, certain religions acquired the practice from others. In the Lands of the Jade Oath, these faiths are Bodhism, Taoshidaoism, Kami-do, Upanishandism, ancestor worship, animism, and shamanism. Sutras are a cosmic truth related to the Green, the power of runes, and the ch'i that flows through the world. Those who can perceive and tap into the power of the Green (druids and rangers), and their faith (clerics, inquisitors, monks, oracles and paladins) have the potential to learn sutras (see the Sutra Caster feat in the Sutra Feats section at the end of the document). Priests, monks, and other dedicated followers of the religions use sutras as a means to teach and learn the lessons of their faith. They ward off and even combat the malicious presence and activities of mischievous spirits and the antithesis of their faiths, the infernals.

Infernal creatures and spirits cannot create ofuda or cast sutras.



Learning Sutras

To begin learning sutras, a character must first take the Sutra Caster feat. A character may learn one sutra per two sutra caster levels, with a maximum number learned equal to twice her unenhanced Wisdom bonus (minimum of 1). The character does not learn bonus sutras due to a high ability score. The character does not automatically learn new sutras; she must find them, understand them, and finally, commit them to memory. The exceptions to this rule are feats or special class abilities (such as the demon hunter's and the contemplative monk's).

Infernals

Infernals are creatures not native to this world or otherwise naturally tied to it and whose presence in this world is not sanctioned by the Celestial Bureaucracy. This includes creatures that are descended from other infernals, like bakemono, but have since become native to this world. Creatures with the following types and subtypes are considered to be infernals:

- Aberration type
- Fey type
- Goblinoid subtype
- Incorporeal subtype
- Outsider type
- Undead type