

Angel Heart

Description: a translucent blue crystalline substance with extensive golden-yellow streaks going through it. Angel Heart is light, difficult to chip, shatter, or carve by hand, and does not keep an edge. It does not register as magical and is nontoxic, even for inherently magical creatures. Note that non-magically industrialized societies will find Angel Heart simple to carve and shape with powered tools.

Angel Heart is almost certainly neither angelic, nor a heart. This has to be mentioned explicitly, because in the worlds that it comes from *many* things can be derived from angels, sometimes without their consent. Angel Heart is actually a thaumaturgical by-product of regular sorcerous activity; cast enough spells in the same place, and the ground itself will start to crystallize. Note that Angel Heart only starts showing up in significant amounts at what would be a society's arcane equivalent of the Industrial Revolution, which is another reason why it's called Angel Heart (the nodules produced were rough ovoids, about the size of a man's heart).

The reason Angel Heart is considered a thaumaturgical by-product instead of thaumaturgical *waste* is because the material has useful properties. Primarily, Angel Heart does

not react further to arcane energies, acting as the magical equivalent of an insulator. This, coupled with its weight and strength, makes it useful for magical shielding and tools. It's not a *perfect* insulator, but for day-to-day use even a thin sheet of Angel Heart is good for keeping magical radiation down to acceptable levels. Thicker sheets are used for heavy-duty magical containment. Angel Heart is naturally resistant to magic, which ironically makes it difficult to shape in industrialized magic societies. It also shows up as a black spot on a standard magical scan; this limits its use in military camouflage, although sometimes just not radiating magic everywhere is concealment enough.

Angel Heart is not suitable for edged weapons, and is not cost-effective for chemical firearms, but a club or mace made from the substance will resist spells cast on it. Armor made solely from Angel Heart is rare, but some cultures develop scale armor which glues thin sheets of the material on top of regular armor segments, resulting in significant extra magical protection.

In case it's not clear: Angel Heart is a valuable substance, but not at the level of 'break in and clean out the vault in a daring heist.' It's much more a 'somebody hijacked the truck and made off with a shipment of the stuff' kind of situation. The more advanced the society, the easier it is to

get. In a fully magically industrialized civilization, they sell sheets of it at the local big box stores.

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