



Military Archives of Zakalwe

Ritual of the Realm of Day

Codified at the Halls of Knowledge in Zenith

Under the supervision of Provost Octavius, Winter 379YE



The Eternal Zakalwe

Zakalwe is an Eternal of the Realm of Day who is called Master Strategist and the General of Day. He is also called weapon-wise due to his skill with the many accoutrements of war, while the Svaq icewalkers call him the "Hunter of Tides." His counsel is said to be invaluable in helping those who gain it to defeat powerful opponents.

The Hunter of Tides appears as a large male humanoid, girded in armour of a style that has not been worn in the Empire for centuries. He always carries a two-handed weapon, usually a trident or glaive but occasionally a spear. On rare occasions he might appear in more "civilian" guise in which case he usually appears in robes appropriate to an Urizen arbiter. Even in such a non-martial guise, he is never unarmed – even if one of his great weapons are easily to hand, he will wear an sword, often of a curved or otherwise exotic shape.

He never appears fully human; he is clearly a creature of the oceans. Unlike those of the Merrow lineage, or the Eternal Roshanwe, Zakalwe rarely has barbels or scales – his skin may be mottled but is much more likely to be black-and-white than blue. According to several sources Zakalwe is an actual shapeshifter – while he assumes humanoid form to deal with humanoids his "natural" form is more like a large black-and-white whale, narwhal or dolphin.

The library of Zakalwe

The Eternal is known to be fascinated by the writings of mortal military thinkers and martial philosophers. He collects and studies the writings of generals, captains, soldiers and politicians from every nation and realm. He himself has written an immense number of epigraphs, essays, treatises and books of philosophy, both original and echoing the thoughts of mortal war-makers.

The Master Strategist has his own philosophies of conflict, but he constantly seeks to encompass new theories and ideas, either to challenge them and discover their weaknesses or to incorporate their strengths and subtleties into his own theories.

While Zakalwe's collection is described as a library, and without doubt contains many thousands of volumes collected throughout history, it is a mere fraction of the size of the Celestial Library of Phaleron. That said, it is much more specialised – there have apparently been conflicts in the past between Zakalwe and the attendants of the Celestial Library over books or scrolls that exist only in the collection of the Master Strategist.

The Hunter of the Tides has no interest in giving his collection away, nor in lending his books to mortals, but he has been convinced in the past to share fragments of the lore he has gathered with those who offer him new theories of war or histories of figures he finds intriguing.

Developing the Ritual

This is the second attempt to codify such a ritual. The first attempt *Feudal Archive of Zakalwe*, was created without the approval of Zakalwe and was of limited use. Still, the use of the ritual managed to attract Zakalwe's attention at the very least.

The original ritual was relatively easy to define – similar effects have been created spontaneously since time immemorial to send gifts or tribute to specific Eternals. Several of the core elements of the ritual were drawn from the mechanisms and theorems expounded in *The Celestial Library*, and there are also similarities with the Autumn ritual *Ephesis' Scales*.

During Summer 379YE, the Urizen mage Vaan met with Zakalwe and discussed this ritual (among other topics). Zakalwe agreed to read anything sent to him using it and allowed a fraction of his power to be imbued into the ritual itself. This agreement lasts for as long as the Empire has the title of Warmage. As part of the agreement, the ritual was renamed – Zakalwe appeared to consider the word “feudal” to have unacceptable political overtones.

In the wake of this agreement, Zakalwe will read any text sent to him and may respond as he sees fit. So far, no experiments have been made with the new version of the ritual but when or if they are, Zakalwe may well add more interesting tomes to his personal collection.

The ritual will only transfer a written text, however, but there appear to be few real limits to how large or complex that text can be. While it will transfer any written material to the halls of the Master Strategist, Zakalwe has absolutely no interest in texts that do not relate to warfare in some way. Some magicians involved in researching the ritual included messages or dedications in the works they sent to the Zakalwe; the Eternal appears to have no interest in these messages.

Unfortunately, many of the books used during the experimental phase were copies of tomes well known in the Empire, rather than unique or interesting books, or short factual accounts of recent battles between Imperials and barbarians. After the ritual was completed, however, a number of newly written texts were sent to the Master Strategist of the Day Realm, but it is somewhat unclear how many actually reached him.

As always it is important to not that Zakalwe is primarily interested in historical texts and new texts written by generals, captains and soldiers; it is possible, although by no means confirmed, that he will be interested in treatises on the subject of political, as well as military theory.

Performing the Ritual

The researchers agree that the most important element of Military Archives of Zakalwe is the written work.

Wrapping the piece of writing in white cotton, a woolen blanket such as might be used by a soldier in the field, or the standard or banner of a military unit seem appropriate elements to include. The evocation of the names of paragons and exemplars of Ambition, especially martial heroes such as Ademar the Lion, are likely to be useful elements. Gunnar Sunbright, a Svaq Icewalker who helped design the basic structures of the original ritual, recommended that the rune Aesh would be an effective sigil to mark on the text or its wrapping, but suggested that some of the runes of Summer – especially Jotra the rune of Battle and Tykonus the rune of victory – might work well in conjunction with the magic of this ritual.

The dramaturgical persona of the Captain might seem appropriate to use in a performance of this ritual, but Jessian d'Sarvos cautions against it. While the captain is honourable and bold, it expresses several traits at odds with the cool rationality of Zakalwe. A much more appropriate match is probably the Doctor, despite her peaceful nature, or possibly the Bishop – whose role often conjoins the tactical nature of Day with the might of Summer. There is some discussion about appropriate astronomantic constellations – in addition to the obvious associations of the Key (things are revealed; knowledge, especially specialist knowledge) and the Phoenix (things learn; knowledge revealed that improves the possessor), a few magicians suggested connotations of the Spider (representing the Eternal as a hidden watcher, or creature outside the Imperial sphere). The debate continues – no victor has emerged.

A dedication by the individual who wrote the treatise, if they are still alive, might make the book especially appealing – likewise, the presence of a living author cannot harm the performance of the ritual.

The completion of the ritual is often signalled by sprinkling seawater on the written work, short before it vanishes, although the cautious Imperial Orc oathbinder Hurren suggested that vinegar, a soldier's wine or ale ration, or blood from a fresh wound received in ritual combat would also be appropriate libations.

Military Archives of Zakalwe

Day Magnitude 4

Performing the Ritual

Performing this ritual takes at least 2 minutes of roleplaying. This ritual targets a single book, scroll, tablet or similar written work that must be present throughout.

Effects

When the ritual is complete, the target written work disappears and is received by the attendants of the Eternal Zakalwe in the Realm of Day.

This ritual will only transfer a scroll, tablet, book or similar piece of written work.

The Eternal is peripherally aware of who sent the item.

Options

Any caster who has mastered the ritual may choose to substitute Weltsilver for crystal mana when contributing to it. Every 2 ingots of Weltsilver spent counts as 1 crystal mana when contributing to the ritual.

OOO note

This item is a ritual text.

Any character with the Day Ritual Lore skill can master this ritual. You must have a free slot or experience point to master a new ritual. After an appropriate period of roleplaying spent studying these pages, it should then be brought to a referee who will add the ritual to those you have mastered. Doing this does not 'use up' the ritual text.

This ritual cannot be learned by other means; it cannot be taught by a character who knows it unless the ritual is added to the body of Imperial Lore by the Conclave.

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