

A Very Different Gabriel

**(for players of IN NOMINE® by Steve Jackson Games)
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Author's note: My version of Gabriel is meant to match his traditional role more closely; in all three of the main Abrahamic religions, the angel acts as God's messenger, a bringer of inspiration and prophecy to the faithful.¹ Neither the Bible nor the Koran specifically associates Gabriel with fire, and neither text mentions him having a specific interest in punishing cruelty (at least, no more than any other angel would). Therefore, I decided to change his Word—and the abilities granted to his followers—in my campaign.

Gabriel, Archangel of the Divine Word

Unlike the canonical version of Gabriel, this version has never gone insane, and still acts as God's chief messenger—although his dictating the Koran to Mohammed nearly triggered a second war in Heaven. Dominic and Laurence demanded that the angel should be cast out for preaching heresy (and for claiming that God had *ordered* him to preach it, yet); only Yves' intercession convinced them that Gabriel didn't deserve to lose his place in Heaven.

To this day, Gabriel is determined to keep the War effort directed where it really belongs: destroying demons and their allies, not the forces of Heaven. All Divine religions (according to him) contain part of the true God's message; therefore, followers of those religions should put aside their differences to fight their common enemy in Hell.

¹ At least three Biblical passages show Gabriel in this role (Daniel 9:21-23, Luke 1:19, and Luke 1:26-28 come to mind). In addition, at least twenty Muslim *hadiths* (traditional narrative comments on the Koran) mention Gabriel dictating the book, and guiding the prophet Mohammed through Heaven.

Although Belial still holds the Word of Infernal Fire in my campaign, he and Gabriel were never closely related (as they are in canonical history). Three other Demon Princes, however, have become Gabriel's worst enemies:

- Alaemon, Prince of Secrets, advocates hiding the truth even when Heaven wants it to be revealed and understood.
- Malphas, Prince of Factions, encourages needless conflict and division among God's followers (the very situation that landed Gabriel in trouble himself long ago).
- Nybbas, Prince of the Media, spreads falsehood and turns many people away from God. ("There's a reason those stars are called idols," as one Malakite of the Divine Word remarked...)

Dissonance²

- Servitors of Gabriel can hear the prayers of the faithful; it is dissonant to ignore the selfless prayers of living mortals.³ (Passing requests on to a more capable friend counts as not ignoring them, when all else fails.) Dissonance from an unavoidable delay vanishes as soon as the angel responds or convinces someone else to do so. Gabrielites who prefer to answer prayers in person learn the Celestial Song of Motion early on, so that they can reach distant petitioners as soon as possible.

2 Conditions suggested by [Erik Bergesen](#).

3 All Gabrielites can hear selfless prayer as if it were a Symphonic disturbance: treat each one as if the person praying had spent Essence, with the amount based on the urgency and selflessness of that prayer. ("Please help my first-grade son pass his arithmetic test" would rate a 1; "Please save my boss's grandmother from dying of cancer" would rate a 4 to 6, depending on how well the speaker and his boss got along.) The range of this "prayer sense" equals five yards per Celestial Force of the listening angel.

- In addition, if charged with delivering a message, an angel of the Divine Word must deliver that message to the recipient intact, as quickly as the situation allows. To delay, alter, or withhold the message will cause dissonance (with the same exception for truly unavoidable delays).

Choir Attunements

Most of these Attunement ideas came from three friends on the official IN NOMINE® mailing list and LiveJournal community: [Erik Bergesen](#), [Jason Kivela](#), and [Blaine Delancey](#). Any borrowings from another source will be credited in the footnotes.

Seraphim⁴

Seraphim of the Divine Word seek those who deceive themselves about their own spirituality. They find the hypocrites—especially religious hypocrites—and liars who hide behind their religion (or lack thereof) and bring down or mock the spirituality of others. A Seraph of Gabriel can look a person in the eye and, with a Perception roll, see the balance between the public and private beliefs of the person.

