

# The Abyss

The Abyss ( Abyss ) is a Location in Dark Souls. It is accessible via New Londo Ruins.

## Information

The Abyss is a foreboding arena located at the heart of the **New Londo Ruins**, serving as the battleground for the **Four Kings**, one of the essential bosses to progress the main story. Accessing the Abyss requires the **Covenant of Artorias** ring to prevent instant death upon entering the dark void. This requirement extends to summoned allies. After defeating the Four Kings, the ring is no longer necessary.

## Area Bosses

### Mandatory

#### Four Kings

- **Location:** The Abyss, accessed by jumping from the spiral staircase in New Londo Ruins.
- **Mechanics:**
  - The fight starts with one king; additional kings spawn over time.
  - A shared health bar; killing one contributes to the total depletion.
  - Kings attack with sweeping melee strikes, grabs, and homing magic projectiles.
- **Requirements:**
  - Must wear the **Covenant of Artorias** ring to survive in the Abyss.
- **Drops:**
  - **Bequeathed Lord Soul Shard** (needed for the Lordvessel).
  - **20,000 Souls**.

## Enemies

### Darkwraiths:

- Wielding swords and shields, they deal high damage and can steal humanity with their grab attack.
- Drop **Titanite Chunks** and occasionally **Dark Hand**.

### Ghosts:

- Immune to standard attacks unless using a **Transient Curse** or cursed weapon.

- Drop **Transient Curses**, **Jagged Ghost Blade**, and **Titanite Chunks**.

# Merchants

## Darkstalker Kaathe

- Appears in the Abyss after defeating the Four Kings, provided the **Lordvessel** was not placed with Frampt.
- Offers to take the player to the Firelink Altar to place the Lordvessel.
- **Items Sold** (upon joining the Darkwraith covenant):
  - **Cracked Red Eye Orb**: Used to invade other players.
  - **Dark Hand**: Given for free upon joining.

# NPCs

## Ingward

- Located at the top of a building in New Londo.
- Gives the **Key to the Seal** if the player has the Lordvessel.
- Can also be killed to obtain the key prematurely.

# Items

## Key Items

- **Covenant of Artorias**:
  - Required to survive in the Abyss.
  - Obtained after defeating **Great Grey Wolf Sif** in **Darkroot Garden**.
- **Key to the Seal**:
  - Used to open the floodgates in New Londo Ruins.
  - Acquired from **Ingward** in the ruins.

## Drops

- **Dark Hand**:
  - Dropped by Darkwraiths or received from Kaathe.
- **Titanite Chunks**:
  - Dropped by Darkwraiths and ghosts.

# Walkthrough

## Reaching the Abyss

1. **Preparation**:

- Equip the **Covenant of Artorias** ring.
  - Bring **Transient Curses** to fight ghosts or use a cursed weapon like the **Jagged Ghost Blade**.
  - Stock up on healing items and repair gear, as New Londo is treacherous.
2. **Drain the Flood:**
    - Speak to **Ingward** to obtain the **Key to the Seal** or kill him to retrieve it.
    - Use the key to open the floodgate, draining the water in the ruins and revealing new pathways.
  3. **Descend the Ruins:**
    - Clear out Darkwraiths and ghosts while navigating the now-dry ruins.
    - Reach the spiral staircase leading to the Abyss.
  4. **Entering the Abyss:**
    - Equip the **Covenant of Artorias** before jumping from the spiral staircase into the void.

## Fighting the Four Kings

- Stay aggressive to defeat each king before additional ones spawn.
- Use high-damage weapons and healing spells to counter their relentless attacks.
- Roll or sidestep to avoid grab attacks and block magic projectiles with a shield.

# Covenants

## Darkwraith Covenant

- **How to Join:**
  - Do not place the **Lordvessel** on the altar via **Kingseeker Frampt**.
  - Defeat the Four Kings and meet **Darkstalker Kaathe** in the Abyss.
  - Accept his offer and pledge loyalty.
- **Benefits:**
  - Receive the **Dark Hand**.
  - Purchase **Cracked Red Eye Orbs** to invade other players.
- **Notes:**
  - Aligning with Kaathe causes Frampt to disappear, making it impossible to trade Titanite with him.

## Shortcuts

- After draining the water, the ruins become accessible, creating shortcuts to the Abyss.
- Use the bonfire near **Firelink Shrine** for faster traversal.

## Soul Farming

## Darkwraiths:

- Efficient for farming **Titanite Chunks** and **Dark Hand**.
- Use **Covetous Gold Serpent Ring** to increase drop rates.

## Notes

- The **Covenant of Artorias** is mandatory for survival in the Abyss.
- Avoid summoning phantoms unless they also have the ring equipped.
- Fighting the Four Kings without sufficient damage output can lead to overwhelming difficulty as new kings spawn.

## Trivia

- **Darkstalker Kaathe** and **Kingseeker Frampt** are two serpents aligned with different ideologies regarding the Lordvessel.
- The Abyss signifies the expanding influence of the Dark and humanity's descent into chaos.
- The **Four Kings** were once noble rulers, now corrupted by the Dark.

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