

STONES AND SHADOW, TREES AND LIGHT

Session Forty Eight:

Session 48

18 July 2010

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Points of note:

- *The fire archon's death throws narrowly avoided knocking Tiana unconscious.*
- *The Forgecaller's flame burst stripped half the party of their fire resistance.*
- *Garth drew the attention of the giants, almost finding himself overwhelmed.*
- *Moments before she fell, the Forgecaller cried, "You are too late to stop us. Argent will fall!"*

Eye of Flame

The lone fire giant blocking the chamber's entrance proved little challenge, and the Frozen Steel adventurers soon stormed the chamber and confronted the salamanders. As they did so, a being made of animated flame emerged from the wall of fire and attacked.

Garth and Ox, accompanied by Varos' spirit companion, met the foes head-on while the other adventurers attacked with spell and arrow from the corridor.

The melee soon degenerated into a unstructured brawl as Tiana's spells first blinded the combatants and then wreathed the area in opaque poisonous vapours. Garth found himself caught in both spells, while Ox was lucky enough to be just outside their area.

The salamanders could not withstand the Frozen Steel assault and, despite attempting to regather behind the wall of fire, were soon put to the sword. The fire archon fought on alone, unleashing burning infernos that scorched everyone around it and almost brought Tiana to her knees, but it could not prevail and soon the Frozen Steel were the sole survivors.

They pushed further into the complex, following a sweltering wind rushing through the corridors, and ultimately came to a feast chamber. Within, a host of fire giants and their azer servants were meeting with an air archon. As Ox kicked open the door, the occupants of the room abandoned their

discussion and turned to deal with the intruders.

The azer rushed forward attempting to block the door, only to be cut down. The air archon lashed out at Garth and then attempted to flee, but the half-orc halted its flight with a well placed blow from his urgrosh.

The fire giants move to engage, striking from behind the azer's quickly-thinning ranks with their great reach. When the azer finally fell, the giants waded amongst the Frozen Steel company while a forgecaller bombarded the adventurers with spells that stripped their magical resistances.

Despite the size of their enemies and the abrupt dismissal of their magical wards, the Frozen Steel redoubled their efforts and were soon rewarded when the first of the giants fell.

Garth charged the forgecaller finally illuminated by Varos' sunrod and prevented her from manoeuvring with a smashing blow to her knee. As Ox and Tiana felled the remaining fire giants, the forgecaller cursed the Frozen Steel. Her imprecations were soon ended by a well-placed arrow from An'Sar'Ius.

In the aftermath of the battle, Tiana identified a flask of elemental water on the forgecaller's belt. The eladrin used the water to extinguish the magical braziers nearby.

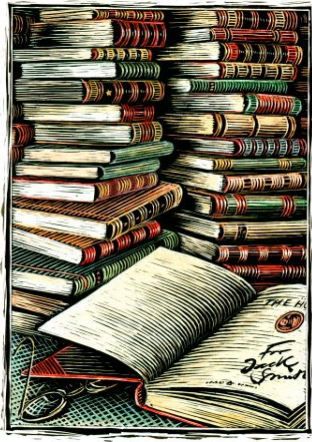
As the complex began to crumble, the Frozen Steel fled the complex, arriving back on the frozen mountaintop just as the portal flickered and closed forever.





SESSION FORTY EIGHT:

Rules Review



We didn't have any great rules queries this session, mostly because the combats were relatively straightforward.

As discussed after the session, I **cheated outrageously** by allowing the forgercaller's *flame burst* power to strip your fire resistance. As it turned out - and you all agreed - it made the difference between an exciting and enjoyable battle and what would otherwise have been a stroll in the (rather hot) park.

We again saw just how potent the shaman's **spirit companion** was when a fire giant managed to kill the damn thing, only to find

himself damaged and dazed while the companion re-appeared as a free action the next turn.

I'm not calling it (or the shaman in general) overpowered just yet, but I must admit to a certain amount of **class feature envy** - while an equivalent level Pieter could probably out-heal Varos, he wouldn't have anywhere near the bag of tricks that Andy's shaman had.

Still, I suppose that's probably fitting given Pieter is **Leader/Defender**, while Varos seems quite like a **Leader/Controller**.

State of Play

Person	HP	HS	AP	Coins	Items	Other
An'Sari'Ius	84/101	4/8	0			
Garth	40/130	5/12	0			
Ox	108/137	10/14	1			<i>It's a one-shot, remember?</i>
Tiana	85/85	2/8	1			
Varos	76/105	9/11	1			

Quote of the Session

"The giant lowers his sword for a moment, places a hand on its belly and laughs at your attacks, only to be nearly bisected by Ox's halberd."

Quest Tracker

Quest	Clues/Notes	Status
Ring of Fire	Investigate and close the portal	Complete

