

Session/Game: ACKS/Gatavia III #30

Date: November 16, 2014

Episode 30: "Split the Party"

Campaign Date: May 22nd – June 24th, 1431 AY

Characters:

Rinaldo of Saturn, human, cleric-8, neutral (Robert Swan)

Decius, human, explorer-6, neutral (henchman)

Mighty Beavis, gnome titan-6, neutral (henchman)

Manfred, human, mage-5, neutral (henchman)

Murderface Jack, dwarf, fury-8 neutral (Jason Liebert)

Jack O'Woden, dwarf, craftpriest-6, neutral (henchman)

Stab Wilson, human, lackey-0, lawful (henchman)

Rotwang, human, barbarian-7, neutral (Bob LaForge)

Bosco Nedcook, halfling, lackey-0, neutral (henchman)

Tiberio, human, mage-8, neutral (Tim Moyer)

Helpful Bill, fighter-5, neutral (henchman)

Masked Archer of the Apocalypse, assassin-8, neutral (Dave Nelson)

Trusty Nixon, human, lackey-6, neutral (henchman)

Hackamore, human, thief-6, neutral (henchman)

Faber the Fantastic, human, mage-4, lawful (henchman)

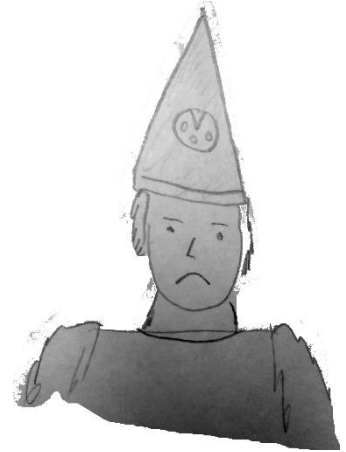
Pontifex Amicus, human, cleric-8, neutral (Andrew Smith)

Heilyn Herald of Yoesville, human, bard-4, neutral (henchman)

Judges: Andrew Smith (lightning round), Dave Nelson (Tower Graf), Jason Liebert (Diggers)

May 22 - June 22 *LIGHTNING ROUND*

Tiberio traveled to Orchester to research some new spells, but he was confronted by a fellow mage named Stanwick the Cheese-Maker about whether he passed atrocious gas or not. Words were exchanged, and Stanwick demands to know Tiberio's rank and title within the magical order. In a display of his own prowess, Stanwick summoned an immense wheel of cheese. Tiberio put this argumentative fellow to sleep and then helped himself to a choice scroll from his person. For the remainder of Tiberio's visit to Orchester he was the subject of gossip, with many believing that he should be thrown out of the order, while others secretly congratulated Tiberio for putting the boastful cheese-mage in his place. Tiberio's stay in Orchester was originally scheduled for about three weeks, but his return to Yoesville was delayed by ten days or so by a freak storm that covered the Badlands area.



Rotwang was given a treasure map by Amicus to look for in the Elfwood. While there, he witnessed what appeared to be four trolls re-enacting a scene from Deliverance with a helpless bugbear. Rotwang slew the trolls and befriended the poor bugbear who called himself "Walrus". Rotwang figured having a bugbear for a "friend" would be fun, so Walrus tagged along. Unfortunately, the treasure had already been found and taken so Rotwang returned from the treasure hunt empty-handed.



Murderface decided that he would make money by performing assassinations. He advertised on the billboards of Yoesville that he was in the business of murder for hire. A chatty churchgoing busybody named Sithak asked that he murder a lout that he works with named Olaf. Murderface is instructed to wait for Olaf in his favorite tavern and kill him dead. Murderface plans to get this guy drunk and offer to "walk him home". Olaf turns out to be a completely nice fellow despite being a run-down alcoholic drunk. After an epic night of drinking, the man falls dead of alcohol poisoning. Muderface later collects his bounty from a thankful Sithak.

The Masked Archer decided to take some time to scout out the Island of the Dead and the Temple of 1000 Devils in particular. He manages to dodge all the undead that lurk throughout the island and come on Dengwur's outpost. There he waits until a young warlock leaves with a guard of two hobgoblins. The Archer shoots the goblins dead, then drops the warlock with a poisoned arrow. He ties her up and revives her with a tincture of lotus. The Masked Archer then brings her and her mysterious package back to Yoesville to comb for information.

Rinaldo and his crew kept Decius on track as they scouted out across the river. Their efforts were fruitful, and they managed to pinpoint several of the goblin patrols and outposts in the area. Toward the end of their time, they were forced to seek shelter from a freak storm that blew in from the West. They found a handy cave complex by the river, but it turned out to be another goblin installation.

