

Minnesota Live Adventure

June 30-July 2, 2012

Godliness

You are receiving this First Packet because you have expressed an interest in joining us for a weekend of Live Action Role-Playing - fantasy, costumes, feasting, sword-fighting, magic, gallantry, deception, puzzles, exploring, camping, bonding, etc.

Please find the following items enclosed:

- Game Story (*character & player versions*)
- LARP Guidelines (*Player Interaction, Money, Costumes, Weapons, Armor, Fighting, Magic, Color Codes, Class System*)
- Participation Forms are separate download files (*Player information and Character information*)

When you are finished, please mail the Player Information forms with your check or money order payable to the address shown on the Player Information form.

You may either email or snail-mail the Character information to the addresses shown on the Character form.

Please send in your completed Participation Forms with appropriate funds by May 1, 2012.

(Your financial contributions will provide event food, beverage, sanitary facilities, props, treasure, and other event-related expenses. Game designer or land owners do not get paid for their efforts.)

We are following over 25 years of adventuring traditions and guidelines developed by New York Live Adventure Game, Inc. over the last 9 years. We extend a special welcome to any members of NYLA who are planning to make the trip to Southeastern Minnesota for this game.

This event is based on an honor system of character interactions focusing on experiences rather than points. This game also includes children as regular players and mutual respect is expected.

Character creation is one of the most important steps prior to playing the game. (If you haven't a sliver of an idea, the game designers can help you get started.) Starting early may be of an advantage for those a little unsure in costume creation or for others who need time and practice to work up an alternate personality and history. Being able to separate you, the player, from your character is important for maintaining the adventure atmosphere. Knowing your character's background, abilities, special skills, etc. is not just for the designers, it is to help you become completely immersed in the adventure.

We encourage you to e-mail us regarding character ideas. If you wish we will integrate your character into the storyline that will ease your entry into the flow of the game. You may even decide to have a back-up character, in the event that the first one becomes unendurable or dead.

If you have any questions about this event, please contact one or both of us. Game Designers:

Rachel Weaver
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Brad Weaver
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You are welcome to craft your own weapons, but for your convenience, boffered weapons can be purchased through our weapons master. Consult our website for more information: <http://mnl.110mb.com/>

The above information has been provided to you for the sole purpose of participation in this event. Please do not add our names, e-mail addresses, or phone numbers to any lists. Thank You!

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Game Story – In Character

MNLA IX

The story thus far:

The Millennial Gathering – the Quest of the Gods

The heavens were rumbling. Occasional flashes of lightning were seen and every once in a while a small shower burst out. Sitting on his throne, the God of All the Heavens held his head in his hands and moaned slightly.

“They’re giving me the biggest headache. Why can’t they just have a quick arm wrestling match and be done with it? All this shouting and posturing is driving me crazy!”

The Goddess of the Earths sighed and patted his shoulder, ducking suddenly to avoid a stray chunk of hail.

“Every millennia we have this same discussion. You know it’s not that easy. They all want to prove how important they are to mortals; none of them want to be relegated to the halls of forgotten gods. What I don’t understand is why you don’t cast them down sooner to complete their quest. You wait until your head has been pounding for days and then you finally do something about it.”

“There are rules and rituals to follow, you know that. If we send them down too soon the mortals aren’t ready and it would be complete chaos down there. That’s why we send the omens, to let them know to get ready. They should be in place any time now, gather the candidates, and let’s get this over with.”

The Goddess of the Earths clapped her hands – across the heavens all could feel the vibrations. The lesser gods who had been waiting for this signal gathered themselves and sped to the throne room.

“It is almost time,” she said. “Prepare yourselves.”

So you think you want to be a god...

The 2012 MNLA game will include several “lesser” gods. At this point, we are anticipating having about 8 gods. Anyone who wants to be a god may apply, and a blind judging will choose from all submissions.

