

# Known Potions of the Empire

Together with their  
Descriptions and Effects

# Apothecary Recipes

Apothecary Potions

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## Anodyne Embrocation (Apothecary Potions)

This dark blue cream has a gritty, slightly sandy texture. It smells strongly of freshly cut grass. Put a tiny drop on your finger or your tongue, and the tip quickly becomes numb.

The salve numbs the pain of your injuries, and its strong scent helps to clear your mind.

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## Bannermans Honey (Philtres of War)

This deep amber syrup clings viscously to the inside of the container, and when it catches the light it seems to glow. It smells sweet, and a sticky droplet on your tongue reveals it to have the sweet flavour of fine honey.

You feel a burst of renewed energy, and an urge to act immediately in pursuit of your goals. You also feel a strong urge to share your confidence with, and raise the morale of, your allies - to inspire others to follow your lead.

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## Bloodharrow Philtre (Apothecary Potions)

This translucent red liquid has tiny white particles suspended in it. It has a spicy scent, and a tiny amount on your tongue or your finger tingles unpleasantly for a moment.

Pain spreads rapidly through your body; you feel as if your blood is on fire. After a moment or two, the pain fades.

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## Bronze Spider Balsam (Unguents of Falling Leaves)

This copper-brown ointment glows when it catches the light. If rubbed on the fingers it releases a strong, spicy scent and is quickly absorbed into your skin. It is hard to resist the urge to rub the entire pot onto your skin.

You are driven to match wits with those around you, and try to gain influence over them. You become acutely aware of anyone who owes you a favour, or to whom you in turn might owe a favour.

## Chiaroscuroan Balsam (Magnum Opus)

This mysterious ointment is half black, and half white. It has a heady, almost narcotic scent that causes the blood to pound if it is inhaled, and a smooth, oily texture that is quickly absorbed into the skin.

You feel giddy and excitable for several minutes after applying this balsam. You feel every emotion very strongly and have a strong urge to be gregarious, to seek out opportunities to interact with others wherever they present themselves, and want to be comfortable, well-fed and content.

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## Decoction of the hungry Moon (Decoctions of Hoarfrost)

This black, oily elixir has a thick sediment at the bottom that seems to drink in any light that hits it. It tastes vile, like rotting meat. It would require quite an effort of will for most people to drink this liquid.

This potion tastes unpleasantly of spoiled meat. You become emotionally cold but highly possessive and protective of your friends and allies.

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## Dragons Blood (Tinctures of True Eminence)

This red elixir smells of oranges and glows with an inner radiance when it catches the light. The scent makes your nostrils tingle and warms your chest. The tangy flavour makes you want to down the entire potion.

You are filled with personal pride and self-assurance. Any contradiction or lack of respect is profoundly annoying, and you find it difficult to tolerate mockery, insolence or being treated as if you are unimportant.

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## Effulgent Primessence (Lambent Essences)

This clear liquid glows slightly with an inner radiance even in shadow. The liquid bubbles and beings to evaporate when exposed to the air. A tiny droplet on your tongue has a delicate, delicious flavour that you cannot quite place.

You become calm and cerebral, fascinated by thoughts, ideas and knowledge. You are disinclined to physical action where mental action might be sufficient. Your movements and thoughts become precise and ordered.

## Elixir of Exalted Puissance (Philtres of War)

This deep green liquid is filled with tiny bubbles; if you shake the container it effervesces energetically. It smells strongly of mint, and a tiny droplet on your finger or tongue causes the tip to tingle almost expectantly.

You are filled with a sensation of immense confidence and belief in your own abilities. You want to demonstrate your prowess to everyone.

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## Elixir Vitae (Apothecary Potions)

This translucent liquid is tinted a pale blue-green. It has a clean, fresh scent. A tiny drop of the sticky fluid on your tongue or your finger tingles pleasantly for a moment.

A warm glow spreads quickly through your body, removing pain, revitalising your spirit and creating a sense of enormous well-being.

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## Feast for Crows (The Winter Moon)

This lumpy red balm has a texture similar to that of rotting meat soaked in blood. It is quickly absorbed into the skin, leaving red marks behind.

