

## 39: Past Finds Present Too

The moment Grimwald shattered the axe everything turned to normal on the mountain top. No more giant ghosts haunting the area and no more evil ghost looming over us on the way back. Surprisingly quickly Nature regained it's hold. We could suddenly spot birds and I do not doubt that within a few days there won't be anything left to remind us to the haunted tragedy that had played out it's course on the mountain.

The only visible proof of what happened was Grimwald's shattered mind. Whatever he did, or whatever oath he broke, he was clearly devastated by his own actions. I actually pity for the sour dwarf. Although he's still my least favourite comrade, he does grow on you. Fortunately for him I've learned that dwarves are a tough breed and he will get his act together in the future, I'm sure.

On the way back to Nashkell we took a detour through the Dryad forest and obtained a few scrolls from the giant rock-like Elder, that would allow Kendalan and Reed to negate the magical blight. With these scrolls and the demise of the evil druid we have successfully ruined the Zhentarim ploy to gain monopoly of the iron ore in the western heartlands!

In this particular moment I'm proud to combine something good (according to the party) with a success in my services to the Black network. Blade operated in the Darhold keep area that is being lead by Semmemom, who was happy that we would spoil this particular Zhent ploy. Ruining a plan that has been in motion for several years is no meagre feat, so I assume that our success will put me in good standing with Semmemom and the Zhentarim from Darkhold Keep whenever I return there to investigate Blade's past.

The complete party returned to Nashkell only to split up immediately: A few went to the forest to use the druidic scrolls on the blighted forest and Felina joined with Rebecca to discuss all kinds of things women do. I decided to spy on the Zhent spy posing as the Mayors butler.

The Butler surely knows about our success so far. He will already know about the demise of the druid and I have do doubts he will soon hear about the total collapse of the plan. Actually I think he already knew because the butler was nowhere to be found. I searched everywhere, he wasn't in the mayors house and nobody had seen him the last day. I ended up peeping into the mayors house, speaking with townfolk in Naskells two bars. I talked to stable boy to see if the butler arranged a horse for his departure. In short, I searched every nook and cranny of Naskell without even a hint of the butler.

The Zhentarim spy is gone, he's probably recalled for a debriefing of the failed mission, perhaps he is going to be punished, possibly he even fled town to avoid any of that. Still I'm interested in the fact whether or not he brought the ring of reporting with him. That should answer part of the question.

Unfortunately my search for the butler led me far from Naskell city centre and I was too late to respond to the emergency bells. Kobolds had attacked a farm house and had taken prisoners. More importantly was the fact that the Ninja and a few henchmen used this commotion to attack Reed. I returned too late to do anything and haven't had a chance to discuss the matters with my friends. I know for sure that the party was victorious and all of my friends are still alive. Yet they had taken a serious beating and went to their beds immediately to regain strength for the next morning.

The prisoners were taken underground by the Kobolds and we need to track and hunt them down!