



# Return to DARKTOWER™



*Long ago, the sorcerer-king Azkol built a Tower at the crossroads of the Four Kingdoms. Behind its ebon walls, he practiced dark sorcery in his search for power.*

*As Azkol's madness grew, his apprentice, the sorceress Nimet, plotted against him. She stole his wondrous treasures and fled the Tower, then recruited heroes from the Four Kingdoms to stop him. One hero prevailed. Azkol was defeated, and the Tower lay vacant.*

*But now a new adversary has taken up residence. It grows in power, spreading corruption and calling forth wicked creatures from afar. This foe cannot be defeated alone. The heroes of the Four Kingdoms must unite and return to the Tower.*

## Overview

*Return to Dark Tower* is a cooperative game where heroes of the Four Kingdoms join forces, with the aid of a helpful companion, to defeat the adversary in the Tower. You all win or lose together.

Your companion will guide you in your quest to breach the Tower and engage the adversary in battle. But beware! The Tower's influence is ever working to corrupt the heroes.

You have six months before the Four Kingdoms fall and the adversary's reign is absolute. Can you repel the gathering darkness?

*If you wish to play the competitive game, see page 24.*



**To watch a video tutorial, go to**  
**[returntodarktower.com/learn](http://returntodarktower.com/learn)**

## Components



**1 Tower & 12 seals**



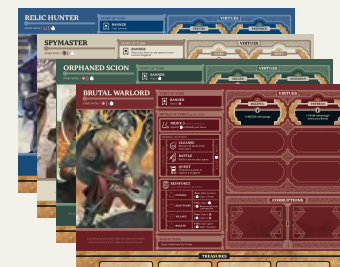
**1 game board**



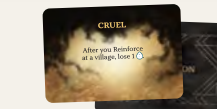
**16 buildings**



**4 hero figures & bases**



**16 virtue tiles**



**12 corruption cards**



**24 skulls (plus extra)**



**40 spirit tokens**

**4 hero boards**



**20 foe cards**



**22 treasure cards**



**18 gear cards**



**18 potion cards**



**20 quest item cards**



**10 companion cards**



**16 heroic test cards**



**1 haggle die**



**6 dungeon tokens**



**3 quest markers**



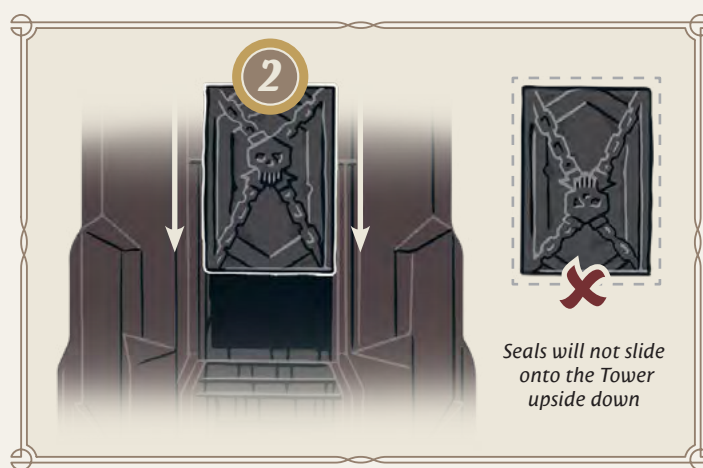
**20 special tokens**



# World Setup

- 1 Place the **game board** so that each kingdom faces a different player.
- 2 Turn on the **Tower**. Each level will rotate. When they finish, slide on the 12 **seals** to cover the openings. Place the Tower in the center of the game board.
- 3 Place the 16 **buildings** in their spaces.
- 4 Set aside the **warrior tokens**, **spirit tokens**, and exactly 24 **skulls** to create the supply.
- 5 Sort the **gear cards** into 6 separate face-up stacks. Make sure that each stack has 3 copies of a single card.
- 6 Shuffle the **treasure cards** together into a face-down deck. Draw the top 3 cards and place them in a face-up row to create the market.
- 7 Shuffle the **potion cards** together into a face-down deck.
- 8 Shuffle the **corruption cards** together into a face-down deck.
- 9 Place the **companion cards**, **quest markers**, and **haggle die** near the game board.

**Note:** Leave the other cards and tokens in the game box for now. You will retrieve them later if required. You will not need all of them in every game.



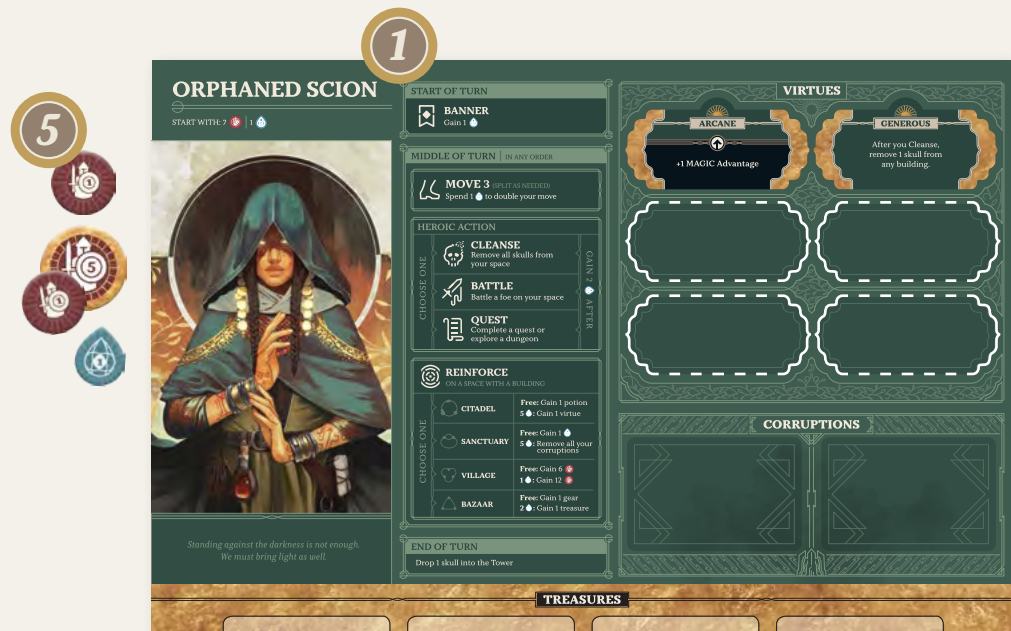
**Note:** The game comes with extra skulls to replace any that get lost.