You are overwhelmed by alternating burning fever and freezing numbness that completely incapacitates you. You may lose consciousness, and suffer painful convulsions. Over the next five minutes the symptoms of either Virus Lunarae or hunger of the Wolf quickly recede.

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## Feverfai! Elixir (Apothecary Potions)

This translucent grey liquid smells faintly of spring flowers. A tiny drop of the thick, syrupy fluid on your tongue causes a grimace - it tastes a little like spoiled milk.

You feel nauseous. A dizzying chill spreads through your body, leaving you incapacitated for a few moments. Both effects clear as quickly as they arose, leaving you feeling revitalised.

## Goldencrown (Tinctures of True Eminence)

When this beautiful golden elixir catches the light it glows with an inner radiance. If the container is shaken, the liquid within hisses and bubbles energetically. It smells strongly of apples and pears. A tiny droplet on your tongue reveals it to have a

You feel a strong urge to take charge of any situation you find yourself in. Filled with pride and self-confidence, people who disagree with you or disrespect you make you exceptionally angry. Whatever you are doing, you very much want to be the centre of attention.

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## Goosewhisper Infusion (Infusions of Feathers)

This midnight blue solution is a thick, resinous liquid. It has a sweet, sharp scent that causes your nostrils to tingle and chills your lungs. The unpleasant, acrid flavour makes drinking it unappealing.

For around an hour after experiencing this infusion you see things out of the corner of your eye; anyone you are not looking at directly appears to be surrounded by a shimmering multicoloured halo. You tend to see things in symbolic ways, and may see weird images hanging around people you know, relating to how you feel about them. These effects are very pronounced if you are a member of the naga lineage.

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## Gutwrench (Legacy of Thorns)

This translucent liquid has a red-brown tinge to it and sticks viscously to the inside of the container if you shake it. It smells faintly of over-ripe pears and has a faint, tangy flavour.

As long as you suffer from either WEAKNESS or VENOM you feel as if your stomach is on fire; you may experience other symptoms including severe sweating, feverishly elevated temperature, throbbing aches in the head and joints, tiredness, agonizing stomach cramps, nausea, dizziness and painfully heightened senses that make bright lights or loud noises almost unbearable.

## Hunger of the Wolf (The Winter Moon)

This clear, odourless, tasteless liquid appears indistinguishable from water.

You feel a growing heat spreading through your body. Over the next fifteen minutes you become extremely short tempered, often incoherent with rage, and lash out at anyone who annoys you. Your growing rage makes it harder and harder for you to concentrate; you begin to hear voices urging you to kill everyone around you.

Antidote - Feast for Crows

If the incorrect antidote is applied, you undergo a psychotic break, raving incoherently and lashing out at everyone nearby for at most a minute or so before suffering a fatal brain hemorrhage and dropping dead.

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## Ironblood Tonic (Tonics of the Deep Forest)

This golden-brown liquid clings viscously to the inside of the container if you shake it. It smells faintly of apples, but a tiny drop on your tongue reveals it to have a strangely salty flavour.

You find it very hard to care about the feelings of other people, and tend to take the most expedient course of action regardless of who it might hurt.

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## Leaden Quicksilver (Unguents of Falling Leaves)

When this smooth, metallic-gray ointment catches the light it glows with a cold, reflective light. The firm texture feels like metal when rubbed between finger and thumb. It chills your flesh where it touches skin.

You become highly motivated to pursue and achieve your goals, whatever they may be. Anything that stands in the way of your success is an obstacle to be overcome, although you feel an urge to avoid personal physical confrontation. Other people should follow your advice because you alone know what is best for them. Anyone who refuses to heed your suggestions is probably plotting against you.

## Lucent Quintessence (Lambent Essences)

This clear liquid seems to have a slightly different colour from different angles. It smells strongly of aniseed, and a tiny droplet on your tongue reveals it to have an almost overwhelming flavour of aniseed.

You become highly focused, pursuing things that interest you with stubborn doggedness. You find it hard to show interest in things that do not engage you, no matter how important it might be to others.

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## Mageblood (Philtres of the high Peaks)

This red liquid contains tiny particles of pale material suspended within it. It is very thick, and smells faintly of copper. A tiny droplet on your tongue reveals it to have a surprisingly salty flavour.

