

STONES AND SHADOW, TREES AND LIGHT

Session Thirty Seven:
16 - 18 Highsun 1479



Session 37
24 January 2010

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Points of note:

- *Michael the Burnt's operation had recently been swept by worship of the dark goddess Shar.*
- *Pieter experimented with a herbal remedy for addiction to Crimson Road, but only managed to create a compress that aided recovery from its symptoms.*
- *In the distant past, the other Sons of Acererak left when given their freedom, but Bengi remained behind.*

By the Fires of Creation

The hulking ogre informed the Heroes of Winterhaven that they had earned a position in the ranks of Michael's mercenaries, and that he would contact them when he had work suited to their abilities.

Our heroes then spread out to explore Umbraforge more. Pieter returned to their lodgings and treated the broken arm of the innkeeper's daughter. The girl, barely out of her childhood, showed clear signs of addiction to the illicit drug Crimson Road, and Pieter needed to impose his will on the girl's father to prevent him reacting violently to the news.

Meanwhile, Bengi went to visit a warforged "healer" and learned more of its race's history. Bengi told the healer what he could of his early existence, but there were significant gaps in his memory that the healer could not entirely help him fill.

Soveliss wandered the marketplace, more at peace with Umbraforge than his companions. Through blunt questioning and free distribution of his gold, he determined that there was no organised resistance to Michael's rule, although the warlock had recently fallen out with one of his lieutenants; a dark creeper named Modra. He also learned that Michael was making arcane battle beasts and strange creatures to sell as warriors to the giants.

Caelan watched the comings and goings on the path to Michael's tower, hoping to discover a way in. Unfortunately, the approach seemed impossible. While making his way dejectedly back to the tavern, though, he overheard a conversation between two bored mercenaries. The men commented that the mages in the town's forge must live there, because no one ever saw them leave.

Putting two and two together, our heroes resolved to enter the forge in search of a means to enter Michael's tower.

As the adventurers made their move, they were pleased to note that a nearby building had caught fire and the foundry's guards had rushed to help. Caelan discovered a section of foundry wall that had been weakened by the rumbling of the nearby mountain and Pieter and Dek smashed their way into the building.

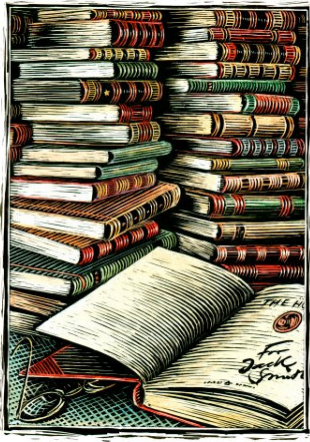
Inside, gigantic vats filled with green mucous filled the building, each containing an indistinct yet menacing shape. Nearby, a group of shadow goblins attacked the vats under the watchful eye of a shadow creeper. Despite an initial misunderstanding that resulted in goblin deaths, Modra and his revolutionaries soon left our heroes to their own devices and they passed through a secret door into the tower of Michael the Burnt.





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Rules Review



We didn't have a single rules question this session, which I think proves that we're all very comfortable with our PCs and the rules by now. Of course, we're on the **cusp of paragon** and I'm sure all that familiarity will go out the window once new powers start appearing and paragon paths have us all squееing with delight.

As indicated by Pete in his post-session email, he's promoting us to level 9 for next session. If you haven't already done so, please choose your **new daily power** (and any retrains) and advise Pete so that he can code the relevant maptool functions. Ah, the joy of having a

technologically adept DM! Sorry Pete for changing my mind about Divine Fury...

Pete has also asked that we consider what our **character's goals** might be as we move into paragon (and possibly later epic). Pieter and Soveliss are close to completing their initial goals (recovering Stormbringer and the prism respectively) and Caelan has already completed his (rescuing Aeron).

In fact, Bengi's the only one with a clear path ahead of him: to find out what it means to be a Son of Acererak—who wants to be there when he does?

State of Play

Person	HP	HS	AP	Coins	Items	Other
Bengi	67/72	11/11	1			
Caelan	51/64	8/8	1			
Dek	82/88	14/14	1			
Pieter	64/69	7/8	1			
Soveliss	58/62	7/7	1			

Quote of the Session

"Out of my way Meatling, or I will squash you where you stand."

- Bengi and Pieter create a distraction to draw the foundry guards away from Caelan's scouting activities.

Quest Tracker

Quest	Clues/Notes	Status
Where's Paldemar	Defeat Paldemar Spellweaver	Incomplete
Terrlen's Curse	Help Terrlen rid himself of Lycanthropy	Incomplete
A Long Way from Home	Find a way out of the Shadowfell	Incomplete

