

Pathfinder Society (second edition)

Character Options

Thursday, January 30, 2020

Character Options

Legal Sources and Table Policy

Character options from the following books can be used in Pathfinder Society.

- Rulebooks Line
 - *Pathfinder Core Rulebook*
 - *Pathfinder Bestiary*
- Lost Omens Line
 - *Lost Omens World Guide*
 - *Lost Omens Character Guide*
 - *Lost Omens Gods & Magic*
- Adventures Line
 - *The Fall of Plaguestone*

To use an option from any source other than the *Pathfinder Core Rulebook*, the *Pathfinder Bestiary*, or the *Lost Omens World Guide* in Pathfinder Society play, you must bring any one of the following to your game table:

- A physical copy of the book you wish to use
- A name-watermarked PDF copy of the book
- Name-watermarked printouts of all relevant pages you wish to use from the PDF
- Access to the rules you wish to use in the form of either electronic access to the Pathfinder Reference Document (paizo.com/prd) or a photocopy of the relevant pages, along with proof of purchase, such as a receipt from a game store or a screenshot of your My Downloads page on paizo.com.

The following do not satisfy this requirement:

- A photocopy of a physical book with no proof of purchase
- Printouts from electronic character builders such as Hero Lab

- Content reproduced in other sources under the Open Gaming License (such as an online reference document or a homemade omnibus)

Family members, significant others, or other members of the same household (such as roommates) can share resources if they are playing at the same table, rather than requiring a separate copy of the same book for each person. A group of friends that always plays together at the same table fulfills this requirement, as long as all the necessary materials for each character's options are present. Members playing at separate tables must each supply their own materials as normal.

In addition to the copy of the rules themselves, you must be able to provide an electronic or physical copy of the below Additional Resources page for that source to show that the options you have selected for your character are legal for play.

Rarity, Access, and Availability

Character options for Pathfinder Society play have one of three levels of availability: standard, limited, or restricted.

Standard: These options follow the standard rules as printed in their respective sourcebooks. If a character wants to take this option, they must meet all its **prerequisites** as usual. If the option is uncommon or rarer, they must also have access to the option. Characters can gain **access** in a variety of ways. They can gain access by virtue of their origin, religion, or their membership in certain organizations (see below sections). Selecting certain common character options can give you access to other, rarer ones; for instance, a gnome who takes the Gnome Weapon Familiarity ancestry feat gains access to uncommon gnome weapons. Specific boons—such as from the Achievement Points system or Chronicle Sheets—can also grant access to these options.

Limited: A limited option is rarer in Society play, but not unheard of. A limited option can be selected only if specifically allowed by a boon—whether from the Achievement Points system, a Chronicle Sheet, or another other option from a Pathfinder Society source—even if the option is common or if the character meets the normal prerequisites or access requirements printed in the option's source.

Restricted: A restricted option is one that is not generally appropriate for all tables or conducive to the Pathfinder Society's shared campaign setting, such as a one-of-a-kind weapon, a horrific spell used by only the most evil magic-users, or player options that require

high degrees of GM adjudication. Such options will generally be made available for Society Play in only a very few special cases, such as via boons given out as part of charity events, if at all.

Character Origin

When you create a character, you can choose their origin, including their ethnicity and nationality/region of origin. These choices might allow your character to take certain character options. For instance, humans of Jadwiga ethnicity descend from the witch-queens of Irrisen, and they can take the Irriseni Ice-Witch feat to represent this connection. Similarly, characters from the Broken Lands have access to the Aldori dueling swords that are iconic to that region.

If your character is of mixed ethnicity or comes from multiple regions of origin, then for the purposes of game balance, you choose one ethnicity and one region of origin that your character can use to satisfy prerequisite and access conditions for character options. This affects only the character options you can select, and in no way limits your character's identity or story.

Certain boons, such as Home Region or Multicultural Training, can allow you to change or expand your character's origin for the purpose of qualifying for character options, to reflect their life experiences.