You feel an urge to gaze in wonder at the world around you for a few moments.

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## Magpie Infusion (Infusions of Feathers)

This oily blue substance smells of summer flowers. When exposed to the air, it begins to evaporate. A tiny amount on your fingertip immediately begins to bubble and soon evaporates into a thin blue-tinted cloud.

Your tongue and lips are numbed, meaning your speech is slurred. You find yourself blinking rapidly, or suffering from watering eyes. Any spell that you hear being cast causes you to perceive dramatic displays of colourful light that can be quite distracting.

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## Maledicts Medicament (Master Medicinal)

This deep crimson liquid has a thin layer of scummy froth atop it. It smells unpleasant, and has an oily texture. A drop on your tongue makes you salivate ☐ ☐ it is vile and you feel a strong urge to spit the mixture out.

You feel nauseous and dizzy; you may be overcome with retching and vertigo for a few moments.



## Oakenhide Tonic (Tonics of the Deep Forest)

This deep golden liquid looks a little like watered-down honey. It has an alcoholic scent, and a tiny droplet of the sticky fluid on your tongue tastes strongly of apples.

You feel very confident in your ability to survive dangerous situations.

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## Oil of Blackthorn (Legacy of Thorns)

This thin, oily paste is the colour of gray slate. If you rub it between your finger and thumb it has a slick texture that leaves a faint residue on your fingers. The oily taste is offensively and deeply unpalatable.

If you have drunk this oil, you are subject to nausea and painful stomach cramps for the next half hour, although if you vomit or are treated with the PURIFY or PURGE spells, or by anything else that can end the WEAKNESS or VENOM conditions, you can alleviate these symptoms early.

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## Ossean Balm (Apothecary Potions)

This blue cream has no discernable scent. It has a gritty, sandy texture and quickly dries when you rub it between finger and thumb, leaving a thin crust that soon flakes away. It tastes disgusting.

The salve forms a thick crust over your damaged limb, leaving it stiff and immobile for a few moments, after which the damaged skin peels away to reveal undamaged flesh beneath.

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## Philosophers Stone (Magnum Opus)

This elixir holds a crimson liquid and a heavy yellow liquid. They mix when shaken creating a hypnotic suffusion of both colours that slowly separates. It seems never to smell or taste quite the same way twice.

This elixir has a strong taste of something (practically any taste is possible). You feel a strong urge to be mysterious and enigmatic; to avoid direct answers, to conceal your intentions and to couch your speech in allusion and metaphor. Direct answers and direct solutions are unsatisfying.

## Philtre of Strength (Philtres of War)

This translucent liquid has a faint blue tinge. It has a rich, spicy scent, but a tiny droplet on your tongue discovers it to have a surprisingly sweet flavour.

You feel all your cares and worries fall away; you feel a strong urge to shout, bellow or sing something as you are suddenly invigorated.

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## Ravenwing Infusion (Infusions of Feathers)

This crumbly red substance smells strongly of exotic spices. When rubbed between finger and thumb the spicy scent intensifies dramatically.

You feel suddenly dizzy, and then lose the ability to see colours; everything becomes visible in shades of grey. The exception is that you can see colourful auras around living creatures, with the colour and intensity reflecting how you feel about that person. The night after taking this infusion you will have exceptionally vivid dreams.

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## Redwillow Paste (Legacy of Thorns)

This rust-coloured paste smells faintly of stagnant water. It has a sticky texture if you rub it between your finger and thumb that is hard to get rid of. It has an incredibly sweet, sickly taste that is unappealing.

If you have drunk this oil, you are subject to the sudden onset of a feverish temperature accompanied by severe sweating, headache, tiredness and other flu-like symptoms that last for the next half hour, although if you vomit or are treated with the PURIFY or PURGE spells, or by anything else that can end the WEAKNESS or VENOM conditions, you can alleviate these symptoms early.

## Shadowcrow Infusion (Tisanes of the Labyrinth)

This glimmering silver liquid has a light scent reminiscent of cloves. Tasting it reveals it to have a sharp bitter flavour that is never-the-less quite appealing.

