

STONES AND SHADOW, TREES AND LIGHT

Session Thirty Two:
13 Highsun 1479

Session 32

18 October 2009

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Points of note:

- *Pieter and Bengi managed to talk down the dragon, alternately threatening it with an eternity of servitude and suggesting they could aid it.*
- *Bengi recovered a stash of papers from Scarmaker's altar.*
- *Our heroes found the flame and words that bound the dragon.*
- *The party captured Scarmaker and a tiefling for questioning.*

Within Baphomet's Halls

As the ritual components vanished from each circle, enemies rose in their place. Of our heroes, only Soveliss found himself safe – the elemental vortex that sprung into existence in his chamber was trapped behind a hastily prepared *magic circle*.

The adventurers each made the way quickly out of the ritual chambers, avoiding the traps and foes within, only to come face to face with a crimson-scaled dragon and a rolling ball of force. Dek and Aleya rushed to engage the dragon, even as Bengi amplified his voice and attempted to force the dragon to retreat.

The monstrous creature appeared to heed the golem's words, but its fiery breath flickered out and its massive claws raked terrible wound in Aleya's flesh. The beast audibly lamented its compulsion even as it sought to tear the avenger limb from limb.

Pieter added his words to Bengi's and together the two of them began to break through the dragon's enforced obedience, aiding the creature in resisting the magical forces driving its rage even as Dek and Aleya lashed out with their weapons.

The ball of force continued to careen through the passages surrounding the Well, smashing Dek and Aleya to the ground when they were unfortunate enough to be caught before it.

The dragon lamented that it was unable to resist its geas, but in that moment Pieter managed to sway it. The beast gave one great sigh. "Go quickly" it said, and then the dragon and the ball of force faded into nothingness.

The Heroes of Winterhaven burst into Baphomet's temple to find the sacrifice under way and Caelan's brother held captive in a pulsing ritual circle. Gnolls and tieflings watched on as a robed gnoll, Maldrick Scarmaker, chanted nearby. Two dark moon monks rushed to engage.

Dek surged forward into a mass of enemies, drawing their attention as his weapon slashed again and again, carving a bloody trail through the evil-worshippers.

Aleya rushed into the melee regardless of her wounds; she and Caelan trying to reach the druid's brother. A tiefling warlock struck out at the avenger, catapulting her against a boiling cauldron.

Aleya screamed with pain and collapsed to the ground, even as Maldrick Scarmaker engaged Bengi in a battle of arcane might. The golem came off worst, deactivating even as its plating cracked and scored and mystic energies lifted it off the ground.

Seeing the risk the warlock posed, Soveliss engulfed the gnolls in poisonous fumes, promptly finishing off two defenders and forcing Scarmaker onto the defensive. In the lull that followed, Caelan and Pieter rescued Aleya from the boiling cauldron and Pieter's magic soon re-activated Bengi.

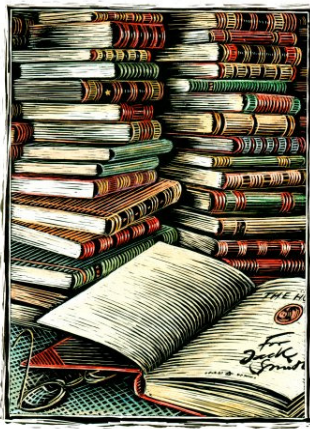
Soveliss called for Scarmaker to surrender and, with his allies felled, the gnoll had no choice but to comply.

As Dek stood guard over the gnoll, axe held ready, Caelan rushed to check on his brother.



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In Their Eyes: Bengi and Maldrick Scarmaker



The golem teleported into the ritual circle in a flood of rushing shadows, magically displacing the half-elf held captive within. As he reappeared close by, Aeron looked up with uncomprehending eyes.

As the golem raised its arcane blade to strike out at the tiefling nearby, Bengi felt an oppressive force settle on it.

It turned in search of Maldrick Scarmaker, only for its limbs to jerk and seethe with rivers of pain. The golem's head snapped back and its body arched uncontrollably.

Bengi emotionlessly felt out for the skeins of Maldrick's weaving, seeking to disrupt the arcane energies coursing through its frame, but the gnoll's magic was too strong. The golem felt its metal feet leave the ground as its body slowly rose into the air.

Scarmaker barked wildly as the colour in Bengi's eyes quickly faded, before flickering twice and then dying.

The golem's body hung motionless in the centre of the circle, turning slowly as the gnoll warlock cackled nearby.

State of Play

Person	HP	HS	AP	Coins	Items	Other
Aleya	63/63	8/8	1	583 gp	<i>Circlet of second chances</i> <i>Bracers of defence</i> <i>Battle Standard of Might</i>	
Bengi	61/61	10/10	1	583 gp		
Caelan	54/54	8/8	1	583 gp	<i>Old druidic medallion</i>	
Dek	75/75	13/13	1	583 gp		
Pieter	59/59	8/8	1	583 gp		
Soveliss	46/46	7/7	1	583 gp		
Unallocated						Maldrick's "key"

Quote of the Session

"Tell me where to find Paldemar, and I will dismiss the cloud!"

- Soveliss calls for Maldrick's surrender as the gnoll suffocates in the stinking cloud.

Quest Tracker

Quest	Clues/Notes	Status
Gendar's Errands	Return the scepter to Gendar	Incomplete
A Dreadful Boar	Return Tusky to Ulthand Deepgem	Incomplete
Where's Paldemar?	Find Paldemar Spellweaver	Incomplete
Terrlen's Curse	Help Terrlen rid himself of lycanthropy	Incomplete

