

The Old Tongue

The Bound Hand

The Bound Hand is an artifact that was discovered long ago by Shadow Academy agents. It appears to be a statue of a mummified, severed hand. The palm faces upwards, with each of its four fingers curling outwards while the thumb is folded over the chain that encircles the palm. The chain appears to be made of a variety of metals and forms a simple, positioned across the palm and wrapping around the back of the hand. The Hand's wrist has become the platform upon which the artifact sits, with a perfectly flat bottom that allows the Hand to remain balanced.

The Bound Hand is mummified in some kind of iridescent, rigid cloth that has proven impossible to remove or damage. Scans have revealed the interior beneath the cloth seems to be composed of various chemical preservatives, wood-based cellular structures, and some kind of organic metal material. The chain's links, while mostly composed of various common metals, have proven extremely resistant to damage. Four links in particular, those lined up along the palm, seem to be crafted out of a series of ornate, decorative rings.

While there doesn't seem to be any kind of energy coming from the hand itself, faint residual Force energy can be felt emanating from the chain. Around the wrist of the Hand, an incantation has been carved in an ancient Sith tongue. The carving is imperfect and not uniform, but it acts as evidence that at one point it was possible to damage the wrappings that encircle the Hand. After much study, the Shadow Academy researchers have managed to translate much of the incantation, which is presented below. It is in the form of a common quatrain poem.

Chains broken in victory,
Through the power of the Force.
Chains reforged and recontained,
Now seems our only course.

These four rings that we once stole,
Will now instruct salvation.
By binding them with earthen links,
We hope to bring cessation.

The first that crowned the forefinger,
Once brought us joy and luck.
Now casting it into its place,
Our first blow has been struck.

The second borne on the mid finger,
Draws envious eyes and hearts.
Chaining with its brother now,
It becomes one of many parts.

The third that came from finger three,
Gives only false content.
With new purpose it is now endowed,
It's power has been bent.

The smallest finger was its home,
This fourth and final ring.
Where once it honed the minds of men,
It now completes this string.

The Severed Hand has now been Bound,
Its danger now contained.
These four rings and their neighbor links,
Have left the Bound Hand chained.