Guidelines for submission:

1. Each write up should include your character name, your focus (you are the god of ...?), what kind of site you would set up to attract followers, and what you hope to accomplish during the weekend – do you want to achieve supremacy over the other lesser gods, or do you maybe have another agenda related to your focus?
2. All gods are “lesser” gods. So, you cannot be the God of War, but you could be the god of armor, or the god of minor skirmishes.
3. You don’t have to be a god related to battle – in fact, we will be looking to create a balance among the gods. Play to your strengths and interests.
4. You cannot be a “known” god. Named Gods from Greek, Roman, Chinese, etc. mythology are out. So, no Thor, Zeus, Ares or what have you. Be inventive, create your own mythology!

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5. Think about what type of followers you would like to attract (they don't have to be human by the way). Your write-up should include a plan for how you will attract followers. Will you be a benevolent god, offering boons - or a vengeful god, threatening dire consequences for non-followers? What kinds of boons, what kinds of consequences? Or maybe you're a righteous god who feels people should follow you because it's the right thing to do. How do you plan on convincing them of that?
6. You cannot offer your followers immortality. Only gods are immortal. And no, you can't make them gods.
7. If you offer untold wealth you better have a plan for providing it. The game designers can and will only do so much to support your promises. Remember, you are a minor god. Try and keep your promises reasonable. If you make extravagant claims, but can't follow through, you'll lose followers.
8. Gods can have priests – someone to act as their lieutenant in follower recruitment (In game, that person would be expected to stay behind and carry on your message after you ascend). If you have a friend and want to write up a 2 person proposal that's cool. Twin gods are also okay. I suppose you could do a two-headed god but think about playing that a whole weekend!!
9. There are no age restrictions for deities.
10. The god of fairies visited this land before, so that one's taken!

*****SUBMISSIONS FOR GODS ARE DUE MARCH 1, 2012.**

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Game Story – Extended Information for Players

Not a God? No problem!

There are many other character opportunities in this game. If you want to be a local:

1. Priests for the ancient shrines. You would be responsible for collecting tribute for the shrines, counseling followers of the God associated with the shrines (in what? Need to be a priest to know!), and maintaining the shrine (i.e. repelling thieves and non-believers).
2. Local vendors – all these people coming in for a spiritual festival? Just imagine the opportunities!
3. Other citizens – what's your idea?

If you are coming to the festival (these are suggestions, please don't feel limited by these):

1. A follower of one of the Gods – new or old. (a list of available Gods will be out later)
2. A seeker – one is who is looking for a God to embrace as their own but isn't sure which one to choose
3. A skeptic – one who has heard about the festival, or maybe even feels drawn to the site without knowing why, but doesn't really believe in all this God nonsense
4. A profiteer – I mean, opportunity seeker. All these people, all so trusting....
5. A traveler who heard about this on the road and whose curiosity was peaked

Of course, for any of these, you could be any race or class. Gods are not just for humans you know!

Players Notes:

Remember, it is the nature of the live adventure game for all to not be as it seems!

Families Notes:

1. We have established three participation fees based on the age of the participant.
2. Parents with young children, who are interested in participating and bringing the children along, should be aware of the amount of attention the child will need during the adventure and their child's capacity for make-believe. The comfort and understanding of the accompanying children are critical for all to enjoy the adventure. Parents, you will be responsible at all times for any children you bring to the adventure.
3. We expect and to some extent, require that parents or guardians of children younger than seventeen participate in the game with your child. This mostly means that you must be in costume and in character. Since we intend to have several shops, you may be able to hire on as an assistant; or you may want to wander the many trails in the woods.
4. Parents also may be game recorders (picture takers) or can elect to help kitchen staff.

