

The Omen

This game is played as 7-card stud, with the following variations:

- 1) An extra hand is dealt, in addition to all player hands. This is referred to as "Damien's hand". (This means six or fewer players, since you can have at most 7 hands of 7 cards in a game.)
- 2) At the showdown, all players remaining in the game showdown first, to determine the nominal winner. This showdown is as for normal 7-card stud, with no extra rules. The winner of this showdown is the only player with a chance to win the pot.
- 3) The nominal winner then has a showdown against Damien's hand. The player may use 5 different cards against Damien than he used against the other players. If the player wins, he claims the pot. If the player loses he **PAYS THE POT** and a new hand begins. If a player can not cover the pot, all his remaining chips are pushed in, and the player must recite the Lord's Prayer backwards in Latin once for every dollar (or fraction thereof) that he was short.
- 4) Every time a six appears (either is dealt to any player face up during play, or is shown by a player at the showdown) Damien's power grows. For each six revealed, the highest card in Damien's hand becomes wild. All instances of the card are wild. For example, if Damien has KK Q 10 10 7 5, when the first six appears, both kings become wild. Should a second six appear, the queen is also wild. Should a third six appear both tens also become wild, etc.

Players with sixes in their hole cards do not have to show them at the showdown, if they do not wish to use them in their 5 card hand.

Sixes that appear in Damien's hand also work this way, but additional are considered wild themselves. So if the third six appears in Damien's hand, and he has K K Q 10 10 7 6, then Damien has six wild cards.

- 5) For the purposes of the showdown against Damien only (i.e. not for the showdown against other players) the lowest value card (or cards) in the player's hand are considered wild. This represents the notion that God can be found even in the smallest things. If you win using wild 2s, this is referred to as *deuces ex machina*.

- 6) Finally, any player who has the Queen of Spades (a.k.a. "Mrs. Blaylock") down ("hidden") at the player showdown can use her to eliminate any other player from the showdown. The Queen does not need to be one of the 5 cards that player is using for the showdown. The player announces whom (if anyone) he wishes to eliminate BEFORE any hands are shown, showing the Queen at the time he does so. Use of Mrs. Blaylock strengthen's Damien's hand exactly as if an additional six had appeared. If a player's final hand includes a Queen of Spades that was hidden, but the player chooses not to eliminate anyone, then Damien's position is not strengthened.