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20 THINGS #43:  
ITEMS MOST WONDROUS



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# 20 THINGS #43: ITEMS MOST WONDROUS

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*Are you a busy GM? Does session prep take too long? Do you never have time to work on the cool little details that can bring your session to life? Well fear not! That's where the 20 Things line comes in. This supplement gives you, the time-crunched GM, the tools to effortlessly add verisimilitude and detail to your adventure. Use the material herein either before or during play and bask in your players' adulation.*

*This instalment comprises five pages of flavoursome material compatible with virtually any fantasy roleplaying game and is designed to help you to flesh out and bring to life the wondrous magical items in your campaign.*

## CREDITS

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**Development:** Creighton Broadhurst

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## FOREWORD

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Welcome to this Raging Swan Press System Neutral Edition supplement. Herein you'll find evocative, inspiring text designed to help you—the busy GM—run better, quicker and easier games.

This book is compatible with most fantasy roleplaying games. It's impossible to create a truly system neutral book, though, and some generic game terms—wizard, fighter, human, elf and so on—lurk within. These generic terms are easily modified to the GM's system of choice.

One special note about the NPCs in this supplement. While some are magic-users, fighters, clerics and so on, others are simply normal folk. Because different game systems handle normal folk differently we've made no attempt to note their "class" leaving them simply as "female human" and so on.

## USING THIS BOOK

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You can use these tables either during session prep or "on the fly" during the actual session. Roll on the desired table and describe the result. Remember:

- Some players may assume because you describe something it is important. This may slow down the party's progress through the adventure. This isn't necessarily a bad thing.
- Modify any result so it fit with your game.
- Ignore or re-roll inappropriate results.
- Have fun!

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## I: WONDROUS ATTIRE

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Boots, belts, robes, cloaks and hats can all be imbued with potent magical powers. From the humble *cloak of protection* and the *cloak of the elvenkind* to the much sought after *boots of speed* all such items have great value to adventurers.

Use the table below, to determine what kind of magical attire the characters have discovered.

1. Of supple leather these knee-high boots are incredibly soft. They fit their owner's feet perfectly and slowly change colour to match the wearer's outfit. Perceptive characters notice the owner leaves much shallower tracks than normal, when wearing the boots.
2. With built up heels these sturdy leather war boots are thick and tough. Marred by all sorts of old stains including mud, blood and other unidentifiable things these boots appear worthless, and certainly not something a well-to-do adventurer or noble knight would willingly wear.
3. This almost blindly white fur cloak is completely without blemish of any sort. No stain sticks to the cloak for longer than a few minutes. Although of fur, the garment is lightweight and no more encumbering than a light-weight summer cloak.
4. This slender golden belt shimmers in the light as its owner moves. Supple and strong it has the flexibility of rope and the hardness of iron.
5. With a deep cowl, and silver and gold threads depicting a bewildering array of esoteric symbols, this jet black cloak clearly once belonged to a wizard or person of similar ilk. A faint, unplaceable scent hangs in the air about the garment, and does not dissipate no matter how often it is washed.
6. Several large dents mar these thick iron gauntlets. Two black stones (onyxes) and two transparent yellow stones (citrines) fill slightly recessed settings on each gauntlet. Although the gauntlets are dented, the stones are in perfect condition.
7. This scarlet robe has long billowing sleeves. Beautifully stitched yellow and orange flames writhe up the sleeves towards the wearer's shoulders. Similar flames decorate the robe's hem. Several discreet pockets inside the robe are perfectly sized for a small coin or spell component pouch.
8. Set with two small hidden pouches on its back this broad, well-used and slightly fraying belt is decorated with beautiful etchings of soaring dragons. The belt's golden buckle is forged into the likeness of a smiling dragon's face.
9. This heavy, flowing, but hoodless, cloak comprises a bizarre mix of brown fur and mottled tawny brown and white feathers –the cloak is crafted from an owlbear's hide.
10. These low, soft leather boots are worn with much use and are incredibly comfortable. Oak leaf sigils woven from thin bronze wire decorates the ankles of both boots.
11. Little more than silk slippers these red shoes are immaculately clean and resist all blemishes and stains. The slippers are affixed to the wearer's feet via long, slender silk ribbons.
12. Wildly impractical this exquisite cloak comprises two interwoven layers of delicately wrought lace. One layer of lace is black while the other is white. Gold and silver braiding decorates the cloak's hem. The vestment provides no protection from the elements whatsoever.
13. At first glance, this worn black leather belt appears to be nothing special. However, a close investigation reveals tiny black and red beads stitched into the belt. The beads form certain magical sigils associated with the belt's powers.
14. Etched with delicate runes picked out with platinum thread woven into their length these elongated bracers cover the wearer's entire forearms. The bracers are supple, fit exceptionally well and are secured to the wearer's arms with crimson silk straps.
15. This mottled black leather cloak has a deep cowl. The cloak is a heavy thing and seems to press itself about its wearer's body. Until the wearer gets used to this sensation it can feel rather unpleasant—almost claustrophobic. The cloak has two large hidden breast pockets.
16. These skin-tight gloves of fine calfskin fit exceptionally well. Ornate blue and white stitched lightning bolts decorate the back of the gloves.
17. Scorched and battered these thick leather gloves have a woollen lining that keeps the wearer's hands marvellously warm, but reduces the wearer's manual dexterity.
18. A simply wrought sigil of a rising sun decorates both faces of this heavy, circular silver amulet. The sun—and its rays—are picked out in a gold wash. The amulet glimmers invitingly in the light and is warm to the touch.
19. Wrought in the shape of an oval shield this silver brooch has a thick iron clasp on the back. Several small dents mar the brooch's surface and a close examination of the piece reveals what could be tiny impact marks.
20. This soft brown leather hat perfectly fits the head of anyone donning it. A broad band, from which sprout three gold and white feathers, encircles the hat.



