Creeping Darkness



Evocation, Shadow

Level: 5 Range: 240 yds. Components: V, S, M Casting Time: 5 Duration: 3 rds./level Area of Effect: 30 cu. ft. Saving Throw: None

This spell creates a small, amorphous cloud of inky blackness (about $2 \ge 3 \ge 5$ feet). The cloud can be shaped and moved as desired by the caster throughout the duration of the spell if he maintains concentration upon it and does not move it beyond spell range. It has a movement rate of 6.

The blackness can seep through the smallest cracks and float in the air, as desired. The cloud is impenetrable to all types of vision except a true seeing or similar spell. It also blots out all sound within the cloud (20% chance of miscasting spells with verbal components by spellcasters encased by it).

The blackness is susceptible to wind. The area of effect is reduced by 1 cubic foot and the duration by one round for every 5 m.p.h. of wind. While concentrating on the spell, the wu jen can normally move no more than 3 per round.

The material components for this spell are a whisker from an old black cat and a tiny bottle of smoke captured on a moonless night.

Notes: Common in oriental settings; very rare elsewhere.