

Amaré, Archangel of Love

(Original version from Bodhi <rob@v-wave.com>;

some additions borrowed from Moe Lane's "Tattered" cycle <moelane_1999@yahoo.com>;

proofreading and house-rule amendments by Ingeborg S. Nordén <isnorden@gmail.com>)

As a Mercurian, Amaré attempts to further the cause of her Divine Word, Love. Her special affinity for understanding relationships between beings means that she also understands that love comes in many different forms and guises. Love is complex, and Amaré is unwilling to let others over-simplify it. She knows that love is a mysterious, powerful, completely awe-inspiring emotion, in all of its beautiful guises. Love is grand, love is good, love is God.

While it may be difficult to define love, Robert A. Heinlein wrote: "Love is that state of being where somebody else's health/welfare/well-being is integral to your own". Thus, you literally cannot hurt the one you love without hurting yourself. Perhaps this definition comes closest to encompassing all of the wide and varied sorts of love.

Servitors of Amaré tend to emphasize one form of love more than any of the others. This occurs simply because celestials all tend to have certain general personality traits, characterized by their Choirs. Thus, the combination of a servitor's choir and their choice to serve the Archangel of Love means that they tend to further one particular type of love. Together, working in combination, they all further love in general. However, different Choirs will favor one type of love over the others, as this is simply the form of love that they understand the best. All love is good; their particular form is better.

Dissonance

Servitors of Amaré generate dissonance when they cause someone to lose love. If, through their actions, some mortal loses the type of love generally favored by their Choir, servitors of Amaré gain a note of dissonance. Of course, Amaré detests toxic love which harms one or both partners: her servitors also earn dissonance if they don't try to repair or end such a relationship (whether they're one of the partners or not).

Choir Attunements

Seraphim

As Seraphim are the most noble and Truthful of all the angels, they have an affinity for the most difficult type of love—the love of the self. Before you can love others, you must love yourself. However, if the Truth were to be told, not all of us are that easy to love. When we look deep inside ourselves, we find out that there is much that is unlovable, and some poor souls are truly unworthy of loving themselves. Thus, while these Seraphim may not be able to tell whether a person is good or evil, they can tell whether or not, if the Truth were known, any mortal is deserving of self-love, as well as the characteristic that is the most deserving of self-love, and the characteristic that is least deserving of self-love. (It is interesting to note that Balseraphs tend to be the least deserving of self-love, and are thus ring especially “false” to the attunement of Seraphim of Amaré.)

Cherubim

As Cherubim are ultimately proponents of devotion, the form of love they emphasize is Idealized romance. This form of love sees the object of affection as the paragon of existence. Idealized romance leads individuals to absolute devotion. This is the stuff of legends, of poetry, of myths. Romeo and Juliet were probably under the influence of some Cherub. Their attunement provides them with the mechanism by which they can further this type of love. Cherubim of Amaré can sing the Ethereal Song of Attraction without causing a disturbance in the Symphony, as they simply understand that all people have something lovable about them. They are consummate match-makers, but this love can often be disastrous. Idealized romance, when it fails, leads to broken hearts... and dissonance!

Ofanim

As advocates of motion, Ofanim in service to Amaré tend to move around a lot. Thus, their love is fleeting. They emphasize infatuation. This emotion is wild, chaotic, powerful, but over quite quickly. Thus, they have a special affinity for puppy love, love at first sight, and other forms of immediately gratifying love. Such love never lasts for long, but leaves a lasting impression. An Ofanite's attunement enables them to "love and leave".. These wild, chaotic celestials can beguile poor mortals, and literally leave them stunned with love. Thus, on a successful Perception roll, (opposed by the mortals' Will), the Ofanite can stun the hapless mortal for a number of minutes equal to the check digit. Such beguiled individuals are incapable of doing anything other than thinking about the object of their affection, fantasizing about their potential for happiness together, and so on. When the time is up, the mortal "comes to their senses", but remembers nothing of the past few minutes. Love `em and leave `em... that's the Ofanite way!

Elohim

As the most objective of the angels, and the ones that keep emotions in their "proper place", Elohim tend to advocate Agape and fraternal love. Thus, all creatures are lovable because they are part of God's plan. This form of love, while extremely powerful and motivating, is nevertheless a quiet and unassuming style of love. All beings are part of the Symphony, and are thus deserving of Agape. An Elohite's attunement lets him know the level to which any individual is lovable as a human being per se. Thus, on the grand scale of love, Elohim know what action a mortal did in the past week that is the most deserving of love, and what action was the least deserving of love. If you're having an off week, and not living up to your potential as a part of God's plan, an Elohite of Amaré will know it! Thus, an Elohite might know that this week a bus driver let a homeless man on for free, and let him sleep in the back of the bus for two hours on a cold winter night, but he also was insensitive to his co-worker's current divorce proceedings.

Malakim

Parents, while they love us, sometimes have to help us, guide us, and when appropriate, punish us. Tough love is the special interest of Malakim. The loving hand of discipline, when properly applied, can bring any child back into the Light. A Malakite's attunement allows them to know the name of somebody's mother and father, as well as the most memorable/influential Incident that occurred between the child and parents. Malakim will be able to know the source of any parent/child "falling out", as well as the main incident that characterizes the way a child feels about his/her parents. Malakim, the toughest of Amaré's servitors, often spend their nights wandering the streets, talking to runaways, and helping them understand that their parents truly love them, even if they are hard on them.

