

# RAINWORLD GLYPH DOCUMENTATION

## FINDINGS, IDEAS & COMPARISONS

[Dm suggestions or edits to gwyn#9899, Fidget#0636 or Gecko Eater 3000#2539 on the Official Rain World Server.](#)

It's worth noting that only the Achievement and Karmic Glyphs have any definite meaning. The general alphabets are selected randomly when the tile is placed, and so while documentation is good, the usefulness of any interpretation is moot. (All images used on this doc can be found in full-resolution [here](#).)

Have changed editing to view only for the long term, to prevent vandalism/as need for further editing seems unlikely.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                                                        |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| RAINWORLD GLYPH DOCUMENTATION                                          | 1  |
| FINDINGS, IDEAS & COMPARISONS                                          | 1  |
| TABLE OF CONTENTS                                                      | 1  |
| PRIMARY KARMA SYMBOLS—FIVE NATURAL URGES                               | 1  |
| ACHIEVEMENT GLYPHS                                                     | 3  |
| MARK CONJECTURE                                                        | 5  |
| SKY ISLANDS CIRCULAR GLYPHS                                            | 5  |
| RAIN WORLD ALBUM ART GLYPHS                                            | 5  |
| FIVE PEBBLES' DIALOGUE                                                 | 6  |
| GUARDIAN GLYPHS                                                        | 8  |
| GLYPH IMAGES                                                           | 9  |
| K & C GLYPH ALPHABETS                                                  | 9  |
| UI SPRITE-SHEET (spritesheet for UI and various overlays, many unused) | 9  |
| C GRAFFITI                                                             | 10 |
| Both Korean Inspired (K) & Cyrillic Inspired (C) Alphabets.            | 11 |

### PRIMARY KARMA SYMBOLS—FIVE NATURAL URGES

| PAINTING/SYMBOL                                                                     | EXPLANATION/MEANING                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p><u>MEANING:</u><br/>Fighting/Struggling/Striving. Fighting could then be seen as a natural manifestation of general struggle within an advanced society.</p> <p><u>EVIDENCE:</u><br/><i>"This was an eternal dilemma to them - they were burdened by great ambition, yet deeply convinced that striving in itself was an unforgivable vice. They tried very hard to be effortless. Perhaps that's what we were to them, someone to delegate that unrestrained effort to."</i><br/>— Moon.</p> |



#### MEANING

Lust/Desire/Procreation/Want.



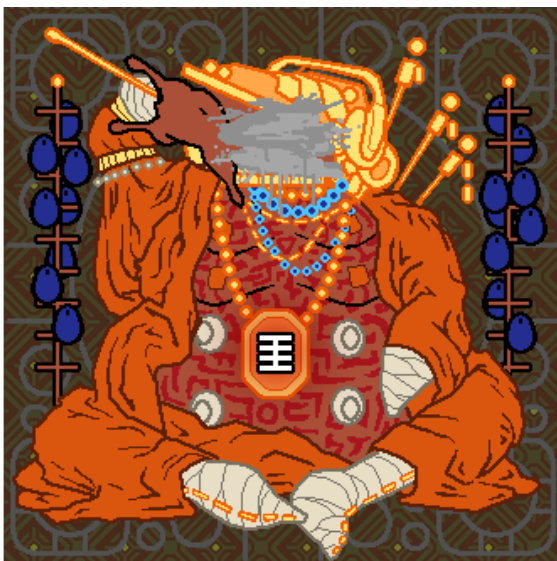
#### MEANING

Sharing/Communication/Friendship/Bonding/Guidance

#### ADDITIONAL NOTES

Has been held to be intoxication, due to lantern, canister and link with Five Precepts. However, context in other glyphs does not seem to support this, and a direct analogue for each Precept with the Urges does not seem likely, like lying.

The Mural could also show one ancient guiding or mentoring another, with the text below and the lantern "lighting the path". Possibility of more ornate ancient on right being advised by ancient with scrolls on left? Teacher may also fit, although The Scholar has a closer meaning.



#### MEANING

Gluttony.

