

WRATH OF THE RIGHTEOUS 01 / 18 / 2015

Attendance

Bruce cannot attend the session; he emails us to tell us that he is out chasing pussy. *Matt* also does not attend but sends no excuse – but we are pretty sure that it's not for the same reason. *Paul* regales us about the fun Nazi movie The Imitation Game, causing Ernest to share a tidbit from the latest “Ken and Robin Talk About Stuff” podcast about Salvador Dali's obsession with Sex Hitler. *Patrick* details his movie watching binge from the week, having seen Into the Woods and Selma. The details of the movies have started to blur together, however, resulting in a somewhat confused story about battling for civil rights in fairy tale land. *Paul* just eyes the rest of the group warily and carefully consumes his Subway sandwich, which is precious to him because he had to wrangle a poorly-trained Subway trainee for something close to a half hour to get produced.

<i>Character</i>	<i>Player</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Level</i>
Tabregon	Bruce	Male Half-elf Oracle of Iomedae, Touched by Divinity	8M3
Tsuguri Chiba	Chris	Male Cleric of Tsukiyo, Child of the Crusades	8M3
Antonius	Ernest	Male Tien Monk/Paladin of Irori, Stolen Fury	8M3
Trystan Rose	Matt	Male Half-elf Paladin of Shelyn, Touched by Divinity	8M3
Shawanda Jones	Patrick	Female Mwangi Paladin of Iomedae, Exposed to Awfulness	8M3
Calanthe	Tim	Female aasimar Sorcerer of Shelyn, Riftwarden Orphan	8M3

Flashing Back

Though the party is in Susker's Gully, their minds wander back to their last visit to Drezen when...

Uziel has become a bard and follower of the Khaleesi's, as Calanthe has taken the Leadership feat. His chaotic evil nature has softened to true neutral. He is now knowledgeable and a great skill-monkey to leave with the baggage.

We leave Tabregon and Joran Vhane to purify the Corruption Forge over a week of fiddling around. Trystan and Jestak guard him while he purifies the catacombs under Drezen with *hallow* spells.

The NPCs have these Craft skills:

- Aravashniel has Craft Wand and Scribe Scroll.
- Joran Vhane has Craft Arms and Armor
- Sosiel has Craft Arms and Armor

Converting Soulshear "to good" using the forge will take $\frac{1}{4}$ of its original cost, or 5727 gp. We spend a while trying to figure out a CR6 LG outsider that could take the place of the babau demon inhabiting it, but of course there aren't any good outsiders in our weight class (and Antonius objects to an azata based on its Chaoticness).

The group continues to explore the Worldwound around Susker's Gully, finding a cliff face going down to a lake – the Lake Lost to the Sun. They discuss claiming this land in the name of the Queen, and debate which Queen exactly (Antonius mentions Her Infernal Majestrix of Chelias, mainly to get the goat of the other heroes). They continue between the cliff and the chasm to the west. They go for days without getting attacked by any local flora or fauna, which causes them to declare this sector pacified.

They levitate down the cliff and follow the receding lake edge to the west-southwest. A raid of mutated frogs is all that bothers the group as they slowly explore. A dry riverbed extends southward from the lake, and the group takes it. It oozes molten lava straight from the Abyss.

The area is even more devastated than usual, with no plant life and blasted landscape. There are lots of caves in the side, and there's one special 35' wide one that seems like a good place for a woundwurm to live.

They discuss tactics. They leave Uziel outside with instructions that "if we don't come out in an hour, call a cop." Tsuguri places a communal *protection from acid* and

protection from evil on the group. Calanthe casts *fly* on everyone. They proceed into the cave and soon enough, a huge dragon comes swimming around a bend in the cavern.

Calanthe fires off a mythic haste. Tsuguri puts a mythic silence on Shawanda, uses his marshal “Advance” ability to grant everyone a move action (Shawanda and Antonius rush forward to flank the dragon) and then uses his domain of insanity to confuse it. It’s confused!

Antonius unleashes a flurry of blows with his coiled dragon staff, but only one lands. The dragon whirls and attacks him, though Shawanda interposes herself between its bite and the monk, but he takes a whole bunch of other attacks. She strikes it with Radiance. Tsuguri comes around the end and magically and lays a *heal* on Antonius. Antonius strikes it only once, and then runs across the battlefield – as it is confused, the dragon runs right after him. Shawanda gets an attack of opportunity on it for its trouble.