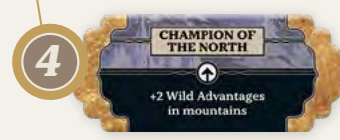
## Hero Setup

Decide which player will play as which hero or assign them randomly.  
Choose who will be the start player. Each player then carries out their own setup.

- 1 Place your **hero board** in front of you.
- 2 Place the 3 **hero virtue tiles** for your hero in empty slots on your hero board, inactive side up.
- 3 Place your hero figure on the space with the citadel in the kingdom in front of you. This kingdom is your **home kingdom**.
- 4 Place the **kingdom virtue tile** for your home kingdom in an empty slot on your hero board.
- 5 Collect your **starting resources** from the supply (7 warriors and 1 spirit .



Hero virtue tiles (inactive)



Kingdom virtue tile

## App Setup

You will need to have the official **Return to Dark Tower** game app downloaded on one device with Bluetooth capability.



- 1 Launch the app on your device and select “new game.”
- 2 Follow the prompts in the app to sync your device to the Tower.
- 3 Select your game mode: “cooperative” or “competitive.” The default difficulty is Heroic. For a more challenging game, select Gritty difficulty. Also, select any expansions you are using.
- 4 Select the number of players.
- 5 Select your **main goal**. Retrieve the matching companion card.
- 6 Select your **adversary**. Place the matching adversary card and adversary token nearby.
- 7 Select your **foes** (one level 2, one level 3, and one level 4). Place the matching foe cards and foe tokens nearby.
- 8 When you are ready to begin, press “begin game.”
- 9 Follow the final setup directions in the app: adding skulls, spawning foes, placing the main goal quest marker, etc.

**Note:** The recommended first game is *Recover Azkol's Treasures* and *Ashstrider*.





Concepts to Know: HEROES

◆ ADVANTAGES ◆

There are six types of Advantages, which are linked to the six traits found on foes and dungeons. Wild Advantages can count as any of these six traits.

You calculate Advantages before you battle foes or explore dungeons with the matching trait. You then spend them to improve the results of battle cards or dungeon rooms.

Advantages with a black background are automatic and do not have a cost **A**. Advantages with a grey background are conditional and have a cost **B**.

◆ ITEMS ◆

There are four types of items: **potions**, **gear**, **treasures**, and **quest items**. You gain items by reinforcing, defeating foes, exploring dungeons, and completing quests. **You can only use your items on your own turn.**

Each hero can carry a certain number of items:

Potion	unlimited
Gear	up to one of each
Treasure	up to four
Quest Item	unlimited

If you ever gain a duplicate gear or fifth treasure, lose one.

When you gain a potion, draw the top card of the potion deck. When you gain gear, choose one from the gear stacks.

When you gain a treasure, choose one of the face-up treasures from the market. When a treasure leaves the market, replace it with the top card of the treasure deck.

When you gain a quest item, find and take it from the quest item deck in the box.

See page 13 for what happens when an item is spent or lost.

◆ WARRIORS ◆

Warriors are an important resource when battling foes, exploring dungeons, and completing quests. Warrior tokens are unlimited, so use a proxy if the supply runs out.

◆ SPIRIT ◆

Spirit is a resource that allows the heroes to move farther, gain virtues, remove corruptions, and be more effective when reinforcing. Spirit tokens are unlimited, so use a proxy if the supply runs out.

◆ VIRTUES ◆

Virtues are special abilities unique to your hero.

You start the game with three active virtues and three inactive virtues, which you can gain during the game. You gain a virtue by spending spirit when you reinforce at a citadel.

When you gain a virtue, flip one of your inactive virtues face up to its active side **C**. It goes into effect immediately.

◆ CORRUPTIONS ◆

Corruptions are penalties that weaken your hero. You gain a corruption when...

- an event, battle card, or dungeon room makes you lose resources or items that you do not have
- the outcome of a failed quest instructs you to
- a building in your home kingdom is destroyed

When you gain a corruption, draw the top card of the corruption deck and place it on your hero board **D**. It goes into effect immediately.

You cannot gain more than one corruption per event, battle card, or dungeon room. For example, if a battle card makes you lose four warriors and one spirit, and you do not have enough of either, you only gain one corruption (not two).

You can only have up to two corruptions. **If you would ever gain a third corruption, the players lose the game!** Press the “game lost” button, found on most screens in the app.

It is possible for heroes to remove corruptions. Place removed corruptions on the bottom of the corruption deck.

◆ COMPANIONS ◆

Companions are allies who aid your efforts. In each game, there is a main companion who offers beneficial quests. Some quests let you recruit other companions who will provide their abilities to the hero they accompany.

When a quest to gain a new companion is completed, the new companion joins the hero who completed the quest and will accompany the heroes for the rest of the game.

BRUTAL WARLORD

START WITH: 7 1

Just because you don't take an interest in battle doesn't mean it won't take an interest in you.

