

Seeker In Brief

What Are Seekers?

Seekers are people who are devoting every day to the twin goals of improving themselves and understanding the universe. They must give up loyalty to any ideology or dogma in order to fully pursue improvement and understanding. This turns out to be a very powerful formula. Seekers are able to bypass the limitations that hold back regular people and achieve wisdom, insight and abilities that others might consider “superhuman.”

Who Are Seekers?

Seekers come from all walks of life, all backgrounds. Yet there are certain “traditions” that are more likely to propel a person onto the path of being a Seeker. Scientists, philosophers, mystics, shamans and monks, to name a few, are more likely to become Seekers. Yet there is no tradition guaranteed to create Seekers. The tradition a Seeker comes from tends to color his or her view of the things experienced on the path, and the language one might use to identify those things. Yet Seekers are no longer bound by the limitations and prejudices of their traditions. Each tradition is both a ramp onto the path of Seekerdom but also a barrier that one has broken through to become a true Seeker.

Why Do They Seek?

Seekers have many reasons for being on the path. Common reasons include: curiosity, love of learning, a desire to gain abilities that can be used to help people. Some are thrust on the path by circumstances beyond their control (e.g. a fugitive from the law, by virtue of having to give up his or her entire life, may become a Seeker). Other Seekers are driven by personal demons. It may seem paradoxical for someone whose life is dedicated, in part, to self-improvement to have such mundane problems as alcoholism or a bad temper, but for many Seekers it is the desire to defeat these demons that leads them to Seekerdom.

Where Do They Seek?

Seekers cannot stay in one place. They must be constantly exposed to new situations, and so this means being wanderers. Since few have dependable sources of income, most are reduced to walking, hitchhiking and other cheap or free means of transportation. Seekers’ wanderings may take them all over the world, but this volume focuses on the possible adventures of Seekers on the back roads and in small towns of the United States. As Seekers have a knack for running into interesting or challenging situations, the America they experience is darker, stranger, weirder, more dangerous and more amazing than the America most people know.

When Have Seekers Existed?

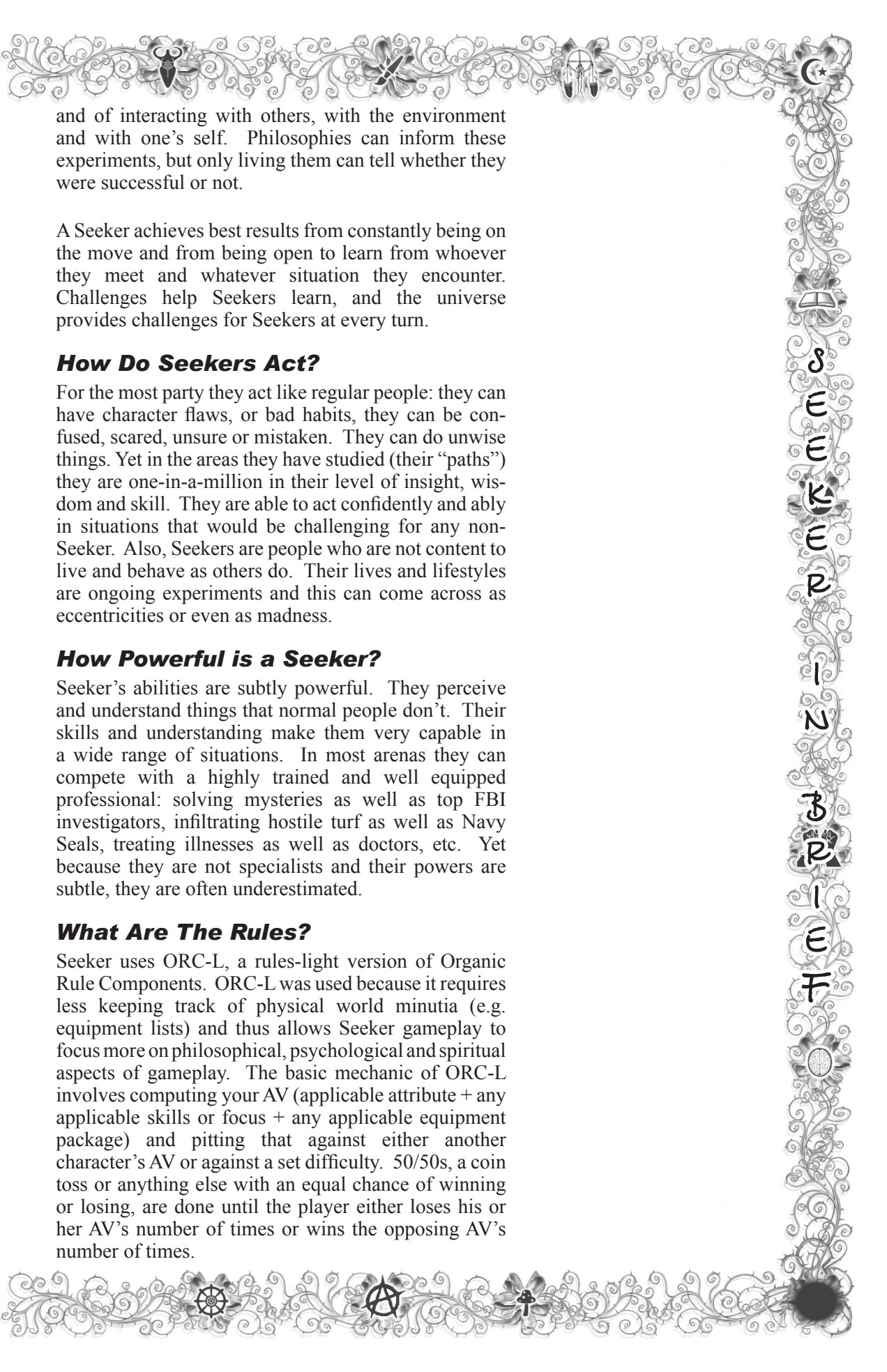
Seekers have been around as long as people have, but this volume concerns itself with Seekers of today. The modern world, with its ability to expose people to multiple ideologies and traditions, has produced more Seekers per capita than any other era of recorded history.