## 2: WONDROUS RINGS

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Magic rings are a staple of fantasy gaming, and much sought after by adventurers. Such objects can call forth or project a range of powers and effects, at their owner's command.

To generate a magic ring's description, roll on the table below.

1. Crafted from a slender piece of magically shaped white ash, this ring appears sized for a human's little finger. The ring's surface is incredibly smooth and free of any imperfection.
2. This solid, grey-iron ring is chunky enough to be used as an impromptu knuckleduster. Dwarven runes, whose meanings hint at the ring's powers, decorate the inside of the band.
3. A faint shimmer seems to hover over the surface of this golden band. The ring reacts in a particularly strange way to flickering torchlight and the like; the flame's reflections seem to dance and writhe across the ring's surface as if they are bound within.
4. Forged of platinum this plain silvery ring at first glance seems to be nothing particularly special. The ring is incredibly light and appears worn through much use. Perceptive characters, detect the almost worn smooth sigil of the legendary elven archmage Firmah Aralivar etched into its band.
5. The jagged shards of several teeth are fused into this cracked and seemingly brittle bone ring. The teeth jut from the ring, and easily snag on clothes and the like.
6. The surface of this plain iron ring is always slick with moisture, although it never slips from its owner's finger. Close observation of the ring reveals tiny beads of moisture appearing spontaneously upon the band. Experimentation reveals the liquid is seawater.
7. Grains of multi-coloured sand fill this supernaturally toughened glass ring. Every morning at dawn, the grains of sand rearrange themselves into a different pattern.
8. Beautiful carvings of shooting stars, or perhaps ball lightning or fireballs, decorate this exquisite ivory ring.
9. Five small settings each holding a tiny black stone (an onyx) stand proud from this tarnished silver ring. One of the piece's stones is slightly chipped (which may affect the ring's powers). The ring is an antique from a distant—now fallen—culture.
10. This chunky golden ring comprises a beautiful translucent purple stone (an amethyst) encircled by a rearing silver snake.
11. A single large gem setting dominates this ornate silver ring. Worn and tarnished, the ring is obviously old but the gem shines with a lustre undimmed by age. Disconcertingly, the ring's gem resembles an unblinking eye with a deep blue iris.
12. This golden ring has a boxy, angular design. A procession of tiny magical runes cover the ring's head. The work is exquisite and the individual runes are too small to see without a magnifying glass or magical aid.
13. Of white gold, this beautiful ring has four prongs designed to resemble curved flower stems. The ring's setting holds a beautifully bright transparent red stone (a jasper). Faint motes of yellow light dance within the stone and brighten considerably when the ring's power is called forth.
14. Crafted from bronze this old plain ring has strange runes of obvious magical origin inscribed all over its band. The ring is old and tarnished with age.
15. This chunky golden ring has an intricately wrought band that comprises three coiled, interwoven tentacles. The three tentacles come to together to hold a faintly glowing red gem (a ruby) in a recessed setting.
16. A pentagram surrounding the faintly glowing sigil of a lidless, staring eye dominates this silver ring's wide, flat head. Characters steeped in the mystic arts can identify the pentagram as one designed to imprison extra-planar beings.
17. Crafted in the form of a snake-like golden dragon consuming its own tail this ring is both extravagant and beautiful. Tiny flecks of glimmering ruby comprise the dragon's eyes. A close examination of the ring yields the suggestion that the eyes are moving—and taking in all that occurs in the surrounds.
18. This ring has a particularly wide band, which covers half the wearer's finger. Delicately carved flecks of red, purple and golden stones (garnets, amethysts and ambers) cover the ring in a colourful mosaic of simple geometric shapes.
19. Thick dwarven runes cover the band of this chunky, dented golden ring. Except for the runes, that speak of the earth and the fearsome power lurking therein, the ring lacks any form of ornamentation or marks of identification.
20. This ring is not hewn or forged from any known kind of metal or stone. Instead, it comprises a living band of heatless, writhing flames that dance over and caress the wearer's finger that radiates the same amount of light as a candle.