START OF TURN

BANNER  
Gain 5

MIDDLE OF TURN IN ANY ORDER

MOVE 3 (SPLIT 3 NEEDED)  
Spend 1 to double your move

HEROIC ACTION

CHOOSE ONE

CLEANSE  
Remove all skulls from your space

BATTLE  
Battle a foe on your space

QUEST  
Complete a quest or explore a dungeon

REINFORCE  
ON A SPACE WITH A BUILDING

CHOOSE ONE

CITADEL  
Free: Gain 1 potion  
5: Gain 1 virtue

SANCTUARY  
Free: Gain 1  
5: Remove all your corruptions

VILLAGE  
Free: Gain 6  
1: Gain 12

BAZAAR  
Free: Gain 1 gear  
2: Gain 1 treasure

END OF TURN  
Drop 1 skull into the Tower

VIRTUES

BALEFUL  
+1 MELEE Advantage

VETERAN  
+1 Wild Advantage when you Battle

CHAMPION OF THE NORTH  
+2 Wild Advantages in mountains

CALLOUS  
After you Battle, if you lost at least 10, gain a treasure from the market.

INSPIRING  
After you Reinforce, also gain 6

RELENTLESS  
If you battle your enemy, gain +1 Wild Advantage

CORRUPTIONS

WEAK  
You cannot carry more than 2 treasures.

CRUEL  
After you Reinforce at a village, lose 1

TREASURES

ZAIDA THE EFREET

Spend 1 treasure to gain +3 Wild Advantages. You can do this once per turn.



# Concepts to Know: THE WORLD

## ◆ KINGDOMS ◆

The game board is divided into four kingdoms (north, east, south, and west). The kingdoms are separated by rivers. Each kingdom has 15 spaces. The terrain type of each space is indicated by its color and icon.

The kingdom facing you is your **home kingdom**. The kingdom where your hero figure is currently located is your **current kingdom**.

In games with fewer than four players, a kingdom that is not anyone's home kingdom is known as a **dormant kingdom**.



## ◆ BUILDINGS ◆

There are four types of buildings: **citadels**, **sanctuaries**, **villages**, and **bazaars**. In each kingdom, there is one building of each type.

While you are on a space with a building, you can take the Reinforce action (explained on page 20).

When a building is **destroyed**, the building and the three skulls on it are **removed from the game**. The hero whose home kingdom the building was in gains a corruption. If it was in a dormant kingdom, no one gains a corruption.



## ◆ SKULLS ◆

Skulls represent the growing influence of evil. They make foes and events more threatening and can destroy buildings.

When skulls emerge from the Tower or are added due to events, they must be placed on buildings. As seals on the Tower are removed, skulls will emerge with greater frequency.



Three skulls maximum

Each building can hold up to three skulls. If a fourth skull would be placed on a building, the building is destroyed instead. If players ever have to take a skull from the supply and there are none, **the heroes lose the game!**

## ◆ FOES ◆

In each game, you will face four types of foes, including the adversary. The app will tell you when these foes appear and on which spaces. Each foe has a matching card.

- A Level:** How many battle cards you draw in the app when you face them in battle. Each game has a level 2, level 3, level 4, and level 5 foe (the adversary).
- B Traits:** Which Advantages you can spend against this foe in battle and what might happen when you battle them.
- C Strike Event:** What this foe will do about once a month. Foes strike only if there is at least one of that foe on the game board.
- D Status:** How threatening this foe's battle cards and events are. Foe status will grow more lethal if any are on the game board for too long. Some rare events will weaken them.

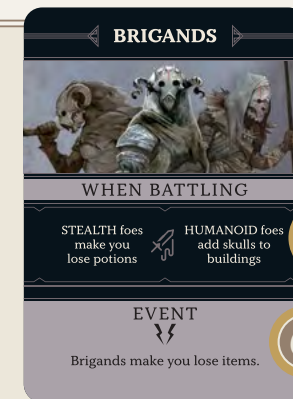
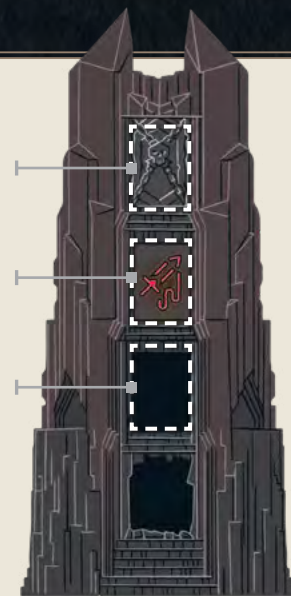


## ◆ GLYPHS ◆

As the seals on the Tower are removed, glyphs will be revealed. Each glyph matches a specific action.

While a revealed glyph is facing your home kingdom, you must spend one spirit in order to take the matching action. If you do not spend the spirit, you cannot take the action.

Seal  
No Seal, Glyph  
No Seal, No Glyph



## FOE STATUS SCREEN

The foe status screen in the app shows information about each foe on the game board. This includes the number of each foe, their status, and their current strike event. You also use this screen to remove a foe without battling when an effect in the game allows you to do so.



# Sequence of Play

The game is played in a series of **months**. If the heroes do not complete the main goal and then defeat the adversary before the end of the sixth month, they lose the game.

## ◆ INDIVIDUAL TURNS ◆

In the first month, the first turn is taken by the start player. Then play continues in clockwise order. **Each player takes exactly one turn in the first month.**

In following months, the first turn is taken by the player seated to the left of the player who took the final turn in the previous month. Play continues in clockwise order. You know the average number of turns per month, but not the exact number.

The app will inform you when the month ends.

## ◆ MONTHLY QUESTS ◆

At the start of each month (except the first), the app will give two monthly quests. Read them aloud and place the matching quest markers in the spaces on the board where they can be completed.

- **Companion Quest:** Completing this quest provides a new companion or quest item to help the heroes.
- **Adversary Quest:** Failing this quest allows the adversary to advance their plans, making the world worse for the heroes.

Monthly quests fail if they are not completed by the end of the month. Read the outcome aloud and resolve any effect, as instructed by the app.

