

# OVERVIEW

## What is Runecairn?

**Runecairn** is a Norse fantasy tabletop roleplaying game intended for two players, the **Warden** (the facilitator or game master) and the **Adventurer**.

For **solo play** or two or more Adventurers, please see the **Runecairn: Advanced Rules** book.

## Design Philosophy

**Neutrality.** The Warden's role is to portray the rules, situations, NPCs, and narrative clearly, while acting as a neutral arbiter.

**Classless.** An Adventurer's role or skills are not limited by a single class. Instead, the equipment they carry and their experiences defines their specialty.

**Death.** An Adventurer may be powerful, but they are also vulnerable to harm in its many forms. Death is always around the corner, but it is never random or without warning.

**Fiction first.** Dice do not always reflect an obstacle's difficulty or its outcome. Instead, success and failure are arbitrated by the Warden in dialogue with the player, based on in-world elements.

**Growth.** An Adventurer is changed through in-world advancement, gaining new skills and abilities by surviving hazards and overcoming obstacles.

**Player choice.** A player should always understand the reasons behind the choices they've made, and information about potential risks should be provided freely and frequently.

**Principles.** The Warden and Adventurer each have guidelines that help foster a specific play experience defined by critical thinking, exploration, and an emergent narrative.

## Adventures

What type of adventures can a player character expect?

- **Defend** a village against roving invaders
- **Hunt** a monstrous creature stealing children
- **Reclaim** a family cairn overwhelmed by the dead
- **Retrieve** a powerful relic lost in the mountains
- **Confront** a raging jotunn blocking supplies reaching an isolated settlement
- **Broker** peace between two warring clans
- **Protect** a caravan journey travelling through dangerous territory
- **Infiltrate** a secretive cult worshipping forgotten gods
- **Explore** newly discovered lands in search of a mythical beast