### 3: WONDROUS RODS, STAVES & WANDS

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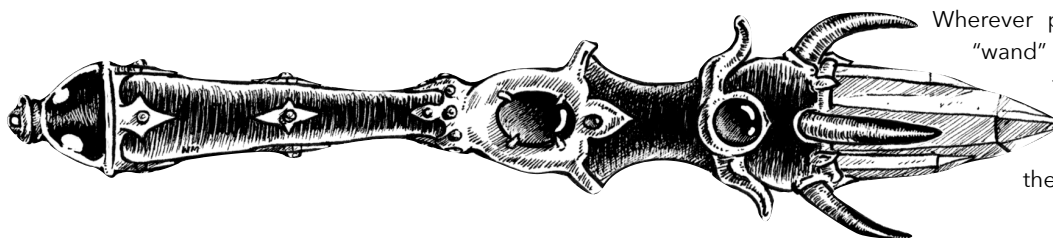
From the common *wand of magic missiles* to the awesomely rare and much coveted *staff of the archmagi*, rods, staves and wands can channel awesome power. Such items rarely appear to be nothing more than a tapered stick or quarterstaff.

Use the table below, to determine the appearance of the item found by the characters:

1. A red crystal tops this slender, fire-blackened shard of willow. Barely perceptible heat shimmers rise from the wood, and anyone firmly grasping the wand feels the heat pulsing within.
2. The grinning skull of an obscenely sized and proportioned rodent—its jaws gaping wide—tops this gnarled, twisted length of diseased wood.
3. Glimmering with a multitude of red, blue and green precious stones, this smooth, but thick, piece of iron has an obvious grip at one end. The object is surprisingly light weight.
4. Fine gold and silver wire entwine about this length of beautifully stained oak. At one end, the wires come together in a tightly wound ball giving the whole a bulbous look.
5. Carved from a single long rib bone of indeterminate origin, complex etchings of screaming skull faces, ghostly forms and other horrific images of death and suffering decorate this macabre object.
6. This intricately carved length of slightly curved ivory must have come from a truly gargantuan creature. Complicated sinuous patterns, that doubtless took a master craftsmen months to complete, cover its entire length. Molten gold covers one end of the wand.
7. Set with thin coils of electrum, this slender, tapered length of stone looks for all the world like the tip of a stalactite. The thin electrum coils have been fused to the stone, and cannot be removed without destroying the object. The stone is always cool to the touch.
8. Slightly rusty, this length of iron bar has a jagged point at its tip while its other end is perfectly smooth. Engravings of strange and terrible beasts of unknown sorts decorate the bar, but are partially obscured by tightly wound bronze and copper wire spiralling around the bar.
9. A chunk of pale blue transparent crystal surmounts this pale white wooden wand. Perceptive characters notice faint motes of yellow light drifting about inside the crystal.
10. Vividly-coloured alternating bands of blue and red paint decorate this thick golden rod. Three translucent deep green gems (emeralds) are set into the wand's tip, in a triangular pattern whose apex points away from the rod's wielder.
11. Comprised of living, writhing shadow this staff constantly "bleeds" wisps of shadow that quickly melt away. Only those who can call forth the staff's powers can actually hold it; everyone else's hands simply pass straight through its shaft without any impediment.
12. This golden staff has an ornate circular head in which is fixed a brilliant, bright blue chunk of glass the size of a child's head. The crystal glows with a faint yellow light. When the staff's powers are used this light strengthens to a deep gold colour.
13. Seemingly impossibly thin, this staff comprises hundreds of tightly interwoven gold and silver wires. Incredibly light, this brightly polished staff weighs virtually nothing and makes a high-pitched keening sound when vigorously swung.
14. This black iron wand has three tines in a similar fashion to a trident. A different colour gem (a yellow citrine, a black onyx and an orange carnelian) perch at the end of each tine.
15. Crafted from a single piece of faintly glowing blue crystal this wand pulsates when held. The wielder can adjust the light given off by the wand from that emitted by a guttering candle all the way up to a brightly blazing torch.
16. This unremarkable wooden staff is the same length and width as a spear shaft. The wood is worn and has been repeatedly varnished. Near the shaft's mid point several small chips mar its surface as if someone had ineffectually struck the staff with a sword or other bladed weapon.