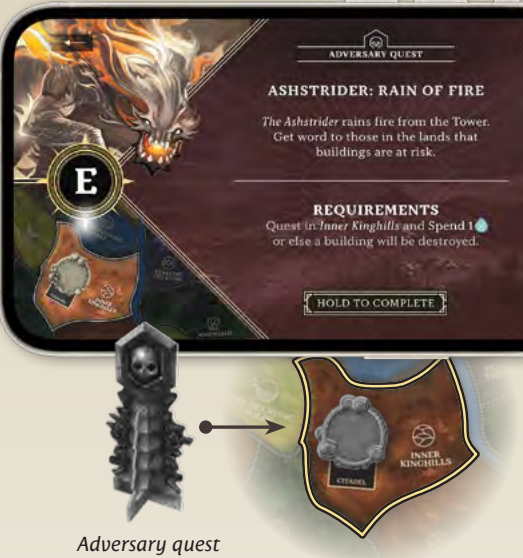
# Taking Your Turn

Perform these three steps, in order:

- 1 Start of Turn:** You *may* take your Banner action.
- 2 Middle of Turn:** You *may* move, take a heroic action, and take a Reinforce action, in any order.
- 3 End of Turn:** You *must* drop a skull into the Tower.

Player Count	Average Turns per Month
1	6 turns
2	7 turns
3	8 turns
4	9 turns

**Note:** Each player takes exactly one turn in the first month. When you choose Gritty difficulty, there are fewer turns per month.



**Note:** You should discuss your plans with your fellow heroes, but the final decisions for what to do on your turn are yours alone.

# 1. Start of Turn



At the start of your turn, you may take the **BANNER ACTION** listed on your hero board. This action is optional. However, you cannot save your Banner action for later.

Other game effects that apply “at the start of your turn” happen now. You can resolve these effects and your Banner action in any order.

## ◆ MAKING TRADES ◆

Once during your turn, you may trade with heroes on your space (as long as all agree).

You **may** give and take warriors, spirit, items, and companions.

You **may not** give or take virtues or corruptions.



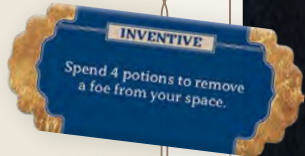
## ◆ SPENDING VS. LOSING ◆

**Spending** resources or items is optional and can be done at any point during your turn.

Sometimes, you will spend an item to get its effect. Sometimes you will spend an item to gain a different effect, such as activating a virtue or completing a quest. When you spend an item for a different effect, you do not get the effect on the item you spent as well.

**Example:** If you spend 4 potions to activate the Relic Hunter's Inventive virtue, you do not also get the effects of the potions you spent.

**Losing** resources or items is mandatory. You must lose them if possible. If you cannot resolve the loss fully, lose as much as you have and then gain a single corruption. You cannot gain multiple corruptions from a single effect.




Resource or Item	When Spent or Lost Return to...
Warriors	the general supply
Spirit	the general supply
Potion	the bottom of the potion deck
Gear	the matching gear stack
Treasure	the bottom of the treasure deck
Quest Item	the game box



## 2. Middle of Turn

In the middle of your turn, you may **MOVE**, take a **HEROIC ACTION**, and take a **REINFORCE ACTION**. These steps are optional, and you can perform them in any order. You can even split up your move, stopping to take actions before, in the middle of, or after moving.


### ♦ MOVEMENT ♦

 Move a number of spaces up to your move value. Your base move value is listed on your hero board.

**You may spend one spirit to double your move for the turn.** You must do this before you start moving.

Some virtues or gear can modify your move value. Modifiers are applied before doubling. If your move value changes (e.g., from gaining gear) after you have started to move, it does not apply until your next turn.

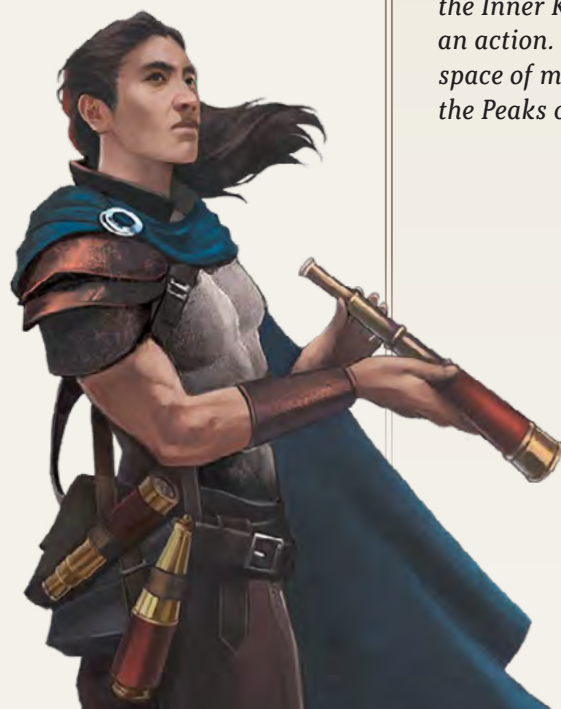
Moving to an adjacent space takes one move. Spaces on the game board are adjacent to each other if they share a segment of narrow gold border (land) or thick blue border (river).

 **Note:** When you cross a river, you cannot move to a space further up or down the river. The river is not a space; it is a border.

Nothing on the game board prevents or stops movement. You can move through foes, skulls, tokens, or other heroes.



**Example:** You (Orphaned Scion) are in the Upper Ice Fangs. You can move up to three spaces. First, you move two spaces to the Inner Kinghills. In the Inner Kinghills, you stop to take an action. You then use your last space of movement to move back to the Peaks of the Djinn.



### ♦ HEROIC ACTIONS ♦

There are three different heroic actions: **A) CLEANSE**, **B) BATTLE**, and **C) QUEST**. You may take only **one** of these heroic actions per turn.

Before you take the Battle or Quest action, calculate how many Advantages you have available. (See Advantages to the right.)