#### EVIDENCE

*"The subject is how to shed one of the five natural urges which tie a creature to life. Namely number four, gluttony."*

— Moon.

*This is also the yellow overseer's symbol for "food".*



#### MEANING

Perseverance/Survival/Ego/Shielding from harm. Seems to imply a shielding of the self from harm, the desire to survive and to avoid danger, to cling to life, explaining why this symbol is the original highest karma level (before meeting Echoes or FP), and the symbol for "The Survivor".

## ACHIEVEMENT GLYPHS

| GLYPH | DESCRIPTION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|       | Survivor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|       | Wanderer<br>Relates to travelling/searching/quest?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|       | Monk<br>Relating to self/harmony<br>Also could represent morality                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|       | Pilgrimage<br>Wanderer + Monk = Pilgrim<br>The finding of self through travelling?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|       | The Friend<br>Communication/Bonding + Harmony/Monk<br>Forming a bond through selfless means (giving food)                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|       | A New Friend<br>Survivor + Bonding + Harmony<br>Interpretation of 3rd Karma Glyph as Mentor or Teacher here may make sense, as Moon acts as a teacher to players, reading pearls and giving information. Also 5th Glyph could represent the player having survived the journey to Moon, having been guided by the Overseer. |

|                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                           | <p>The Chieftain</p> <p>Bonding + Survivor(?)</p> <p>Would indicate respect?</p>                                                                                                                                      |
|                                                                                           | <p>The Scholar</p> <p>Wanderer + Knowledge?</p> <p>The quest for knowledge?</p>                                                                                                                                       |
|                                                                                           | <p>The Hunter</p> <p>Gluttony + Struggle/Fighting</p> <p>Eating solely by killing. Is also the yellow overseer's symbol for "predator".</p>                                                                           |
|                                                                                           | <p>The Saint</p> <p>Survivor + Monk</p> <p>Represents survival through harmony/no killing</p>                                                                                                                         |
|                                                                                          | <p>Stolen Enlightenment</p> <p>Gluttony + Self</p> <p>Eating selfishly, here 4 marks seem to indicate a failure to be harmonious/or to wilfully damage another</p>                                                    |
|                                                                                         | <p>Ascension</p> <p>In several conversations between the iterators, they refer to self-destruction as "crossing oneself out".</p> <p>The removal of the self from the world. Also the 10th and final Karma Symbol</p> |
|                                                                                         | <p>Dragon Slayer</p> <p>Could represent deliberate killing/murder. Four marks in the context of excessive violence.</p>                                                                                               |
|                                                                                         | <p>The Outlaw</p> <p>Struggle/Fighting + (ambiguous centre line)</p> <p>Four marks again in the context of excessive violence.</p>                                                                                    |
|                                                                                         | <p>The Journey</p> <p>Received after meeting with Five Pebbles</p> <p>Could refer to: Farm Arrays, Pebbles himself.</p>                                                                                               |
| <br> | <p>Mark appearing in rooms before Echoes</p> <p>Possible 2 marks on top</p> <p>Bottom half seems to be the same as this K Alphabet glyph:</p>                                                                         |

## DOWNPOUR ACHIEVEMENTS

|                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | <p>The Martyr</p> <p>Possibly be k10 and only correspond to martyrdom (similar to dragonslayer)</p>                                                                                                                                                |
|    | <p>The Nomad</p> <p>Survivor + Journey</p> <p>Similar to wanderer, possibly journeying for a more specific purpose?</p>                                                                                                                            |
|    | <p>The Pilgrim</p> <p>Wanderer + 2 marks/ what is above the echo symbol</p> <p>Follows the 2 mark rule for a peaceful activity since it is received after listening to every echo.</p> <p>Likely representing travelling with specific intent.</p> |
|   | <p>The Mother</p> <p>Communication + Lust/Desire</p> <p>Loneliness, desire for company</p>                                                                                                                                                         |
|  | <p>A Helping Hand</p> <p>Survivor + Sharing/ Friendship(3rd karma) + Knowledge</p> <p>Hunter exclusive achievement.</p> <p>Received after delivering the green neuron to Pebbles or Moon.</p>                                                      |
|  | <p>The Champion</p> <p>Closed off C5 symbol</p> <p>Most likely only meaning champion</p>                                                                                                                                                           |
|  | <p>The Expedition Leader</p> <p>Closed off + curved c20</p> <p>Likely means leadership or bravery.</p>                                                                                                                                             |

## MARK CONJECTURE

Several glyphs bear the same two or four mark pattern, two marks appearing on glyphs denoting peaceful activities, and four marks on glyphs relating to violence or morality.