Cherubim (restricted)

Cherubim of Gabriel guard others from the harm caused by demonic falsehood: if a demon uses its resonance on a protected person, the Cherub may add his Celestial Forces to that person's resistance roll. (This bonus applies only to resonances, however—not to Songs or other types of demonic attack.)

4 From Eric A. Burns' [alternative version of Gabriel](#).

Ofanim (partially restricted)⁵

The Wheels of Gabriel are couriers and messengers *par excellence*. When delivering a message, they get a bonus of their Celestial Forces to resonance checks, and multiply their base speed (in any form) by their Celestial Forces. Other Choirs who take this attunement get the speed bonus, but not the resonance bonus.

Elohim

Elohim of Gabriel automatically detect the the best way to bring someone to an uncomfortable truth in their own life, or to accept the truth of others without resentment.

Malakim

Gabriel's Malakim speak with the Voice of God for one Essence per minute. The Virtue must impart a heavenly message related to the current situation—such as warning a group of rioting protesters, "Bloodshed will only harm you and your cause". All mortals, demons, and ethereals who hear the Malakite speak will be stunned (entranced and unable to act) for as long as the Malakite continues; afterwards, they will remember the message with perfect clarity for the rest of their days. Any who resist with a Will roll take one Body hit, one Mind hit, and one Soul hit per turn as the force of Heaven assails their whole being. If the Virtue's allies take advantage of his entrancing power to attack the listeners, Gabriel will *not* be pleased...

⁵ Adapted from [Emily Dresner's version](#) of Raziel, Angel of the Mysteries; altered game mechanics suggested by [Erik Bergesen](#).

Kyriotates (restricted)

A Kyriotate of Gabriel can implant one message in a host's mind before leaving; treat this power as the Celestial Song of Tongues, with no disturbance and only 1 Essence cost (passed on to the recipient). Furthermore, he can remain on Earth for *triple* the usual duration without a host (since Gabriel often uses this Choir to "body-hop" and inspire small groups, one person at a time).

Mercurians⁶

When speaking the truth to someone, a Mercurian of Gabriel is so charming that his audience automatically understands and believes it (demons can resist at a penalty of the Intercessionist's Celestial Forces). Persuading one person in this way is free, but each additional listener costs 1 Essence. The Mercurian can affect as many beings as he has Celestial Forces.

Bright Lilim (restricted)

Gabriel's Gifters help mortals whose daily life centers on communication (authors, mediators, public speakers, and the like). On a successful resonance roll, the Lilim knows what someone else needs to say to his audience—and how he can say it most effectively.

6 Based on a Servitor Attunement (called "Heaven Give Me Say") designed for an ["unfallen" version of Lucifer](#).

Servitor Attunements

Annunciation⁷

This attunement allows the angel to reveal himself in all his divine glory and speak the words of the Lord. For 1 Essence, all mortals will be stunned—entranced and unable to act—for as long as the angel is speaking, and will believe everything the angel says. (Whether they act on it is another matter, but most mortals will consider very deeply anything told to them by an angel of the Lord!) Note that Kyriotates using Annunciation do *not* inflict Mind Hits on others when speaking.

Fear Not!

This attunement is a renamed version of "The Last Spark" as described in *Superiors 3: Hope and Prophecy*.

Whispers of Inspiration

This attunement remains as *Superiors 3* describes it (in fact, it seems more appropriate to a messenger than to a fire-slinging punisher).

⁷ Borrowed from Amadan's write-up for [Johab](#), Archangel of Salvation: considering Gabriel's role in the Biblical Annunciation, *not* letting him grant this attunement seems wrong!

Distinctions⁸

Vassal of the Word

Vassals of the Word can ignore any corporeal obstacle in their path when they have a message to deliver. Weather, walls, living creatures—all move aside or become ineffective in stopping the messenger from getting to its target audience.

Friend of Heralds

Angels with this Distinction can perform any Song of Tongues with no Essence cost⁹ and no disturbance to the Symphony. Treat the Song level as equal to the angel's Forces in the same realm (Corporeal Forces for the Corporeal Song, and so on).

