

Grimwald's chronicles part 81

My co-worker from the temple of Tyr makes me aware of a human ritual which signifies the ending and restarting of cycles. Obviously it is considered wrong not to finish things before the new cycle starts so we decide to finish what we started and merely prepare for the work yet to be done.

I set myself to making a list: 'Still lacking the diamonds needed for the Iron Ward crystals for Cuura's and my own armour, need some more acid for some refinements to the decoration of Cuura's flail and armor, running low on blessed incense', come to think of it there is still quite a lot needed to finish my work here this winter. After finishing the list that evening I go through it with Jay, Reed and the priest of Tyr to double check if everything is there. Reed starts calculating and seems a bit worried. Apparently my desires are greater than both the time and money allotted to us by our leaders. We have to remove some useful items from the list but still I feel confident that with our new armor and weapons we'll have little to fear from men or monsters anymore. Finally we have a decent preparation and I'm sure it will make all the difference in combat.

If only Reed and Kendalan would allow me to arm and protect them properly... Especially after Kendalan's poor showing on Ysgard I thought he would change his mind. Well perhaps he is doing so. You can never tell with an elf...

We must be nearing the bottom of our treasure chest. Well that does save me the trouble of designing a well trapped treasure chest for the party which I was considering. Too bad I don't have more time. I would like to try my hand at locks and traps more after the thrill of making the locking scabbards. Perhaps next winter there will be an opportunity now our basic gear has been crafted.

Right in the middle of my meditation to prepare for the restful armor crystal blessing Jay and I are disturbed by the news Felina got herself arrested. Clearly this must be an evil plot by a vengeful faction. But which one? While Jay searches for Reed I go to the prison to find out more.

It turns out she has been accused of forging jewelry in Cormyr and there is a sworn statement from someone named sir Torad to this effect. An elf merchant recognized her in the street and turned her in. To my shame I must admit not knowing the local laws, none of us do, so I set to work preparing a legal defense while I sent Nethander away to uncover more about the scheme.

It turns out that although there is a bewildering amount of ordinances, the court proceedings tend to be quite simple with a single judge determining guilt. A system vulnerable to bribery for sure, but to effect a maximum harm to Felina the court would need a complaint from the jewelers guild. I hope the guild is a bit more friendly here than in Waterdeep. Fortunately I did ask their permission for the baubles Nethander had me make and I paid the proper dues for the ornamentation of the captain's sword. I just hope Reed hasn't brought them to despair as I heard the trader in the market complain the other day.

While properly outraged at the crime fortunately the jewelers guildmaster is willing to let me see to it that justice will be done in this case. When I get back to the jail I hear Reed is still missing which will leave me to defend Felina, more troubling the case is set to take place immediately. If only we had more time to properly prepare! Just as we are entering the court Cuura and Nethander join us. The plot is as yet unclear, but Nethander informs us that the trader has a poor reputation.

To the surprise of all of us the trader points out Reed, not Felina as the culprit resulting in an immediate acquittal. According to Nethander's hear say this confusion is not uncommon for the elven trader. Having lost his credibility he is banished from the city for making false accusations. I am still stumped by this turn of events. Was there no evil plot? Or how was it foiled if not by us?

That evening Cuura has prepared a wonderful feast with some fine cooking by Kendalan and many of the soldiers they trained drop by. Then in the middle of this merriment an elf shows up and the room quickly goes quiet. People say their goodbyes and excuses and before long only the elf remains and a few subdued guests huddling in the far corner of the room.

I size up the elf, a confident veteran warrior's stance, skilled in the subtle arts which Jay and Nethander are studying. The smell of mithril and the clothing which doesn't move quite right probably glammered mithril armor. Spiked chain and sword of excellent craftsmanship, almost certainly highly magical and oozing menace, but not nearly as much as he is. Given the reaction of our guests fear and reputation are weapons in their own right which this elf wields expertly. As my grandfather used to say "it only takes a single dragon to frighten a thousand orcs". Perhaps a prime example of what Cuura and perhaps I need to work on. Cuura makes it clear that he is here for Jay and Nethander and ushers us away so they can talk in private.

Will they finally find out what happened to master Li? What power caused the demise of the circle of twelve? Who killed Blade? As the elf takes his leave I ask my companions, but apparently the elf is not one to share his secrets easily. Still at least two of the twelve still remain among the living, so perhaps there is hope yet that Jay will find his master!

The next morning I make sure that Felina is indeed innocent and not merely acquitted. The innocent has been freed, the false accuser banished so this just leaves the bearer of false testimonies to be brought to justice. When I get to Cormyr I will lodge a complaint against this sir Torad Syngin-Smythe and see justice done and my vow fulfilled. Unless the statement itself is a forgery supplied by our enemies... We shall see where this leads!

Cleric 4/Crusader 1/Prestige Paladin 3/Stalwart Champion 3