

Dragon Ember (Author Unknown)

This is a *longsword +1, flame tongue*. However, whilst many magic blades have a long and distinguished career, not so with 'Ember; six warriors/heroes have died horrible deaths while wielding this weapon, and many others have been seriously injured. It is featured in many a local legend (usually at the end of the legend when the hero dies) and has been well described in most of them. The origin of the blade is unknown to most (perhaps it may be found in some obscure tome); it was created by Aeldsar, the Emperor's wizard who created the weapon for his liege (it certainly was impressive to see the emperor leading his troops into battle, waving his flaming sword. It was less impressive when the emperor got shortened by a head's height by a barbarian and the sword, having fallen into the dry fields, created a blazing inferno that roasted half the empire's legions). The weapon has then been found and discarded by a number of heroes, each of whom has met with a bad end.

It must be noted that there is NO evil karma attached to the sword. If the heroes find Dragon Ember it will serve them faithfully and unflinchingly. However, given the bad reputation it has gained over the centuries few NPC's or henchmen will be willing to travel with the heroes so long as the hang onto that "accursed blade" the heroes may even be thrown out of towns if the blade is recognized. But in truth, the blame should fall more on the ineptitude of its users than the blade's abilities.

Dragon Ember has a hilt shaped like a salamander, which is covered with copper that never tarnishes (thus it remains reddish and does not become green). The eyes of the salamander (the head is the pommel, BTW) look as if gems could be set therein but they are empty when the PC's find it. When activated (by saying the sword's name) a fierce orange fire surrounds the whole blade; the "level" of this fire can not be modified (i.e it can't grow to bonfire size, or shrink to match-size. It's on or off). Its name is written on its blade in runic letters.