Master of Divine Truth

Once per day, angels with this Distinction can spend 6 Essence and tap into Gabriel's prophetic power. (Treat this ability as whichever Song of the Symphony applies to the Master's question, with a level equal to his Forces in the same realm.) Furthermore, the Master can speak the resulting prophecy aloud and convince mortals that his words are irrefutably True. This affects a number of people equal to his total Forces, within a range of 5 yards per effective Song level. A person convinced by the angel's prophecies must make a Will roll (reduced by the angel's Celestial Forces) to even *try* denying the Truth.

⁸ Suggested and/or revised by Erik Bergesen.

⁹ A Friend of Heralds who wants to perform Celestial Tongues pays nothing for the Song itself, but still gives up the 1 Essence gained by the recipient.

Rites

Basic

- Deliver an important message/item over 2 miles away (+2 Essence if the destination is over 200 miles away).
- Serve as an interpreter for three hours at a multilingual event without using celestial abilities—in a court room, church service, or at a funeral are all perfectly good examples.
- Attend worship services in a place dedicated to a Divine faith (usable only once per day).

Expanded

- Spend 4 uninterrupted hours translating a Divine religion's holy text into another human language (+2 Essence if no established translation has been made within the last 20 years).
- Spend 2 uninterrupted hours at a religious meeting that involves two or more Divine faiths, helping the people understand God's involvement with all sides.
- Convince an avowed atheist or agnostic that God exists, without using celestial abilities.

Relationships

As one of the oldest Archangels, Gabriel commands respect from most of his fellows. Even Laurence has forgiven him for revealing the Koran ages ago; Gabriel's role in founding Christianity (and prominence in the Catholic Church) are too great for Laurence to ignore. Dominic alone still resents that Gabriel was never put on trial properly for heresy.

Allied: Novalis, [Raphael](#), Yves

Associated: Khalid, Litheroy, Laurence, Michael, [Raziel](#), [Uriel](#) (Khalid considers Gabriel an ally)

Neutral: Most others, except...

Hostile: Dominic

Chance of Invocation: 3

Gabriel, like most of the older Archangels, is fairly busy doing God's work—but not so busy that he won't listen to a friend in need. He's unusually interested (for an Ofanite) in the human aspects of the Symphony: several Soldiers of God started their new lives after hearing a message from Gabriel in person.

Invocation Modifiers:

- +1—An established symbol of a Divine faith (crucifix, Star of David, etc.)
- +2—A modern copy of a Divine faith's holy text, in any language
- +3—An area consecrated to a Divine faith, with at least 50 people present
- +4—An ancient manuscript of a Divine faith's holy text, in any language (the Dead Sea Scrolls, for example)
- +5—A major holy site of a Divine faith, not associated with Gabriel's revelations (the Western Wall or the Qa'aba, for example)
- +6—The site of a revelation by Gabriel, according to religious tradition (e.g., the Basilica of the Annunciation, or the site of Mohammed's receiving the Koran)

Cathedral: Spire of Proclamation

As the Angel of the Divine Word, Gabriel has always maintained his own Cathedral separate from Belial's old Volcano. Both domains stand at the outer reaches of Heaven, bordering on the Vale of Dreams; both rise high into the air of the Lower Heavens. The similarity ends there, however: Gabriel's Spire of Proclamation is a great church-like tower of stone just inside the Pearly Gates, with a steeple overlaid in gleaming silver. A divine light, resembling a silvery-white star, shines at the highest point of the Spire; around this light, a motto is inscribed in every language of Earth:

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path " . — Psalm 119:105

Chapels and prayer-rooms for every Divine religion dominate the lower levels of the Spire, each one magnificently built as their followers expect. Religious art depicting angelic prophecies and revelations appears throughout this section. Above the chapel level is a library and scriptorium, dedicated to sacred texts and prophecies; the staff is made up of blessed souls plus the occasional Cherub custodian. Finally, the upper levels of the Spire store the Hearts of Gabriel's angelic servitors; several Malakim and Cherubim guard the Hearts from theft or attack.