

'ST GEORGE BLESS MY SWORD AND PROTECT ME.'

Characters are superstitious with good reason – although adults can't see it, there really *IS* a hidden world that is a constant source of danger. Not the costumed monsters of high fantasy systems, but bad luck and disease that will kill you far more effectively.

HOW TO PLAY IT

It's down to you to play both the superstition and the bad luck (although we will help). Whilst its very tempting to say 'well MY character doesn't believe in that nonsense' we want to create an atmosphere where everyone *knows* that not praying before a battle will get you killed, and there is a sudden rash of facial warts amongst the players because someone *thought* they saw a ghost. Only the clergy can protect you!

EXAMPLES:

Eating a meal

Blessing required: a short prayer of gratitude to Jack in the Green, Phoebus, St Edmund etc.

What goes wrong if you don't? Food poisoning, family rows, burnt food at the next meal

Warfare

Blessing required: pre battle prayers to St. George overseen by a minister

What goes wrong if you don't? Roleplay a personal or group disaster in the midst of battle – fall on your backside when you are in danger, drop your weapon etc.

Obviously this is much worse if a whole company fails to get a blessing, collaborate with the refs to make something interesting happen!

A business adventure

Blessing required: a horoscope

What goes wrong if you don't? Your trade goods are lost at sea, stolen by bandits etc.

Medical matters

Blessing required: daily prayers, alchemical potions and or the wearing of amulets

What goes wrong if you don't? Wounds go septic, pregnancies have complications, death!

Seeing 'magic', seeing a spooky tree, seeing a ghost

Blessing required: exorcism, amulets

What goes wrong if you don't? Food spoils, cosmetic diseases from the makeup box of boils, warts etc.

Farming

Blessing required: seasonal pagan festivals, Morris men etc.

What goes wrong if you don't? crop failure, starvation, death!

Excommunicated

Blessing required: baptism, absolution or initiation into a pagan sect

What goes wrong if you don't? All other bad luck is worse, and members of the religious faction who excommunicated you will not knowingly help you, so the chances of bad luck are greater.

HOW TO SWEAR LIKE AN ENGLISHMAN

Swearing is an important part of your vocabulary! Whether it is for formal oaths of loyalty or honesty, expressions of fury and surprise, or just pure filthy minded blasphemy, it is the one area where you need to know a bit of theology.

Generally people pray to the saints and the roman gods of the planets (Jupiter, Mars, Venus etc.) as well as the sun and the moon, and in rural areas, the 'magical trees'

EXAMPLES

Formal: By the sun, the moon and all the saints

English Nationalist: by Jupiter, St Edmund and St George

Angry: By the steaming shits of Mars! Away with you, scallion!

Lewd: by the glowing spheres of Venus, s/he is a pretty fellow.

Rural: By Oak, Ash and Mistletoe

Northern (sectarian / secessionist): By Benedict's oath.

In front of the children: by Jack-in-the-green's breeches!

Intellectual: by the celestial emanations!