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*When  
Prophecy  
Fails*

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By Nick Wedig





**We are all believers  
of a fringe religious  
movement, centered  
around a prophetic  
figure.**

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**Our prophet has foretold that the world is going to end on this very night.**

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**They have gathered  
us, and only us,  
together to meet the  
apocalypse.**

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**When the time  
comes, we will be  
saved even as the  
Earth is destroyed.**

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**They have chosen us  
because they know  
that we truly believe  
their prophecies.**

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**Let's choose an  
image of the prophet  
to decide what they  
look like.**

*(If you don't have any  
images handy, try  
searching stock photos  
online for "psychics".)*

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**When the  
instruction cards are  
finished, we will  
continue with the  
question cards.**

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**Everyone will take  
turns drawing  
questions and  
answering them.**

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**Other players can  
ask question,  
suggest details, or  
find ways to relate  
characters together.**

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**The person who  
reads and answers  
the question card  
always has the last  
word, though.**

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**Let's place the X  
card in the center of  
the table, where it is  
visible and  
accessible to all of  
us.**

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The image shows a close-up of a book cover. The background is a marbled paper with a complex, swirling pattern of green, blue, and brown tones. A large, bold, white letter 'X' is centered on the cover. Above and below the 'X' are two parallel white horizontal lines. The left edge of the book is bound in a dark reddish-brown material, likely leather or cloth, which is visible as a vertical strip on the left side of the image.

X



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**If some question or answer would interfere with your enjoyment of the game, just touch the X card or say “I’m going to X card that”.**

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**When you use the X card on something, that content is removed from the game, and we invent something new to replace it.**

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**When a question card is removed from play, the player who was supposed to answer it can draw a new card and answer that instead.**

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**You can use the X  
card on your own  
card, or on another  
player's.**

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**You can also pass a card that you were supposed to answer to another player, because it would be more interesting as a question for their character.**

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**When a card says  
“someone here” or  
“who here”, it refers  
to another player’s  
character.**

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**Setting aside the  
*Prophecy Fails* card,  
let's take the  
question cards and  
shuffle them now.**

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**We play until  
someone draws the  
*Prophecy Fails* card.  
Each player will  
answer that card in  
turn.**

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**Insert the *Prophecy Fails* card into deck, near the middle for a shorter game or toward the bottom for a longer one.**

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**We are now ready to play. We can take a short break, if anyone wants.**

**Whoever wants to go first can draw the first question card.**

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**What profession  
did you leave in  
order to follow  
the prophet?**

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**Why did you feel  
empty or alone in  
the world before  
finding the  
group?**

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**How did you first  
come into contact  
with the prophet?**

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**Why are you given  
so much authority  
in the group,  
despite being a  
relative  
newcomer?**

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**Why are some  
others in the  
circle jealous of  
your relationship  
with the prophet?**

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**Why are you given  
no respect or  
authority in the  
group?**

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**Who here do you  
love most, other  
than the prophet?  
Why do you keep  
this love a secret?**

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**What were your  
unfulfilled hopes  
and dreams in life,  
before joining the  
prophet's circle?**

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**Who here is your  
family, by blood or  
by choice?**

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**Why do you feel  
excluded or  
marginalized by  
mainstream  
society?**

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**What emotional need did you have unfulfilled before joining the circle? How has this group help fill the void you felt?**

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**What family member did you cut out of your life because they doubted the word of the prophet?**

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**What have you  
done to disappoint  
the prophet?**

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**What beliefs does  
the group borrow  
from more  
mainstream or  
familiar religions?**

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**What beliefs from  
mainstream,  
familiar religions  
does the group  
reject?**

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**What otherworldly  
forces aid or guide  
the cult?**

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**What otherworldly  
forces seek to  
harm or destroy  
the cult?**

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**What form will the  
cataclysm take?  
How will the  
believers be saved  
from the  
cataclysm?**

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**What belief of the  
group would  
outsiders think is  
bizarre or strange?**

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**How does the  
prophet receive  
their messages?**

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**What other fringe  
group were you  
part of previously?**

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**What previous prediction has the prophet given you that has proven true?**

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**Besides prophecy,  
what other  
miraculous ability  
does the prophet  
claim to possess  
(but never  
demonstrates)?**

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**What moral code  
or belief has the  
prophet given you  
to guide your  
decisions in life?**

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**Which of the  
prophet's  
teachings lights a  
fire in your heart?  
Why?**

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**The prophet gave a  
secret teaching to  
you and you alone,  
once. What was it  
and why did it  
disappoint you?**



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**How have you  
prepared yourself  
for the oncoming  
apocalypse?**

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**How have you  
suffered because of  
your beliefs in the  
prophet's  
teachings?**

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**How have you tried  
to spread the word  
of the prophet?  
What has been the  
result of your  
proselytizing?**

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**How have you  
changed your daily  
life in preparation  
of the cataclysm?**

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**What command  
were you given by  
a higher power  
through the  
prophet? Why did  
you fail to follow  
it?**

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**What command  
were you given by  
a higher power  
through the  
prophet? What  
sacrifice did you  
make to follow it?**

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**The prophet chose you to perform a task that anyone could do, but only allows you to do so. What is it?**

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**What harsh taboo  
or moral stricture  
must you all follow  
as part of the  
prophet's  
teachings?**

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**How did you  
rearrange your life  
based on the belief  
that the world will  
end tonight?**

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**What problems of  
your own creation  
will you have to  
deal with if the  
world doesn't end?**

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**When did you  
know for certain  
that the prophets  
teachings were  
true? What  
convinced you?**

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**What false stories  
have been spread  
about the prophet  
and the circle?**

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**Why did you doubt  
the prophet when  
you first heard  
their message?  
What changed  
your mind?**

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**As the date  
approaches, what  
has made you  
doubt the  
impending  
apocalypse?**

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**Why did you also claim a prophetic ability? How did the prophet respond to this challenge of their authority?**

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**What previous prediction has the prophet given you, that has yet to become true?**

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**What prediction  
has the prophet  
given you, that can  
never become  
true?**

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**What is your  
greatest regret in  
life?**

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**What secret do you know about the prophet, that they keep hidden from the other members of the group?**

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**What sacrifice did  
the prophet  
demand that you  
were most  
reluctant to  
follow?**

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**What makes you  
doubt the  
prophet's  
teachings?**

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**How has the  
prophet previously  
failed you?**

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**What recent event  
has cast doubt on  
the oncoming  
apocalypse?**

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**Who has already  
left the circle?  
What caused them  
to abandon the  
prophet's  
teachings?**

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**What makes you  
hope that the  
predicted  
cataclysm never  
comes to pass?**

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# *The Prophecy Fails*

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Dawn comes.  
The world has  
failed to end.

How do you change  
your beliefs in  
response?

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