

22: Hungry Herb, hag, and many heads

The shambling mound promised interesting treasure and while Felina and I suggested it would be best to get rid of the creature, it was actually the complete party who sided with that idea.

Grimwald and Reed objected naturally to this notion. Reed because she opposes needless killing and Grimwald objected against taking any unnecessary risks. But since both our two party leaders decided that the attack would happen, I could side with Reed in the discussion. There is no use for posing as a selfish brute when it isn't necessary, is there?

In retrospect I think it was for the better that we decided to press the attack because the shambler wasn't the innocent creature Reed told us it would be.

We approached the bogs very carefully. I had taken cover on top of the wagon with a crossbow cocked and ready. We spotted some movement in the water and when a bird started to whistle from the other side of the lake, Kendalan sensed danger. He started shooting his bow towards some strange movement and we all followed his lead. We then saw something slide into the water. We were attacked by two different creatures! The Shambling mound wasn't giving up either and on the other side of the wagon a fight erupted when both Reed and Grimwald were attacked by the tendrils of the plant-like shambler. Grimwald was pulled under while Zhae severed the tendril that threatened Reed. The fight then got a bit chaotic, Felina and I jumped to the rescue and came a few feet short.

With Grimwald pulled under water and Zhae and Cuura chasing the creature into the water I took a moment to get a good overview of the battle ground. Reed was looking towards the water, ready to cast her magics while Felina ran with incredible speed towards the other side of the lake. Kendalan was wrestling to bring a rope towards the under water battle as my eye spotted water dripping to the ground from what seems to be an invisible attacker. This must be the second attacker Kendalan spotted and I move to intercept the new threat. The invisible creature moved toward Reed when she finally started to mumble her magic words. Reed switched places with the nearly drowned dwarf at the same time the invisible creature struck.

Grimwald is struck by an ugly green skinned bog hag, who was rather surprised by the sudden switch and that allowed me to quickly land a thrust in the hags kidneys. This opposition was too much for the hag and she fled into the water. The dwarf gasped for air and called for Kendalan and me to accept the blessings of Dumathoin. This allowed us to breath under water. He started to order us to do something but both Kendalan and I immediately chased the hag under water.

I was able to follow the faint blood trail and dodge the ambush she prepared for us. She tasted Blades rapier again and went in full flight towards the other side of the little lake. I chased her but wasn't able to keep up with the hag. When I finally reached the other side and climbed out of the water I could see the hag charging Felina, who dropped like a sack when she was hit by a touch spell from the hag. Before I was able to assist Felina the hag itself was killed by a crossbow bolt from Grimwald.

In the meantime the sergeant had managed to pull the shambling mound out of the water using Kendalan's rope and the horses. Zhae and Cuura were battering the plant to death and the battle was quickly over just as quickly as it started.

Felina on the other hand was in bad shape. Her strength had left her body and she was barely able to draw breath. She was quickly patched up by Grimwald and we took a pause to retrieve any possible treasure from the slain enemies. The most notable finding was the incredibly tasty vegetable soup Kendalan concocted from the dead shambler's remains. The other

treasure was minor besides from a nice silver belt made from small coins retrieved from the hags body.

A few hours later we encountered a Hydra attacking a group of lizard men. We aided the lizard men in fighting the many headed monster. This fight entailed chopping of heads and incinerating the monster with fire. Neither one is my specialty and thus my part was limited to assisting Zhae. The beast was finally incinerated by one of Reeds truly intimidating displays of fire magic and for the third time that day our party was victorious.

The Lizard men thanked us for their rescue and told us about ancient mystical ruins in the vicinity. Grimwald and I wanted to visit this place, but the others persuaded us that we weren't ready for the perils to be found in this truly ancient and dangerous place. Perhaps we will visit this place later when, or if we return to this place a few years in the future. For now we decided to continue on our path towards Candlekeep.