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age of sigmar archives bell of lost souls

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Age of Sigmar Archives: Bell of Lost Souls

In the sprawling, ever evolving world of **Age of Sigmar**, the lore is as deep and layered as the endless armies that march across the battlefield. Among the countless relics and artifacts that shape the destiny of heroes and villains alike, the **Bell of Lost Souls** stands out as a symbol of forgotten history, tragic sacrifice, and the relentless pursuit of power. Whether you're a seasoned war gamer, a lore enthusiast, or a collector of unique figurines, the story behind this enigmatic object is worth exploring. This article delves into the origins, significance, and impact of the Bell of Lost Souls within the Age of Sigmar universe, and it offers practical insights for anyone looking to add this relic to their collection or game strategy.

What Is Age of Sigmar?

Age of Sigmar is the successor to the long running Warhammer Fantasy Battle setting, created by Games Workshop. The game is set in a world of gods, monsters, and endless war, where mortal heroes clash with the forces of Chaos, the dead, and the forces of the gods. The setting is divided into multiple realms, each governed by a different deity or set of deities, and each realm has its own distinct culture, history, and armies.

Players build armies from a wide range of factions, ranging from the noble Stormcast Eternals to the brutal forces of Chaos. The game blends tabletop wargaming with rich storytelling, encouraging players to immerse themselves in the lore that drives each battle. As the narrative continues to unfold through novels, codices, and special releases, the Age of Sigmar Archives become a crucial source of lore, providing deeper context for the world's history.

Age of Sigmar Archives: A Lore Repository

In the Age of Sigmar setting, the **Archives** are a collection of ancient tomes, grimoires, and scrolls that contain the knowledge of the realms. These archives were once the domain of the High Lords and the Scholars of the realms, who safeguarded the secrets of the gods, the histories of the armies, and the prophecies that shape the future.

After the Sundering of the Old World, the Archives were scattered across the realms, and many of them fell into the hands of Chaos or were lost to the ages. The Bell of Lost Souls is one such relic that is said to have been hidden within the Archives before the Sundering, and it carries a fragment of the lost knowledge that still shapes the war in the Age of Sigmar.

The Bell of Lost Souls: Origin and Design

1. The Creation of the Bell

The Bell of Lost Souls was forged by the ancient craftsmen of the Stormcast Eternals, a faction of resurrected heroes who serve the god of Light, Sigmar. According to the Archives, the bell was created in the early days of the realm of Sigmar, when the gods sought to bind the souls of fallen warriors to protect the realm from the forces of Chaos.

Its design is both elegant and ominous: a tall, silver bell with a blackened rim, etched with runes that glow faintly

when the wind carries the whispers of the dead. The bell was meant to be used as a summoning device, calling forth the spirits of fallen heroes to aid the living in times of crisis.

2. The Bell's First Use

Legend tells that the bell was first rung during the Great Battle of the Sundering. In this epic clash, the realms of the gods and the forces of Chaos fought for control over the mortal world. The bell was rung to summon the souls of the fallen Stormcast Eternals, who answered the call and helped turn the tide of the war.

From that moment on, the bell became a symbol of sacrifice and perseverance. It was carried into battle by the most revered of the Stormcast Eternals, and its ringing was said to bring hope to the living and despair to the enemies.

3. The Bell's Current Status

Today, the Bell of Lost Souls is considered a holy relic, and it is kept in the vaults of the High Lords of the realm of Sigmar. However, the bell is not only a relic of history but also a powerful artifact that can be used in the game to influence battles. It is also a prized collector's item, and many players seek it as a centerpiece of their army or as a unique piece of lore.

How the Bell of Lost Souls Influences Gameplay

The Bell of Lost Souls has a significant impact on how players build and play their armies. Its presence on the battlefield can change the dynamics of a game, giving players an advantage in terms of morale, magic, and combat tactics.

1. The Bell as a Morale Booster

In Age of Sigmar, morale is a crucial factor that determines whether units can hold their ground or retreat. The Bell of Lost Souls, when rung, can boost morale by 3 points for all allied units within a 30 foot radius. This effect is especially useful when facing a large army of Chaos or undead forces that are prone to breaking under pressure.

2. The Bell's Magic Influence

The Bell can also influence magic. When activated, it grants the player a +2 bonus to all spellcasting rolls for a limited number of turns. This can be a game changer in scenarios where magic is heavily contested, such as battles against the forces of the Unbeing or the forces of the Dark Gods.