17. Set with a silver cap at one end, at first glance this stout length of smooth and polished wood is nothing more than a finely crafted walking stick. Close investigation reveals tiny runes etched into the rod's silver cap.
18. This three-headed iron staff is a perversion of nature. The wand's three heads—dragon, goat and lion—writhe and twist when the wand is activated. While they do not try to bite the wielder, they lash out at anyone else coming too close. Each of the heads has a different power.
19. One end of this wand comprises a smoothed bone handle while the other—which tapers to a fine point—comprises a one-foot length of black wood.
20. Forged from black iron this heavy wand has been wrought in the shape of a thick wickedly pointed arrow whose tip has broken off. The "arrow's" fletchings have grooves cut into them to make the wand easier to hold. Investigation reveals the arrow to be hollow; a cunningly concealed catch opens a long thin compartment the perfect size to accept a normal-sized wand.

#### SPECIAL NOTE

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Wherever possible, the words "rod", "staff" or "wand" have been omitted from the above text. Where they do appear, treat them as interchangeable so you can get the maximum usage from the items above.

## 4: WONDROUS SWORDS

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Magical swords are the quintessential warrior's weapon. Such weapons have a wide range of powers and many have a reputation as impressive as the hero wielding them.

Use the descriptions below, to bring a sense of wonder and excitement to the magic swords in your campaign.

1. With a gleaming steel blade and a handle wrapped in worn, supple leather this sword is well looked after. Careful examination of the weapon reveals its maker's mark—a pair of crossed swords—etched into the pommel.
2. The handle of this perfectly balanced sword comprises smoothed and polished ivory topped by a gleaming silver pommel. The blade is of watered steel and its wavy pattern seems to writhe and twist like a living thing in bright light.
3. A large circular black stone flecked with tiny white imperfections surmounts this blade's pommel. The stone is an onyx and has been magically hardened. If the sword has any additional powers, they emanate from the onyx; when they do so, the stone's white flecks glimmer and sparkle. The blade is called *Glimmer Star*.
4. Of obviously ancient design, this sword's blade comprises magically hardened brass. Its plain hilt is much worn and the blade is thinner than normal; a close examination reveals a few tiny imperfections on its edge. The sword's bronze pommel is shaped like an oversized acorn.
5. At first glance, this sword appears to be coated in dried blood. Further investigation reveals it is forged from a single piece of supernaturally tough, crimson-coloured glass. In flickering light—such as that given off by a torch or funeral pyre—the blade glimmers in an evil fashion. A skull-shaped pommel tops the weapon's haft.
6. This razor-sharp steel sword has a snake's head-shaped pommel. Supple red and black snake skin covers its haft. At its tip, several tiny holes pierce the blade. A thorough examination of the weapon reveals a small reservoir for poison in the sword's pommel.
7. Crude pictographs painstakingly etched into this sword's blade tell the story of a warrior entering a deep cave to slay a mighty, scaled creature that might be a multi-headed dragon or a hydra. Beyond the pictographs, and some deep gouges on its plain cross guard, the weapon is plain and simple—the kind carried by common soldiers throughout the world. The weapon comes with a plain scabbard.
8. A dozen tiny precious stones of varying types and hues are set into this sword's hilt. A convoluted, serpentine pattern adorns the blade itself. The weapon's scabbard is likewise adorned with many tiny gemstones.
9. Of greenish copper strengthened with steel this sword's blade is a thing of malign beauty. Minutely etched scales reminiscent of a dragon's cover the entire blade. The weapon's haft is of some kind of incredibly light, but tough

bone and its pommel is fashioned into the shape of a large, lidless eye.