**Important:** After you complete a heroic action, gain two spirit from the supply.

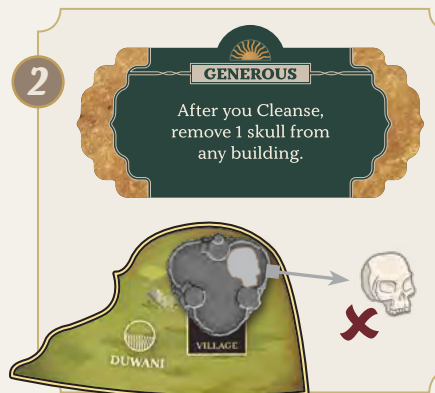
#### A) CLEANSE




Take the Cleanse action to **remove skulls** from a building on your space. Remove all skulls from the building and return them to the supply. Unless you have an ability that allows otherwise, you cannot Cleanse in a space without skulls.



**Example:** You (Orphaned Scion) are in the Hissing Groves. The citadel has three skulls, and you decide to cleanse it. You remove all of the skulls and return them to the supply.



Your Generous virtue lets you also remove one skull from another building after you take the Cleanse action, so you remove one skull from the village in the east kingdom.

At the end of this heroic action, you gain 2 .

### ♦ ADVANTAGES ♦



You can spend Advantages to improve battle cards or dungeon rooms. When you begin the battle or enter the dungeon, calculate how many automatic Advantages you have (black background). You can spend the cost to gain a conditional Advantage (gray background) in the middle of a battle or dungeon if needed.

If you gain an item in the middle of a battle or dungeon, you gain any automatic Advantages it gives and can use them in the same action. If you lose an item in the middle of a battle or dungeon that gave you an automatic Advantage, you don't lose that Advantage.

You can spend up to 10 Advantages in a single heroic action. Spending Advantages is different from spending items. When you spend an Advantage, you do not return the item that created it.

Unspent Advantages are lost when the heroic action is over.

Sometimes, you will need to spend Advantages to complete a monthly quest. In this case, calculate your Advantages and then spend them all at once to complete the quest.

#### Types of Advantages

BEAST	MAGIC
HUMANOID	MELEE
UNDEAD	STEALTH



## B) BATTLE



Take the Battle action to **battle a foe** on your space and remove them from the board. You can only take the Battle action while on a space with a foe. If more than one foe is on your space, choose one.

### STARTING THE BATTLE

Calculate your automatic Advantages. Open the battle screen to select a foe. Select a number of battle cards equal to the foe's level. The app will reveal the first selected card. Many cards will make you lose warriors. Each foe also has special cards based on their traits, as well as a unique critical hit card.

### SPENDING ADVANTAGES

You may spend your Advantages to improve the revealed battle cards. To spend an Advantage, press the arrow on the bottom of the battle card. The card will change to a better result, or maybe even a positive effect.

- You can spend your Advantages as you like, including multiple Advantages or no Advantages on a single card.
- Each card can be improved, with enough Advantages, until you have the best possible result for that card.
- You cannot undo spent Advantages.
- The app shows how many you have spent so far per battle.

### APPLYING THE RESULTS

When you are done spending Advantages on a card, follow the instructions in the app to resolve the card and see the next card. Remember, if you cannot fully resolve the losses from a card, resolve what you can and gain a corruption. Once all cards have been resolved, that foe is defeated! Remove the foe token from the game board.



Press the battle button to open the battle screen



Select a foe to battle

## ♦ BATTLING THE ADVERSARY ♦

Once you have completed the main goal, you can battle the adversary. This works like a normal battle, but with two key exceptions:

- You may retreat from a battle with the adversary. You must resolve at least one battle card. After that, you can choose to retreat or continue to the next card.
- Advantages applied to the adversary's battle cards remain for future battles.

**Note:** Heroes might need to battle the adversary multiple times before striking the final blow.

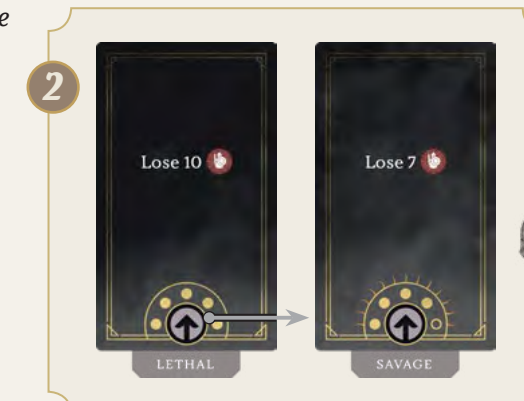


**Example:** You decide to battle brigands. Their status is lethal, and you have four Advantages. Brigands are a level 2 foe, so you must select two battle cards.

The first card forces you to lose 12 🗡️ due to skulls on a nearby building. You spend three Advantages by pressing the arrow three times. This improves the card until it causes no losses. You decide to save your last Advantage because you still have one more card left.

The next card forces you to lose 10 🗡️. You spend one Advantage to improve it so you only have to lose 7 🗡️.

You lose 7 🗡️, but the brigands are now defeated. Remove the brigands token from the board and gain 2 🗡️.



## ♦ REMOVING FOES ♦

Certain effects let you remove foes from the game board without battling them. Open the foe status screen to select which foe to remove. This is not a heroic action, so you do not gain two spirit. The adversary cannot be removed this way.



Foe status button



## C) QUEST

Take the Quest action to **complete a quest** (including the main goal) or **explore a dungeon** on your space. You can only take the Quest action if you can legally perform one of these two options.

### ◆ COMPLETE A QUEST ◆

Quests will require you to be in a certain location, spend certain resources, defeat a certain foe, complete a certain dungeon, and so on. To complete a quest, select the quest in the app, then press and hold the button. The app will tell you what happens. Read the outcome aloud, gain any rewards indicated, and remove the quest marker from the game board.