With Whom Do They Seek?

One of the coincidences that Seekers experience is that they run into each other. Often, Seekers find it useful to travel together for a time and learn from each other. Many adventures happen to Seekers while they share the road with other Seekers.

How Do They Seek?

No one source of wisdom can provide a Seeker with everything he or she needs. A teacher, a book, a self-imposed regimen of study are all things that can teach a Seeker, but each can only teach a Seeker so much and then the Seeker must move on. Yet knowledge without practice is useless. Seekers must live their wisdom, embody it in the day-to-day choices they make. A Seeker’s life could be said to be an ongoing experiment in ways of living



and of interacting with others, with the environment and with one's self. Philosophies can inform these experiments, but only living them can tell whether they were successful or not.

A Seeker achieves best results from constantly being on the move and from being open to learn from whoever they meet and whatever situation they encounter. Challenges help Seekers learn, and the universe provides challenges for Seekers at every turn.

How Do Seekers Act?

For the most part they act like regular people: they can have character flaws, or bad habits, they can be confused, scared, unsure or mistaken. They can do unwise things. Yet in the areas they have studied (their "paths") they are one-in-a-million in their level of insight, wisdom and skill. They are able to act confidently and ably in situations that would be challenging for any non-Seeker. Also, Seekers are people who are not content to live and behave as others do. Their lives and lifestyles are ongoing experiments and this can come across as eccentricities or even as madness.

How Powerful is a Seeker?

Seeker's abilities are subtly powerful. They perceive and understand things that normal people don't. Their skills and understanding make them very capable in a wide range of situations. In most arenas they can compete with a highly trained and well equipped professional: solving mysteries as well as top FBI investigators, infiltrating hostile turf as well as Navy Seals, treating illnesses as well as doctors, etc. Yet because they are not specialists and their powers are subtle, they are often underestimated.

What Are The Rules?

Seeker uses ORC-L, a rules-light version of Organic Rule Components. ORC-L was used because it requires less keeping track of physical world minutia (e.g. equipment lists) and thus allows Seeker gameplay to focus more on philosophical, psychological and spiritual aspects of gameplay. The basic mechanic of ORC-L involves computing your AV (applicable attribute + any applicable skills or focus + any applicable equipment package) and pitting that against either another character's AV or against a set difficulty. 50/50s, a coin toss or anything else with an equal chance of winning or losing, are done until the player either loses his or her AV's number of times or wins the opposing AV's number of times.

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