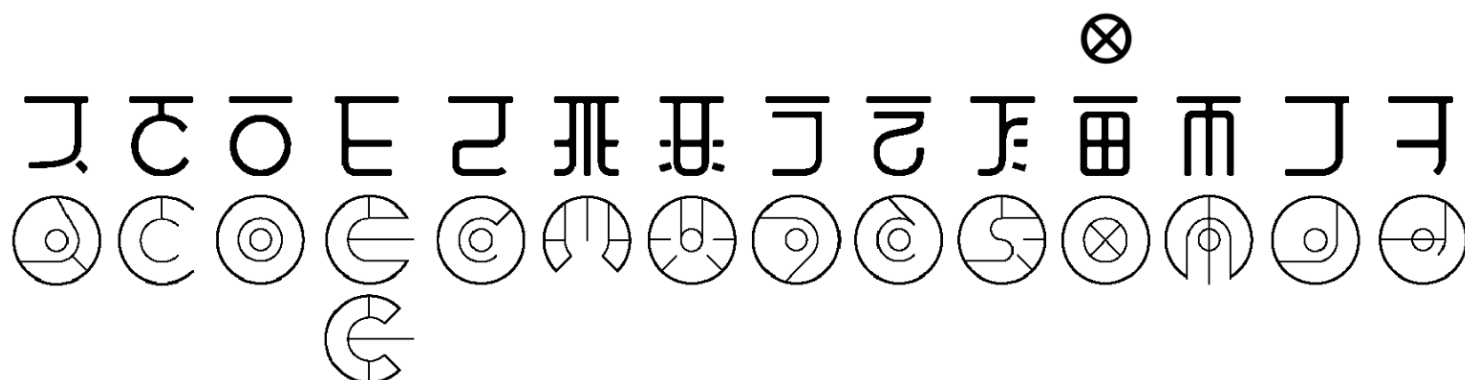
The Outlaw, Dragon Slayer and Stolen Enlightenment all feature 4 marks

The Saint, Chieftain, A New Friend and Survivor all feature 2 marks

## SKY ISLANDS CIRCULAR GLYPHS

Key between the 14 Glyph K Alphabet and those found in Sky Islands (SI)





The SI-Glyphs could be said to be a sort of rebus, as they bear resemblance to the rebuses on the Japanese prefectural and municipal flags. The similarity is mostly within the radial design of the SI-Glyphs, as the Japanese prefectural and municipal rebuses also often bear this radial and circle-like quality.

## RAIN WORLD ALBUM ART GLYPHS

On the artwork of the album "Rain World - Songs & Rhythms" we can see two more glyphs not found anywhere within the game. Considering that these two glyphs are unseen within the game itself, but present in this meta context, it could be theorized that the glyphs in order mean "Rain" and "World".

