

Egg of Imprisonment

(from Dragon Magazine #182)

This item was created by an Abanasinian wizard, Shishushkiri, to capture his foes for later questioning. It takes the form of a featureless, fistsized black egg. To work, the caster throws the egg at a victim, making an attack roll against AC 10 minus any Dexterity, shield, or magical bonuses the victim possesses. If the egg misses its target, it falls to the ground without harm. If it strikes the target, it expands into a dark, 7 foot, cone like shape that is 6 feet wide at its base (part of the egg's bottom is below floor level, 2 feet deep, anchoring the egg in an upright position). If the prey then fails a saving throw vs. paralyzation, the egg of imprisonment confines the victim inside its mass; otherwise, the victim escapes from the egg, which then returns to its small form.

The enlarged egg is porous enough to allow a relaxed and calm being to breathe easily within it, but a struggling person will fall unconscious from lack of air after a number of rounds equal to Constitution points (though suffocation is not possible). The shell is immune to internal attack, and there isn't enough room for a human-sized victim to cast spells or to be accidentally injured trying to escape. On the outside, the egg is more fragile, being AC 7 and able to take 16 points of damage. If the egg is broken open by comrades of the victim, if it is voluntarily opened by someone knowing the proper command word, or if 24 hours elapse, the victim is released with no harm done. The egg cannot be moved. It makes item saving throws as glass, and failing the saving throw destroys the egg; destructive spells such as *fireball* can destroy it if more than 16 points of damage are taken, even if the saving throw is made (the victim inside takes either half or full damage, depending on the egg's success at its own saving throw). Eggs opened violently are destroyed in the process, but those that either "hatch" at the end of their one-day duration or are opened using the correct command word will revert to normal form, ready for reuse.

Although an egg of imprisonment expands to a size large enough to encompass eight tiny-sized creatures or four small-sized creatures, this can only occur if the creatures to be imprisoned are already within such a small volume of space. Two human-sized creatures may be caught if standing very close to each other. Creatures larger than human-size cannot be trapped by the egg; if it is thrown at one, the egg attempts to encompass it and, upon failing, contracts back into normal form to fall to the ground. This item has proven popular with at least one dragon in the years after the War of the Lance, since it stops attackers quite effectively for later disposal.

XP Value: 500

GP Value: 5,000