

PERYTON

FANTASY ROLEPLAYING GAME

UPGRADE 4

AUGUST 11, 2007

Philosopher's Seed

No one knows what a philosopher's seed would grow into should it ever fully germinate. Some say they are embryonic stars, others that they are the eggs of titans. Most believe they are simply tools created by ancient alchemists, with no larger destiny of their own. The seed looks somewhat like a large peach pit with a clingy olive-colored dust lining its crevices, and is warm to the touch.

The dust, if extracted from the seed and mixed with salts of sulfur, will grow into a brown mold. If similarly removed and mixed with blood and ash, it becomes green slime. More of the stuff will form on the seed overnight, even if the entire surface is cleared. Using a philosopher's seed for a heart will reduce the cost of creating a golem or homunculus by 500gp, and the construct will have 1d4 more HD than it otherwise would have.

If the seed is kept in warm brine sprinkled with quartz dust for several days, it will begin to extrude spiny tendrils which will grow 1-6 inches (or to the walls of whatever container the seed is in) and stop. The seed cannot be grown beyond this point by any known means. The tendrils, however, can be detached and used for a number of purposes. In conjunction with an *entangle* spell, a full batch of the tendrils can be used to create the same effect as *black tentacles*. If ground and burned as incense, the tendrils can be used in place of the standard material components of the *astral projection* spell. Grafted onto another plant, the tendrils will grow into an assassin vine.

The seed itself burns as readily as any piece of wood, but cannot be destroyed in this way. Those looking into the heart of such a fire will see a mesmerizing sight as the seed comes to life, twisting and sprouting and subsiding with the entwining flames. This will continue for an hour if no other fuel is available, leaving the seed looking fresh and green for the next day. If the seed is cut apart, all but the largest (or, if all pieces are identical, one random piece) will crumble into gray ash. The one remaining piece will grow into a full-size philosopher's seed in one week.

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