

TOME OF MONSTER LORE

by

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This large volume, bound in solemn black and bearing a crossed scalpel and stylized lightning bolt embossed in silver on its cover is probably one of the most sought-after non-magical books of the Realms. Although it is a real rarity and costs well over 1000 GP in the open market, it is surely worth the deal - a careful study will give the reader a comprehensive knowledge of the anatomy of all but unique monsters (this doesn't include humanoids, since fighting humans, demihumans and humanoids is the essence of commonplace martial arts).

The best ways to slay or incapacitate monstrous adversaries, most effective weapons and traps, poisons the creatures are sensitive to - well, everything that could be studied by the most daring sages of the time. Note the book doesn't deal with habits of monsters or ways of tracking them - only the methods of "slaying 'em once you see 'em".

Perusal of the Tome takes 1d10 weeks at INT 12 minus one for every INT point over 12. After that a roll of less than INT is to be performed on a d20, success indicating study is complete, failure - the contents of the Tome of Monster Lore are not within readers' grasp. A new attempt may be made at the next level of experience.

A person who has studied the Tome successfully receives the following benefits:

- All attacks against a monster are at +1.
- All the immunities and resistances of the monster are known.
- Vital parts of any monster may be targeted at called shots.
- Thieves may backstab any creatures of adequate size at standar multipliers.
- All poisons used against a creature act as a class more powerful.
- All saving throws ws. breath/gaze attacks are at -1.
- All body parts useable as components, etc. may be sucessfully and skillfully extracted.

Note to DMs: The book is not magical and may be used over and over. To spice the play up, uncorrect or deliberately false information may be considered given about some species.