

# Avalon Encounters



## Westbrook's Ring

By

Sean Wilt

A cursed ring seeks to overcome its own nature.

### Background

In ancient times, a few wizards practiced a form of magic known as soul magic. Rather than create items imbued with a bit of their own life-force or personal experiences, they ripped the souls of other beings into shreds, using one shred to create an item and then released the rest of the soul to live a tortured existence.

On rare occasions, someone would volunteer to have a piece of their immortal soul ripped away in exchange for favors or riches. Of course, he or she would not be able to enjoy them directly but an benefactor would be able to do so.

One apprentice wizard by the name of Yarith decided he was ready to do so. He used a simple charm spell to get a beggar to come with him until they were in the main laboratory. Late at night, he used soul magic in an attempt to create a ring of confounding. This ring was to be given to the relative of a rival. The ring would cause victim to lose an important duel and the apprentice's family would gain status and save the life of an important family member.

However, the apprentice didn't realize that the sacrificed individual's senses must be working in full condition. The charm spells effectively shielded the beggar from the full effects of the soul magic. His soul was ripped and the ring did have the curse of confounding but the personality of the beggar remained. Even worse (if the apprentice ever knew of it), the beggar was a former sage who disgraced himself by constantly issuing theories which did not coincide with the Guild of Sages. He was eventually banned from practicing any trade, so he had to rely on the kindness of strangers.

The beggar was forced to confound the fighting abilities of anyone who wore the ring. Yarith's victim, the Duke of Westbrook, accepted the ring, thinking it would aid in his fighting prowess. (Magic items were allowed in duels at this time). However, the duke of Westbrook missed his targets and he soon knew something was amiss. He figured out that the ring was cursed just before the fight. An idea came to his head. He proposed an alliance which too good to pass up. The duel was called off but the Duke wondered how he even came up with such an idea.



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