

Excerpts from the Journal of Hedrack

Imagine my surprise to discover that Lord Orcus, whom I had so faithfully and skillfully served, was not the true power behind the Temple of Elemental Evil. He and his consort, the demoness Zuggtmoj, were both but pawns. Cannily, I discovered that the true power was the cult of the Elder Elemental Eye, and behind them, the cult of Tharizdun. Finally, a cause worthy of my skills and prowess! The Doomdreamers rule over the cult, and the Triad are the masters of the Doomdreamers. When the time is right, I shall join their ranks, and become the ultimate high priest of the Dark God himself. I will become The First.

I have gained much respect in my time here. The Triad has entrusted me with the tentacle rod as symbol of my office and mastery of the Greater Temple in the Outer Fane.

In my time as the supreme commander of the Temple of Elemental Evil, I saw no greater servant of evil than the one called Lareth the Beautiful. Orcus, Zuggtmoj and Lolth recognized his power and competed for his attention. Although he died defending the Moathouse, I brought him back from death. From my divinations, I have learned that he resides in Nulb. Perhaps he is now insane. Such a waste of talent.

The Doomdreamers have spoken the Prophecy of the Champion of Elemental Evil. My destiny becomes clearer.

I am not the prophesized champion. I do believe, however, that I am the one who is destined to find the Champion and be his or her shepherd.

Tessimon of the Fire Temple came to the Outer Fane today. We tested her in the Greater Temple and found that she was unworthy. Still, she craved power and sought to seduce me yet again in order to get it. I introduced her to the Infernal Device. Now she shall have a fiendish helper with her at all times. She got the power she craved, although I suspect she barely survived the process.

When Zuggtmoj and Orcus created the Orb of Golden Death to help them fashion the Elemental Nodes, I now know that they were given the secrets to do this through agents of the Doomdreamers. Although the Orb of Golden Death was destroyed, the cult of the Dark God has an artifact of which the Orb of Golden Death was but a mere copy. They call it the Orb of Oblivion and have taken it to the Temple of Elemental Evil to recover the nodes.

Although the Doomdreamers have taken the Orb of Oblivion, the Orb of Silver Death, another copy, still lies within the Black Cyst, beyond the Purple Veil.

My enemy, the wizard Falrinth, and his associate Smigmal Redhand are alive! I happily assumed that they died when the Temple of Elemental Evil fell. Now they work with the Doomdreamers in their excavation of the lower levels of the old temple, apparently because they knew a direct, secret way into the third level. Dark God take them! They are sure to betray the Doomdreamers in some way, and spoil all of our plans. When I am The First, Falrinth's head will sit on the shelf next to my bath.

The Rod of Force and the Rings of Force Armour are kept in the Black Cyst to await the Champion of Elemental Evil, as gifts of the Dark God and symbols of his acceptance of the Champion.

The Outer Fane was assaulted today by an organized force that entered through the air door. Fachish will know my anger! I kept the half-orc leader alive for my amusement.

I now believe that the Champion of Elemental Evil is Lareth the Beautiful. Just yesterday, Satau confirmed my suspicions - the Champion resides already within the Temple of All Consumption. I will test Lareth immediately. Fortunately I had thought to spare him again, this time cloning him from flesh retrieved before his execution in the dungeons of Bretundy. I have been storing him in Daagra's care. His mind is fragile and his behavior has become erratic. If he is not the Champion, I may need to destroy him.

Joyous day! I have discovered the Champion, and so much has become clear. The Outer Fane was assaulted during Lareth's testing ceremony in the Greater Temple. Lareth failed and I destroyed him. Withdrawing to the Inner Fane, I left Varachan and Ukemil to drive off the infidels. At first I was confused. Was Satau wrong? Who remained untested? At last, I understood. At the circle within the Inner Fane, I tested my half-orc prisoner. It seems that the Master of Oblivion has selected his Champion from the ranks of our enemies! The Champion was called Tavik, once a servant of Orcus like myself. The attackers stole the Orb of Silvery Death and the Arms and Armor of the Champion, but it matters little. I delivered the Champion to the Temple of Elemental Evil using the Tourbillion in the Inner Fane. The excavation of the first node is nearly complete, and the fire power gem has been recovered. Soon, it will all end.

Naquent and Ukemil are both destroyed, and Varachan has betrayed me. It matters not. I have set the surviving elemental temples against one another in preparation for the end. Tessimon will be my aide for the final days.

Never have I been so torn! Is my place at the Temple of Elemental Evil, or here defending the approach to the Inner Fane? If the Temple Doomdreamers are successful, then nothing else matters. They must be defended! Yet what if they fail? All expected great Unariq to succeed, yet now he sleeps with the Master. The First and the Third could rebuild again. Alas, in their focus on spiritual matters, the Doomdreamers leave worldly concerns to others. Their confidence may make them vulnerable. Yea, it seems that my duty to Tharizdun is to manage that which they ignore. If the world survives until I am First, it will be different.