

AARNI

"A spirit or dragon, which is believed to be lying atop buried treasure. Aarni is seen cleaning and polishing his mouldy treasures in forests and on hill-slopes; often he is heard clinking his gold crowns when he is favourable to some melancholic worshipper of money. [Aarni's] temple was a room in an ash-grove, where trees never sprouted leaves...birds did not sing on the branches; only a few ravens built their nests there. In the grove magpies cackled, wolves howled and owls hooted. Shepherds did not bring their flocks there, for the ground was unwholesome. The air was heavy in the grove's vicinity. At night strange apparitions were seen there."

- Kristfrid Ganander, Mythologia Fennica (1789 CE)

Description: An aarni may be encountered in dungeons or anywhere piles of seemingly abandoned treasure can be found. It resembles a large reclining morose man clad in tattered clothing, pallid of skin and somewhat grotesque of countenance, perhaps with oversized ears, hands and feet.

It typically pays no heed to its surroundings or other creatures present, being absorbed in counting and polishing its hoard - until someone gets too close to the treasure or otherwise acts in a threatening manner, which triggers the aarni's offensive special power of Dread. Brought to 0 HP, the aarni disintegrates in a puff of greenish copper mold.

Instead of slaying the aarni in combat, for those in the know there exists a more peaceful way of winning its hoard: offering the aarni a sacrifice of either a red cock (Judge discretion: a rooster or phallus) or three sheep heads. This sacrifice causes the thankful aarni simply to vanish, leaving its valuables behind.

Statistics: Init: +1; AC: 11; HD: 3D7; MV: 0'; SP: Dread twice per round, causes the target to perceive the aarni's face change into a demonic shit-yer-pants grimace rushing towards them (think of the library apparition in the movie *Ghostbusters*), doing 1d16 damage (Will save for half); immune to non-magical attacks; Saves: Fort +2, Ref -2, Will +2; AL N.