

# Trumar

*“We were born as slaves, but here in this new world, we have found freedom!”*



## **General Description:**

The Trumar are a race of slaves, created by the Imperials to serve their every need. They were created to be a free labor force, house servants, and even those who were created to be works of art. This is the life of the Trumar, the life of a servant, slave, and property.

Their creation came when the Imperial's found that they had a shortage in general labor. Too many men and women died in the Revenant Wars and the infrastructure started to break down, food shortages, homes fell in disrepair, shops stood empty. A wizard named Tramus Dorune had found a way to summon and give form to raw elemental power, creating whole new breed of creature. He used some sort of power that supposedly came from the World Tree itself, though that was never confirmed. He had just received permission from the Senate to experiment on criminals when the idea occurred to him. What if he made a race that breed quickly with large numbers, had relatively small life spans, and was willing to serve unconditionally. A mix of elemental and human to start but after that the race would be on its own. Many of the strangest monsters of the world originally came from these experiments, monstrosities of magic all with the base in one natural element or another. Most were tossed within the Great Seal and forgotten. One rainy day he found success, he was able to magically blend an element with a human, but first he started with the common canine. Then he created a collar that will stabilize the mutation,

finally he merged the elemental magic and the animal with both a male and female prison inmates. Changing their bodies and infusing them with energy. The two were able to start having 'litters' soon after, and so the Trumar were born, a hybrid between canine, elemental, and human, the perfect servant race for the Imperials.

Since that day many Trumar have cursed their 'fathers' and 'mothers' existence. They are considered less than indentured servants in most cases, after all indentured servants are 'human' and Trumar are not. No the Trumar are less than indentured servants, they are 100% property, able to be given away, sold, lost, killed, beaten, thrown into the Great Seal, or anything else an Imperial wants without even a passing thought. But they were never broken, they adapted, learned from what they are and have grown to become something more. They built a culture to support each other and they endured the abuse while always dreaming of being truly free. When everyone else forgot the death of a lowly Trumar, their people didn't, they celebrate their fallen brother's life. It is because of this comradely that Trumar consider all other Trumar as part of one big family, one massive culture that loved each other unconditionally and support each other no matter what.

In the past the Trumar's Phoenix stones were sold (or acquired) by their masters. After all they didn't need them. This created a major industry where the elite would have hundreds of stones making them close to immortal. They would drain every Trumar in their keep or pay large sums of gems to anyone who had Trumar Phoenix stones to share.

The Trumar endure as the lowest of the low for untold centuries, until the day everything changed. One day when the High Priest Solarian found that the Trumar had true living souls, a soul that could be touched and enlightened. This news sent shockwaves through the Imperials, most wouldn't accept it. But if the Church of the Holy Light said that the Trumar have developed a soul then they could no longer be killed outright. All Imperial's had to modify the way they handled these creatures. While it was okay to beat and abuse one they couldn't outright kill them. It was also illegal to forcefully take Phoenix Stones, the Trumar had to be truly willing, the Phoenix Stone industry collapsed quickly.

While this news never freed the Trumar it did raise them from the depths of the sewer to that of a slave. They had no hope for freedom but they did have some rights that none could take away. Because of this it became common for a disobedient slave to be tossed in the Great Seal instead of being dealt with, after all now that the Phoenix Stone industry is gone their cost is at an all time low. It's easy to just get another one.

### **General Culture:**

The Trumar are a family, every single one of them views each other as brother and sister. Children are referred to as son and daughter, those who are older are father and mother, and those few who become elders and live to be old are grandmother and grandfather.

This is a community that shares everything with each other, after all what could they have that they wouldn't give to their brother when he needed it. Sharing material positions is a fact of life between the Trumar, and should one be in need of help a Trumar will always be there for them, after all no one else will be. This is the cultural bread and butter of the race. They share, and support, they remember for no one else will be there in the end.

It is because of this that the Trumar completely devoted to each other and their community. There is no exceptions to this, for a Trumar who turns his back on his family is worthless and will

be cast out. They would be dead to the family with little hope ever to be let back in. In the extremely rare case this happens, the Trumar will ignore the person completely and will consider them and anything they touch as Unclean.

