

# NADINE ALEYNIKOV

*"Thy physical form is a reflection of the God-Emperor's majesty. Care for it as you guard your mind and soul. For it too must be ever ready to serve His divine cause."*

—Nadine Aleynikov

Nadine's family belonged to a sect of militant Redemptionists. Her earliest memories focused upon aiding her elders in the preparation of armaments prior to performing a cleansing. Sacred Imperial Cult texts served as her earliest grammars. Mastery of the flamer came at the same time that she learned the core concepts of the Imperial Creed, focusing upon the hatred of the heretic, the unclean, and the xenos. Strict discipline and ruthless punishments were integral to her maturation.

This changed abruptly just as the young woman began to approach adulthood. Nadine's parents were slain by a heretical cult, when intelligence about a raid proved inadequate.

Nadine was the eldest of the sect's surviving heirs, as she was attending a religious service while most of the others were participating in the assault. Because their parents had been responsible members of the Adeptus Administratum, Nadine and her siblings were all inducted into her hive's Schola Progenium.

The tests conducted upon her admission into the Schola Progenium indicated that the young woman had a strong proficiency in all of the arts associated with service as a member of the Missionarus Galaxia. Her knowledge of both religious matters and combat tactics were considered precocious, even by the Schola Progenium's standards. Her predilection towards using violence to solve problems put her into conflict with her fellow students and occasionally her instructors. Though her zeal was seen as commendable, certain surviving records suggest that at least one of her instructors felt she lacked the subtlety required of a missionary attempting to convert entire worlds unaided.

## THE CALLING

There is a considerable gap in the hagiography of Nadine Aleynikov, stemming from the destruction of the hive in which she lived at the time. Whether the hive merely collapsed under its own weight in a cataclysmic hive-quake or was toppled by more sinister forces than gravity, Aleynikov was one of a few survivors to stride out of the inferno alive. Though she rarely spoke of the events that transpired there, Aleynikov was changed by her narrow survival. Driven forward by what seemed the will of the God-Emperor himself, chasing a divine vision amidst the smoke and ash, Aleynikov dragged herself and a number of other survivors from the rubble, then led the group kilometres across the icy wastes to the next nearest hive. Aleynikov fought tooth and nail to reach her destination, pushed on by her obsession.

Only she and two others survived the harrowing trek, but her miraculous survival caught the eye of particular individuals of influence, who pulled certain strings in the labyrinthine bureaucracy of the Schola Progenium to assist Aleynikov in finishing her training and becoming a full-fledged missionary. These individuals



TABLE 3-14: OTHER RELICS

Name	Wt	Availability
The Banner of Wrath	12 kg	Unique
Almace's Tactica	1 kg	Unique
The Halo of the Devoted	0.5 kg	Unique
Vial of Aleynikov's Bane	0.5 kg	Near Unique
The Folio Languor	4 kg	Unique
Aleynikov's Star Chart	1 kg	Unique
The Contriver's Signet	0.5 kg	Unique

## THE RELICS OF NICOMEDES KEEFE

Perhaps because of his legendary desire to exonerate himself of the crimes with which his father was charged, the fervour with which Nicomedes pursued his duties to the Ecclesiarchy and the Imperium has been a source of inspiration for countless others living a life of service to the Emperor. A distinctive figure even by Imperial standards, effigies and depictions of Keefe with halo shining and hammer in hand have become a common sight throughout the Koronus Expanse.

### PIETY'S CHARGE

Keefe recovered this enormous archeotech power hammer during his conversion of Everharvest. The astoundingly detailed gilded imagery adorning the head and handle of the hammer spoke to its rich history as both an ornamental tool and a weapon, and Keefe believed that his finding of the weapon was no mere accident. Sources close to him say that he believed the hammer to be connected to locating St. Cognatius's tomb, and that perhaps it had even been wielded by the Cognatius himself. While his investigations into the hammer and St. Cognatius were never completed, the weapon has since come to stand as a symbol for everything that Keefe endeavoured to accomplish during his many excursions out of Imperial space. After his death, it was placed in a shrine devoted to his memory maintained on Foulstone by the Order of the Hammer.

Though appearing ceremonial in nature, Piety's Charge is still a fearsome weapon in the hand of a competent wielder. Additionally, the intricate engravings and symbols that adorn it attest to its rich history, and help to ensure its wielder's friendship among the Ecclesiarchy. If he is wearing Piety's Charge visibly, the wielder gains a +10 bonus to any Interaction Skill Tests made when dealing with the Ecclesiarchy, Sisters of Battle, and other pious individuals, and a +20 bonus to Interaction Skill Tests to interact with the Order of the Hammer (provided that the Explorer did not overtly steal it from these monks).

Given the hammer's massive weight and the considerable force behind its blows, any foe smote by Piety's Charge must make a **Challenging (+0) Strength Test** or be knocked Prone by the mighty stroke.

## THE HALO OF THE DEVOTED

Legends of Keefe's journeys throughout the Koronus Expanse describe how Keefe's devotion to the spreading the Imperial Creed was such that true followers could actually see a visible halo flicker into being over his head whenever he found himself in danger. Supposedly, this halo provided him the Emperor's protection during his darkest hours, driving away bullets, blades, and even the baleful fire of tainted psykers. In truth, the phenomena thought to be Keefe's halo was another piece of archeotechnology that he discovered shortly after beginning his investigations into St. Cognatius. The device appears to respond to its bearer's distress, and provides its protection only in the most dire of circumstances. Only further fuelling his beliefs in the benefits of studying the Saint and discovering his tomb, Keefe named the device "The Halo of the Devoted" and came to rely upon the protection that it offered, perhaps too much given the mysterious circumstances surrounding his death. It too has come to rest in the monastery on Foulstone, though given the underwhelming appearance of the device and the monk's considerable resistance to anyone attempting to use Keefe's artefacts without their permission, it is unknown whether this is the original Halo. A simple silver chain worn around the neck, the Halo of the Devoted is an extraordinarily powerful protective force field.

The Halo of the Devoted is a Best Craftsmanship Force Field with a Protection Rating of 65 (see page 90). However, the Halo is not always active, and must be selectively powered on by the wearer to take effect. To engage it, the Explorer wearing the Halo must spend a Fate Point and intone a prayer to the Emperor for protection. Doing so activates the Halo for 1d10+5 Rounds, and causes his head to glow with a soft radiance for as long as the Force Field is active.