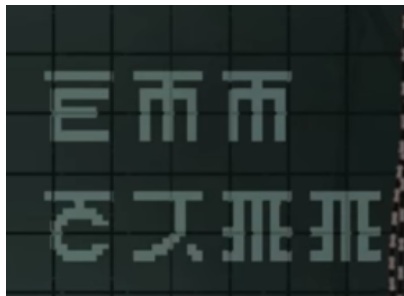
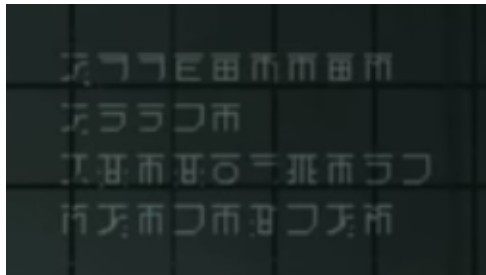
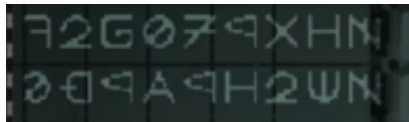
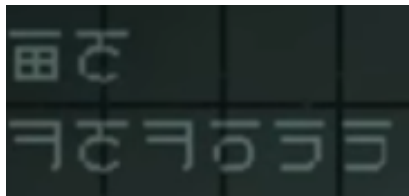
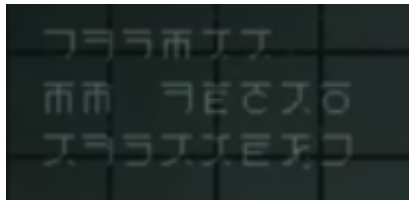
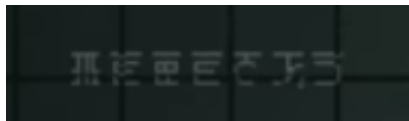