However, that takes the woundwurm outside the radius of Tsuguri’s confusion and Shawanda’s silence. It bellows, “You will make an excellent decoration for my lair!” and casts *polymorph any object* on Antonius, which he manages to resist, just barely. Obsidian flakes dot his skin.

Shawanda makes Radiance holy with her divine bond, moves up behind the dragon, and smites it! She plunges it into the dragon, causing horrific wounds. Calanthe shoots a *ray of exhaustion* at the dragon, hitting it – it shrugs off most of the effect but is still fatigued.

Tsuguri tries to reapply his aura of insanity. The woundwurm succumbs again! Antonius decides wisdom lies in patience, and waits – the wyrm attacks itself in its confusion. Antonius charges and wraps his three-piece-rod around its neck and executes his backbreaker technique – 67 points of damage and the wyrm falls! It lies there, bleeding, one hit point from death. “I know, let’s redeem it!” exclaims Antonius! Before everyone is done with their expressions of shock and horror, he finishes it with a swat from his weapon. This counts as a mythic trial, so both Shawanda and Tsuguri get a flash of power and go up to mythic tier 4!

The letter is from Trevor, Sosiel’s brother, discussing how their crusader patrol fell to the wyrm and he was going in to try to free his brethren. Coincidentally, we find

three obsidian statues. There's also a lot of stuff here, to the tune of 18 points of abstract "goods."

Among the dragon's treasure is a big platinum holy symbol of Iomedae; Antonius proposes that due to her bravery in besting the dragon Shawanda should wear it. Everyone concurs. Calathe sees a belt of dwarvenkind that she demands!

That night, Antonius has another lurid dream of demonic rituals. He feels a tugging to the south-southeast.

Tsuguri tries to break the enchantment on one of the obsidian statues. Sosiell's brother Trevor emerges as a film of obsidian shatters around him! "How long has it been?" he asks. Calanthe is tempted to tell him "a thousand years" but the group peer-pressures her into figuring it out – it's been a while, he disappeared off the field of battle before Sosiell became a cleric, ten years ago. Antonius fills him in – "So there's been a major demonic incursion and they blew up Kenabres and took Drezen and blew up the Wardstones we're here with Queen Galfrey's Army of Kenabres and we took back Kenabres and Drezen and are conducting reconnaissance in force into the Worldwound. Your brother Sosiell is now a highly placed cleric with the Crusade and is here in Drezen with his male lover Aaron." That is quite a bit for Trevor to ingest, so he takes a moment and introduces his comrades Lorassia Windsailor and Stimita Tarmykos.

Tsuguri doesn't really trust round-eyes and channels energy to harm evil creatures. Antonius yowls and writhes for a moment, as a prank so that he can see Tsuguri's eyes bug out. Mission accomplished.

Trevor joined the Crusade as an Eagle Knight. He's pretty bad ass (level 9 about) and a super magical demon killing sword we found in the hoard is his. Antonius takes time to get close to him, filling him in on the modern day and finding out about his interests (luxury clothing and books on war). We determine we'll leave the three crusaders and the goods here for later pickup when we head north, to give them time to re-acclimate to the modern day.

The group heads south. Tsuguri notices some forms watching them from a cave in the cliff wall. Upon inspection, Antonius believes he's heard of them, creatures corrupted and warped by the chaos of the Abyss. "Beware crusaders, chaos beasts!" he cries as the forms surge forward out of their cave. Calanthe takes flight and casts *mythic haste*.

Shawanda moves up to under the cave (it's twenty feet up). Tsuguri applies *protection from evil* to himself and Antonius. The creatures retreat into their cave. Calanthe casts *daylight* into the cave to torment the creatures.

Shawanda climbs into the cave and sees three of the critters in the midst of casting summoning spells. She is relieved to see that all three spells are stillborn, but less relieved when they descend upon her en masse. One starts to become more muscular, and strikes her with a claw; another becomes lean and swift but its claws rake upon her armor, and the third grows armor plating and also claws the paladin.

Antonius runs up the face of the cliff, Jackie Chan style, and into the cave where he slams his weapon into the muscular one of the three. It blurs out of the way of one of his attacks. Calanthe fires off a *slow* into the group of chaos creatures to good effect. The creatures emit a field that threatens to make the crusaders' bodies warp.

Tsuguri levitates up into the cave and tries out his aura of madness on the monsters. They are already insane, so there's no effect. The muscular one loses his muscles and grows multiple eyes. The lean one grows prismatic scales. The armored one... stays armored.