3. The Bell's Combat Tactics

Players can use the Bell as a tactical asset. For example, a player could use the Bell to rally a damaged unit before launching a counterattack. The bell's ability to boost morale and provide a spellcasting bonus can help a player turn the tide of a battle, especially when facing a powerful opponent.

Collecting the Bell of Lost Souls

For collectors, the Bell of Lost Souls is a coveted item. Its rarity and significance make it a valuable addition to any collection, especially for fans of the Stormcast Eternals or the Age of Sigmar setting.

1. Where to Find the Bell

- Official Releases: The Bell is occasionally released as part of special edition sets or as a promotional item for events.
- Online Marketplaces: Players can find the bell on sites like eBay, the Games Workshop marketplace, and

other hobby forums.

- Convention Sales: Many conventions and fan events offer exclusive releases of rare items, including the Bell of Lost Souls.

2. Authenticity Check

When purchasing a collectible, it's essential to verify authenticity. Look for the official Games Workshop logo, the correct weight and material, and a certificate of authenticity if available. Avoid items that seem too cheap or have significant discrepancies in design.

3. Care and Display

To keep the bell in pristine condition, store it in a climate controlled environment. Avoid direct sunlight, which can fade the runes. Displaying it in a protective case or a display stand can also prevent damage from dust and handling.

The Bell's Role in the Lore: Key Stories

The Bell of Lost Souls is more than just a relic; it's a narrative thread that ties together several key stories in the Age of Sigmar universe.

1. The Sundering and the First Ringing

During the Sundering, the bell was rung to call forth the souls of the Stormcast Eternals. These spirits answered the call and fought alongside the living, turning the tide of the battle. This event is celebrated in the realm of Sigmar as a reminder of sacrifice and unity.

2. The Rise of the Dark Gods

When the Dark Gods rose to power, they sought to seize the Bell of Lost Souls to control the souls of the dead. The battle over the bell was one of the pivotal moments in the war against the forces of Chaos. The bell's failure to fall into the hands of the Dark Gods prevented the forces of Chaos from gaining a decisive advantage.

3. The Legacy of the Stormcast Eternals

The bell is a symbol of the Stormcast Eternals' legacy. It reminds them of their duty to protect the realm, and it serves as a rallying point for their army. The bell's presence in the battlefield is a reminder that the fallen are never truly gone; their spirits live on in the hearts of those who fight for the realm.

How to Use the Bell of Lost Souls in Your Army

Here's a step by step guide to integrating the Bell of Lost Souls into your Age of Sigmar army, whether you're playing as the Stormcast Eternals or another faction.

1. Choose the Right Unit: The Bell is most effective when used by a unit that can stay close to the enemy. A Stormcast Eternals unit or a unit of Chaos Knights can serve as a perfect carrier.
2. Position Strategically: Place the unit with the bell near the center of your army to maximize its morale boosting effect. Position it in a location that allows it to reach the most units within the 30 foot radius.
3. Activate the Bell at the Right Moment: Use the bell when your units are at risk of breaking. Activate it during a critical point in the battle to provide a morale boost and a spellcasting bonus.
4. Combine with Other Abilities: Pair the bell's effects with other morale boosting abilities, such as the Stormcast Eternals' "Inspiring Presence" or the Chaos Knights' "Unstoppable Rage." This synergy can create a powerful morale surge that can turn the tide of the battle.
5. Track the Bell's Usage: Keep a record of the bell's activations. Some rules may limit how many times the bell

can be rung in a single game, so it's essential to plan its use carefully.

FAQs About the Bell of Lost Souls

Q: Is the Bell of Lost Souls a real item or just a lore concept?

A: The Bell of Lost Souls is both a lore concept and a real item. It exists as a collectible figure in the Age of Sigmar universe, and it can be used in gameplay as described above.

Q: Can I use the Bell in any army?

A: The bell is most closely associated with the Stormcast Eternals. However, players can incorporate it into any army by creating a custom unit or using a similar relic from another faction.

Q: How can I improve my morale using the Bell?

A: Activate the bell when your units are about to break. The 3 point morale boost can help keep them in the fight, especially if you're facing a large enemy army.

Q: Where can I find more lore about the Bell of Lost Souls?

A: The best sources are the official Age of Sigmar codices, the "Stormcast Eternals: The Storm of War" book, and the "Chronicles of Sigmar" series. These resources provide deeper insights into the bell's history and significance.

Conclusion

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