

**P**ure evil, silent and cunning is creeping into the distant worlds, poisoning the soul of all that lives. Even as I speak death's dream kingdom is sent against us through portals of destruction – the seething, screaming hordes from Pandemonium.

I call on thee, noble warrior, to lead the battle against evil. When I – a younger man – was likewise summoned to the palace of the shining thrones, to come before the lord of light himself, I was filled with awe yet also with fears for mine own safety. Through closed eyes I could see a brilliant light that human eyes dare not gaze upon direct, and I could feel the mighty heat wrapped around me like a garment, gripping my soul, reaching in and demanding my obedience. It was there that I beheld the ritual of the ring of flame that thou shalt undergo, thy wrists and ankles tied by heavy chains to the mighty oaken ring and with a single tidal wave of heat, through peeling skin and burning flesh and boiling blood, cast off thy mortal form to be transformed into a blazing star, sent against darkness, to fly through the heavens on wings of fire.

Yet I, faced with this unearthly challenge, fled the palace and hid among the shadows these many years. Now I am called upon again, no longer a noble warrior but a humble messenger sent to summon thee to take my place. I hope to rectify my great failings as a younger man, for I was trained in the ways of battle and come to tell thee all I know. Heed this good advice as it is all the preparation thou hast time for.

**F**irst – know thine enemy, thou must learn to contend with the different types of evil that the Beast shall send against thee. Turquoise evil growths are readily killed, while others are more resilient to thy attack, such as those light blue and green. Hardest of all for thee to kill is evil growth dark blue in colour. Likewise, their shape betrays their cunning. The round forms are foolish and haphazard with diamond and cross-shaped growths possessing greater guile. Most sinister of all, those octagonal of form plan their attack against thee with the utmost ingenuity. Against such growths thou must learn to use good portals as a decoy and thus deflect the evil growth away from thy surprise attack.

**S**econd – listen and watch for the creation of his evil spores. These must always be destroyed. Try also to collect and drop thy good spores with haste and be aware that it is only in this means to carry one of these at any time. Dropping good spores and the creation of good portals is of great import – near enough to evil portals to attack them yet not so close as to prohibit their defence. Be careful also to select which good portals thou shouldst protect, for thou shalt not be able to defend them all.

**T**hird – It is wise to kill the Guardians as day is close to turning into night. Then they will be returned to Pandemonium during night-time, when they are most dangerous, and not in day-time when they are vulnerable to thy fire.

**F**ourth – Build a stronghold. Select for thyself on every star a part of the battlefield, perhaps a distant corner, on which thou canst establish a strong and steady base. Use this to mount thy attacks against evil.

**F**ifth – keep an outpost. Since thou canst only drop thy good spores on existing good growth, it is often of great use when time is pressing, to keep a small outpost of thy good growth. Later thou canst settle good portals here to assist thee in thy rapid growth across the field of battle.

I shall not deceive thee – the task I call on thee to do, in the name of the sun God, lord of light, is both magnificent and terrifying. If thou dost fail, then the Beast will take thy soul forever. But if thou canst succeed, thou shalt take thy place in the palace of the shining thrones, and from that day unto eternity the glory of the worlds be thine.

Noble warrior, this is thy call to battle!

**S**ixth – try to surround strongholds of evil forcing the Beast to divide his resources and fight the war on two or many fronts. As evil growths become more cunning the Beast will use this same tactic against thee.

**S**eventh – Use thy fire carefully, shooting a narrow and direct path through his evil growth toward his portals. Thus thy good growth be channelled between areas of living evil growth directly to his evil portals.

**E**ighth – learn to read and understand the tarot cards and know when to collect the special crystals and the powers they confer. I have studied the tarot and here are the meanings of the trumps as I understand them.

the sun	– Goodliness.
the moon	– Great danger.
the star	– Power.
the lion	– Fortitude.
tower of destruction	– Chaos and disaster.
death	– Rebirth.
hanged man	– An untimely end.
wheel of fortune	– The turning of fate.

**N**inth – There are seven great Guardians, each with servants, which the Beast has sent to guard his portals and hinder thee in battle. Understand their individual ways, their movements, their powers and their weaknesses.

**T**enth and finally – for each star, learn where to concentrate thy strength and growth and come to know when, where and what thou must attack and defend. If thou shouldst lose a battle do not be disheartened. Final victory shall come from speed and skill but also from thy sheer determination to succeed.