**Example:** You decide to complete the monthly companion quest. This quest requires you to be in the Ash Hills and spend two gear.



You move to the Ash Hills and return your Dusky Cloaks and Leather Armor to their stacks in order to meet the quest's requirements. You gain Hakan the Artificer as a companion. At the end of this heroic action, you gain 2.



### ◆ COMPLETING THE MAIN GOAL ◆

The main goal is a type of quest. You can complete the main goal, just like a normal quest, if you meet all of its requirements. Completing the main goal will cause the adversary to spawn on the game board. You can now battle it to defeat it and win!

## ◆ EXPLORE A DUNGEON ◆

Dungeons will spawn as part of certain quests. The goal of each dungeon is to complete it by exploring rooms until you find its target room (e.g., where someone is hiding or where an item is hidden). Completing a dungeon automatically completes its associated quest.

### ENTERING THE DUNGEON

Press the dungeon button and select a dungeon to explore. The app will show the starting room and any unexplored room you can enter. Select one to enter. When you do, the app will reveal what happens in the new room.



Dungeon button

### SPENDING ADVANTAGES

You can spend **one** Advantage to improve the results of a room. To do so, press the "improve" button. The room will then change to a better result.

- Each room can only be improved once.
- You cannot undo spent Advantages.

### APPLYING THE RESULTS

After deciding whether or not to spend an Advantage, follow the instructions in the app to resolve the room. If you cannot fully resolve the losses from a room, resolve what you can and gain a corruption. That room is now cleared, and you decide whether to explore a new room or leave the dungeon.

- If you clear the target room, you have completed the dungeon!
- If you leave the dungeon, the rooms you cleared will remain cleared the next time any hero explores that dungeon.

**Example:** You decide to explore a fortress. Fortresses have the MELEE trait. You have one Advantage from your Longswords.

The first room you enter forces you to lose 5. You have 7, so you decide to lose them and not spend your Advantage.

The next room forces you to lose 1. You don't have any spirit, so you spend your Advantage to improve the result. Now you gain 1 instead!

Since you are out of Advantages, you decide to leave, having cleared two rooms but not completed the dungeon.

At the end of this heroic action, you gain 2.





◆ REINFORCE ◆







Once per turn, you may Reinforce at a space with a building. Each building has something you can gain for free and an enhanced option that costs spirit. You choose one.

Building	Free Effect	Enhanced Effect
 CITADEL	Gain 1 potion for free. Draw the top card of the potion deck.	Spend 5  to gain one virtue. Choose 1 of your inactive virtues and flip it face up.
 SANCTUARY	Gain 1 spirit for free. Take this spirit from the supply.	Spend 5  to remove all your corruptions. Return these cards to the bottom of the corruption deck in either order.
 VILLAGE	Gain 6 warriors for free. Take these warriors from the supply.	Spend 1  to gain 12 warriors. Take these warriors from the supply.
 BAZAAR	Gain 1 gear for free. Choose 1 card from the gear stacks.	Spend 2  to gain 1 treasure. Choose 1 card from the treasure market.


◆ HAGGLE DIE ◆

Before you Reinforce, you can choose to roll the haggle die. The result will affect the Reinforce action (and may cancel it!).



- ☐ Reinforce normally.
-  After you Reinforce, gain three warriors.
-  After you Reinforce, gain one potion.
-  After you Reinforce, gain one gear.
-  The reinforce action is canceled!

**Example:** You decide to reinforce at a bazaar. You choose to roll the haggle die first, and the result indicates that you will gain one potion after you resolve the action.

You decide to spend 1  to use the enhanced effect of the bazaar, which lets you gain a treasure. You take one of the face-up treasures and place the top card of the treasure deck face up to refill the market.

Now you apply the result of the haggle die roll, drawing the top card of the potion deck.

3. End of Turn

At the end of your turn, you **must** take a skull from the supply and drop it into the Tower. If you cannot drop a skull because the supply is empty, the heroes lose!

When you drop a skull, it might emerge from the Tower, cause a level to rotate, or cause events to occur. If skulls emerge, place them first, then resolve events.

**Note:** Once you have dropped a skull into the Tower, you may not use items any more on that turn, not even to deal with skulls or events.

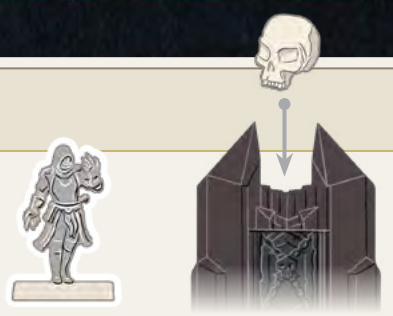
◆ PLACING SKULLS ◆

When a skull tumbles out of a Tower opening, it must be placed on a building in the kingdom where it first emerged (even if it came to a stop in a different kingdom).

Each player decides where to place skulls that emerge in their home kingdom. The player who dropped the skull into the Tower decides where to place skulls that emerge in dormant kingdoms.