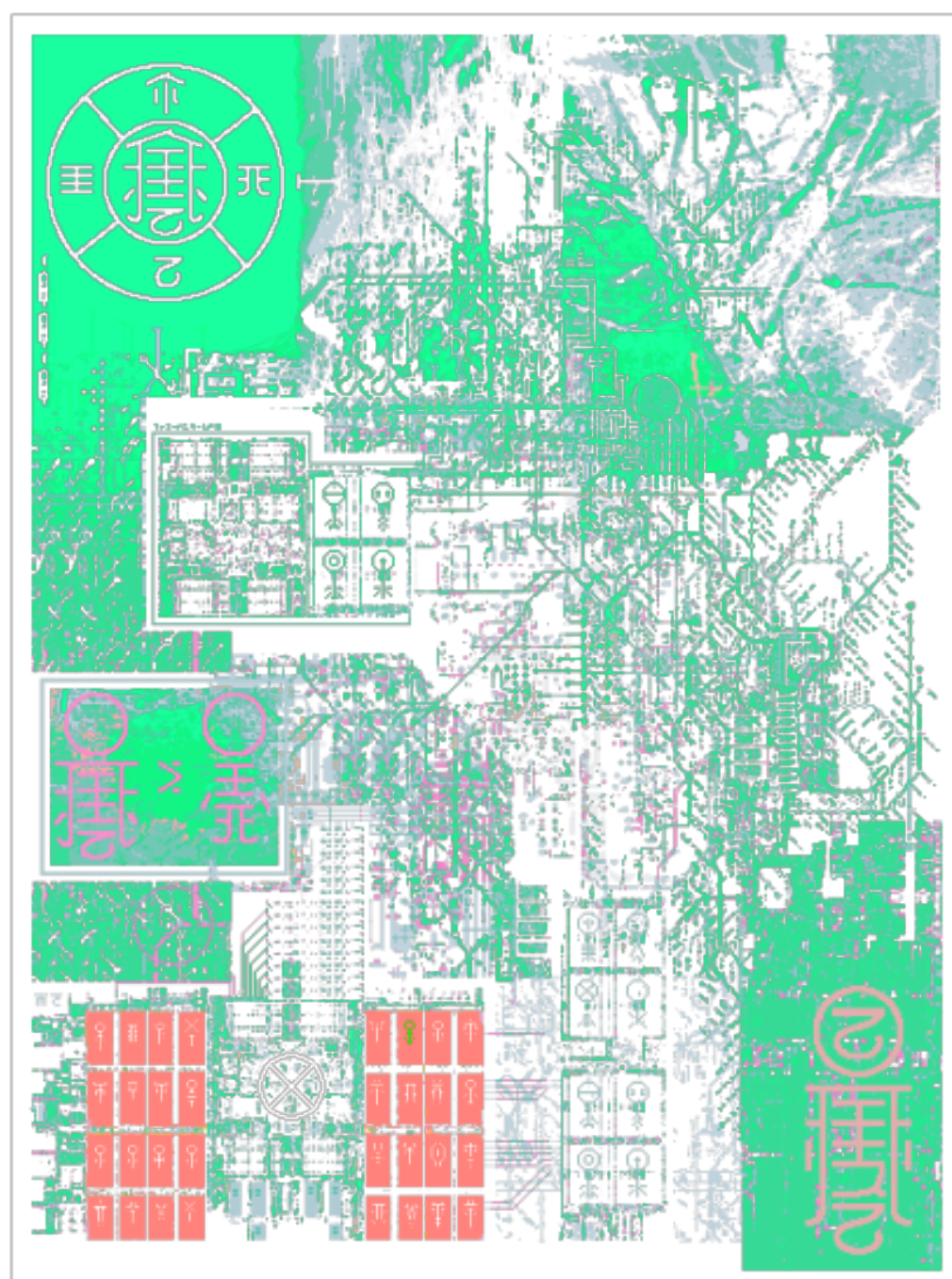
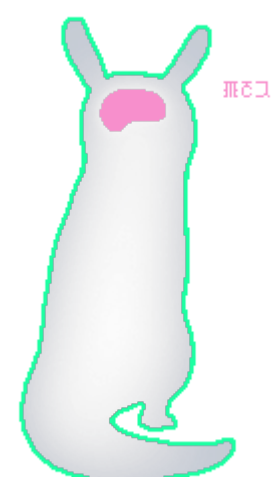
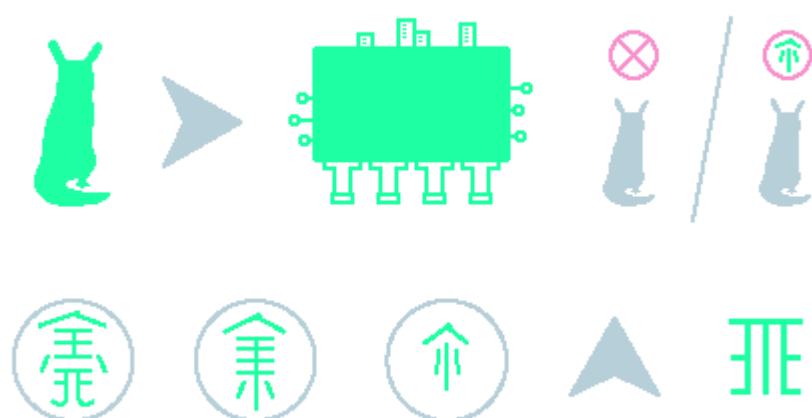
From the second glyph on the album art we can derive two other glyphs. The second glyph below appears to be a flipped K-Glyph 3