Kyriotates

Since Kyriotates don't spend much time in any one particular host, they tend to emphasize non-standard types of love. Since they can inhabit multiple hosts, of different species, they also can understand the bonds of love that happen between man and beast, masters and pets. Thus, a Kyriotate has a special affinity for the blind man and his Seeing Eye dog, or the old lady and her favorite cat. A Kyriotate's attunement allows them to bond any one animal they inhabit to any one human, at the cost of 2 Essence. This animal will follow the mortal after the Kyriotate leaves it, and attempt to insinuate himself into the mortal's life. If this proposal is reciprocated by the human, then the bond is relatively permanent, until one or the other dies. If the mortal dies, the animal will follow within 2 months (of a broken heart). If the animal is rejected, the animal will feel rejected by man in general, and will be far less inclined to pair-bond with another human. This generates dissonance for the Kyriotate that attempted to promote the pair bond. Note: not all pair-bonds involve dogs and cats. Other examples include parrots, crows, dolphins, horses, elephants (VERY strong bond), ...

Mercurians¹

Mercurians, as the Friends of Man, tend to understand Eros the best of all the angels. They advocate physical expressions of love above all other forms, since this is the form of love which makes the most sense to them. (Although this obviously *includes* sexual love, some of Amaré's Mercurians point out that friendly hugs are just as human!) Their attunement allows them to understand how mortals react to physical displays of affection. They have the equivalent of Seduction/6 or Emote/6 (player's choice), and a Charisma bonus of +3 in whatever vessel they inhabit. They simply exude animal magnetism. Thus, while others have to study how to be attractive and charming, these Mercurians just have a knack for it. If they so choose, they can invest extra character points, to bring a particular vessel's Charisma to an unnaturally high +6 (only possible through the bonus Charisma available due to their attunement)². However, these individuals can barely walk down the street without causing car accidents from all the rubbernecking.

1 Revised by Ingeborg S. Nordén.

2 According to [Scott Rochat](#) (in personal conversation online): “An angel with that kind of Charisma would have no trouble making themselves sexually attractive if they wanted to be—but could just as easily appear as June Cleaver, mom to the whole neighborhood, full of hugs and chocolate chip cookie recipes.”

Bright Lilim³

Bright Lilim of Love automatically detect a target's love-related Needs: an ideal partner for lonely singles, a perfect gift for a loved one, the right way to word a marriage proposal. (Roll anyway to find the check digit; Intervention rules still apply!) They don't have to touch the target to find these Needs, either; simple eye contact is sufficient.

If a love-related Need is fulfilled, the Lilim gains one Essence. However, using her powers to begin an inappropriate relationship causes the Bright to gain one note of dissonance per misuse. These servitors are *never* obligated to meet violent or love-destroying Needs; “Please send a hit man after my unfaithful husband's new girlfriend” would cause dissonance if the Bright agreed to help. (On the other hand, “Help me report my abusive boyfriend to the cops, so I can go free and find a better man” would be a suitable love-related Need.)

Servitor Attunements

Disentanglement

Granted only to the most trusted of the Servitors of Love, this Attunement enables this angel to spot a pernicious or dangerous love (i.e. where one partner is being stalked or abused in some way), and then to step in and set a firm and absolute conviction in the party (or parties) being hurt that it is time to break off this relationship *now*. This conviction lasts for a number of days equal to the triple the angel's Celestial Forces; it imparts a type of reckless courage that enables the injured party to stand up to his abuser and do what must be done to escape the situation.

³ Added by Ingeborg S. Nordén (no Bright attunement existed for Amaré originally).

Love Songs

Servitors with this attunement gain the ability to sing the Ethereal Song of Attraction in such a way as to encourage any of the previously mentioned types of love. Thus, the angel could influence a parent-child type of bond, an Agape relationship, or love of one's self through the use of but the one Song (instead of the generic "fall madly in love with the subject" use of the Song). Each use of the song can only influence one style of love. Multiple styles of love require multiple uses of the Song.

Matchmaker⁴

Servitors of Love with this attunement may see one person and automatically sense whom would that person's soul mate, their best match in all matters romantic, is and where that person can be found. The angel can set vital information in the person's mind on where their soul mate is, as well as a determination to find that person at whatever cost. In the presence of two soul mates, this attunement can be used to draw the two people together.

4 Originally called "Star-crossed Love" in Moe Lane's heretical write-up for Andrealphus; I discarded that name because it implies an ill-fated romance.

Passion's Flame

With this Attunement, an angel can ignite the flames of physical and emotional passion within any two people within the angel's line of sight, as long as they have any sort of attraction to each other (even subconsciously). The affected people must make a Will roll or lose all sense of decorum and restraint and go at each other romantically. (This doesn't necessarily mean sex; Amaré isn't Andrealphus, after all. The exact behavior depends on how far both partners would go with a soul mate in their fondest dreams.) The effect lasts for a number of hours equal to the number of the angel's Ethereal Forces, or until physical danger threatens.