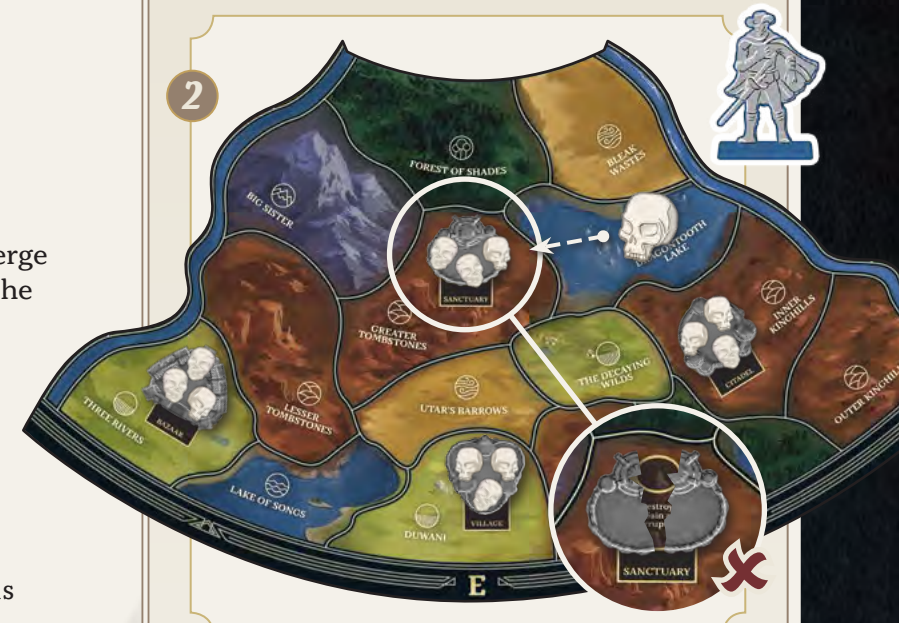
If a building would receive its fourth skull, it is destroyed! Remove the building and the three skulls on it from the game. The fourth skull that would go on it returns to the supply. The player whose home kingdom the destroyed building was in gains a corruption. If the destroyed building was in a dormant kingdom, no one gains a corruption.

1



**Example:** You (Spymaster) drop a skull in the Tower. When you do, a skull emerges into the east kingdom, which is the Relic Hunter's home kingdom.

2



Unfortunately, all of the buildings in the east kingdom have three skulls already. The Relic Hunter decides to place the skull on the sanctuary. Since that would be the sanctuary's fourth skull, it is destroyed.

The three skulls and the building are removed from the game, and the Relic Hunter gains a corruption.



◆ EVENTS ◆

Events happen at the end of most player turns. The app will alert you.

Read the event aloud and follow its instructions, with the player who dropped the skull into the Tower making any choices required. Once the event is resolved, press “confirm.” Repeat as needed for each event.

Events fall broadly into these categories:

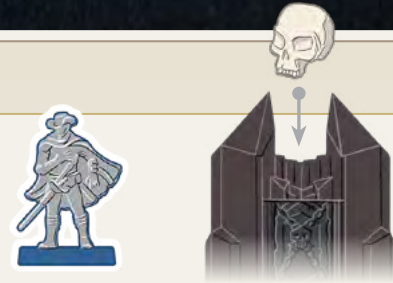
- **Foes Strike:** Foes will move and/or strike out. This event is skipped if none of that foe is on the board.
- **Foes Spawn:** Foes spawn somewhere on the game board.
- **Foes Grow in Power:** Foes change status to become more lethal. This event is skipped if none of that foe is on the board.
- **The Tower Stirs:** The Tower rotates or a seal on the Tower is removed.
- **The Tower Acts:** The adversary strikes out from within the Tower.
- **Companion Events:** Companions reveal various good events.
- **New Wares:** Players may replace treasures in the market.

When an event tells you to remove a seal, remove the one indicated by the glowing lights.

If skulls emerge when the Tower rotates or a seal is removed, place those skulls as normal.

After you resolve any events, the next player’s turn begins.

1



**Example:** You (Relic Hunter) drop a skull into the Tower. The first event spawns shadow wolves in the Forest of Shades and the Bleak Wastes.

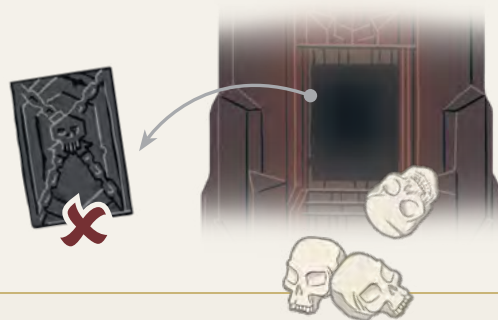
2



You place one shadow wolves token on each of those spaces.

The next event tells you to remove the seal indicated by the glowing lights.

3



When the seal is removed, three skulls emerge into the north kingdom, which is the Brutal Warlord’s home kingdom. The Brutal Warlord decides where to place those skulls on the buildings in the north kingdom.

# End of the Game

◆ LOSING THE GAME ◆

You lose the game immediately in any of the following situations:

- When a hero would gain their third corruption.
- When the sixth month ends.
- When you have to take a skull from the supply and there are none.

If you lose the game, press the “game lost” button on the main screen in the app.



Game lost button

◆ WINNING THE GAME ◆

You win the game if you complete the main goal and then defeat the adversary.

COMPLETING THE MAIN GOAL

The main goal is selected at the start of the game. When you complete the main goal, the adversary will spawn somewhere on the game board.

DEFEATING THE ADVERSARY

The adversary is selected at the start of the game. If you defeat the adversary in battle, you win the game!

◆ APP ICON GUIDE ◆

BATTLE  
Button



DUNGEON  
Button



FOE STATUS  
Button



ADVANTAGE  
Button



EVENT  
Icon



COMPANION  
QUEST  
Icon



ADVERSARY  
QUEST  
Icon



MAIN GOAL  
Icon



COMPLETED  
QUEST  
Icon



GAME LOST  
Button





Long ago, Azkol's apprentice, the sorceress Nimet, sought out the greatest hero from each kingdom in an attempt to end her master's evil. Travel back to that time and prove yourself worthy. Enter the Tower and steal Azkol's most powerful relic, weakening him forever.

## Competitive Game

We suggest that you familiarize yourself with the cooperative game mode before you try the competitive game mode.

### ◆ OVERVIEW ◆

In the competitive game mode, the heroes race to be the first to find the relic hidden within the Tower dungeon.

### ◆ SETUP CHANGES ◆

Observe these changes and additions to the game setup:

- Deal each player four heroic test cards (one of each type), face down.
- Give each player one Amulet of Hope quest item.
- Choose the competitive game mode in the app.

