

The Barrowmaze

Session 101 19-08-26 Gold and Guardians

Next Session 26-08-26

Tuesday the 20th day of Haenubrius, 10:50, Clockwork Scorpion Room, Barrow 40

Fenella examines the wreckage of the Clockwork Scorpions confirming that their poison would have been lethal and would therefore have wasted a lot of her effort and skill in restoring whoever had been clumsy enough to die. Taking various levels of note, ranging from, "I must remember this," to nothing at all, they return to the entrance chamber and look up at the sparkling emerald eyes in the two Set statues.

Leo notices that Bella no longer has a light source (Fenella's pendant) that he was relying on when searching ahead with Bella in support. Fenella now has her magical Scimitar, which also projects Continual Light if she so commands, so she hands the pendant over to Leo, pointing out that she's just lending out her property.

The Sight of Set

Beautifully lit, Leo wonders if Luna might like to "inspect" the statue's emerald eyes. The agile Thief nimbly ascends the northernmost statue, appraising the emeralds as 500 gp stones, very nice. She asks whether they could topple the statues over but Leo calls back from below that they are too firmly built into the ground to be moved so Luna prises one of the emeralds free and then moves on to the second one. As the second emerald drops into her hand, everything goes dark, she is blind! She tries to think of something to do about this but nothing occurs to her so she complains down to the others and Leo responds, "try to put them back," which she does by sense of touch. As she urgently guides the second emerald into its socket, she regains her sight. Dropping back down to the ground she thanks Leo for the bright idea; somehow, returning the gems to their place had just not occurred to the Thief.

The Octagonal Room of Set

After this narrow squeak they return to the eastern door and although Luna has previously failed to pick the lock, they can still attempt to force the door, so Leo and Luna as the strongest in the party both try to work their crowbars into any gap they can find in the doors. After some manipulation Leo is able to lever his crowbar into a gap but Luna unluckily fails in her attempt. Leo heaves mightily on the bar, eventually managing to lever the portal far enough open to admit them.

Moving carefully into the room, Leo sees a 30 ft diameter octagonal room and a row of three large urns standing neatly in a north/south row. Luna calls out that she can see a statue ahead, which quickly looms into Leo's light and he is unsurprised to find another statue of Set, somewhat smaller than the two in the corridor, placed against the eastern wall; this one however, does not have tempting emeralds for eyes.

The urns are over 5 ft tall and very bulbous at the top. Leo leans over on tiptoe to look into the nearest opening and with the benefit of his continual light pendant sees it contains an impressive number of gold coins. He checks the other two and finds them similarly loaded with loot.

Leo pushes the nearest urn, the southernmost, finding it heavy and well rooted to the ground. He puts his back into it and makes a hard push against it, causing the urn to fall and crack open, spilling many gold coins across the floor. They quickly count up the plunder finding 1,500 gp. Leo happily shoulder charges the next one with similar effects, also yielding a lot of gold coins, as he pushes the last one over. Out of his line of sight at the entrance, two secret doors swing open and two 8ft tall stone figures stamp menacingly into the corridor and turn to face the party, blocking the exit. Luna points at Leo, saying, "it was him," but the stone guardians remain impassive and pay no heed, raising their mighty fists to Luna and Phineas who were the closest when they emerged.

Dual Duel

Luna is quick off the mark and immediately retreats out of range of the giant fists, turning and loosing an arrow at the nearest guardian, striking it yet seeing the arrow splinter uselessly against the stone construct. The first guardian smashes into Phineas with both mighty fists, striking with one of its heavy attacks, immediately followed up by the second guardian which also lunges at the unfortunate fighter who luckily dodges the blows.

Morgaine throws her magical dagger but misses.

Leo charges in wielding his marvellous magical sword, swinging fiercely yet is dismayed to see a very minor level of damage inflicted on the thing. He curses and calls out for someone to try blunt weapons against it but Bella, their magical mace-wielding Cleric can't yet get into the attack since she is blocked by Leo and Phineas in the corridor so she stands by ready for battle as soon as there is an opening. Fenella wisely gets out of the way and lets the Fighters get on with it.

Phineas tries to return the favour to his stone guardian but his injury must have affected him since his sword swing misses the hulking great thing before him.

Sir Leo commands a fighting retreat from melee, to make space for Bella, except for himself of course, it's just not in his view of Knightly conduct to retreat unless manoeuvring an enemy into a trap. No, this is a duel and he will not yield!