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Live Action Role-Playing Guidelines

Character design & costuming

- **Choose your abilities wisely.** This is not tabletop or marshaled role-play. You will not be rolling dice or consulting a judge to see if you succeed or fail. It is best to give your character abilities that you can accurately portray. Warriors should know how to use weapons. Thieves should be able to steal things. Bards should have at least elementary musical talent. Mages should be able to cast spells with both verbal and visual expression.
- **Create a personality you can upkeep.** You should be comfortable playing your character for at least several hours at a time. You do not want to get out of character during the adventure because this will inhibit play for both you and others. (We understand that some players may need to retreat from the game for short intervals.) Interaction is what makes the event more interesting. A common mistake among first-time players is to have a shy, reserved, cautious, quiet personality. Characters with personality problems (insane, raging, berserker, depressed, etc) may be tiring to play. Previous experience has shown that some personality quirks help the player maintain the character.
- **Balance strengths and weaknesses.** For each ability, you should think about having a weakness. An excellent fighter might like to talk while fighting and frequently gets distracted. A teleporting mage may have no sense of direction or distance. A Fae who can meld with a tree to hide might have to take some time pulling apart from the tree. No one is completely invulnerable. This being said, don't try to limit your role-playing by adding a bunch of bizarre weaknesses in order to counter your repertoire of abilities. Such can get quite silly and become difficult for you to maintain in character. It may be easier to just dumb-down your powers a bit. It is ok to just be a normal person too. Remember, no one will want to interact with you if you are an all-powerful character; balance is key.
- **Match costume to character.** Your provisions and garb should match your character history. If you are a refugee, your might have one well-worn, torn, dirty outfit. A prince or lord may have elegant, tailored clothing. There may be something ethereal or magical in a Fae's clothing. This does not mean you have to spend a lot of money on your costume. It could be as simple as a long t-shirt belted at the waist over sweat pants. Or a simple skirt with a loose blouse and a shawl. This is however a medieval style game, so showing up in aluminum space suit will not be ideal. Remember: visual impressions convey a lot of information.
- **Armor is impressive,** but wearing steel chainmail, platemail, or thick leather may impede your role-play. It is acceptable and still impressive to wear imitation armor – aluminum chainmail, metallic fabric, sequins, buttons, silver painted foam, vinyl, thin leather, and whatever else you can come up with that will take some hits and still be comfortable. Remember to play how your character would react to wearing armor. (Are you a warrior and used to the weight or have you just borrowed some for the excursion?) **ARMOR WILL ONLY PROTECT WHAT IT COVERS!**
- **Comfort is important.** Be prepared to hike through the forest on essentially non-maintained trails. Being able to move freely in your costume can facilitate your role-play actions (running away, dodging swords or arrows, sneaking up on others, etc). Shoes are commonly the exception to the rule – hiking boots are acceptable. Comfort goes a long way to maintaining role-play.
- **Costume Consistency:** Please try not to alter your costume extensively throughout the game. There may be people who will be playing different characters throughout the event or you may die and want to start over with a fresh character. Different costumes mean different characters.

Money & Treasure

- **Coin of the Realm.** There is no specific coin of the realm. All coin will be accepted at face value. Barter of other sorts will be considered as payment as well.
- **Booty bags.** Red bags to carry coin and treasure will be issued to everyone. Red booty bags should be worn in an obvious location – preferably on the belt – and can be looted, either by stealth or off the dead. It is reasonable to expect some coin or treasure to be carried elsewhere on a person, but these stashes are not to be taken. It is ok to hide your treasure, but be fair and keep at least some on you. You wouldn't want to go through the hassle of defeating an enemy or accomplishing a daring theft only to find an empty booty bag.
- **Treasure.** Finding treasure is a great pleasure for any adventurer. If the treasure is marked with green, it must be returned to the game designers or the player it came from. Treasure marked in red is lootable and can be kept. Take a chance and keep your treasure in your booty bags.

