

The story of Chi Si Chen (Autumn Silver Reed)

Chapter 9: Breaking the Flood (3rd ride of Ches 1370)

I was glad the battle was over, but Grimwald showed he looked further than the saving of a poor tormented soul. Asking some direct questions he found out that the 'Ettin' had had several offers for cooperation with Ogres and Orcs. It had refused, but they might very well be still around. Suddenly those markers weren't so helpful after all, a fact which Grimwald already had understood and was taking measures against. There was a short discussion: to leave this place and hurry for the halfling village or to stay here and recuperate. As the tower was defensible and we would be much more capable withstanding an attack after a night's rest, we decided to stay and fortify it as well as possible. It was a pity that Cuura had left as soon as the battle was over to track the horses which had run away during the encounter with the Ettin. She was upset that her horse had not stayed around, but one can hardly question the wisdom of running away when it was raining masonry.

I had no understanding in how to improve or build a castle of any kind, but it was clearly difficult if you had only the simplest materials available. Felina and I tried to help Grimwald, but we were of little use, so we exchanged position with Kendalan who had been on the lookout for problems on the top of the tower. They managed to barricade the entrance further with materials which would burn, when we saw a group running from the nearby woods towards the tower; our efforts to enhance the building clearly had been spotted. All of us grouped together on the top floor to shoot at them – again we concentrated on one of the two big brutes in the group, perhaps the twenty odd Orcs would loose confidence if we took out the strongest first.

*K*endalan used some charges of the wand to return some health to the poor priest, while Grimwald donated his – slightly to big – studded leather and I gave him a crossbow we had won in our encounter with the hobgoblins not a tenday ago. Grimwald himself was now wearing a chain mail he had found in the ruins of the towers supplies chamber. Anyway we shot volley of volley, but range made only a few of them hit, although the cleric did hit more often than Kendalan! Still we managed to down one of the Ogres as they were almost upon the simple stone hedge delimiting the tower's private area. Then it got chaotic as the Orcs and Ogre started to return fire, lobbing rocks and javelins. My limited knowledge of battle showed again as most targeted me and I fell. When I came by the cleric of Lathander had shielded my body with his own, although he had lost his crossbow doing so. Grimwald and Kendalan then moved to cover the stairwell were the last ogre fought his way up. Orcs started climbing the rough and damaged walls of the tower, so Felina, the cleric, and me fought desperately to keep them away. It were fewer than I expected, as I later learned thanks to an entangle and sleep by Kendalan and Felina. The ogre trying to get access to the roof stood little change against the experience of Grimwald and Kendalan, and a lucky swipe of my Guan Dao decapitated an Orc almost on Felina. Suddenly the battle turned and a few moments later it was over.

*T*he cleric did not wish for any spoils and stayed at the halfling village for penance as we returned to Berdusk. There I managed to find a good armor for Zhae at a sharp price, and that Weldin fellow mentioned he had a well paying mission for us. It was away from Berdusk which Cuura had enough of, so it seems we still stay together.

Odd they were, but I'd grown used to them.

Human female Paragon/2, Wu-Jen/1