

## 36: An Unexpected Journey

With the Blighter dead we should be victorious in our quest to disrupt the opposing Zhent plan. All we had to do is return to Nashkell, figure out a way to get the nature back on it's way and we were ready. The butler was also a loose end to this mystery, but that one could be solved easily.

Before returning to Nashkell we discussed the possibility of visiting the Blighter's lair. Someone had found a pendant on the druid's body showing a broken tree, an insane face and fire. These puzzles are not really my specialty, but Reed and Grimwald decided that the broken tree could stand for the Blighter. The insane face could be the Duergar that had broken Noob's mind all those years ago. It looks like there is an pact of three evil guys that have been operating in these parts for a very long time. The third face was depicting fire, this could mean a fire mage or even worse, let's not forget the presence of a Red dragon in the area. The party was a little bit frightened to go for the Blighters Lair immediately and possibly encounter a red dragon and a psioniscist together.

We were discussing when our doubts were cut short by a small flying pixie who bade us to visit the Fey Elder. The Giant rock creature had proven a deeper insight on the matter in the past so visiting the Fey forest was the best Course of action.

We were able to find the Elder without too much hassle and, not for the first time the huge creature amazed me. He started conversation with Zhae again. I seriously doubt that Zhae had fully grasped his first comments last week. The answers Zhae gave this time only proved that notion. Sometimes it seems like Zhae only reacts instead of acting on his own.

Then the giant Elder asked Grimwald how he thought about breaking a vow. At first Grimwald clearly declined he would ever break a vow, but after some other questions from the Elder his mood turned sour. I must say that I didn't completely follow the conversation. I heard talks about Shanatar, the sins of a race and bearing the guilt for a lot of people. When the Elder started discussing how something new could start when the old hadn't completely gone away. To be honest I was lost, but Grimwald clearly understood.

Then the Elder continued his tour, each and everyone received some private time. I asked the Dwarf about this breaking of a vow. I couldn't understand what the big deal was about a little lie. He explained me that a real vow was something completely different then a good lie. As far as I understand a vow like Grimwald means is nothing like the vow I made to the Zhentharrim when I joined them in Greenest. That vow was made only to gain knowledge about Blade. I really don't feel obliged to do anything for the Black Network. Gaining entry to get what I need is fair play to my knowledge and if I have to tell a lie to grant me access, why not?

But the way Grimwald described a vow was something completely different! I think I only made one "real" vow in my entire life. I had made a vow to avenge Blade's death. I had vowed on everything that was dear to me and even on my demonic ancestors to find out who killed Blade and return the favour. Now I could understand why Grimwald was shaken by the Elders words. To make things worse for me, the Elder popped in a remark about me as well. Just at the moment I figured out what we really mean by a proper vow, the giant rock plainly told me I would break a vow as well!

Of course the big lump would not give me any more info, getting angry about it wasn't going to improve the situation, so I simply waited until we would leave.

Was this ancient Fey correct in his prophecy? Will I break my vow? How can this happen. Will I cower when I find the truth, or will I die trying? I don't now what will happen, but only the future will tell what really happens. My fate is in the hands of Tymora now and I'm sure I already proved that my course of life can be altered.

Reed always talks about Karma that can be changed and second chances. From now on I'll just double my efforts to find Blade's killer and prove the giant Fey he was wrong!

The party decided to travel towards a mountain shoulder to the west. This place was far from the location we thought the Blighter's lair was located, but it would be best to heed the Elders words. Apparently the path toward the mountains was dangerous and infested with dangerous creatures. A warned man counts for two and off we went.

It didn't take long for us to find our first adversary. We were attacked by a Bulette. The creature was quite similar to the sharks the fishermen keep on display in Calimport. With a somersault I jumped the creatures neck and blinded it with a globe of darkness. Too bad Grimwald told me later that the creature was able to sense the slightest vibrations and could work perfectly without his eye sight. Basically I was only hindering the party by blocking their light. After seeing the futility of my actions I dispelled the globe of darkness and jumped from the creatures back and attack without any fancy manoeuvres. The thing fell quickly to our combined attacks, but we knew this was only the first to come.

But we shouldn't despair! One thing I learned during the last months is the famous phrase; That which doesn't kill you, only makes you stronger! I need to become stronger, faster and more deadly to prove I won't break my vow.

Now it's just me against the big bad world again, with some differences. I have friends now! I won't falter and with Lady Tymora on my side and just a little bit of luck I'll prove the Giant Fey he was wrong!