

The Truth Behind Rings of Power

(Written by Nathan J. Hill)

From the Desk of Bayando the Brainy

On This Day, 6 Years Since the Breaking

WITH THE LACK of proper information available to my colleagues across (what is left of) Anhelm, I am often the first sought out for the trustworthy answers to their burning questions. Wizards know that I possess much knowledge of things arcane and mundane. I have a reputation in this regard. When other wizards spent their summer breaks riding on dragons made of lightning or wooing the island girls of Lacya with their fiery magickal displays of manhood, I was reading, absorbing, and digesting the fabulous collection of books at the Magickal Mysterium Center for Intelligent Spellcasters.

Oh, even now, to think of it... how I miss it. What a treasure we have lost to the ravages of vile heathens and unbridled magickal power. Imagine if that vast repertoire of knowledge was available today! Such wisdom, such vision, such meticulously catalogued greatness - surely, we wizards would not be in the mess we are in now.

As to the matter at hand, the most common question I am asked in my tenure as Anhelm's

"brainiest", a title I most whole-heartedly welcome (*despite the misspelling of both my name and the title at the recent Council of Good's annual Awards Banquet*) concerns the nature of **magickal rings of power**.

For the uninitiated, **rings of power** offer a wearer small but potent increases in their ability to wield deadly and reality-shattering magick. For years, I have worn my air ring with pride and even used it once to turn the pathetic stone hurling of that neanderthal Gozdo away from a particularly well preserved 216th Edition Anhelm Encyclopedia of Plants and Pottery. Everything turned out fine, dear reader. I consult that Encyclopedia at least once every fortnight, and Gozdo learned a valuable lesson that day about the power of the wind (and gravity).

Magick itself is a chaotic and strange force. One of my teachers likened controlling magick to that of taming a wild Corsanthiumin wildebeest after a drought (no small feat indeed). With one wayward flick of the rest, or in the case of magick, moment of lost concentration, strange and terrible things happen. Rings of power are infused with this chaotic source of power. Thus, if you misuse them, strange, terrible, and embarrassing things happen.

Obviously, this doesn't stop idiotic wizards from ignoring such valuable wisdom passed down from their elders.

So what happens if you wear three or more Rings of Power?

Look no further than the sad tale of Lodocore the White, a dignified, well-learned wizard with just a little too much fear of rivals for his own good. Lodocore decided to attend the annual banquet of the Brotherhood of Spellcasters in Defense of the Eastern Shore Whistlesuck (*a beautiful and rare bird, once rumored to be infused with magick itself - alas, it is now extinct because foolish wizards tried to mount it upon staves, rings, and robes in order to gain its powers - now it is feared permanently extinct*). Lodocore unwisely wore three air rings of power that day in case his rival, Thotoro, dared to strike at him. After a short time at the ball, ripples of laughter and smirks spread throughout the banquet hall, for suddenly, Lodocore the White's pristine ivory robe turned brown in the nether regions. Yes, incontinence is one of the milder side effects of wearing too many rings of power.

The more potent effects can include dizziness, vomiting, sleeplessness, panic, bleeding, unbridled impatience, canker sores on one's feet, spontaneous belly expansion, shoulder imbalance, cracked knuckles, blindness, excessive mouth watering, forgetfulness, megalomania, inability to operate demonic entities, uncontrollable rage, and immediate disintegration (the most common of all side effects).

There have been rumors that wizards of the utmost ability can indeed wear more rings of power, but I declare that hogwash. Even if such a thing was possible, rings of power offer limited enhancements to a wizard's carefully crafted skill. There is little benefit to adorning yourself with gaudy instruments in the heat of battle - better to stay focused and lean, just in case you need to make a quick exit.

So, hear my words again. Wearing more than two rings of power is not only foolish - it can be deadly.

BY THE WAY, dear readers, if you do have extra rings of power, I am currently paying top gold for such rarities. See me at the Whistlesuck Preserve I am building near my elaborate and well-guarded tower. BtB.