Inhaling this infusion causes a momentary anguish, like the sudden separation from a loved one, but there are no other immediate affects. Any time you sleep under the influence of the potion, you either do not dream or do not remember your dreams.

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## Suffusion of Blood (Balms of the Fountainhead)

When this blood-red elixir catches the light, it glows with a faintly translucent aura. The scent smells of freshly cut grass, and causes your nostrils to tingle. The sweet, fruity taste causes a moment of dizziness.

You become very direct, preferring to go directly to the heart of a problem, say what you think, or deal with immediate problems. You find it difficult to think about the past, or anything more pressing than the immediate future. You also become emotionally volatile, and are especially short-tempered. Anything that frustrates or irritates you is likely to cause you to lash out against its source.

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## The Barren Watchtower (Decoctions of Hoarfrost)

This black, oily elixir seems to drink in any light that hits it. The thick sediment at the bottom hangs in the liquid for several minutes after it is shaken up. The salty, bitter taste gives you an urge to rinse your mouth out.

Drinking this elixir makes you very thirsty and dry mouthed. You become cold and calculating, seeing everything in terms of cost and benefit. Individual lives or needs become meaningless in the face of your goals and what you consider to be best. You feel a powerful urge to ensure you and yours are safe, regardless of the cost to other people.

## The Black Gate (The Assassins Gate)

This clear, odourless, tasteless liquid appears indistinguishable from water.

You feel dizzy and enervated. Over the next fifteen minutes you become increasingly confused, suffering random aches and pains and a growing awareness of your own death. You may occasionally hallucinate that people around you are friends, loved ones or dead relatives.

Antidote - The Silver Key

If the incorrect antidote is applied, the target goes into a fatal, agonizing seizure and dies.

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## The Crimson Gate (The Assassins Gate)

This fine, odourless, tasteless liquid appears indistinguishable from water.

You feel very warm and thirsty, quickly developing a raging fever. Over the next fifteen minutes you begin to suffer agonising pain in your joints and muscles, and begin to cough up blood, You have difficulty breathing, and a growing awareness of your own death. You begin to bleed from the eyes and nose.

Antidote - The Silver Key

If the incorrect antidote is applied, the target's lungs or blood-vessels rupture, resulting in swift agonizing death.

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## The Elixir of Empyrean Art (Philtres of the high Peaks)

This silvery liquid is filled with tiny bubbles. If you shake the container it effervesces energetically and seems to sparkle like polished glass. It has no aroma but tasting it makes your tongue tingle almost expectantly.

You are filled with almost painful amounts of magical power. As long as you have personal mana remaining, you feel a strong urge to perform magic as often as possible. When the effects wear off, you feel a vague urge to sample them again.

## The Philtre of Heavenly Lore (Philtres of the High Peaks)

This thin liquid has a startlingly violet hue. It smells faintly medicinal, like cough syrup. A tiny droplet of this oily fluid on your tongue reveals it to have a tangy, citrus flavour.

You feel a strong urge to gather magical power, items and knowledge.

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## The Silver Key (The Assassins Gate)

This grey solution is a thick, resinous liquid. It has an acrid, burning scent that brings on coughing and chills the lungs. The overpowering, acidic flavour makes drinking it unappealing.

You begin to cough uncontrollably, and after a few moments will vomit until your stomach is empty. You may lose consciousness. Over the next five minutes the symptoms of either The Black Gate or The Crimson Gate quickly recede.

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## The Sovereign Specific (Master Medicinal)

This clear liquid seems almost to sparkle when it is shaken or held up to the light. It smells fresh and a little minty. A drop on your tongue reveals it to have a vibrant, pleasant taste.

You feel light headed for a moment, then refreshed and full of energy, and an incredible sense of well-being suffuses you. It is hard not to be filled with optimism and enthusiasm.

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## Tincture of the Whipped Cur (Philtres of War)

This amber syrup clings viscously to the inside of the container, and when it catches the light it glistens like fine oil. It smells very sweet, but a sticky droplet on your tongue reveals it to have a surprisingly bitter flavour.

You are filled with self-doubt and uncertainty for at least ten minutes.

