

WRATH OF THE RIGHTEOUS 12/20/2015

Attendance

Bruce shows up late because he has been watching the *Great British Baking Show*. *Georgina* explains that he will miss the next episode, on pies and tarts – she cannot wait to see it. *Chris* warns him that this means she will become the dominant half of the relationship. *Georgina* brings home the threat with a warning about making cheesecake muffins. *Patrick* can only assume that this is some kind of euphemism. *Paul* knows that it is not – he intends to bake for his birthday tomorrow. Happy birthday, Paul!

Ernest shows up just in time to participate in the discussion on the virtues of the Roomba. *Barbara* offers a variety of useful pieces of advice, much of which boils down to “Avoid buying one of the stupid ones.”

Matt promises to show up, later on. *Tim* also promises to show up. He refuses to commit to when, but it will be before *Matt* shows up.

<i>Character</i>	<i>Player</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Level</i>
Tabregon	Bruce	Male Half-elf Oracle of Iomedae, Touched by Divinity	16M10
Tsuguri Chiba	Chris	Male Cleric of Tsukiyo, Child of the Crusades	16M10
Antonius	Ernest	Male Tien Monk/Paladin of Irori, Stolen Fury	16M10
Trystan	Matt	Male Half-elf Paladin of Shelyn, Touched by Divinity	16M10
Shawanda	Patrick	Female Mwangi Paladin of Iomedae, Exposed to Awfulness	16M10
Calanthe	Tim	Female aasimar Sorcerer of Shelyn, Riftwarden Orphan	16M10

When Last We Saw Our Heroes...

The characters have managed to release a *lhaksharut inevitable* from a horrific cage in the depths of the Threshold. It appears that the demons were using the power of the inevitable to stabilize the ritual they were working to expand the Worldwound to consume all of Golarion. He was also under the burden of a large number of negative levels, which the characters are able to work through with a *miracle*.

The Co-Conspirator's Penance

The characters move on into a further chamber, a long room with a small alcove at the far end. A slowly smoldering brass censer carved to look like a swarm of insects sits upon a single pillar within the alcove. Colorful, thick smoke drifts upward from it. *Tsuguri* tries summoning water on top of it, causing it to sputter and fizzle but failing to put it out. It is clearly magical. And evil. *Tabregon* actually tries *detect magic* on it and examines it. He thinks that it is trapping a soul within the fumes in a manner similar to a *binding* spell. He thinks further that it could be possible to evoke the soul, if its name were known.

Antonius has an answer – he thrusts his hand into the smoke and uses *imprinting palm*. He is given a vision of the Threshold as it was before, when *Areelu Vorlesh* was a prisoner in the original Sarkorian prison. She conspired with two others. One was an aging Tian man whose features resemble those of the massive torso-worm the characters defeated early in their journey into the Threshold. The other is a magician named *Ohan*. Both of those magicians rebelled against *Areelu Vorlesh* when they realized they were opening a portal to the Abyss. A brilliant spiral rune is marked upon his forehead.

Antonius invokes his name, “*Ohan!*” The man’s head appears in the smoke. *Antonius* asks for his help. *Ohan* says there is little he can do, but he wishes to witness *Areelu Vorlesh*’s defeat and pleads to the characters to bring his censer along that he might see her defeat. The characters agree. *Shawanda* straps the censer onto her back.

The Echo of Deskari

The characters continue on to another chamber decorated with various demon insect-themed frescoes dominated by a massive insectoid demon armed with a scythe of bone. The room is surrounded by bells that ring to shake the walls upon the characters' entry – creating a sound so loud that it could destroy lesser mortals.

As the sound of the bells fades, a skeletal demonic figure steps out of the fresco. It has a scorpion's body, insect wings and a burning scythe. The characters bear up their dire blades and stomp their shields as it scuttles up.

