

STONES AND SHADOW, TREES AND LIGHT

Session Twenty:
7 Highsun 1479

Session 20

26 April 2009

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Points of note:

- *Dek's armour was dissolved by the rust monsters.*
- *Pieter marked the party's route through Thunderspire Labyrinth with a Magic Mouth.*
- *Soveliss' magic forced both berserkers into a gaping pit.*
- *Pieter's Jade Macetail kept the dwarven hammerers occupied while Dek subdued Thain.*

Iron-feeders and Thain Cardanis

Despite Shadow's and Soveliss' misgivings, the party pressed on deeper into the Labyrinth, following Gendar's dubious directions.

They eventually came to a chamber containing three chests and the pale corpse of an ogre. Investigating, they were set upon by two blood-sucking dire stirges and a pair of lion-sized orange cockroaches with feathered antenna.



Soveliss shouted a warning, but before anyone could react, the rust monsters had swarmed Dek and reduced his plate armour to dust. Panicked by the display of armour-wrecking power, the Heroes of Winterhaven focused all of their offence on the creatures and rapidly reduced them to bloody corpses.

Meanwhile, the stirges darted in and exsanguinated the adventurers. Soveliss and Shadow, protected only by loose robes and leather armour, were particularly vulnerable. Despite the stirges being particularly hard to attack while attached to their victims, our heroes soon killed the creatures.

Searching the dead ogre, they confirmed that it was a victim of the stirges. Dek found a suit of hide armour in the chests, which he gladly put on.

Shadow and Soveliss again advocated returning to the Seven-Pillared Hall. Dek

would not be swayed and the others, unwilling to let him go alone to his certain death, were forced to tag along. Pieter left a *Magic Mouth* at the entrance to the stirges' chamber with instructions on how the heroes could retrace their steps.

The adventurers eventually found Thain wearing Gendar's crown and accompanied by henchmen in a chamber deep in the labyrinth. Dek charged the stunted dwarf, heedless of the enemies that moved to surround him.

Pieter, fearful of leaving Dek surrounded without his plate armour, grabbed the jade figurine from his belt pouch and moved urgently after the rampaging fighter. In doing so, he left himself open to a raging berserker who caught the Tempuran a blow so awesome it almost knocked the cleric out of the fight.

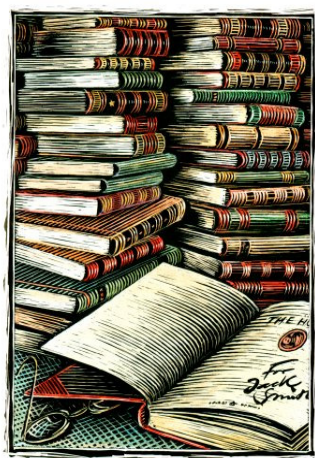
Pieter cast the figurine to the ground, and a hulking macetail behemoth sprang into existence, battering Thain's henchmen with its gnarled tail.

Two berserkers turned their attentions on Soveliss and scored terrible wounds on the eladrin with their greataxes, only for Soveliss' eyes to flare blue in desperation. Fire erupted from him, catapulting one of the berserkers into a distant pit and pushing the other dangerously close. Just as the surviving berserker steadied himself, Soveliss leapt forward and—with a peal of thunder—cast the warrior into the chasm after his ally.

Shadow moved past the macetail to aid Dek against Thain's henchmen. Trapped between Dek, the macetail and Shadow, the dwarves soon lay dead.

Thain Cardanis, murderer and clan-traitor, knelt on the floor weeping, and our heroes held their breath, waiting to see what Dek would do.

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In their Eyes: Dek and Thain

As the door swung open, Dek caught sight of Thain Cardanis standing in one corner of the chamber, an iron crown resting on his head. Two dwarves laboured nearby. Dek roared a challenge and rushed into the room.

Thain cried out, "Kirdan, I'm sorry!" but the fighter paid him no heed. In desperation, the stunted dwarf grabbed up a nearby crossbow and loosed a bolt. It flew wide, then Dek was on him, waraxe scything.

Despite the roiling melee and Soveliss' calls for aid, Dek was oblivious to events around him. "Moradin himself sent me to punish you!" he

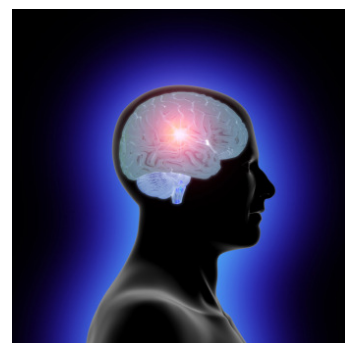
bellowed. Thain's eyes went wide. "No, not the dreams!" he screamed in panic. Dek ignore the grievous wounds dealt to him by Thain's followers and struck out at his foe again and again.

Were it not for Soveliss' call for Thain to surrender, Dek would surely have killed the dwarf. Instead, Thain fell to his knees and dropped his weapon in defeat. Bitter tears fell from his cheeks.

Dek kicked the murderer's fallen warhammer away, then stood over his defeated foe panting with barely contained ire.

XP Table

Type	Encounter	XP value and recipients	Total
Combat	The Burning Torch	275 xp (all)	
Combat	The Would-be King	275 xp (all)	550 xp
Progressive total:			6,446 xp



Treasure Collected



Person	Coins	Items	Other
Dek	30 gp	Bloodiron Layered Plate Herbal Poultice	
Pieter	30 gp	Eternal Torch Herbal Poultice	
Shadow	30 gp	Herbal Poultice	
Soveliss	30 gp	Herbal Poultice	Rust monster and dire stirge skins
Unallocated		2 Potions of Healing	6 gems 2 smoke sticks

Quest Tracker

Quest	Clues/Notes	Status
Gendar's Errands	Reclaim the scepter from the Horned Hold	Incomplete
	Track down Thain Cardanis and recover the crown	Complete
A Dreadful Boar	Return Tusky to Ulthand Deepgem	Incomplete
Return the Winterhaven Lost	Return the missing townsfolk	Incomplete

