

Nusileidžiantis slenkstis

It means 'The Descending Threshold' in Lithuanian. Why Lithuanian? Because that's the closest language we have to Proto-Indo-European. That's made it *the* premiere sorcerous tongue of the 21st Century AD, at least among European/American occultists. Using Lithuanian syntax and pronunciation isn't *quite* the same as using the original, but it's a lot closer than using Gothic, Latin, Greek, or Sanskrit would be. The increase in spell efficiency and potency is undeniable.

At any rate, *nusileidžiantis slenkstis* (usually truncated to 'slenk') is half a ritual, and half a spell component. The ritual can only be cast on the evening after the autumnal equinox (if in the Northern Hemisphere; a similar ritual in the Southern Hemisphere can be performed after the vernal equinox). The slenk ritual itself is somber but not necessarily grim: it does require the presence and destruction of a dead thing, but careful experimentation has shown that a dead houseplant will do perfectly well when it comes to producing slenk. Some of the nastier unconstructed cults out there might decide to get their slenk via more atrocious means, but they don't have to. They just *want* to.

And what is slenk? It's a rubbery goop that smells aggressively of chill, damp, and wet leaves. It's also a magical accelerant: adding slenk to an enchantment or potion can dramatically intensify its effect, usually at the cost of how long that effect lasts. If you drink a slenk-laced potion of speed, for example, you'll go *very* fast... for about one-tenth the time a normal portion might last.

This particular property makes slenk *extremely* useful for medical magic; curing wounds and illnesses in a second is exactly what healers want to see in their spell ingredients. There are only two problems. First, slenk is very expensive, because it can only be made once a year in a particular location and everybody wants a bag of it afterward. The second problem is, you can't transport it via magical means, since it'll all get used up in transit to make the transportation spell go better. Sure, you can shield slenk from being tapped by the spell, sort of -- but these days, it's usually easier and cheaper to instead use a mundane vehicle for transport.

Here's the keys. We need it delivered by 9 AM tomorrow morning. Oh, and watch your spell use. Like I said, this stuff's a little *volatile*.

- © Moe Lane. All rights reserved.
 - <http://www.moelane.com>
- <https://www.patreon.com/MoeLane?ty=h>