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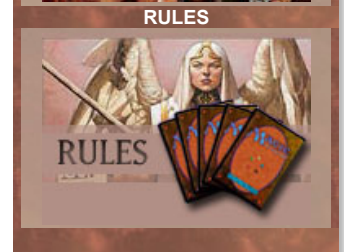
# Lexicon: *Time Spiral* Edition

Magic Arcana  
 Wednesday, December 13, 2006

Welcome to the *Time Spiral* edition of the [Lexicon](#), in which we explore the meanings of some of the more obscure words we use in the names of those cards. While many offbeat names in **Magic** (like "gnarr") are simply made up, we often dig around dictionaries for real little-used and archaic words for inspiration.

**as•ka•ri**  
*noun*

1. Arabic, Persian and Swahili word meaning "soldier."
2. A native African police officer or soldier, esp. one serving a colonial administration.



**ba•sal**  
*adjective*

1. Of, at, or forming the base.
2. Forming a basis; fundamental; basic.
3. *Physiology*.
  1. Indicating a standard low level of activity of an organism, as during total rest.
  2. Of an amount required to maintain this level.



**con•fla•grate**  
*verb*

1. Cause to start burning.
2. Start to burn or burst into flames.





**doom•say•er**  
noun

1. A person who predicts impending misfortune or disaster.



**nos•fer•a•tu**  
noun

1. A hideously ugly vampire.



**pen•tarch**  
noun

1. Member of a pentarchy.

pentarchy  
noun

1. a government by five persons.
2. a governing body of five persons.
3. a federation of five nations, each under its own government or ruler.





**pe•num•bra**  
noun

1. *Astronomy.*
  1. The partial or imperfect shadow outside the complete shadow of an opaque body, as a planet, where the light from the source of illumination is only partly cut off.
  2. The grayish marginal portion of a sunspot.
2. A shadowy, indefinite, or marginal area.



**phthi•sis**  
noun

1. A wasting away.
2. Pulmonary tuberculosis; consumption.



**sci•on**  
noun

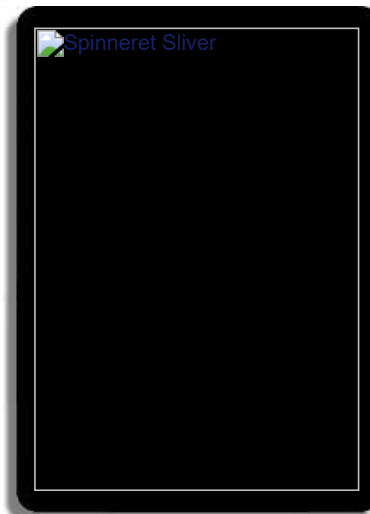
1. A descendant or heir.
2. A detached shoot or twig containing buds from a woody plant, used in grafting.





**spin•ner•et**  
noun

1. An organ or part by means of which a spider, insect larva, or the like spins a silky thread for its web or cocoon.
2. A metal plate or cup with tiny holes through which a chemical solution is extruded to form continuous filaments, as of rayon, nylon, or polyester.



**vis•cid**  
adjective

1. Having a glutinous consistency; sticky; adhesive; viscous.
2. *Botany.* Covered by a sticky substance.



Sources: [dictionary.com](http://dictionary.com); [wikipedia.com](http://wikipedia.com)



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