Trumar age very quickly, reaching maturity in three years. As such age is not very important in general, but a grandfather who makes it to twenty is rare enough that they are treated with reverence. They are elders of their community and many times the younger ones will defer to their elders. Overall there is no real leader other than 'Master'. If one started to rise then the Imperials would quickly dispatch them. While there is no specific master, many communities will pick one of theirs to act as the Shepard. This person holds only the power that others give them, but the Shepard is typically the one who puts themselves into harm's way by being a liaison between the Imperials and a specific community. If the Shepard pushes too hard they are cast into the Seal, if they learn how to deal with the Imperials, sometimes, just sometimes, they are able to help the community suffer less.

One cannot talk about culture without referring to the Imperials. They have the most impact on the Trumar's life. All Trumar are born slaves. There is no free Trumar in the world. Those who are born inside the Seal suffer and die without their collars. Only those gathered from other Trumar who have died their final death are given life. The collar keeps their form stable, without it they suffer a painful death as their body returns to its elemental form purging the human and canine beings within them.

The Imperial's view Trumar as slaves, sometimes they will treat them well but it's the same way that a Master treats his favorite hound. The Imperial's view the Trumar as a tool to be used. If that tool is broken it should be cast away. You may like the tool, you may cherish it and want nothing to happen to it, but can you really love a tool? They view the Trumar, deep down, as just elements that were given forms so they can serve. To see a fire free from the hearth is the same as being the one who burned down the house. It's better for them to be kept safe so they don't hurt others. This constant view of the Imperial's has its effects on most Trumar. After all they know they were created. They know that without the Imperial's they would be nothing. Why not serve? While deep down many have rebellious thoughts those are typically driven very deep.

Tramus Dorune did his work well when he created the Trumar. One thing he did was give them a symbiotic relationship with the Imperial's. This relationship helps both, but if the Trumar do not bond with their master a Sickness will grow. It's slow at first, but gets worse and worse till they are engulfed. The stages of the Sickness first are mood swings. Then after a few months it's hard for the Trumar to keep his anger in check. Many times they will give into this, this is called the Rage. After sometime in this state the Trumar will become very sick and will start to lose the ability to heal. The good news is there is ways to keep the Sickness off, it's whispered but believed to exist. It's said some herbs will help, but it's not something that the Trumar want the Imperial's to know about.

### **History:**

The history of the Trumar started with two inmates known as Mularus and Arania. The two didn't know each other and each had committed several crimes before being caught. Mularus was a warrior who refused to fight for the Imperial generals. He said he would not take an innocent life, and as such he was sentenced to be tossed with the Seal. Arania was a thief, a good one, who specialized in taking money from the rich and typically would use that wealth to help her very large family of orphans. Both were to be tossed into the Seal and forgotten but a Wizard named Tramus Dorune intercepted them.

This wizard was taking large numbers of prisoners and experimenting on them. While the church didn't like this practice he agreed that he wouldn't kill them and they might in fact serve the Empire. He took these criminals in, gave them a new place to live, feed them and let them wait till he was ready. It was raining the day Mularus and Arania were brought within the lab. The thunder shook the lab but Tramus was undeterred. He first worked on Arania, infusing her body with magical energy then introducing two different elements, each fused within her. To his amazement it worked! Arania survive the initial transformation, but he had to be able to make a race that could breed true. That is where Mularus came in, using the same method and a different set of elements he transformed Mularus into this new hybrid. And that is when the Trumar were born. Once the two had merged with the elements, Tramus used the soul and essence of a canine split between the two which locked them into this hybrid state. Finally he placed a stabilizing collar around each ones throat which finalized the merger. In the end two new living elementals were created.

After the first few litters were raised Tramus Dorune finalized the magical enslavements upon the race and started to sell them to the Empire as cheap labor. While they still had a 'free will' the merging of elemental and human was said to of made them intelligent animals, they were not human at all anymore. Overall the human part was just to help the function in a 'human' world. Tramus Dorune and his family became wealthy beyond their wildest dreams.

But much is not known by the Imperial's in regards to the first two, the Great Grandmother and Great Grandfather of all. The magic that transformed them also gave them some sort of immortality since they were the merging of two raw elements. It caused their body to stop aging. Most of the Trumar speak in private and beg the gods to let them die, mainly Arania who is said to be the direct mother of thousands upon thousands of children. Malarus is said to of been lost long ago, though many believe he was thrown within the Seal.