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Interaction & Fighting

- **Interact with others.** You now have this great character, and it's time to role-play. That means meeting, talking with, casting spells on, or fighting other players. No one will ever know about your wonderful character if you never interact.
- **Fighting No-No's:** Do not hit children. You may defend yourself from them but should not return blows. Children should also not antagonize adults. If a child or a hoard of children attacks an adult, the adult may defend and may hit back. After all, children can die too and then go to the land of the dead. Do not hit someone in the head or neck! These are illegal hits and it will be up to the victim whether or not they wish to play the hit. Pushing and bodily charges are intentional acts of harm and may result in your being asked to leave the event. (If you are pushed into or stumble into someone else, try to resolve the matter immediately, even if you have to break character to apologize.)
- **Death is always a possibility.** Do not let the threat of death limit your role-play. Death of your character is not the end of your participation in the game, or even the end of that character, as death may be a means to uncover new aspects of the storyline. Not that you shouldn't take your character's life seriously, but if you are killed, die.
- **Be respectful of others' actions.** Nothing is worse than casting a great spell or performing a fantastic display of swordsmanship and having the other players not respond to it. Just as you would wish to be admired for your role-playing, please pay the same compliment to others by acting appropriately.
- **Do not ignore spells.** If someone is casting a spell, pay attention to it and respond appropriately even in the heat of battle. If a mage cast a successful spell on you, play it up! Remember that this is why you are here, to have adventure and interact with others. If you are a mage, this could be your opportunity to reply with a counter spell. If you are not a mage, this may be time for a strategic retreat. But listen to what the spell is trying to do and react to it.
- **If you cannot use magic, then you cannot divine or resist magic.** A non-magic-user cannot read scrolls or spells, avoid magical traps, see invisible things, etc. If someone casts a spell on you or if you wander into a magical area on the land (environmental magic), then you may not resist it.
- **Do not ignore wounds or special defenses.** A constant complaint among players is about the player who wouldn't die even after being hit a hundred times. If someone is resisting your blows there may be a good reason for it – a magical shield, a body made of rock, a different plane of existence, etc. Find a way in character to figure out why your hits are ineffective. On the other hand, without a special defense, you need to be mindful of your injuries and play them. An arm hit with a sword blade is useless. You'll drop to the ground if you are hit in the leg. If you are hit with a fatal blow or spell, then die! The wounded must be healed or else bleed to death.
- **Armor does not equal invulnerability.** If you are wearing armor, then you may take a couple of hits in the same area before becoming wounded. Armor can be damaged. Wearing a short-sleeved tunic that only hangs to your knees means that your forearms and your legs from the knees down are unprotected!

Weapons & Props

- **Weapons must be approved for use.** A weaponsmaster will be present before the game begins to inspect each weapon. A weapon failing inspection will be banned from use unless it can be modified to be acceptable. Shields are also under the scrutiny of the weaponsmaster and must be padded. As a general rule, the weapon should not cause bruising, moving blow, or whipping action.
- **Weapons may be purchased from our weaponsmaster.** If you are interested in making your own weapons, please consult "*A Foam Smith Speaks by Brad Weaver*" in the Weapons Crafting section of the MNLA webpage.
- **Special Weapon Designs.** If you would like to create a special weapon for use in the game, please consult our weaponsmaster in advance for design specifications. Every weapon must be inspected before use in the game.
- **Props.** Items such as a staff, talisman, drinking goblet, wings, wooden swords, and claws may not be used to directly attack someone or defend against weapons. These items may be used for effect, but must not intentionally come in contact with another player. Remember: extra props may be more of a role-play hindrance than a character feature.

Magic & Medicine

Using magic has always been a tricky thing to role-play and many different practices have been developed over the years. Many players have avoided interacting with or using magic because it has seemed too difficult or too dangerous. We want to encourage creativity in the use of magic. **All magic must be cleared by the game designers.** No exceptions including self-protective or healing potions. Your magical effect should not present any danger to other players.

- **Magic is rare.** It is very unlikely that the average person can perform magic. It takes years of study for a mage to learn his/her spells so it is also unlikely that a warrior would know many (if any) spells as he/she spent much of

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his/her life learning combat.

