

You want high impact? Here you go. Selecting *Eighth Edition*

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- **Aaron Forsythe, Content Manager Archive**

Another solid week of voting has produced another batch of results in our [Selecting Eighth Edition](#) promo. In the battle of the three-mana artifacts, Ensnaring Bridge walks away as the winner over Static Orb. The Bridge has always had potential in Constructed, and I suppose players have had their fill of Static Orb with the recent rash of Opposition decks. Or maybe the Bridge is just cooler. On the art side, the Matt Wilson Telepathy from *Urza's Saga* beat out the newer art, making the tally 4-0 in favor of old art. Will the trend be broken? We'll see at the end of twelve weeks.

Which card should be in <i>Eighth Edition</i> ?			Which Telepathy art should be in <i>Eighth Edition</i> ?		
Ensnaring Bridge	4982	59.8%	<i>Urza's Saga</i>	4573	57.8%
Static Orb	3344	40.2%	<i>Seventh Edition</i>	3336	42.2%
Total	8326	100%	Total	7909	100%

Now that the FlavorOracle is up and running again, we're ready to start accepting submissions for flavor text for six cards that will appear in *Eighth Edition*. For four of the submissions, we want flavor text written by players, and for the other two we want to see real world quotes (more detail on that to follow). The first card up to bat is Aladdin's Ring, which debuted in *Arabian Nights* and has been in the base set ever since it was eligible in *Revised*. The *Eighth Edition* version will feature Dave Dorman's art that debuted in *Seventh*. We want *made-up text* for this card, so no real world quotes, please.

Rei Nakazawa, one of our creative people here, offers some tips to writing flavor text. Flavor text should:

- Be interesting, exciting, and appealing. Remember, this quote will be hanging around for at least two years, so you should do your best to put something good on it. In other words, be creative!
- Fit on the card. This is a very simple, obvious requirement that a lot of people forget about. Most writers tend to overwrite their flavor text. Be careful.
- Be appropriate to our audience. That is, keep it PG-13, okay?



- Be appropriate to the card it's on. After all, you don't want your card to end up being one of those made fun of because there doesn't seem to be any connection between it and the flavor text, do you?
- Not slight or make fun of the card's playability. No matter how bad a card might seem to you, *someone* might like it, and we don't want to insult those people.
- Not be a repeat of something we've already done. How do you know? Why, that's what the FlavOracle is for!

The creative team will whittle the entries down to about ten acceptable ones, and then those will be put to a popular vote. The winning text will appear on Aladdin's Ring in *Eighth Edition*! [Submit here!](#) One submission per person, please.

Moving right along... This promotion has sparked talk of what *Eighth Edition* will be like across message boards all over the Internet, and our mailboxes have been filling up with requests and questions regularly. One big concern of players seems to be the fate of Birds of Paradise, as typified by this email from Marvel S. of Jakarta, Indonesia:

"Since **Magic** players are allowed to participate in the 'Spend Your Summer Selecting *Eighth Edition*' program, I think it's ok to tell us whether Birds of Paradise will be reprinted or not. Rumors and speculations have run rampant throughout the 'Net with complete uncertainty and confusion for quite a long while. A reliable source of information and official confirmation from R&D is desperately needed. Thank you for your time and attention."

Well, the best answer as to Birds' fate seems to be... You tell us.

Either Birds of Paradise or Llanowar Elves will be getting the squeeze in the next rotation, and we've provided their potential replacements as part of the package. So what will be in *Eighth*, Birds of Paradise and Vine Trellis or Llanowar Elves and Utopia Tree? One green producer and one five-color producer, but which ones? How important is the ability to attack for one? Don't miss the opportunity to vote on this one, as it should shape Standard for years to come.

After all that, I admit the art vote is a bit of a downer, but hey, even the small decisions need made. Which version of Spined Wurm should appear in the next base set, Keith Parkison's from *Stronghold* or Carl Critchlow's from *Seventh Edition*?

[Vote](#), and then tell your friends to [register](#) and vote! All the relevant info is summarized on our [promo page](#). Don't forget to check back in a week to see which white enchantment wins (Noble Purpose or Orim's Prayer), and what new votes we have in store...

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