The rest of the Trumar have endured. At the beginning, most Imperial's were scared of what the Trumar would do, they didn't trust them. As time went by, generation upon generation they relied on them to do everything. The Imperial's grew to love their 'pets', yes they were treated badly, they were disciplined (tortured) for not listening, those who tried to run away or were too rebellious were killed. It was the way of things. During those days the Trumar had all of their Phoenix Stones harvested, after all why would animal's need Phoenix Stones. Most believed the Phoenix Stones that were created when they were born were just the result of the magic that created them. Selling these stones was a major market for their masters, though most would just take these for themselves. Under Imperial law reading and writing for their slaves was illegal, so was unlawfully owning a Trumar, mating with them, treating them in any way other then what was 'appropriate'. It became a social faux pas to display any affection for a Trumar other then that which you would have for a favorite pet and even that was limited. Most of the Trumar kept their eyes cast down since many of their mastered viewed eye contact as a sign of willfulness to rebel. Rebels were never treated well, examples had to be made.

It was a bleak existence, but then High Priest Solarian came along. He was a good man who treated his Trumar well, most of the time he tried to teach them a simple game of chess, when his pets learned it and mastered it way quicker then he could of imagined he started to think there was more intellect and 'humanity' in them then was known. So he started to dig further. He started to pray asking for guidance and that is when it was revealed to him that the Trumar do in fact have a soul. Such a revaluation sent shockwaves throughout the Empire. The High Priest of the Holy Church of the Sun was difficult to fight against, and while Solarian was disposed shortly after he made the announcement the seed was planted and over the next several

generations the way the Trumar were treated changed. They were no longer killed outright, and generally torturing them was against the law. But they were cast with the Seal for just about anything. To compound this, their Phoenix stones were considered sacred and could no longer be taken. This one change gave many of the Trumar a new sense of pride. Even though High Priest Solarian was an Imperial, many Trumar have a sacred place in their heart for him. This turning point raised them from 'pets' to slaves. While that would seem less, it meant that the Imperial's started to view them as more than just an animal. While they were not given anything more they were treated better. Many communities adopted 'Shepherds' who the Imperial's seemed to listen too.

Now the Trumar still suffer under the Imperial rule, but they are treated way better overall. Some have found a strange affection for their masters, a desire to help them, some still look towards rebellion. Overall though the Trumar have a place in the world and their place is defined by the Empire.

### **Physical Appearance:**

The Trumar appear to be a mix of elemental and human. They have extra-long ears that show the markings of their heritage.

They must also always wear their collar. There is no known way to remove it. If it was removed they would probably die.

### **Costume Racial Suggestions:**

Trumar are dressed based on their purpose. Each Trumar typically follows a specific purpose. While their element doesn't require that, some tend towards specific things.

Burden- Tend to wear farmer or utilitarian cloths. Tend to be Earth.

Pets- Tend to look prim and proper and dressed to be flashy. Tend to be Fire

Seekers- Tend to be in all dark colors to help with hiding while hunting prey. Tend to be Air.

Provide- Tend to be in rags or anything found laying around. Tend to be Water.

Domestic- Tend to be dressed like house servants. Tend to be Earth.

### **Religion:**

Trumar have a mixed relationship with religion. In most of their history they had a hard time believing that any god would put them in restraints like this. But with the declaration of High Priest Solarian for them, they found a fondness for the Church of the Sun. Though the concept of their natural order being at the bottom does not resonate well with them.

Most Trumar tend to be dedicated to their community and race in such a strong way it could almost be considered a religion. That doesn't mean that they wouldn't follow one, it's just harder for them to accept. But if their master demands them to act like they follow one, they will.

### **Great Seal:**

Trumar are thrown into the Great Seal for a variety of reasons. Most often it's because they did something wrong and they were no longer useful to their master. It is easier to just dispose of them instead of dealing with the bureaucracy of having them transferred to someone else, most of the time a 'broken' Trumar isn't worth much. Other reason could be that their Imperial master is convicted of some crime that warrants them to be thrown into the Great Seal, many times when

this happens all of their Trumar are disposed of too (unless they can be acquired by someone before hand), sometimes though a Master can elect for his servants to 'volunteer' to take punishment for them if they have enough power. The general idea is that the Imperial lose their property as punishment, but this slave race is so plentiful that losing a few doesn't really hurt the bottom line.