Inside, two hellhounds attacked and nearly killed Beavis. Afterward, Rinaldo and his crew found a locked iron box which they brought back and managed to open with some haggling with the thief Hackamore.

Amicus researches to learn a spell from Ardean battle priests known as the Thunderbolt Riposte, but his study proves fruitless.

June 23 - June 24 Attack on Tower Graf

Rotwang leads an assault team including Murderface and Tiberio to Tower Graf near Skull Mountain to take the Tower Graf for himself. Stories from Splittongue about the magical master of the tower previously hinted at him being a vampire with a strangely proportioned body who only appears at night, so the group decides that they should make their attack from the air using Tiberio's flying carpet just as the sun rises. The group lands on the roof of the tower and easily slays the elven woodland jerks but not before raising an alarm. As the Skull Collectors muster to the top of the tower, a massive troll with a big-ass hammer named "Radical Steve" bursts through the trapdoor to the tower and begins to attack the group. Walrus is slain and Helpful Bill are both knocked around by the swinging big hammer. Murderface drops down into the trapdoor and immediately hacks his way to the spell caster, killing her before any spells may be cast. Once "Radical Steve" is put down, Rotwang sticks a flaming sword into the corpse of the troll and drops into the trapdoor just as Krondor and his force of Gnome Titans appear up the stairs. Tiberio makes Rotwang giant-sized. Krondor, who originally looked like a true threat is smashed into pulp by giant Rotwang with the big-ass hammer that "Radical Steve" carried.

The Skull Collectors then travel down another level into the tower to meet Ed Gruberman, the master of Tower Graf. Ed turns out to be a gnome on stilts pretending to be a human. He has slaved day after day on a might relic -- The Amazing Organ of Ed Gruberman!

The Skull Collectors do their best to gain entrance to the organ room, but a familiar song named "I'll melt with you" is playing. Tiberio uses Knock Spell to gain entrance

Rotwang throws Dust of Appearance at an apparently self-playing organ to reveal Ed Gruberman playing the instrument. Rotwang rushes in and is turned into a puddle of goo by the Amazing Organ's music. An illusionary Frost Giant appears and "closes the door", but Murderface touches it and dispels the illusion. He throws a hammer and wounds Ed. Ed Gruberman stops playing his organ and casts a death spell and kills all the henchmen. Helpful Bill, Muttering Osborn, and Jack O'Woden are all slain. Tiberio summons a hero which can't seem to approach the gnome. Ed Gruberman then casts Wall of Stone to seal the door only to have it immediately breached when Tiberio uses Wand of Doors to open a new door through wall. Gruberman then casts Curse of Swine and turns Tiberio and his summoned hero into pigs. Murdeface, all alone finishes off Ed Gruberman.

The Skull Collectors take possession of Tower Graf, but at a price. Henchmen Helpful Bill and Muttering Osborn are both raised from the dead, but Jack O'Woden has passed beyond the veil and is no longer available. Rotwang was turned into a puddle of goo, which meant not only did he lose all his equipment, he didn't even have a body available to raise. Amicus is forced to reincarnate him using the Rod of Castor. He returns as a slightly less strong and tough human.

June 23 - June 24 The Liberation of Diggers

Meanwhile, Amicus led a delegation consisting of Rinaldo and The Masked Archer and all their hirelings to Diggers in an effort to annex the domain into Yoesville. There, the Yoesville delegation determined that the domain was in fact enslaved by a coalition of giants for profit. The Skull Collectors formulated a quick plan and got down to business.

The Masked Archer and his crew moved into town stealthfully and managed to pick off a giant and a single demon boar. As the other giants moved to investigate, the remaining force rolled in. Heilyn and Faber the Fantastic were both crushed to death by thrown boulders. Rinaldo rolled to the right flank, Amicus' second cavalymen rolled left, while the remaining fighters stayed central trying to keep under cover from thrown boulders. A mage of some sort made himself known, and the Skull Collectors did their best to "shoot the caster". The ettin on the left flank was charmed by Rinaldo, and the mage was burned by Amicus holy fire. The Masked Archer racked up kills from poisoned arrows bolstered by mighty spells from Amicus. Two giants fell feathered by arrows from his bow. The mysterious mage did his best to make things a fight, at one point summoning a raft of grey oozes, but they were later dispelled by Amicus. With all the giants falling, the mage made a break for it. The Skull Collectors made an attempt to follow, but the spell caster was revealed to be in fact an ogre mage who flew away invisibly. Heilyn and Faber both pass beyond the veil, never to be raised from the dead again.