### ◆ HERO GOALS ◆

The goal for each hero is to **complete three heroic tests**, **enter the Tower dungeon**, and **find the relic**—all without getting eliminated.

#### COMPLETING HEROIC TESTS

Completing a heroic test requires you to take the Quest action while in a specific location on the game board. In addition, you must also have or spend certain resources or items. Flip the heroic test card face up once it is completed.

**Important!** When you complete a heroic test, you may remove a seal from any Tower opening or place a removed seal back on any Tower opening.



Optional heroic test completion effect

### ENTERING THE TOWER DUNGEON

Once you have completed three heroic tests, you have gained access to the Tower dungeon. You can then enter the Tower dungeon by taking the Quest action on any space adjacent to the tower.

### FINDING THE RELIC

Finding the relic requires you to find the room in the Tower dungeon where the relic is hidden. If you find the relic, you win the game! If you leave before you find it, you can re-enter the Tower dungeon and keep exploring on a future turn. But another hero might find it before you!

### ◆ HERO ELIMINATION ◆

If you would gain a third corruption or have to place or drop a skull and none are in the supply, you are eliminated from the game, and your home kingdom becomes dormant.

### ◆ END OF THE GAME ◆

If one hero finds the relic, that hero wins! If all but one of the heroes are eliminated, the lone remaining hero wins. If the sixth month ends, or one event eliminates all remaining players at once, Azkol reigns supreme and nobody wins.

### ◆ CLARIFICATIONS ◆

- The app will offer a quest each month. The first hero to complete the monthly quest gains a companion. If no one completes the monthly quest, there is no penalty.
- You do not need permission from other heroes to affect them with items or abilities (e.g., moving them with the Potion of One Thousand Strides).
- Despite the competitive nature of the game, the word "foe" only refers to actual foes, not the other heroes.
- Heroes may still trade with each other if all players trading agree to the trade.
- When you gain a potion, if there are no potions left in the deck, you can take a potion of your choice from another hero.





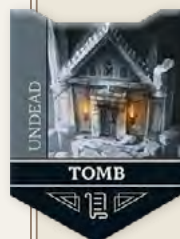
# Token Appendix



## ♦ Foe Tokens ♦

Foe tokens show the locations of foes on the game board. You must take the Battle action to battle them. Each foe token shows the level and traits of that foe. Foe tokens are removed when you defeat them in battle or use an effect to remove them.

**Note:** The foe tokens are double sided. The two sides differ only in appearance, not in function. Use whichever side you prefer.

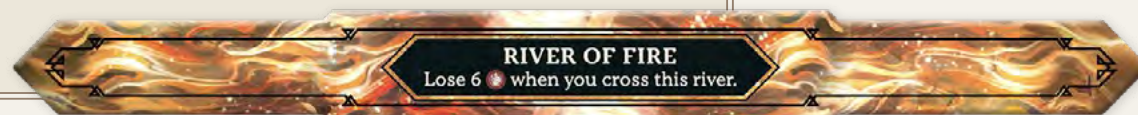


## ♦ Dungeon Tokens ♦

Dungeon tokens show the locations of dungeons on the game board. You must take the Quest action to explore them. Each dungeon token shows the trait of that dungeon. Dungeon tokens are removed when you complete them or when an event instructs you to.

## ♦ River of Fire Tokens ♦

River of fire tokens are only used when **Ashstrider** is the adversary. These tokens turn normal rivers into rivers of fire. When you move across a river of fire, you lose six warriors. These tokens cannot be removed.



## ♦ Caravan Tokens ♦

Caravan tokens are only used when **Miras the Horselord** is the main companion. Caravans function like moving dungeons that can be explored.

## ♦ Siege Tree Tokens ♦

Siege tree tokens are only used when **Letha the Dryad** is the main companion. Spaces with siege tree tokens count as forests in addition to their normal terrain type. You can take the Reinforce action on a space with a siege tree token to move it one space.



## ♦ Spore Tokens ♦

Spore tokens are only used when the **Lingering Rot** is the adversary.

When you gain a spore token, place it on your hero board. If you would ever gain a third spore token, return all your spore tokens to the supply and gain a corruption instead.

# Acknowledgments

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# Quick Reference

## ♦ COMMONLY MISSED RULES ♦

- ♦ You can spend 1  to double your move value for the turn. Once you have started to move, you can no longer double or modify your move.
- ♦ Nothing on the game board stops or prevents your movement. You may freely enter or leave spaces with foes, skulls, tokens, and other heroes.
- ♦ Wild Advantages can always be used as any type of Advantage.
- ♦ During a battle, you gain a corruption for each battle card that you cannot fully resolve all losses for.
- ♦ While a glyph is facing your home kingdom, you must spend 1  in order to take the matching action.
- ♦ You may only trade with other heroes once per turn. You may not trade virtues or corruptions.

## ♦ YOU GAIN A CORRUPTION WHEN... ♦

- ♦ an event, battle card, or dungeon room makes you lose resources or items that you do not have
- ♦ the outcome of a failed quest instructs you to
- ♦ a building in your home kingdom is destroyed

## ♦ WINNING & LOSING ♦

You **win** the game if you complete the main goal and then defeat the adversary.

You **lose** the game immediately in any of the following situations:

- When a hero would gain their third corruption.
- When the sixth month ends.
- When you have to take a skull from the supply and there are none.

## ♦ APP ICON GUIDE ♦

**BATTLE**  
*Button*



**DUNGEON**  
*Button*



**FOE STATUS**  
*Button*



**ADVANTAGE**  
*Button*



**EVENT**  
*Icon*



**COMPANION QUEST**  
*Icon*



**ADVERSARY QUEST**  
*Icon*



**MAIN GOAL**  
*Icon*



**COMPLETED QUEST**  
*Icon*



**GAME LOST**  
*Button*