The multi-eyed one claws Shawanda. The scaled one dimension doors out above the flying Calanthe, and grabs her! They both go crashing to the ground out in the riverbed. The armored one attacks Antonius but misses. He jump-kicks Mr. Eyeballs, badly wounding him.

Calanthe casts *grease* on herself and unsuccessfully tries to escape the warped one. Shawanda smites evil on the armored one and lays into it, hitting with all three of her attacks for 110 points of damage, rending it part from part.

Tsuguri commands everyone to "Advance!" Shawanda goes to jump down and run out of the cave to help the Khaleesi, and instead augurs right into the ground outside the cave. He lets out a shout of defiance and heals her and inspires her to stand up.

Calanthe is still in the grip of a warped one, and its fleshwarping takes effect on her! She swells and becomes hugely obese, bursting her clothes, and is confused and sickened. The warped one grows muscles and goes to make sweet, greased tentacle love to her, and rolls a natural 20. The multi-eyed mutation back in the cave becomes lean and

swift and attacks Antonius, who is using his iron mountain stance to make himself difficult to hit. Antonius lashes back at it with his cold iron three-piece rod and slays it.

Calanthe struggles ineffectually in the grip of the warped one. Shawanda charges in and hacks at the Khaleesi's tormentor, critically wounding it. Tsuguri stabs at it frantically with his long spear. It releases Calanthe and heads for Shawanda. It ripples and grows fingers, tumors, tentacles, and various other appendages it uses to flail at her. Antonius leaps down from the cave, rockets over, and beats the warped one to death. Calanthe quickly returns to her normal size-0 body size. "Cover your shame, woman!" says Antonius as Shawanda hands her a cloak.

Over Antonius' objections ("I must go south! Something from my past beckons!"), the group picks up the three crusaders and heads back to the citadel. They reunite Sosiel with his brother, Trevor.

On The Road Again

The crusaders set back out to head south at Antonius' urging, and to look for the Ivory Sanctum (which lies in the Green Gates, a large forest west of the marshlands, behind Vhang's Illusionary Wall). They make their way to the southern limits of their exploration, and find a notable sight, a 200 foot tall lava-fall. They dub the mountain "Mt. Crapville."

After some exploration, they see a peninsula of rock jutting out into the lava lake, with a nest of blue crystals upon it.

The Molten Scar

The group sees three islands down in the lava. Electricity arcs out from the blue crystals on the side of the chasm to hit the westernmost of the three islands. Uziel remembers stories about a crystal island in the Grey Road River back in the day. Some v rocks have a host of chained prisoners and appear to be performing an evil ceremony on the captured crusaders to transform them into demons – the same ritual that was done to the monks of the Iron Mountain when Antonius was young. In fact, the same demon responsible is down there with them. "We must save them!" declares Antonius. Calanthe casts *fly* on everyone and Tsuguri gives everyone protection from electricity. They head that direction.

The three vrock fly to meet them and initiate a mythic dance of ruin. Lightning bolts arc out to hit all the approaching crusaders, singing Calanthe a bit. Then everyone closes to melee in the air. The vrock screech at the approaching crusaders and then attack, oozing spores from their bodies. They take root on Tsuguri and start to grow vines all over his body.

Shawanda strikes out at one of the vrock, cutting it badly several times. Tsuguri surges mythic power through the crusaders, letting them maneuver.

Antonius cries, "Behold the vengeance of the monks of the Iron Mountain!" and flies right to the leader, who wields a huge, bloody scythe. Tsuguri confuses one of the two lesser vrock. Calanthe hits the other with a *resilient sphere*, trapping it.

Antonius smites the leader with his cold iron rod, wounding it badly. Shawanda hacks it to pieces and it falls to the lava below, spraying blood! The Quickening comes over Antonius.

Tsuguri moves away from his vrock and casts *prayer*. Calanthe, intrigued by shiny things, flies down and casts levitate on the scythe to get it out of the lava.

Antonius flies over to beat on the other vrock; it critically claws him in response. Shawanda joins him and critically wounds it. Calanthe *magic missiles* it and it falls into the lava.

They fly down and release the prisoners. They are grateful and tell how they were turning people into demons with this ritual. The party looks over the evil scythe recovered from the vrock leader and consider that if they could coat it with glitter then maybe a Large paladin might like it. After they evacuate the prisoners, Antonius flies back over and chips off some lightning crystals to put inside the jeweled spider-skulls back in Drezen.