The thing attempts *imprisonment* upon Tabregon, and performs a *quicken* *summon swarm* upon Shawanda and Tsuguri. Shawanda feels the burning bites of a thousand venomous fangs. In her rage, she storms the scythe-bearer's flanks. It swings at her, the burning blade reaching through her armor and shield to scorch her directly.

Antonius strikes the creature once, learning that the characters are facing the *Echo of Deskari*, an avatar of the demon lord. Tsuguri calls out, "The Echo of Deskari is not vulnerable to my *aura of madness*! Strike true, my allies, my beloved comrades!" Shawanda hears Tsuguri's words and lets them guide *Radiance*. Her blade bites deep!

The Echo of Deskari responds by slashing Antonius deeply. Tabregon's *mythic shield other* siphons away the damage, protecting the valiant monk from ghastly burning wounds.

The *lhaksharut inevitable* unleashes energy bolts upon the Echo of Deskari, inflicting both flame and cold damage upon the demonic menace. The Echo of Deskari turns once again to Antonius. The great monk burns under the weight of demonic flames.

Shawanda roars her great battle-cry and stabs with *Radiance*, calling out to the gods to bless her with *foe-biting*. She plunges her sacred blade through the Echo's head, then as black ichor sprays out she withdraws her blade and carves out the monster's heart. The body of the Echo of Deskari explodes into a swarm of razor-winged insects that slash everyone.

The Fall of Areelu Vorlesh

The doors at the end of the chamber slam open. Standing there is Areelu Vorlesh and *Korramzadeh* the Storm King. The Storm King has changed somewhat since the characters last slew him – he now has a distinctly undead cast to his features. She is also escorted by four *vrolokai* demons. Areelu Vorlesh starts off by casting *gate* and bringing in a *hecatonchires titan*, a massive creature fifty feet tall with a hundred arms, each of them carrying a weapon. The creature is so massive it must squeeze to get through the twenty-foot portal.

Tabregon notes that both he and Antonius are scorched by the Echo of Deskari's strikes. He casts *mass heal* to bring the group back to fighting strength.

Calanthe steps up to the action, casting *quickenened mythic haste* on her allies and *quickenened mythic flesh to stone* upon the revenant *Korramzadeh*. Sadly, *Korramzadeh* is made from evil and shadow – he can safely ignore spells that target flesh.

The *vrolokai* demons run in among the characters (and into *Tsuguri's aura of madness*), intending to stab everyone they can with their tail spines. Two demons succumb to madness, but one other manages to sting the *lhaksharut inevitable*, which echoes out, “The Inevitable has been struck! The Inevitable has been damaged by a chaotic attack!”

One of the *vrolokai* strikes at Tabregon with its stinger. He blocks the poison-dripping barb with his magical steel shield.

Korramzadeh the Fallen Storm King roars out, “You killed me! You shall pay for your disrespect!” He lashes out at *Shawanda* with a *quickenened unholy blight*, following it with a *cone of cold* that engulfs *Shawanda*, *Antonius* and *Calanthe*.

The *hecatonchires* titan slams a dozen fists into *Trystan*, leaving him staggered. The *lhaksharut inevitable* responds by surrounding the titan in a *wall of force*. Areelu Vorlesh decides that the characters are benefiting entirely too much from Tabregon's healing. She sends a *mythic dominate person* at him, but shrieks in frustration as the spell shatters against Tabregon's spell resistance. She follows that with *mythic mass hold person* to freeze Tabregon in place. *Calanthe* deals with that by casting *quickenened freedom of movement* upon Tabregon to free him, then casts a *dimensional lock* on the area around *Tsuguri*.

Trystan nocks feather to the glorious *sun bow* and sends two blazing arrows into Areelu Vorlesh's chest. She laughs off the injury, barely harmed.

Antonius executes a *valiant stand* and lays about at the nearby *vrolokai* demons, destroying one of them. The *vrolokai* demons respond by laying into Calanthe, Tabregon and Trystan. Calanthe is badly hurt, Trystan is not, Tabregon is badly harmed. Antonius responds to the attack upon Tabregon by pushing his hand through the demon's back.