Most Trumar in the Seal have a hard time dealing with their new 'freedom' and are typically captured or surrender too Imperials there. Those that don't usually succumb to the Sickness and become crazed with anger. These pitiful Trumar typically are unable to be saved since they would not willingly bound with an Imperial.

### **Customs and Holidays:**

Because of their communal lives, celebrations are very important. They try to celebrate anything that they are given leave too. Most of the time celebrations are done in private with just other Trumar, unless of course the Imperial's are feeling generous.

New Life- When a new Trumar is brought home for the first time as a child there is a great celebration. It's a mix of blessings from the Grand Fathers and Grand Mothers of the community and the Shepard of the community will whisper (called the Whisper) a desire for the new Trumar to do in their life. Such as please their master or help the community. It's said that this Whisper gives the new Trumar a purpose in their life. While they don't remember exactly what was said most Shepards say that the Trumar grows into an adult following the Whisper without knowing it.

Death- The loss of a Trumar either to the Great Seal or final death is a time of mourning. The Trumar will tie a black ribbon within their hair to remember the one they loved. Many will wear this and others from that point on, though most will wear it till they feel they can set their mourning aside.

Joining- Because the nature of the slave is to be sold as property most Trumar do not enter into binding marriage as the Imperials do. But they do Join with someone. When they join with someone they love they are declaring to their community that this person (or in some case people) are their life blood. From that point on those Joined speak as one in the community. This is a very interment bond, and most become mated pairs. While it does not need to be an intimate physical relationship, most of the time it is. When a Trumar declares that they are Joined they will go before the whole community and declare it openly. Typically they will not exchange anything physical because physical things can be taken from them; instead they will whisper a secret never before told to their Joined mate.

Celebration of Imperial Holidays- Most Imperial holidays are enjoyed by the Trumar. They usually have to work harder those days to prepare for the feasts and keep their masters happy, but most of the time it will end with them getting a better meal or some time to themselves.

The Leaving- When a Trumar is sold from one master to another and they leave the community this is almost the same as them dying. If they have a chance to talk to the one leaving then they celebrate their time together. If not then the community will come together to remember the ones that left. Most of those in the community will tie a yellow ribbon on themselves to symbolize their thoughts of the one who left. Most of the times till the community member feels like they can let go. It is not uncommon for twenty or so ribbons to be worn after a large sale. Of course, Masters sometime get annoyed by the 'Trumars' silly customs and may force them to remove the

ribbon. When this happens the ribbons are tied around something that reminds the community of those lost.

### **Family Structure:**

Trumar are typically bred with others of their same element. When a female is pregnant they are brought to a 'Breeding Pin' and locked up till the baby is born. Once born the mages in attendance lock on their collar which will grow with them as they age. This collar is used to stabilize their form.

Overall there is no solid parental family unit. A new Trumar is given back to the community, assuming he/she is not sold. Most are sold since new Trumar are pretty expensive. Once handed back to the community, even if they are given to their parents, the community completely raises the young. After all everyone has work to do, so most take turns raising them. The bond is with the community, not with the parents.

Overall a family is the community. Every Trumar is considered a sibling, no matter their parents, they call to each other as Brother and Sister. Older Trumar are called Mother and Father and really old Trumar are given the honor of Grandfather and Grandmother. It is a sign of respect to call someone Mother, Father, Grandmother, or Grandfather. Any Trumar who comes together will naturally follow this. There is nothing one Trumar won't do for another. If one Trumar broke the masters vase, all Trumar would claim responsibility so that the punishment is shared and typically less severe than it would be for the lone slave. When it comes to Trumar and others, overall if you mess with one Trumar you mess with all. While they typically do not have the power to fight back, they will do everything they can to support and help their own kind. If they could, they would come to the fight for their family.

Since all Trumar view other Trumar as their family, they are hurt the most when one of their family turns on them. This is extremely rare; to the point most wouldn't believe it. But if it happens the Trumar will cast the member from their community by turning their back to them. From that point on they are Unclean. It takes an extreme act for this to happen and an equally extreme act for them to return. Typically this is decided upon by the community as a whole. It usually has to be unanimous.

### **Courtship Rituals:**

The Trumar do not typically 'marry' or even really court. It's too easy to get hurt and the closeness of the community makes it hard not to look at everyone with equal love. BUT romantic love can happen. When it does typically the two (or more) will call to be Joined. This is normally considered a 'for life'. This joining is more than just a physical thing, it is an emotional and spiritual commitment.

