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Opening extract from

Working With Dragons: A Course In Dragonology

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Published by

Templar

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CHAPTER IV.

WORKING WITH DRAGONS.
TAMING & FLYING DRAGONS.

While it is nearly always best to study dragons in the field, there may be times when it is necessary to befriend them, or to temporarily render them tame. A good example of such a need would be when the location where a dragon dwells is in imminent danger of being overrun with human activities such as mining or logging. In this case an attempt must be made to move the dragon to another suitable but currently dragon-free location.

Keep a firm hold on the reins. This will not harm the dragon.

Dragons fly at higher altitudes than most humans can tolerate.

TAMING DRAGONS.

While there are various methods of taming dragons, they all have a merely temporary effect on those that were not raised from the egg. See Appendix II for a spell that will tame dragons. Potions have also been used. Remember it is possible that a dragon will be angry on recovering from a taming, especially if they were embarrassed or compromised in any way.

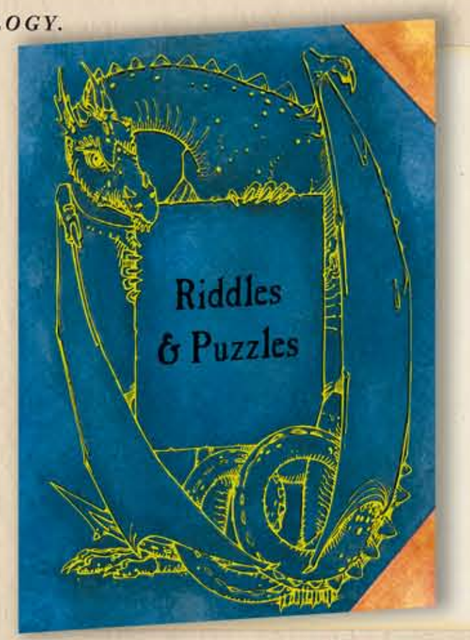
A bespoke saddle and harness should be commissioned from a discreet saddler.



The sages of Arabia developed a number of potent methods to tame dragons.

BEFRIENDING DRAGONS.

It is far better to befriend dragons rather than tame them. As they love to hoard, the offer of treasure will at least encourage the ones who can speak to give you a hearing, but especially beware of taking the advice of dragons at face value as they are incredibly wily. Above all, dragons who can speak seem to love riddles and word games, and traditionally any human who could outwit them in a riddle contest gained their respect.



The dragon's tail is used for balance and lateral stability in flight.

A looping manoeuvre is possible if enough speed is achieved. A happy dragon is a dragon which loops.



The dive and swoop of a hunting dragon can be useful for taking a closer look at ground features.

FLYING TECHNIQUES.

Attempting to ride on a dragon should only be done in cases of dire need, or with a dragon's express permission. With the right harness and equipment it is possible to achieve a number of manoeuvres that are both entertaining and useful, basically following the natural patterns a flying dragon uses to mark out its territorial boundaries to other dragons in the vicinity.





This inverted manoeuvre takes some practise. Strong knees are required in order to avoid falling off.