



# *Society of the Crimson Veil*

*Warlocks, The Hands of Doom, Nightstalkers*

*"Because I could not stop for Death -  
He kindly stopped for me -  
The Carriage held but just Ourselves -  
And Immortality."  
-Emily Dickinson*

## *History*

Throughout history, mankind has survived innumerable Acts of God. Countless disasters have pushed mankind to the brink of destruction; The Great Flood, the Tower of Babel, Sodom & Gamora. When man's reach exceeds his grasp, and his arrogance drives him towards that which is forbidden, catastrophe always follows. In the aftermath of these events, it is left to the survivors, often innocent bystanders, to pick up the pieces. To rebuild society.

At some point, in the mists of antiquity, a group of these survivors came to a realization: It is man's nature to reach beyond his means, and in doing so bring ruin upon his family. Mankind could not be trusted to moderate themselves, so someone had to do it for them. From these early tribes rose what would eventually come to be known as the Society of the Crimson Veil.

Dedicated to doing whatever it takes to protect mankind from itself, these early heroes lurked in the shadows, watching for signs that reality's fabric may be fraying. Using mystic rites developed over the ages, they would seek out those destined to bring great harm and eliminate them before they could do too much damage. Sometimes, this was as simple as having a conversation. Other times, more drastic measures were required. The creation of the Gobi desert, the fall of Atlantis, the burning of the Library of Alexandria, the

society of the Crimson Veil was present for all of them, although whether those catastrophes were the results of their effort or their failure, none in the modern day can say.

In modern times, the Society focuses most of its efforts on the Armageddon Compact, seeing its goals as critical to the survival of humanity.

## *Structure & Organization*

The Society of the Crimson Veil, as befitting an organization of its age and complexity, is layered with a many-tiered structure. Membership is divided into a series of councils and circles, consisting of individuals learned in manifestations of different schools.

Most new recruits begin at the bottom as Initiates of the First Circle within the Council of Darkness and discover new ranks as they advance. Membership through the Circles progresses as the Initiate ages, though the length of time needed to be elevated to the next Circle can span lifetimes. Positions in Circles can be earned through legacies, though that also depends upon the merit and contributions of their predecessors.

As each new recruit is brought into the organization, they are put through a grueling series of tests and trials, designed to evaluate their innate talents and abilities. From this test, each is assigned to one of the five schools of Magic: Mind, Matter, Motion, Silence, and Quintessence. The elders say each of the schools speaks to the heart of their practitioners, revealing their inner truth. Those newly designated to a given subject often comment on the seemingly arbitrary nature of such assignments. As they prove their worth to the society, as well as expand their mastery of magic, they increase in rank to Novice, Adherent, Master, and eventually Elder.

For example, a new recruit might introduce himself as Lord Ambrose, Blood Circle Novice of the Council of Darkness, in the School of Mind.

## *Philosophy & Goals*

Mankind can not be trusted to protect itself. Time and again, they have brought themselves to the brink of destruction. It is the Crimson Veil's aim to shepherd and protect humanity from the horrors that they might otherwise unleash. The warlocks seek out forbidden knowledge and hide it away so that it may not be abused by those without both the skill and the will to do so responsibly. That is not to say that those of the Veil are always the most discerning with their own use of these secrets. In every generation, there is always an aspiring adept who erroneously thinks themselves capable of using the secrets they have been trusted to safeguard. It is for this reason that the Society organizes itself into circles so that there are always those nearby willing to act as their brother's keepers.

Members of the Society of the Crimson Veil zealously seek out occult knowledge wherever they can. They often join other occult societies to surreptitiously monitor them for proscribed magic. When possible, they sabotage or confiscate occult texts. When not, they resort to more bloody-minded methods. Of course, each circle has its own threshold of when they feel it is appropriate to take a more heavy-handed approach. In the most extreme circumstances, multiple circles will come together to enact Bloody Concentricity, erasing an entire region from the face of history.

The highest honor of the Society is being invited to participate in the Armageddon Crucible. Those selected must ensure that the proper rites are performed and that the Hellmouth remains quiescent. The fact that occasionally those selected never return only increases the prestige of such assignments.

## *Sample Characters*

*Environmental Activist*

*Assassin*

*Necromancer*

*Expert Bloodmage*

*Loremaster*

*Thrall*

*Cleaner*

*Occult Investigator*

## *Granted Skill*

**Blood Magic:** You may design and lead Blood Magic rituals. Such rituals should be focused on the concepts of life, death, divination, or obfuscation. The performance of the rituals should invoke themes of blood, darkness, domination, or consumption.

## *Aesthetic*

Dark and mysterious, the Society of the Crimson Veil tends to one of two extremes. Some prefer loose and flowing outfits to leave their motion unrestricted while performing their arcane rites, while others swear by tight and form-fitting for much the same reason. Colors tend towards blacks and reds, with traditionalists wearing a veil or scarf of some variety. The following link contains images to give a feel for the aesthetics of a typical member of the Society of the Crimson Veil. Feel free to use this as inspiration when picking out your costume.

<https://www.pinterest.com/LandsEndGaming/society-of-the-crimson-veil/>