

# Game Mechanics for Poughkeepsie

The unique nature of Poughkeepsie requires some special rules. Generally, celestials are barred from using most of their supernatural abilities while inside the Poughkeepsie Bubble. It's not *supposed* to be a great place for angels and demons to visit.

## Corporeal Form

Celestials and ethereals may not switch vessels while inside the Bubble. Unnatural vessels cannot be operated at all. They do have access to their Characteristics, but their Vessels take one Body Hit per day, and cannot be healed by either natural or supernatural means. However, neither restriction applies to Kyriotates of the Sword, as they are using actual human bodies as vessels.

## Ethereal Form

The Vale cannot be accessed from the Bubble. Servitors of Dreams and Nightmares can manipulate their own dreamscapes, but cannot visit other ones.

## Celestial Form

Cannot be manifested or maintained. The Bubble forms an impenetrable barrier to those in celestial form.

## Essence Gathering and Use

No Rites work in Poughkeepsie (including daily accumulation). Any action that would normally gather Essence has no effect, even when the celestial leaves the Bubble. Essence may be expended in Poughkeepsie, but to no effect whatsoever; any Essence spent immediately vanishes without disturbance. However, Essence *can* exist in Poughkeepsie, and Jean has stated for the record that even an area like the Bubble should not be able to destroy it.

### **Song Use**

No Song may be performed or maintained inside the Bubble. Any Song in effect already immediately stops upon entering the Bubble. No exceptions.

### **Resonance/Attunement use**

Not possible, under any circumstances (including remote viewing). This includes the Shedite / Kyriotate resonance; taking a possessed individual into the Bubble breaks the possession. This is widely known. Likewise, no Attunement that is resonance-based, grants special items, or costs Essence to operate will work inside the Bubble. This includes any attempt to enter or leave it.

### **Disturbance**

No Disturbance can be generated from inside the Bubble, and no Disturbance from outside of it can be heard, either.

## **Dissonance**

It doesn't happen. Dissonance carried into Poughkeepsie comes back out, but no celestial actions inside the Bubble will cause dissonance. This does not necessarily please celestials. Indeed, it unnerves quite a few of them.

Dissonance for a celestial comes from too-great a breach between what an angel or demon is and what they *should* be, according to either Choir / Band or Superior Word. To have this suddenly go away is profoundly unnatural. Many celestials might fear and hate dissonance, but they also recognize that dissonance restrictions make up a significant portion of their very souls. Of course, some celestials will embrace this unnatural state of affairs, or at least take advantage of it if absolutely necessary. But that is a far cry from finding the condition normal.

Of the myriad reasons why celestials find Poughkeepsie unsettling, the above is probably the most self-evident.

## **Death and Injury**

Ethereal and Celestial combat is impossible from inside of Poughkeepsie; all combat is corporeal.

- A regular human who dies inside the Bubble becomes a Ghost without a Focus, which essentially means that he or she cannot do anything but drift near the place of death. Fortunately, souls in this setting have

the barest hint of physical existence. Given time, the soul might drift to the edge, but will probably be caught first by some of Lightning's specially designed ghost traps. Once the Ghost leaves the Bubble, it will go on to Heaven, Hell, reincarnation and/or dissolution as normal.

- On the other hand, a human who would normally become a Ghost anyway will automatically become one. The Ghost cannot spend Essence, but will be able to move around freely inside the Bubble and make sounds that can be heard on an absolutely unmodified Perception roll. The Ghost will still not have a Focus, which means that leaving the Bubble will automatically kick in whatever Fate or Destiny was previously achieved.
- Celestials and ethereals killed in Poughkeepsie do not suffer the True Death, but they are so locked to their vessels that they cannot win free of them under these circumstances. Their corpses must either be brought out, or completely destroyed. If the latter occurs, the entity will be expelled from the Bubble at high speed.

Poughkeepsie's unique potential for imprisoning celestials has occurred to more than one Superior.

## **Destiny/Fate**

Both still work in Poughkeepsie, and one can achieve either from inside the Bubble, but neither reward nor punishment will apply until the mortal leaves. The reasons for this are not understood, but are widely considered to be significant.

## **Superior Invocations**

Not possible. It is unclear if any Superior has ever gone inside the Bubble themselves, in fact.

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