Religion

When you create a character, you can choose their religion or philosophy. If your character is of a class that directly interacts with the divine, such as a cleric or a champion, you must make this choice at first level as part of gaining your class abilities. However, characters of any class might be allowed to certain character options based on the deity they follow. For instance, all followers of Abadar gain access to Abadar's *flawless scale*, a magic item considered holy by the faith.

Characters can worship and gain mechanical benefits from any deity listed in the table of gods on page 437 of the *Core Rulebook* or detailed in *Lost Omens Gods & Magic*, so long as their alignment matches one of the deity's listed follower alignments. Note that some deities, such as Rovagug or Urgathoa, allow only evil followers; as Society characters cannot be lawful evil, neutral evil, or chaotic evil, these deities cannot be worshiped to gain benefits in Society play. Characters can also be agnostic, atheist, or can follow the tenets of philosophies (*Lost Omens Gods & Magic* 94–101) rather than deities.

Your character can participate in the rituals and cultural aspects of a deity's faith without being a worshipper of that deity; for instance, citizens of the diabolic nation of Cheliax might participate in state holidays revering Asmodeus, the Prince of Darkness, but only lawful evil followers are true worshippers of his faith.

If your character worships multiple deities, then for the purposes of game balance, you choose one deity that your character can use to satisfy prerequisite and access conditions for character options. This affects only the character options you can select, and in no way limits your character's identity or story.

Pantheons

Characters can also follow pantheons (*Lost Omens Gods & Magic* 92) instead of specific deities, in which case they gain the benefits of the pantheon as a whole. Characters in Society play must choose a patron deity when following a pantheon. They can use both their patron deity and the pantheon as a whole to satisfy access and prerequisites, but not any other deities in the pantheon individually. For instance, a lawful neutral cleric could worship the Godclaw, with Iomedae as her patron deity, in which case she could take options related to both Iomedae and the Godclaw, but this wouldn't automatically allow her to take options related to Torag, Irori, Abadar, or Asmodeus.

Edicts and Anathema in Society Play

Several characters, such as clerics or champions, must abide by the edicts and anathema of their deity to receive divine powers from that deity. To allow a wide variety of characters in Society play, the rules around edicts and anathema are slightly relaxed. It is generally assumed that all characters can participate in Pathfinder Society adventures without running afoul of their deity's edicts and anathema—attempting to perform the primary objective of an official Pathfinder Society mission by itself will not cause a character to fall out of favor with their deity. For example, Pharasma prohibits robbing tombs, but a cleric of Pharasma can accept a Society mission to retrieve an artifact from a pyramid, confident that the Society has gone through the proper channels to secure the right to retrieve the artifact.

While edicts are valorous actions praised by a deity, a character does not need to perform their deity's edicts to the exclusion of other activities, or if doing so would prevent the smooth progression of play at the table. When considering anathema, note that a character must actively and personally commit an anathemic act in Society play to incur consequences with their deity, and is not liable for the actions of their party members. For instance, a champion

of Sarenrae could not personally lie to a guard when infiltrating a city, but they do not need to force the party's rogue to tell the truth (though they might look on disapprovingly)

Remember that edicts and anathema exist to create roleplaying opportunities at the table for your character, and should not be used by the GM to pressure PCs, or by PCs to pressure other members of the table toward specific styles of play.

Uncommon Ancestries

Because your ancestry is the first thing you pick about your character and it is not possible to retrain your ancestry as you might retrain other options, the only way to select uncommon or rarer ancestries is with a boon that allows you to create a new character of this ancestry.

Organization Membership

Through the course of your character's adventures, you might meet influential members of other organizations and have the opportunity to learn from them. The Secondary Initiation boon can be used to gain membership in an organization and access to its character options.

Books

▼ Pathfinder Core Rulebook

Rarity and Access Adjustments

Please use these rarity and access adjustments in Society Play, instead of the rarity and access printed in the original source.

