


BANSHEE



An excerpt from *Capta Impius*, the Zealot treatise on battling the spreading corruption of the Cataclysm.

The unholy energies unleashed upon the heathen through the meddling of power-mad conjurers have brought with them a dreadful variety of macabre abominations. Among the most disturbing of those are creatures whose existence defies the hallowed circle of life, those that have escaped the clutches of death and continue their existence as undead horrors.

Most such creatures are merely puppets animated by dark energies, maintaining only the outwards resemblance to the bodies of the deceased. While unnerving, these pose little threat to the honed blade of a Zealot. The true peril comes from those monstrosities that carry a trace of malign intelligence as their essence remains bound to this world, though twisted and distorted into a mockery of itself.

A Banshee or a wailing spirit is an apparition containing an essence of a soul that, at the moment of death, feels a great sense of injustice or being wronged. When such a passing occurs within immediate proximity of a source of corruption, be it a person, object suffused with the Taint or even an active eruption of the unholy energies – a phantasm appears, retaining the general appearance of the deceased, though ghostly and insubstantial in nature. Months after its conception it collects sufficient power to manifest itself and sets of wandering the land, drawn to other sources of corruption, avoiding the sun's rays, most likely to be encountered under cover of darkness or in places shrouded by constant gloom, such as natural caverns. When encountering another living being a Banshee launches into unprovoked aggression and is a dangerous foe.

A wooden effigy bearing the Sigils of Remorse may be constructed to ward the creature off, provided the Zealot is skilled in such crafts. A Banshee is known to be pacified and deterred by such creations.

Special care must be taken to avoid the Banshee's wail – its ceaseless moans and cries emanate an aura of insuppressible grief and plunges even the most valiant souls into despair and panic. Those whose spirit is particularly weak and susceptible may become enthralled with the spirit's lament and seek to adopt its plight, following the calls to share in its endless misery. Such souls usually do not offer resistance and are quickly drained by the Banshee, living but a husk of a body.

A Zealot's courage and resolve are the best defenses against the Banshee's wail. Call upon the Light of the All-Mother as you face this phantasm and envelop yourself in her blessed mercy, being as steadfast as a martyr in the face of mortal danger. Only those whose blade is true can suffuse it with the Light to strike down the spirit without succumbing to depths of despair. For being a shining beacon against the darkness of Corruption is the Zealot's duty.

Thus it was spoken and thus it shall be, in the name of Light.