- **There should be a noticeable action to accompany every spell cast.** A nerf or kush ball may be used as a fireball. Your wand might squirt water to simulate a drowning waterfall. The completion of your spell may be simply a dramatic handclap. Your methods should match your type of magic.
- **Communication is the key to good magic.** If people can't understand you, then you cannot expect the spell to work. If you are not clear with what you want, players can be free to interpret your spell much differently than you intended. For example, a mage wants to paralyze his attacker so he shouts "By the power of Suma's grace, I bind you from moving a pace!" Now the mage intended for the warrior to be frozen. But the warrior took this to mean that just his feet were bound, so he throws his sword instead and impales the surprised mage. Also, if you have some sort of magical protection, it is up to you to tell your attacker that you have something that is protecting you from their spell. Clearly tell them what it is.
- **Magic takes energy.** You cannot throw around spell after spell and not be affected. Magic takes effort; otherwise, everyone would be using it. Be tired after casting a major spell. Collapse after a magical battle. Be dramatic about it so that others will respect magic as much as you do. Also a non-mage would need a lot more energy to cast a spell than a mage would.
- **Magic takes concentration.** You cannot be doing something else—running, sneaking, eating, etc.—while you are casting your spell. If your concentration is broken before you can finish casting your spell, then you did not succeed.
- **NO 'Power Words'.** Single word spells can be confusing. 'Freeze!' might cause one person to start shivering, another to stop for a moment, and another to halt all actions until the spell is released. Therefore, an explanatory phrase or couplet must be said to convey what your spell does. If you are capable of wielding fatal spells then use props, chants, and whatever else looks good to make your spell as dramatic as possible. Screaming 'die!' is unacceptable. It sounds more like a threat than a spell. Incantations and movements will not only enhance game play, but your victim will be able to look back fondly on a wonderful interactive moment.
- **Healer resurrections are rare.** If you are playing a healer, be aware that resurrections are next to impossible. They take a tremendous amount of energy and the healer runs the risk of being fatally drained. You must clear all resurrection spells with the game designers before start of play on Saturday.
- **Healing power.** Healers usually get their power from within or from their gods. Healing magic can be simpler to perform than spell casting. A deep concentration over the wounded player, hands hovering over the wound, perhaps murmuring a prayer have been well played in the past. Maybe you use a focus for your healing, an amulet or ring or even another person. Healing magic, however, is very exhausting for both the patient and the healer. Do not use your powers lightly! You should act weak and drained after a major healing.
- **Potions and Poisons:** Small bottles, rings, bracelets, and locket that have a tiny-hinged compartment are great for potions or poisons. Make sure the contents are harmless! (Colored water, tea, honey, Kool-Aid). Write the spell on blue paper and tie it to the bottle so that the player can read it and act out the effects once the potion is taken. (Example: for the next 10 minutes after drinking this potion, you will be unable to tell a lie). If you are secretly slipping the potion to victims, then wait until they drink it and then give them a note that says what the spell does so they can act it out. (A good assassin trick is to put sugar cubes into their victim's drinks and then slip them a note after they drink it that tells them that they are poisoned.) Like magic spells and abilities, potions and poisons also need to be cleared by the Game Design Team well in advance.
- **Magic Items:** These are very rare. If you have a magic item of some type, it also needs to be cleared by the Game Design Team. Why/how you got your magic item should be included in your character back story.
- **Spirals and Squares:** Two symbols used in the game are the Compulsion Spiral and the Aversion Square. The Compulsion Spiral means you are attracted to it and must read the message nearby (written on blue paper for the physical plane and white paper for the astral plane). The Aversion Square pushes you away and blocks your path in the direction that you see it. A trap for spirits may have a white Compulsion Spiral and a blue Aversion Square at the entrance to the trap. If you are a spirit, you must enter; while if you were alive, you would walk away.