However, the two guardians remain exactly where they are, blocking the corridor and waiting for their enemies to come to them. The guardian fighting Phineas attacks him before he can retreat from the melee but Phineas deftly dodges and avoids the attacks before withdrawing as ordered. The path is now clear for Bella to use her mace so she runs in swinging the mighty bludgeoning weapon, smashing it into the guardian, sending stone flying in all directions as she deals it some real damage.

Sadly for Leo he doesn't have any sort of bludgeoning weapon so bearing this in mind for the future he re-engages and chips a few more pieces off with his normally devastating attack. Meanwhile, Luna checks out the statue, suspicious that it might also spring to life but it seems content to remain as it is, gazing impassively over the scene.

Bella's guardian smashes its mighty fists into the valiant Cleric, striking her twice for serious damage. From across the room Fenella spots the damage done to her comrades and moves forward as the other guardian punches at Leo, striking him brutally although the Knight dodges the second fist.

Fenella races over to cast a CSW on Bella, healing the worst of her wounds while Morgaine continues to throw her dagger and miss as Phineas jeers from the sideline while bandaging himself. Luna moves away from the statue since it makes her feels uncomfortable.

Bella misses as Leo is attacked but between his fine armour and evasion skills, he avoids any injury. Bella takes a glancing blow but dances away from the second attack. Fenella bides her time within curing range of Bella as Morgaine misses yet again, cursing fluently in multiple languages.

Leo swings with all of his frustration powered fury, sending more splinters flying. Bella swings and hits, pebble-dashing the wall with bits of stone guardian as she dodges another counterattack. Bella takes a second glancing hit and Leo is attacked again, becoming irritated by the stone dust on his armour. Bella is hit yet again but the determined Cleric ploughs back into melee, chanting prayers to St Ygg as she fights.

Leo splinters a few more bits off his opponent grinding his teeth in frustration as Fenella casts another CSW on Bella, keeping her in the fight. Screaming in frustrated rage Morgaine misses yet again!

Blinking blood from her eyes, Bella misses her attack as Leo shrugs off an ineffectually moderate strike from his enemy before taking a full on smash which staggers him back.

With the power of St Ygg in her heart Bella lands a brutal blow, smashing chunks of rock from the guardian as she takes multiple wounds from the impassive guardians, grimly bearing the battering.

Leo attacks, slicing off more stone shavings then receives two powerful blows, knocking him back and leaving him swaying as he fights to remain conscious. With his eye on the fight, Shadwell frantically sorts through his gear and digs out the Restorative Ointment. Bella screams, "for St Ygg!" smashing down her magical mace and crushing the guardian before her into a pile of shattered rubble!

Shadwell runs to Leo and splats a handful of ointment onto the nearest exposed piece of skin, providing a serious restorative on the embattled knight. Both Leo and Bella hold similar viewpoints on withdrawing from battle, one is either rendered unconscious or dead, so the two badly wounded companions grimly continue their fight against the remaining guardian.

Morgaine finally hits a guardian with her thrown dagger to a cheer from the rest of The Hammers but sadly it doesn't cause any damage as she screams and utters a multitude of curses in her rage and frustration. Phineas realises it must be only missile weapons that cannot damage it at all, even though edged weapons are severely inhibited, their swords can still damage them.

Bella, smashes hard into the remaining construct, which sways a little unsteadily under her assault. Fenella casts CLW on Leo keeping him up and fighting, but again, in frustration, he causes only minor damage yet his constant attacks are gradually wearing it down. The guardian attacks Bella but misses.

As Bella's mace whooshes past its head the guardian clumsily misses Leo, who immediately chips another few pieces off.

Leo distracts their emotionless enemy with a series of rapid feints and Bella braces herself against the wall, summoning up all of her considerable faith and devotion before smashing her mace down onto the last guardian, exploding it into tiny pieces and showering the room with gravel.

Leo and Bella lean against the walls for support, both badly wounded from many brutal blows but they stand victorious in battle yet again with both St Ygg and Knightly honour well satisfied by their heroism.

"I'm buying a war hammer when I'm next in town," pledges Phineas and all the fighters, Leo included agree.

Dividing into two groups they gather up the gold and search the room but apart from the two small compartments where the guardians emerged there are no hidden compartments or doors. The statue continues to gaze balefully across the room.

Returning to the surface they cross the Moor and turn north towards the Western Marshes, travelling without incident which is fortunate considering their condition after the bloody battle.

By 15:30 they make it safely back to The Brazen Strumpet in Helix where Gerald is amazed to see the amount of gold they have recovered until Luna indignantly points out that Bella is also seriously wounded, leading to an awkward pause which will probably result in some serious self-reflection and meditation on the Paladin's part.

Tuesday the 20th day of Haenubrius, 15:30, The Brazen Strumpet, Helix