Tsuguri carefully positions himself and engulfs the area with positive energy, mitigating some of Tabregon's wounds.

Shawanda engages the undead Storm King. Korramzadeh drives one of his massive spiked hands straight into her shoulder, killing her. Shawanda falls to the ground! A moment later, Tabregon casts *breath of life* and *heal* to restore her.

The *hecatonchires* titan starts hammering against the *wall of force* that traps him. The *lhaksharut inevitable* observes the damage to the wall, "The Inevitable calculates that the wall will stand for another four rounds." It rolls over to the wounded *vrolokai* and attempts to destroy it. The *vrolokai* avoids its blazing attacks.

Areelu Vorlesh launches a *mythic flesh to stone* at Calanthe, transforming her into a statue. Trystan responds by firing a wave of arrows at Areelu Vorlesh as he applies a *miracle* to restore Calanthe.

Antonius challenges two of the surviving *vrolokai* demons. He slays a wounded demon with a single strike, then turns to critically wound a second. The *vrolokai* is knocked off balance, allowing Trystan to put another arrow in its neck. It reels only to see Antonius waiting for it. He wrenches its head from its scrawny neck.

The single surviving *vrolokai* attacks Calanthe, killing her in an instant. Tsuguri shows up a moment later with *breath of life* to restore her. Tsuguri utters a *shout of defiance* to further heal the characters.

Areelu Vorlesh realizes that Shawanda has the Censer of Ohan on her back. The spirit of Ohan emerges from the censer to chastise the demonic witch for her failings. She responds by using her powers to destroy the censer. It explodes in a cloud of vaporized brass and ash.

Calanthe, newly saved from death, tries casting a *quickenened mythic flesh to stone* at Areelu Vorlesh. Her spell pierces through the demoness' resistance, but breaks against

her Will. Then she invokes her *divine source* to cast *mass cure critical wounds* on the group. As an added bonus, she also uses it to inflict damage upon Korramzadeh. Tabregon follows up with a *mass heal* that brings Calanthe back to full health and as a side bonus also injures Korramzadeh.

Trystan opens fire on Areelu Vorlesh with the mighty *sun bow*, driving her to the very doorstep of death. Seeing her near to her end, he fires a single remaining arrow into her throat. She falls to her knees, staggered, pierced through by seven arrows.

Antonius engages the remaining *vrolokai* demon and destroys it.

Tsuguri gives everyone an extra action. Shawanda takes advantage of this to strike down Areelu Vorlesh, executing the witch with *Radiance*. As she dies, the characters are able to see her soul emerge from her body, and then get dragged down by a swarm of insects to be absorbed into the material of the Abyss. Tsuguri casts *heal* and moves in to attack Korramzadeh with positive energy. In spite of this, Korramzadeh still hates Shawanda more and attacks her. He slams a giant spike hand into Shawanda's arm and forces her to drop *Radiance*.

Trystan fires a wave of arrows at Korramzadeh, piercing him a dozen times and dropping him like a broken millstone. His crumpled body burns with foul viridian flames, gradually decoalescing into a pile of scorched bones and foul memories.

The inevitable puts up two more *walls of force* and the characters leave, dragging Areelu Vorlesh's body behind them. The titan eventually becomes bored and leaves. Areelu Vorlesh was carrying:

- 3 doses of *ambrosia*
- 2 rings of *major spell storing*
- A wand of *enervation* (42 charges)
- *Deskari's Tooth* (*anarchic unholy dagger* +6, casts *soul bind* when it kills someone)
- *Amulet of natural armor* +5
- *Belt of physical perfection* +6
- *Bracelet of friends*
- *Crystal ball* with *true seeing*
- A *glove of storing*

- *Headband of mental superiority* +6
- *Iron flask*
- *Robe of the rifts*
- Spell component pouch
- Gems worth 42,000 gold pieces

The characters sweep and clear the remaining parts of the complex. They find some minor demons and traps and the Chapel of Swarms, where they leave another *dimensional lock*.

