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**Days of Wonder™ announces latest winner of monthly
Fist of Dragonstones™ Character Creation Contest**

“The Black Death” card adds unique twist to closed-fist bidding game.

Sausalito, CA – March 12, 2003 – Days of Wonder, Inc. today announced that *The Black Death* card, created by Peter Loop, is the second winner in the *Fist of Dragonstones* monthly character creation contest.

Released in November 2002, *Fist of Dragonstones* features a unique closed-fist, blind auction, than encourages plenty of bluffing. Players secretly place gold and magic coins in their fist to bid for control of enchanted character cards. All players reveal their bids simultaneously to see who has won the right to the character, which is then used to help them in the game. *The Black Death* card is unique in that it has a negative impact on the player who wins it. It is the *lowest* bidder who wins this card, but unfortunately, the card winner *loses* 1 victory point. Players are forced to bid high for the card or suffer severe consequences.

“This is a bidding game where you pay to get something to help you win. My idea was to reverse this and make you pay to avoid something – in this case a loss of a scoring point,” said *Black Death* creator, Peter Loop. “The twist here is that bidding the least will hurt you the most, so you must bid, but bidding high keeps you from uses your resources on something else... A real *Catch-22*.”

Days of Wonder includes blank cards in the game to encourage players to develop their own additions and variations. The character creation contest, first announced in December, now has 300 different entries. *The Black Death* card, like all the monthly winners, has been beautifully illustrated by *Fist of Dragonstones* artist, Julien Delval. Players can download *The Black Death* card, or enter the character creation contest at www.dragonstones.com.

About Days of Wonder

Days of Wonder, Inc. publishes high-quality, family-strategy board and card games that are easy to learn and fun to play. Days of Wonder is a privately held company with offices in Sausalito, CA, and Paris, France.