Sweet Bliss

People targeted by this attunement drift into a state of sweet, dreamy bliss for as many hours as the angel has Celestial Forces. Only an attack on the target (physical or otherwise) ends this altered mood. Otherwise, nothing going on around that person can end his happiness prematurely; he seems to drift about on a cloud of contentment.

Relationships⁵

Allied: Christopher (love through family ties), Eli (sexuality and creative expression), Novalis (peace and compassion), [Raphael](#) (love and forgiveness as a form of healing; the Catholic Bible also portrays him defending an engaged couple) Amaré considers these Superiors her allies as well.

5 Revised by Ingeborg S. Nordén.

Associated: Blandine (idealistic dreams and hopes), David (through the love of 'the group'), Laurence (comrades-in-arms); Marc (negotiation, business deals "between friends"); Michael (love for the cause inspires warriors), Yves (love often inspires mortals to strive for a higher purpose). Amaré treats every Archangel not on her "Allied" list as an associate, even if they don't return the favor.

Neutral: Everyone else; hating the embodiment of Love is impossible! (Dominic is "coldest" in his neutrality, though; love does impair unbiased judgment.)

Hostile: No one

Distinctions

Vassal of Affection⁶

Such individuals are difficult to hurt, because they are such likable characters. If anybody has a chance to know the Vassal, even only slightly, then they will find it difficult to harm the individual. Unless the aggressor can successfully make a Will roll, he will have trouble hitting the Vassal; he will subconsciously realize that the Vassal is a genuinely lovable individual. If the aggressor succeeds in the Will roll, they can overcome their indecision and proceed to attack unmolested by guilt and/or conscience. If he fails, however, the aggressor will suffer a to-hit penalty equal to the Vassal's Celestial Forces.

6 Revised by Ingeborg S. Nordén (after a suggestion from [-=\[horsefly\]=-](#)).

Friend to All⁷

Such individuals gain a permanent +3 on all reaction rolls, due to their understanding nature, compassionate outlook, and general lovable personalities. (You gotta love these guys, even if you want to hate them...) In addition, would-be opponents of a Friend are even more reluctant to attack: the angel penalizes others' Will rolls by his own Celestial Forces when they try to act against him.

Master of the Heart⁸

Once per day, Masters of the Heart may select a person and “ride shotgun” through their emotions. The Master is aware of every emotion that person feels; he shares access to the host's memories and physical senses as well. Unlike possession by a Kyriotate, the host is not even aware that they have a passenger along with them. The vessel of the angel simply returns to potentiality, appearing either next to the former host or in the vessel's last earthly location (whichever the angel chooses). This effect lasts for as many hours as the angel has Celestial Forces, and he may cancel it at any time. Masters of the Heart also gain the “Love Songs” attunement for free, spending no Essence when they use their Choir's specialized Song of Attraction.

7 Revised by Ingeborg S. Nordén (after a suggestion from [-=\[horsefly\]=-](#)).

8 Revised by Ingeborg S. Nordén.

Rites

Servitors of Amaré gain one point of essence when they...

- Spend 3 hours reading love poetry, philosophical works on love, etc.
- Spend 1 hour having sex with a partner (love of the self doesn't apply here 😊)
- Bring two soul mates together.
- Salvage a failing (non-harmful) love relationship.
- Give a loved one (not themselves) a much-desired gift: this can be a material object, a favorite shared activity, or anything else that requires meaningful sacrifice with the other person in mind.⁹

Invocation

Chance of Invocation: 1 (love *is* fickle)

Modifiers to Invocation:

+1—A love letter

+2—The collar/harness of a faithful pet (of course, that could apply to certain humans, too 😊)

+3—An engagement ring (3 months' salary... ouch!)

+4—Original manuscript of the works of St. Francis

+5—The heart of someone who died for love (could be a patriot who died for the love of their country, or somebody who died from a broken heart, etc.)

+6—One of the original love letters written to Eloise from Pierre Abelard (letters between another culture's famous lovers may work as well, at the GM's option)¹⁰

⁹ Rite added by Ingeborg S. Nordén.

¹⁰ Revised by Ingeborg S. Nordén.

Cathedral: The Palace of Love

Amaré took over Andrealphus' old Word during the late Middle Ages, when the ideal of courtly love began inspiring mortals to fight heroically or create great artwork in their loved ones' honor. Because of this, her Cathedral resembles a fairy-tale castle built from crystal and silver; its windows depict stories of the great loves that have led others to Heaven. Alcoves and private rooms abound inside—not only the romantic meeting spots that some might expect. The Palace also contains libraries filled with every work ever written in favor of true love, physical or spiritual (Yves' own library connects to these smaller ones by secret corridors). Larger banquet halls and armories exist for the blessed souls who died fighting for love, and who still defend the Palace along with her angelic bodyguards. A natural maze of gardens, lit only by silvery stars and a full moon, surrounds the Palace grounds; the whole complex lies on an island in a clear and sparkling lake, with bridges leading to the domains of Amaré's closest friends.