

STONES AND SHADOW, TREES AND LIGHT

Session Thirty Three:
13-15 Highsun 1479



Session 33
8 November 2009

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Points of note:

- *The red dragon promised that the next time it met the party it would take back the treasure it revealed.*
- *Dek returned Tusky to Ulthand Deepgem, who was overjoyed to have his "pet" back safely.*
- *Brugg hinted at some dealing with Bengi and Soveliss concerning a duergar.*
- *Caelan's brother Aeron revealed himself to be a bard of no little ability.*

A Dark Communion

Our heroes clustered in Baphomet's temple. While Caelan cared for his suffering brother, Bengi interrogated Scarmaker and Pieter talked to the gnoll's tiefling accomplice.

When Bengi had obtained all the information it could from Maldrick, the golem killed him without another word. Pieter, conversely, tried to offer the tiefling salvation from eternal torment in Cyric's realm. Despite her pleas for mercy, the Tempuran executed her for her sins then administered last rites in acknowledgement of her death-bed repentance.

Soveliss studied Maldrick's key and was gifted with a vision of Paldemar in a temple of Cyric, worshipped by a small army of norkers.

Bengi suddenly voiced a desire to free the dragon guardian. Caelan agreed, unwilling to leave a natural creature in captivity. Pieter and Dek had reservations, but after a night filled with haunted sleep, the cleric came around. Dek soon agreed. Only Soveliss opposed freeing the dragon, arguing that it would cause untold damage if allowed to roam free.

At Pieter's signal, Bengi used its innate magical energies to shatter the words of binding and extinguish the ritual flame. The dragon surged out of the Well, overjoyed and shocked to be free.

It thanked our heroes and revealed to them the location of a magnificent treasure, but warned that the next time they met, it would take the treasure back.

Then it disappeared back into the tunnels under the well, commenting as it went that it

would "join Nidhoggur and rule the desert". Pieter turned to Dek in shock, but the dwarf did not respond, and then the dragon was gone.

The Heroes of Winterhaven returned to the Seven-Pillared Hall, where they rested for the evening.

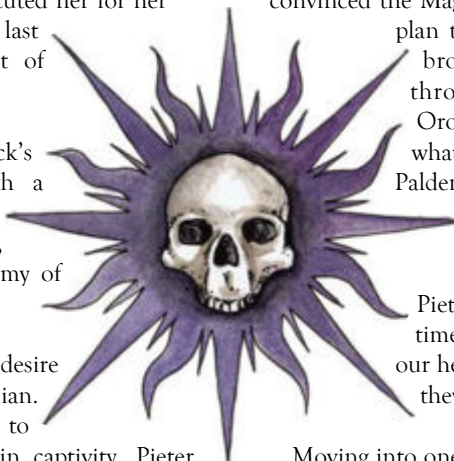
The next morning they met with Orontor and convinced the Mage of Saruun of Paldemar's plan to awaken and control the bronze warders scattered throughout the labyrinth. Orontor in turn gave the party what knowledge he had of Paldemar's abilities and bade them seek him out and end his treachery.

Pieter and Soveliss spent some time preparing equipment that our heroes would need, and then they set off.

Moving into one of the tunnels outside the Hall, Bengi and Soveliss triggered Maldrick's key and our heroes found themselves in an windowless chamber. There they were confronted by a manifestation of Cyric himself, who demanded knowledge of them before they could pass.

Shaken but undeterred, our heroes used another teleportation circle to move deeper into the temple. They encountered norkers and tieflings, who were soon put to the sword.

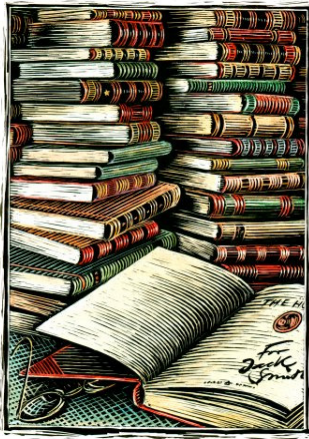
In the aftermath, the Heroes of Winterhaven searched their surroundings and then gathered around another teleport circle, knowing that Paldemar Spellweaver, Mage of Saruun, servant of Cyric and the holder of the crystal prism that Soveliss so desperately desired, must be close.



SESSION THIRTY THREE:
13-15 HIGHSUN 1479

In Their Eyes: Bengi Extinguishes the Flame

Special guest author: AndyOz



Standing before the enchanted shrine, a metallic finger reaches out and begins tracing the glowing words etched onto the temple walls.

Although the touch is light, Bengi's considerable arcane power is behind it, and the words crumble to dust even as the golem traces and speaks them.

When the last of the words is gone, Bengi then reaches its hand into the flame. There is a brief contest of arcane power, before the flame flickers and is snuffed out.

Bengi turns and announces "Done", before walking out to join the others, arriving just as the dragon emerges from its once-prison.

State of Play

Person	HP	HS	AP	Coins	Items	Other
Aleya	63/70	8/9	1	584 gp		
Bengi	67/67	11/11	1	584 gp		
Caelan	59/59	8/8	1	583 gp		
Dek	82/82	13/14	1	583 gp		
Pieter	64/64	8/8	1	583 gp		
Soveliss	58/58	7/7	1	583 gp		

Quote of the Session

"You worked a goodun on that duergar. He was all used up and I had to chuck 'im out back with the rubbish."

- Brugg shares a joke with Bengi and Soveliss, while the rest of the party stand confused.

Quest Tracker

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

