

Padre Taddeo

the Florentine father with alchemical aspirations, out of favor in Rome

GOALS

1. Prove that the Alchemical Arts are a gift of God, not the Devil
2. Get the Inquisition off your back
- 3.



DOUBTS

RELATIONSHIPS

- Committed to Florence 5
- Faithful to Papacy 2
- Faithful to your religion 7
- Church contacts 5
- Out of favor with the Inquisition 5
- Enemy of Bishop Pazzi 6
- (old friend) 5

WEALTH

A man of substance: 4d

BODY

- Chemical-stained fingers 3
- Enjoys good food and wine 4
- Great close-in vision 4
- Natural orator 5
- Ride 4
- Short-sighted 4
- Well-padded 4

DAMAGE

MIND

- Dabbling alchemist 4
- Debater 5
- Has been to Venice 4
- Lie when I must (confess later) 5
- Preacher 6
- Seminary training 6

DAMAGE

SOUL

- Christian above all 6
- Knows how to guilt-trip 6
- Overawe Christian 6
- Self-justifications 5
- Stand up for what you believe 5
- Think for myself 6
- Tough love 5

DAMAGE



TADDEO'S TALE

Pope Julius II in Rome calls the current government in Florence and the new scientific revolution godless challenges to the Mother Church. You admit you are worried by talk of engines that think and automata that walk, but you have refused to abandon your god-fearing flock, and find that a spring-operated church bell rings as sweetly as one rung by hand. In any case, since it came to light that you also dabble in the science of alchemy - which you see as just the exploration of God's mysteries, whatever Rome may say - your old enemy the corrupt Bishop Pazzi, now one of the senior figures in the Inquisition, is out for your blood. Working in Florence allows you to continue to do God's work and ensure His presence even in the midst of this new, scientific world. And keeps you safely away from Rome.

Impressive robes +2d

Travel case with various alchemical ingredients (see box)



BADGE OF AN INVESTIGATOR OF THE VENETIAN STATE INQUISITION

Never mind how you got it, it may come in handy. It is an old-fashioned one and wouldn't fool a higher official or someone directly involved with the State Inquisition (not the same as the Church's Inquisition), though.

State security, you best do what I say 6 (or +2d)



YOUR ALCHEMICAL COMPENDIARY

Cunningly disguised to look like a Greek-language bible, your notes on your experiments and gleanings from other alchemists is an invaluable asset, although it would be damning evidence against you if someone who could read Church Greek leafed through the inner pages with your own writings.

Alchemical lore 6 (+2d)

Damn impressive book 6 (+2d)

Secret meaning 9 (+/-3d)

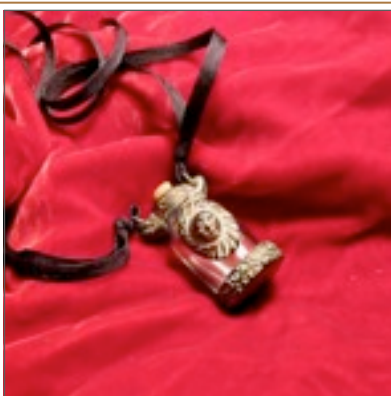
You also have a travel case containing a range of ingredients. Unless you have the chance to restock, you have 10 'units'. When you try to employ your alchemical knowledge, this will generally use up one or more units, unless you have other ingredients to hand.

WHAT ALL KNOW

It is the Year of Our Lord, 1510, and the world is changing.

Who knows what might have happened had Niccolo Machiavelli, secretary of the Ten of Freedom & Peace (the security council of the Italian Republic of Florence) had not recognized the true genius of Leonardo da Vinci? The Great Engineer might have wasted his time painting portraits of women and doodling. Instead, Florence's screwcopters, gun-turtles and organ-guns make it secure against the armies of the Pope, Milan and the French and a haven for radical thinkers, artists and other inventors inspired by his example.

Machiavelli and his ally, Florentine president Pier Soderini, now preside over an era of headlong economic, social and political change. The Republics of Lucca and Siena are now subjects, the Duchy of Ferrara a subservient ally. As *officine* (workshops) and factories spread around Florence and the republic's other cities, and as water-powered mills and hand-cranked spring-looms change the face of industry, a new working class is emerging. The 'Fearsome Pope' Julius II thunders against 'godless clockocracy' and his Inquisitors warn of crusades to come. The Medici banking family, who ruled Florence until the Great November Revolution of 1494, scheme in exile. Glittering Milan in the north tried last year to conquer the Republic, but its armies were shattered at Parma and now its envoys talk pacts with the French and the Pope. The brooding maritime power and police state which is Venice to the north-east affects not to care about what happens in the rest of Italy, being more concerned about its Mediterranean possessions and the rise of the Moslem Ottoman Empire, but its spies constantly seek out Florentine technology...



THE TEARS OF ST. COSMAS

This little reliquary vial contains three tears shed by St Cosmas, patron saint of apothecaries and chemists. As such, you are sure that it helps your alchemical labors. It certainly helps you remember that whatever the Pope may say, your Art is a blessed one.

Bless chemistry +1d

Overawe Christians +2d

"Alchemy is no art of the devil" +2d