10. Crafted from a long, yellowed bone of unguessable origin, this sword has a wickedly serrated blade. Its hilt of iron is shaped like a flattened, elongated skull—the sword's blade emerging from the skull's gaping jaw. The weapon's pommel is similarly of bone and is wrapped tightly in a length of blackened leather embroidered with a bewildering variety of tiny silver sigils dealing with death, suffering and torment.
11. When drawn from its scabbard this sword throws off sparks of bright, iridescent light. A beautiful shimmering wave-like pattern adorns the weapon's steel blade, which ends in a cross guard set with several small translucent red stones.
12. This plain and unadorned sword has a simple bone handle. Leather strips and beautiful many-coloured feathers festoon the sword's plain wooden scabbard.

### SCABBARDS

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Magical swords are special, unique items. It follows, therefore, that many such weapons would come with a notable scabbard. While few scabbards have magical powers, a magic sword's scabbard is likely decorated in some way.

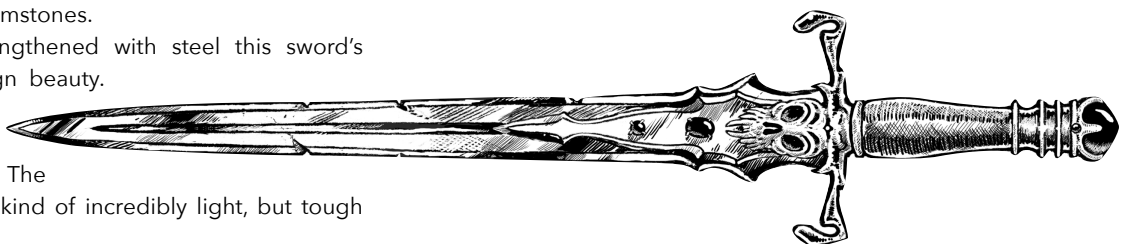
1. This red-hued scabbard comprises tiny scales from a red dragon. It glimmers evilly in the light and is immune to the effects of fire and heat.
2. Comprising delicate, mesh-like chain over a thin inner layer of black leather this scabbard is surprisingly quiet.
3. Mystic symbols of esoteric and fell meanings cover this tanned hide scabbard. Delicately drawn onto the scabbard with blue, yellow and red inks the symbols give some clue as to the sword's origins and powers.
4. Artfully constructed from thin strips of beautifully lacquered wood, this scabbard is clearly of elven construct.

### SPECIAL NOTE

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Wherever possible, the descriptions above do not reference a specific type of sword (such as longsword short sword, bastard sword and so on). This is deliberate. Omitting the sword's type increases the utility of the list as a GM can apply the sword's description to any weapons found.

To determine randomly the type of sword assume 70% of swords are longswords, 20% are broadswords, 5% are short swords, 4% are bastard swords and 1% are two-handed swords.



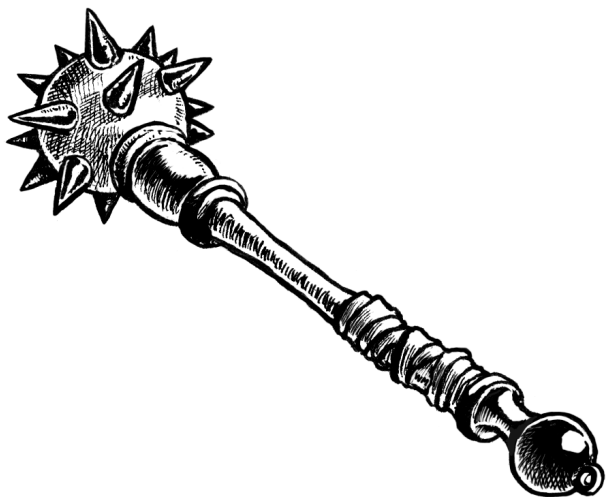
## 5: WONDROUS MISCELLANEOUS WEAPONS

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Not all magical weapons are swords. Dwarves, for example, favour battleaxes and warhammers while elves are renowned for their use of bows.