- Languages:** Note that the adjustment to regional languages (page 432) detailed in the Rulings and Clarifications section below expands some characters' access to Erutaki and Varki.
- Items:** All characters have access to the scholarly journal, scholarly journal compendium, survey map, and survey map atlas (page 291).
All characters have access to the *wayfinder* (page 617).
- Spells:** All characters have access to *raise dead* (page 362).
- Rituals:** All characters have access to *atone* (page 409) and *resurrect* (page 415).

Option Availability

Standard

All options are of standard availability unless specifically noted otherwise.

Limited

General Feats: Connections (page 260).

Restricted

None

Rulings and Clarifications

Please follow these rulings and clarifications specific to Pathfinder Society play wherever they conflict with the language printed in the original source.

- The level 1 version of *summon plant or fungus* (page 376) can be used to summon a leaf leshy (*Pathfinder Bestiary* page 218) that has the weak adjustment (*Pathfinder Bestiary* page 6). This is an exception to the rule that *summon* spells do not normally allow you to adjust the level of the summoned monsters by applying adjustments or templates to them
- The Experienced Smuggler skill feat (page 261) allows you to Earn Income using Underworld Lore with tasks of your level -1, instead of the normal level -2.
- Add the following regional languages to the options listed on page 432. As with other regional languages, a character hailing from the region listed below automatically has access to these languages.
 - Erutaki: Saga Lands
 - Varki: Saga Lands

▼ **Lost Omens World Guide**

Note that your ethnicity, area of origin (nationality), or membership in certain factions might grant you access to options in this book. See the Character Origin and Organization Membership sections above.

Rarity and Access Adjustments

Please use these rarity and access adjustments in Society Play, instead of the rarity and access printed in the original source.

Archetypes: Characters with the Living Monolith Dedication feat have access to Ka Stone Ritual (page 59).
Characters from the Mwangi Expanse have access to the Magic Warrior Dedication feat (page 95). This feat should be uncommon (see Rulings and

Clarifications, below)

All uncommon organization options are available to members of the associated organization.

All characters have access to the *archaic wayfinder* (page 17).

Characters from the Broken Lands have access to the Aldori dueling sword (page 28).

Items: All characters of 10th level or higher who are from the High Seas have access to *black pearl aeon stones* (page 63).

Orcs and half-orcs from the Mwangi Expanse have access to *blessed tattoos* (page 92).

Option Availability

Standard

All options are of standard availability unless specifically noted otherwise.

Limited

Feats: Eye of the Arclords (page 81)

Items: *Golden Legion epaulet* (page 124)

Restricted

Archetypes: Red Mantis Assassin Dedication and all Red Mantis assassin archetype feats (page 71).

Items: Pesh (refined) (page 52).

Rulings and Clarifications

The following rulings and clarifications are based on upcoming errata for this product.

- The Aldori dueling sword's (page 28) price should be 2 gp, not 20 gp.
- Magic Warrior Dedication (page 95) should have the uncommon trait.

Additionally, please follow these rulings and clarifications specific to Pathfinder Society play wherever they conflict with the language printed in the original source.

- The **Prerequisites** entry for Living Monolith Dedication (page 59) is "Osiriani language, trained in Crafting" rather than "Ancient Osiriani and Sphinx languages, trained in Crafting."

- The **Prerequisites** entry for Ka Stone Ritual (page 59) is “Living Monolith Dedication” rather than “Living Monolith Dedication, a sphinx or living monolith with this feat performs a ritual with you”.

▼ **Lost Omens Character Guide**

Note that your ethnicity, area of origin (nationality), or membership in certain factions might grant you access to options in this book. See the Character Origin and Organization Membership sections above.

Rarity and Access Adjustments

None

Option Availability

Standard

Ancestries: All ancestry options are of standard availability. As the hobgoblin, leshy, and lizardfolk ancestries are uncommon, this means they are limited to boon access through Chronicle Sheets or the Achievement Point system (See Uncommon Ancestries above).