## Tisane of the Stuttering Fool (Philtres of the High Peaks)

This pale green liquid clings viscously to the inside of the container when you shake it. It smells strongly of spice and summer flowers. A droplet on your finger or tongue causes the tip to tingle expectantly.

You are confused, unable to concentrate properly or focus your thoughts for at least the next ten minutes.

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## Tonic of Sunlit Glass (Tonics of the Open Sky)

When this translucent yellow-gold liquid catches the light it seems almost to glow. It has a faint scent of lemons, and a tiny drop on your tongue tastes of freshly squeezed oranges.

You feel a sudden burst of optimism and a rush of positive emotions; you are reminded of past triumphs, hopes and dreams.

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## Tonic of Surging Flame (Tonics of the Open Sky)

This deep orange-red liquid has a thin layer of sediment at the bottom; shake the container and it quickly settles again. It smells distinctly of apricots - or perhaps oranges. It has a delicious, citrus taste.

Warmth spreads from your stomach to your entire body, and persists for the duration of the effect. It brings with it feelings of absolute confidence in your ability to survive no matter what happens. You find it hard to remember that risky behaviour might result in permanent injury or death.

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## Tonic of the Distant Shore (Tonics of the Open Sky)

When this cherry-red liquid catches the light it seems to glow. A droplet of this sticky fluid on your fingertip stains it a deep crimson. It smells strongly of fresh berries and has a sweet, dry, fruity flavour.

You feel a sudden burst of optimism and renewed hope; feelings of worry, doubt and uncertainty are banished.

## Tranquil Nostrum (Master Medicinal)

This yellow-green liquid clings viscously to the inside of the container. It has a sweet scent, but a tiny drop on your tongue reveals it to be extremely bitter, and a little salty.

You feel lethargic, sleepy and relaxed, disinclined to be active or aggressive.

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## Ushers Decoction (Tisanes of the Labyrinth)

When this pale orange liquid catches the light it seems to glow. It has a light, spicy scent. A tiny droplet of this thin fluid on your tongue reveals it to taste faintly of cherries.

Until you next perform or participate in a ceremony, and for a short time afterward, you feel remarkably centred. If you are dedicated to a virtue, you feel a strong urge to take action in line with that virtue. If not, you feel a strong urge to take action in keeping with your personal philosophy. The night after drinking this potion you will have particularly vivid dreams.

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## Vernal Balm (Balms of the Fountainhead)

This blood-red ointment smells delicious. It has an oily, greasy texture if you rub it between finger and thumb, and it is quickly absorbed into your skin causing your entire hand to tingle.

You become prone to sudden mood shifts and displays of strong emotion. Your attitudes become more straightforward, and you find complex plans and overthinking frustrating. You would rather take action than talk about it.

## Virus Lunaræ (The Winter Moon)

This clear, odourless, tasteless liquid appears indistinguishable from water.

You feel a growing chill spreading through your body. Over the next fifteen minutes you become increasingly cold and numb; shivering despite all efforts to keep you warm. You lose all sensation in your extremities, and eventually are incapable of feeling any physical sensation or holding anything in your numb fingers. You also become increasingly incoherent, and will tend to babble incomprehensibly as the symptoms worsen.

Antidote - Feast for Crows

If the incorrect antidote is applied, you slip into a coma and die. A few minutes later you will animate as a flesh-hungry zombie.

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## Waywalkers Suffusion (Tisanes of the Labyrinth)

When this midnight blue liquid catches the light it seems to glow. It has a light, spicy scent. A tiny droplet of this thin fluid on your tongue reveals it to have a rich, bitter flavour.

Until you next use a priest skill, and for a short time afterward, you are aware of unseen presences as if you are at the centre of an unseen crowd. Occasionally you hear distant muttering or occasionally a comprehensible word or fragment of a sentence.

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## Winterskin Tonic (Tonics of the Deep Forest)

When this golden-brown liquid catches the light, it seems almost to glow. It has a strongly alcoholic scent, but tastes sweet - like butterscotch. Place a tiny drop on your finger or your tongue, and the tip quickly becomes numb.

You feel distanced from your emotions, as if they were being experienced by someone else.