Use the table below, to determine what kind of magical item the characters have discovered.

1. Four-foot long with a stout wooden haft wrapped in worn leather and a large iron-shod hammer head this warhammer is surprisingly light for its size.
2. Although its handle is worn with age and use, this battleaxe's blade remains razor-sharp. The weapon is clearly old, and careful examination of its head reveals the tiny signs of painstaking maintenance with a whetstone.
3. This mace's heavy iron head resembles a clenched fist.
4. Scorched and discoloured, this heavy hammer may have once been a blacksmith's tool. However, scores of notches carefully etched into its handle now hint at a more martial use. The subtle smell of burnt flesh hangs in the air around the hammer's head.
5. Ramrod straight, this spear's shaft is perfectly balanced. The weapon has a long, tapered head which ends in a wickedly sharp point. Complicated geometric patterns decorate the entire weapon.
6. This slim, wickedly pointed stiletto nestles in a supple scabbard of soft leather topped by a ring of bright white fur. The weapon has a triangular pommel and deep grooves cut into the blade to channel blood away from the wielder's hand.
7. Ten barbed arrows nestle in this slightly over-sized quiver. Resembling small harpoons the arrows cause terrible injuries when pulled forth from a target's body. Each arrow's fletching comprises two black feathers and one white feather.
8. This beautifully polished bolt case holds five heavy steel crossbow bolts sized for a heavy crossbow. Twice as heavy as a normal bolt, these missiles have ornamental sigils depicting bolts of fire, jagged lightning bolts and the like carved into their shafts.



9. This mace has a head forged to depict a snarling wolf's head. The weapon's shaft is of some highly polished and worn black wood. When it strikes a target, the mace snarls and howls like a wolf on the hunt.
10. Carved from a single piece of perfectly straight fire-hardened wood this spear seems at first glance to be nothing more than a primitive weapon. A collection of feathers tied just below the spear's point add to this look but its tip is as strong and sharp as the finest steel weapon. (The spear comprises the heartwood of a dryad's tree).
11. This battleaxe's head is heavy and thick. The axe's haft of polished wood is fully four-foot long. A few minor scrapes and dents mar the axe's head but otherwise it is in excellent condition. When swung it emits a faint keening sound.
12. Cracks radiate through this heavy warhammer's fire-blackened head. With a shaft of iron, this is a heavy weapon. Scenes of heroic battle depicting dwarves slaying giants decorate the hammer's shaft.
13. Wickedly sharp this ornate and gracefully wrought throwing axe has holes bored through its handle to lighten its weight; the weapon is no less sturdy, however, as the wood came from an ancient elven forest and is imbued with the timeless magic of the elves.
14. Of elven artifice, this slender bow has been stained a deep and beautiful brown hue. Carefully carved etchings of an idyllic woodland landscape decorate the bow's shaft. Intermingled with the woodland scene are a variety of tiny elven magical sigils. The bow seemingly has no string, but when its wielder firmly grasps it a slender, gossamer-like bowstring instantly appears ready for use.
15. This halberd comprises a stout, well-worn five-foot long wooden shaft and a heavy axe-like head. The halberd's blade is painted black, although flecks of some kind of dark grey metal are visible under the head's black paint.
16. A knight's weapon, this beautifully wrought and perfectly balanced lance is deceptively light, but incredibly strong. At will, the wielder can alter the lance's length from 10 ft. to 5 ft. (and back again).
17. Although its haft comprises a length of gnarled and twisted driftwood and its tines are nothing more than the long fangs of some kind of unknown beast from the deep ocean this trident is perfectly balanced.
18. Long and slender—designed for slipping in-between the joints in a suit of armour—this dagger is a simple, brutal weapon. Its only decoration are tiny of forks of lightning etched into its blade.
19. A short spearhead juts from the bottom of this crescent-bladed battleaxe's deeply stained, fire-blackened haft.
20. This black iron mace's head is forged in the shape of a grinning skull complete with short horns protruding from its forehead.



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