# FIVE PEBBLES' DIALOGUE

When you first meet Five Pebbles, he shows you several messages and pictures:







**NOTE: 5Ps' dialogue is almost certainly randomised and has no meaning, given randomisation of all other alphabet glyphs.**

## GUARDIAN GLYPHS

The guardians have above their heads what's called a "think-ring" in the files, a projection of a series of concentric rings containing a set of 8 unique glyphs.



In the game's files these eight glyphs are all numbered starting from 0, with the exception of the dot glyph designated as "-1". Because of how uncommon it is for a list to start from 0 unless it is a series of numbers, and how the dot glyph is designated with a hyphen / minus sign, one can conclude that these glyphs actually compose a base-7 number system used by the guardians. This makes the so-called "think-rings" a sort of abacus.

|   |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |       |       |
|---|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|-------|-------|
| • | -1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9  | 10 | 11    | 12... |
| - | 0  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12... |       |

← Negation symbol or hyphen?

In addition, the design of these glyphs hold similarity to the Cherokee syllabary and the Thai abugida. Though considering the asiatic inspiration in the game, it is more likely that the Thai abugida was the intended inspiration.

## GLYPH IMAGES

## K & C GLYPH ALPHABETS

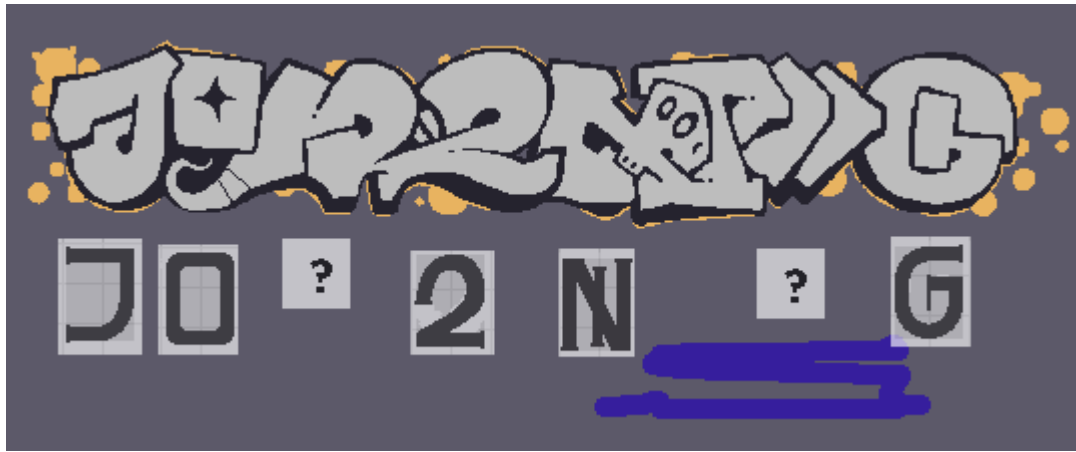
Middle section is a repeat of the first. K Alphabet has 14 characters, C has 20, plus O,  $\neg$  and . at the end.

大正五十二年五月二十日  
 X0200611A70ΔHG97JK7NO

UI SPRITESHEET (spritesheet for UI and various overlays, many unused)



## C GRAFFITI



Both Korean Inspired (K) & Cyrillic Inspired (C) Alphabets.



For ease of use, K 1 to 14 and C 1 to 20 can be used.

The second glyph set down is a combination of both, and can be found before the Outskirts>Industrial gate.

Note: The following glyphs are selected randomly by the level editor when placed and have no meaning.

| Glyph (K = Korean inspired)                                                             | Notes                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  K1    | Same as 2nd Karma Symbol                                                                                                                                  |
|  K2    | Wanderer Glyph                                                                                                                                            |
|  K3    | Monk Glyph                                                                                                                                                |
|  K4    |                                                                                                                                                           |
|  K5    |                                                                                                                                                           |
|  K6    |                                                                                                                                                           |
|  K7  | Dragon Slayer Glyph.                                                                                                                                      |
|  K8  |                                                                                                                                                           |
|  K9  | Same as 1st Karma Symbol                                                                                                                                  |
|  K10 | Martyr glyph(?)                                                                                                                                           |
|  K11 |  <p>Sky island variant bears similarities with final karma symbol.</p> |
|  K12 | Is repeated in lower half of Echo Mark                                                                                                                    |
|  K13 |                                                                                                                                                           |
|  K14 | Knowledge<br>Appears in Scholar alongside Wanderer                                                                                                        |



| Glyph (C = Cyrillic inspired)                                                           | Notes       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
|  C1    |             |
|  C2    |             |
|  C3    |             |
|  C4    |             |
|  C5    | Champion(?) |
|  C6   |             |
|  C7  |             |
|  C8  |             |
|  C9  |             |
|  C10 |             |
|  C11 |             |
|  C12 |             |

|                                                                                         |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
|  C13   |                |
|  C14   |                |
|  C15   |                |
|  C16   | Similar to K14 |
|  C17   |                |
|  C18  |                |
|  C19 |                |
|  C20 |                |

This documentation was made possible by

Dusara

SyzygySoldier

MyRightEyeOccasionally

Four Safes, Eleven Trees

Lancer

JeroenDStout

Streaks of Sunrise

Thirteen Boreholes, One Rhubarb

And many more!

- Axolittle / Gwyn