All options are of standard availability unless specifically noted otherwise.

Limited

None

Restricted

Ancestries: Chosen of Lamashtu (page 38).

Rulings and Clarifications

The following rulings and clarifications are based on upcoming errata for this product.

- Eclectic Obsession (page 33) should be a single action and have the one-action symbol accordingly.
- Hobgoblin Weapon Familiarity (page 50) should contain fewer weapons. The updated text should read “You are trained with composite longbows, composite shortbows, glaives, longbows, longswords, and shortbows
- Leshys with the fungus leshy heritage (page 53) do not have the plant trait listed in the leshy base statistics sidebar, but have the fungus trait instead.
- The seedpod ranged unarmed attack granted by the Seedpod feat (page 54) has a range (not a range increment) of 10 feet.

- Add Amurrin to the list in the lizardfolk base statistics sidebar (page 57) of additional languages you can choose if you have a positive Intelligence modifier.
- Impassable Wall Stance (page 90) should have the stance trait.
- The key spellcasting ability for the spells granted by Invoke the Crimson Oath (page 95) is Charisma.

▼ **Lost Omens Gods & Magic**

Remember that your religion might grant you access to options in this book, even if you are not a cleric or champion. See the Religion section above for more information.

Rarity and Access Adjustments

Dieties: The Pillars of Knowledge, Prismatic Ray, and Wards of the Pharaoh pantheons that originally appeared in the January 21, 2020 Paizo Blog entry, "[Friends in High Places](#)" are available for Society play and can be selected following the normal rules for pantheons.

Items: Characters from Numeria have access to the polytool (page 121).

Option Availability

Standard

All options are of standard availability unless specifically noted otherwise.

Limited

Deities: Achaekkek (page 52).

Spells: *Time beacon* (page 111)

Restricted

Deities: All archdevils (page 124).
All demon lords (page 124).
All outer gods and great old ones (page 130).
Walkena (130).
All queens of the night (page 132).

Feats: Splinter Faith (page 8).

Rulings and Clarifications

Please follow these rulings and clarifications specific to Pathfinder Society play wherever they conflict with the language printed in the original source.

- GMs cannot enact divine intercessions.
- Remove the final sentence of Syncretism (page 105) that specifies the feat's benefit if your cleric doctrine is not cloistered cleric or warpriest. Organized Play will reexamine this feat when additional cleric doctrines are released.
- For the purposes of Society play, remove the final clause of Evangelize (page 105) that states "at the GM's discretion, a target that genuinely changes its perspective to support your faith as a result of the argument is also otherwise unaffected."
- As Mortal Healing (page 105) requires you to specifically use the Treat Wounds action, it does not apply when used with other actions related to medicine or healing, such as Battle Medicine.
- When using Sanctify Water (page 105) use your proficiency with simple weapons to determine your attack bonus when throwing the blessed container of water. If you give the container to another character for them to throw, they use their proficiency with improvised weapons instead.
- For the purposes of Society play, remove the **Prerequisites** of Numb to Death (page 105) that states "you have died at least once."
- The *temporary tool* spell (page 111) can be used to create only simple tools, and therefore cannot create kits, which are complex objects made of multiple pieces, or objects made of any specific precious material.
- The **Targets** entry for *winter bolt* (page 112) should be "1 creature", not "1 creature or object." This change is based on upcoming errata for the *Pathfinder Core Rulebook*
- The **Targets** entry for *withering grasp* (page 112) should be "1 creature or unattended object", not "1 creature or object." When used on an unattended object, the object takes persistent damage on your next turn.
- For the purposes of Society play, remove the final sentence of *remember the lost* (page 119) which states "A creature that truly knows no one who died with any sort of grievance to that creature is immune to this effect."

The Fall of Plaguestone

All sanctioning for this adventure occurs through the Chronicle Sheet for this adventure, which can be found in this [free PDF download](#).