



The Crystalline Focus of Aesh

Ritual of the Realm of Day

*Scribed Winter 3791AE at the Lyceum,
commissioned by declaration of the Imperial Conclave
on behalf of Juha the Spider
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The Sign of Aesh

The Crystalline Focus is an adaptation of a much older spell, usually referred to as the Sign of Aesh. It was known in one form or another by all eight of the nations that would eventually come together to form the Empire. Indeed, some scholars theorise that it predates human mastery of Rune Lore - it is known in parts of the world where runes are simply not used. It is sometimes referred to as the Sign or Feather of the Phoenix, or in some very obscure Sarcophan sources as the Sign-Like-Four.

The primary restriction of the Sign of Aesh, however, is that it can only empower rituals performed by a single magician. Perhaps it is unsurprising that it is so old - scholars theorise that it predates the discovery of the coven bond itself, an event now lost to the mists of prehistory. While potentially powerful, the ability to slightly extend ones magical reach has been almost entirely superseded by the ability to combine magical energies with another magician and weave much more powerful magic as a group that would be conceivable to an individual.

History of the Crystalline Focus

The more potent ritual known as the Crystalline Focus was developed in Urizen. Historians suggest it was codified some time around 150BE as a result of a significant exchange of knowledge between multiple spires. The original text referred to it as the Crystal Focus of the Phoenix, and made reference to a certain obscure artefact that fell from the heavens in the territory of Spiral in the distant past. It was effectively renamed at the point where it was presented to the Empire (in 33 AE) for inclusion in the body of Imperial Lore.

The Urizen were initially frustrated by the refusal of some of their new colleagues to use the correct name of the ritual, especially those of Wintermark, but eventually accepted the inevitable and even today "Crystal Focus of the Phoenix" is little more than a footnote in history.



Practising the Crystalline Focus

The ritual is designed to allow a coven to focus their minds and knowledge much more effectively. It can be used to allow a coven to perform a ritual that is beyond their combined powers, whether due to the absence of one or more ritualists, or because they lack the raw understanding to work their magic. It can also be used to allow ritualists to improve the scope of a ritual they can already cast, permitting them to include an additional warrior, business, or territory.

One use that is often overlooked is its ability to help scholars of Day magic to perform rituals of other loves where they are less proficient. This makes it one of only a few rituals that allows magic of one realm to influence magic from a different realm.

It cannot be denied that using the Crystalline Focus of Aesh is expensive. It can require as much as sixteen crystal mana to gain a comparatively small example. The advantage is that by reducing the magnitude of the next ritual, the coven effectively gets at least five crystal mana, and even more benefit if they are able to perform a ritual effect that might otherwise have been out of their reach.

It is also worth noting that some eternalists of the Day Realm have access to objects or substances that can enhance the effectiveness of this ritual, or allow it to be performed with less crystal mana. The Turning Mirror, Sinokenon, in particular is said to be able to provide crystals that help in the performance of this ritual - the way the ritual draws on and enhancing cooperation between individuals particularly appears to it.

Performing the Ritual

This ritual often involves group meditation, or chants that include the recitation of complex mathematical formulae. The ritual may instead involve reading from books or scrolls relating to magical theory, which help focus the minds of the participants. Reciting a rote passage without reference to written text is another element that helps bring the minds of the ritualists into harmony.

Bells, chimes and gongs might be used; sometimes the ritualists focus on their fading notes, sometimes each strikes an individual instrument in unison, harmonising their music as they harmonise their minds and their movements. Many ritualists draw a complex diagram on the ground during this ritual.

The rune Aesh is almost always evoked with this spell, often in the form of a complex hand-gesture. The constellation of the Phoenix may be evoked instead - in which case it is traditional to use a reflective surface as a focal point for calling down the power of the stars.

Crystalline Focus of Aesh

Day Magnitude 32

Performing the Ritual

Performing this ritual takes at least 2 minutes of roleplaying. It targets the coven bond.

This spell is an [enchantment](#). A target may only be under one enchantment effect at a time.

Effects

This [enchantment](#) effects the [coven](#) bond directly. The next ritual that is performed using the coven bond has its magnitude reduced by ten.

When the ritual is completed, each ritualist present experiences a short-lived [roleplaying effect](#): they become profoundly aware of all other members of the coven present. For a short period (at least thirty seconds), they are unable to understand or in some cases even perceive people who were not part of the ritual. The coven members experience the same effect during the next ritual they cast, using the coven bond, even if they were not involved in performing this ritual.

The enchantment ends when the coven bond is used to perform a ritual, or at the next sunrise, whichever comes first.

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 text contains sufficient information that any coven that holds it may use it to attempt to perform the ritual described, exactly as if it were part of Imperial Lore.

Ribbon ID: 10018