The Mouth of the Worldwound

The characters and all of their allies gather about the Mouth of the Worldwound for the ritual to close it down. The ritual requires a reader who can read Abyssal or Aklo (or who has *comprehend languages*) to read from the *Book of Paradox*. Tsuguri acts as primary reader because he has a really excellent Will save – reading the *Book of Paradox* can drive a weak-willed reader crazy. As he reads, the lake of maggots freezes and a blaze of orange light explodes from the mouth of the Worldwound. Each character must contribute to the ritual in turn:

- Shawanda strikes out against it (attack roll)
- Trystan launches his mind like an arrow (attack roll)
- Calanthe explores the magical pathways to unravel them (Spellcraft)
- Tabregon stitches the injustices of the wound closed (Spellcraft)
- Tsuguri confronts the insanity of the breach (Spellcraft)
- Antonius comprehends the nature of the rift (Knowledge (planes))

The orange glow of the vortex is extinguished. Tsuguri flings the *Book of Paradox* into the vortex. Reality explodes in a blast of orange light. Afterwards the characters cannot quite remember if what happened was an eternity or an instant. When the light fades, each of the characters finds themselves in a random location in an Abyssal city.

Marooned in the Abyss

The characters are divided up into three groups through the landscape. They look around and determine that there are several other entities in the area:

- Deskari (on the same ledge as Calanthe and Antonius)
- Four balors
- Eight apocalypse locusts

Shawanda decides quickly that the number of locusts needs to be trimmed. She destroys the one closest to her location with Tsuguri in a small building. Tabregon and Trystan find themselves in a building with a single apocalypse locust, which Trystan destroys in a moment. And Calanthe and Antonius find themselves upon a ledge, right next to Deskari himself.

Antonius does not wait for an instant – he strikes at Deskari. As he strikes, Deskari’s armor plates rasp together that creates a horrible sound that briefly sickens Antonius (until he shakes it off). From his strike, Antonius learns some interesting truths of Deskari’s position in the Abyss and his ancestry – he descended from the demon lord Pazuzu and a nameless entity whom he later carved into his great scythe *Riftcarver*.

Deskari answers Antonius’ impudence with an unbelievable avalanche of violence that leaves both Antonius and Tabregon (through *mythic shield other*) on the very verge of death. Antonius is also subject to *infestation* that leaves him dying. A swarm of locusts bursts out of his body. Calanthe backs away. She casts *telekinesis* to gather up Antonius’ body and then *dimension door* to take herself and Antonius to the building occupied by Tsuguri and Shawanda.

Tsuguri slips past an apocalypse locust to *heal* Antonius. Deskari moves into the open space between the two buildings. He gouts acid against the wall of the building and starts emitting awful threats against the characters, accusing them of meddling in affairs that they could not possibly comprehend. His voice is awful and rasping.

Trystan commences firing upon Deskari. He shoots an arrow cleanly through Deskari’s head. Deskari halts. His wings, comprised of clouds of insects, disperse. And Deskari falls into the Abyss. Trystan is acclaimed as Godslayer, as God of Archery.

Trystan turns to the assembled Balors and instructs them, “This is my place now. Begone!” They depart in clouds of choking, sulfurous smoke.

The characters know that to actually kill Deskari they will need to kill him a second time – he will reform in the heart of his domain, the Rasping Rifts, in a year's time. To destroy him completely requires that he be destroyed there as well. In the meantime, the characters return to Golarion to find that the Worldwound is closed. The characters have permanently altered the map!

The End of the Session

The campaign ends! The Worldwound is closed and normalcy can begin to return to this part of Golarion. Each character briefly narrates what they go off and do, from founding mystery cults (Trystan, Calanthe) to working for the public good (Shawanda, Tsuguri) to wandering the land (Antonius).