Typically Joining with someone is done over time, you have to truly get to know someone before you can truly be Joined with them.

### **Why Play One:**

This race is truly made for someone who wants to be part of a community and wants to explore the struggles of being a part of the underclass. The struggle is internal. If they rebel and go against the Imperial's they will slip into madness and die. If they bind with an Imperial they are

their slaves and the Imperial can harm them. If they do neither they are stuck spending resources to make an antidote. Assuming they can find one.

This is difficult, BUT their life is bleak and it takes a hero to find a way to save them. It won't be easy, but maybe the Trumar race can be saved. Maybe they can cast of those bindings and be truly free. It won't be easy and it will take a whole community working together to do it.

### **Roleplay Notes:**

Always speak in the third person. Trumar never refer to themselves as 'I' in public. Doing so has been beat into them since birth. Talking to someone in the first person is done only in intimate settings, doing it outside your community is the same as peeing in public in front of everyone. It's indecent and feels wrong. When it's done all other Trumar have a hard time not feeling offended. Now in private with other Trumar it is appropriate to refer to yourself as I, but many don't even do this.

People may try to treat you as equal for OOG reasons, after all they may have a hard time treating someone as underneath them. When this happens it makes Trumar feel uncomfortable since it's almost like they are mocking them. It is hard to accept that a non Trumar really wants you to be an equal. Many times Imperials will act like that until they can claim the Trumar as their own, after all they gain power from it. Then once they have Bonded with the Trumar they then use them. This happens ALL the time. Trumar should ALWAYS feel uncomfortable with being treated like an equal. It's part of the magic that made them and part of the culture that they have live in.

Some Trumar try to be rebels. The problem is that when one rebels it can hurt the community as a whole. Even in the Seal the Trumar are typically considered slaves to be captured and used. There are feral Trumar who have given into the Sickness which causes no end of suffering for the community. Their magical bonds sometimes makes them need an Imperial to keep off the Sickness. This makes playing a free Trumar difficult at best, but possible. It's not an easy life, sometimes it's easier to submit. Of course the best things in life are not typically easy.

### **Special Relationships with Other Races {friends or enemies}:**

Imperials- These are the masters. It's a love / hate relationship. Many victims of abuse come to love their captors. This is typically the case for most Trumar. They find themselves needing the Imperial, these masters give them their food and water, they take care of them. In exchange all they ask is for their loyalty. Of course many secretly despise the Imperial for doing this to them. Love or Hate, it's hard for a Trumar to ignore an Imperial.

Dragonlords- This race does not take Trumar as a slaves. The Dragonlords were originally the ones who found the antidote that keeps the Sickness from consuming them. But they never found a way to heal it.

Most of the other races are not specifically important to the Trumar, they do as their masters command and hate who they are told to hate.

### **Special/Famous Groups:**

The Affectus- This is a sub group within the community usually based around entertaining their fellow Trumar. The Imperials sometimes find their 'folk music' interesting and will make them

play songs, but most songs are stories of difficult times meant to pass on a meaning that is lost to most of their masters. But most of the time they play lively music with the hope to raise the spirits of the Trumar and help them endure. This group does not have any specific requirements or structure, any Trumar can join it. When they are there they consider it their responsibility to help motivate and lift the spirits of their people.

The Mooriam- This is said to be a group of Unclean Trumar who have joined with the Imperials as slave masters. Almost none of the Trumar believe this is a real thing, but they tend to talk about it as if it was something that would take you in the streets to taint your soul.

### **Special/Famous Individuals:**

Mularus- He is said to have been a great legionnaire but he refused an order to take an innocent life. This act stripped him of his rank and had him bound for the Great Seal. Unfortunately for him, he was experimented on and transformed into the first male Trumar. This act is said to have made him immortal merging his spirit with the elemental essence of the world itself. No one really knows what has happened to him, most say he was tossed into the Seal early on and has been largely forgotten. He is referred to as Great Grandfather.

Arania- She is the alpha mother of the Trumar. Once she was known as one of the best thieves. Based on common folklore she would steal from rich Senators and give that money to an orphanage she supported. There is not much known about her. It is said she is still used to breed large numbers of Trumar each year. Most Trumar secretly pray that she will find relief and die soon, but no one can confirm if she is alive in the Empire or has been cast in the Seal. She is referred to as Great Grandmother.