Corpse Pipe

Wondrous item, uncommon

The ancient Oltec civilisation of Mystara were preoccupied with their dead, and specifically believed that the newly dead needed help from the living to conquer challenges in the afterlife. To this end when a notable noble or community member died they might create a **corpse pipe** to aid them on their journey. The pipe is a squat cylinder of burnished iron, around six inches across and 12 inches long. It was normally engraved with an epitaph or some words about the dead person it celebrated, and there was some status in making a pipe more expensive and more richly decorated than one’s rivals to demonstrate true piety and regret. The Oltecs buried their dead, and the **corpse pipe** was inserted slightly into the earth atop the grave. Items placed into the top end of the pipe were then **teleported** six feet downward through the earth into the coffin below; family members might place food in the pipe on a semi-regular basis, or a small weapon to arm the dead as they entered the afterlife or afterwards. An item to be teleported must fit wholly inside the pipe; inserting the end of a rope, or an arm, will not sever it by teleporting just one end. If held in open air, an item dropped into the pipe will fall the length of the pipe and then appear six feet below the bottom of the pipe without crossing the intervening space, as if there were some sort of portal at the bottom of the pipe. Since an item has to fall the length of the pipe and enter the bottom, the pipe will not work to teleport things horizontally; the item falls under gravity.

by Stuart Langridge