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Color Codes

- **YELLOW:** Anything tagged or wearing yellow is considered an item or person that is not part of the adventure and should not be part of role-play. Mages who can teleport will use a yellow headband while teleporting. The yellow headband may also be worn by a player who is taking a break from the game on their way to the tenting area. However, this is a participation, not a spectator, event, and players should not hang around wearing a yellow headband. Game photographers will wear yellow hoods.
- **RED:** Anything that looks like it was deliberately tagged with red string; ribbon, paint, or stickers are like the red booty bags—able to be taken. Sometimes players will wear a pendant or weapon during play with a red string to indicate that it could be stolen.
- **BLUE:** Indicates magical items or effects. As a player, you cannot see the blue and should always ignore any blue scroll that is attached to an item, unless you use that item. Magical effects may only be divined by knowledgeable magic-using characters. Once consuming, wearing, or using the item you should then open the scroll and read the effect. Areas that are marked with blue string should be treated as a magical wall. Blue symbols on people indicate some kind of magic. Blue hoods make the wearer invisible (which just means they can't be seen, it does not disguise sound or smell).
- **WHITE:** The color of the spirit world. A white hood or headband covering the head indicates a ghost. Someone who is magically traveling the astral planes will have blue trim on their white hood. These players should be ignored unless you can specifically sense or talk with spirits. There may be a location on the land where a spirit can interact with anyone.
- **GREEN:** Any items tagged with green can be used during play but must be returned to their owners.
- **BLACK:** A black hood or headband indicates an animated body of one who has died. This is a physical being, not spirit and may be perceived by all the senses. This could be a ghoul, a zombie, a vampire, a skeleton, etc.

Races

Many races are known:

- **HUMAN-** The normal, easy-to-choose race, makes playing yourself easier. Humans have no special abilities except those learned through time and practice.
- **ELF-** Long-lived, able to move through the world quietly and rapidly. Usually kind to humans and caring for other creatures. While their skills seem natural, they have studied for a long time. Hard but not impossible to kill.
- **ORC-** The dark elf. These are the bad elves and usually hate and attack everyone.
- **FAIRY-** These are the Fae. They can care for the flowers and woods, some animals. While they are kind and simple, they delight in playing jokes on one another and especially humans.
- **GNOME-** Gnomes are the "Little People" who are magical by nature. They can assume any size from tiny to large. Their private homes seem small to humans. In and around their homes, they are small. As they move away from their homes, they tend to grow larger. They tend to stay away from humans; they are not usually warriors or mages.
- **TROLL-** The troll is the large creature of the woods and often seems to have wood for brains. They carry big clubs and like to eat meat: sheep, cows, humans are all the same to them.
- **OTHER RACES-** You tell us.

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Classes

Many classes of character:

- **WARRIOR-** This class deals primarily in the use of weapons and armor to do physical damage to an opponent. Warriors tend to be tougher than normal and can take a bit more of a beating before dying
- **BARDS-** This class is known for their musical and story-telling abilities. Because of their travels and appetites for grand tales, bards accumulate knowledge at the rate that orcs accumulate fleas.
- **MAGES-** This class specializes in using magic. Mages go by many names: wizard, witch, warlock, sorcerer, but they all do pretty much the same thing. All mages have a spellbook full of magical weapons and tools that they can use to affect others, themselves, and the environment. Mages tend to be either studious or arrogant in nature based on how they came about their magic. Studious mages are usually aged and wizened after spending long years tempering their spells. Still other mages were granted their powers by other means and tend to think other beings inferior.
- **ROGUES-** This class is apt to sneakiness and relies on stealth and treachery instead of brute force in combat. Rogues have that uncanny ability to get into and out of trouble in a pinch.
- **COURT SCRIBES-** This class is responsible for recording all that happens in the Court and Land. Some scribes record financial information, while others have to record personal happenings.
- **MINISTERS-** This class is a major part of the bureaucracy. Many levels of ministers exist and they control the ability of people to get things done. The most powerful are the Middle Ministers (at least according to them.)
- **INTELLIGENCE GATHERERS-** This class is better known as "spies." They can be your best friend and then knife you in the back. Their purpose is to find your weaknesses and strengths and exploit both.
- **OTHER CLASSES-** Have at it! Create your own class.

Two Important Rules:

- 1. Play Nice**
- 2. Have Fun**