

**Session/Game:** ACKS/Gatavia III #37

**Date:** March 8, 2015

## **Episode 37: Crab Gods are the Worst Kind of Gods**

**Campaign Date:** November 1-10th , 1431 AY

### **Characters**

Exorcist Rinaldo, human, cleric-8, neutral (Robert Swan)  
Decius, human, explorer-6 neutral (henchman)  
Mighty Beavis, gnome titan-7 neutral (henchman)  
Manfred, human, mage-6 neutral (henchman)  
Sindrain, elf, ranger-6, neutral (henchman)  
Deadeye Hayes, human, blade-dancer-5 (henchman)  
Murderface Jack, dwarf, fury-9 neutral (Jason Liebert)  
Fancy Jill, dwarf, craft-priest 6, neutral (henchman)  
Mighty Jack, dwarf, fury-5, neutral (henchman)  
Swagger Jack, dwarf, fury-5, neutral (henchman)  
Tiberius, human, mage-8, neutral (Tim Moyer)  
Helpful Bill, human, fighter-6, neutral (henchman)  
Muttering Osborn, human, shaman-6, neutral (henchman)  
Pontifex Amicus, human, cleric-9, neutral (Andrew Smith)  
Louise Impetuous, human, fighter-4, neutral (henchman)  
Sister Helena, human, blade-dancer-7, neutral (henchman)  
Split-tongue, elf, enchanter-7, neutral (Marlon Kirton)  
Sigwulf, human, fighter-4, neutral (henchman)  
Bosco Pudding, halfling burglar-3, neutral (henchman)  
Maroon Baboon, (reincarnated henchman)  
Gorno, human, shaman 8, Neutral (Bob LaForge)

**Judge:** Dave Nelson

### **Prologue:**

Clovis, the lord-mayor of Yoesville, and henchman to Amicus, sent his herald Newt, together with a groom named Runguld Mushface to approach the Hag of Hod in order to get her to join the Skull Collector Coalition. However, a few days later, Mushface returns to say that Newt had never come back out of his meeting with the Hag. Clovis then hires Mighty Stan the Wheelbarrow man and Huncoman as henchmen to replace Newt, and then notifies his overlord Amicus of the disappearance of Newt.

Meanwhile, Mighty Beavis gets involved with a beefy woman named Dolores Thyroid but snaps out of his infatuation at the last minute, ditching her at the altar. Tiberius, however, spends a week at bed rest after the last adventure.

### **November 1-10**

#### **Part One: Welcome to Hod**

The Skull Collectors assemble (less The Masked Archer and Wang) and ride to Hod. There they have a conversation with 4 Beers Rufus at the trading post outside the wall and then with the Headman of the Village, an insufferable hipster named Brutus Strabo. Both conversations leave the impression that the Hag watches over the village,

and appears to the villagers at times of her own choosing, but they have leaned not to attempt to contact her on their own. She lives in the only large building in the town, which is a solid, brick-built temple or basilica from Ardean days with a single, stone door. 4 Beers tells them that anyone is welcome to enter the door to the Hag's house, but he's never heard of anyone ever coming back out. They leave a note and an gift basket for the Hag, asking for Newt's release and offering a treaty of alliance and then they leave.

After spending a few days scouting the countryside and investigating the altar of Juno and Jupiter north of town, the Collectors decide to consult the knowledge of the gods and ancestral spirits. They discover that Newt is indeed being held against his will and is in serious trouble. They also find out that all they need to do to gain the favor of the Hag and a reward of great value is to answer her questions.

The retinue of the Skull Collectors enter Hod soon after and march into the door of the Hag's house. They approach the Hag and she looks at Amicus and asks "Who are we?" "What must we do?" and "What will you gain by this?" When Amicus begins to answer the first question with reference to the Skull Collectors, the Hag waves her hand and instantly the entire party vanishes.

## **Part Two: The Cavern of Ice**

The Skull Collectors find themselves in an immense, weird cavern, whose floor is made of a shining ice. There are 15 or so creatures present, who also seem to be made of ice. The creatures shoot icy beams at the party, freezing several members, including Rinaldo and a half a dozen henchmen. Battle is joined, and those who are frozen, except Rinaldo and Deadeye, who are rescued by dispel magic spells, are next sunk deep into the ice by the Ice Guardians' magic. Eventually, the ice guardians are all destroyed, but not before Beavis, Bosco Pudding, Louise and Helpful Bill are all sunk into the ice. The Collectors fail to draw them back out by any means at their disposal. Amicus, using his True Seeing spell, notices that there are layer upon layer of victims buried in the ice, including Newt and 100 Ardean and 100 Old Westerling warriors from days past.

## **Part Three: Taste Like Crabs, Fight like Giants**

Exploring the tunnels leading out from the Ice Cavern, they discover a cavern inhabited by 8 mighty Crab Gods. The Crab Gods fight incredibly fiercely and are very resistant to magic and to blows. However, Murderface, made huge by a growth spell, finally turns the tide against the monsters. Rinaldo and Sigwulf are both grievously injured and must be heavily magiced to return to action. In the lair of the crabs they find a painted relief of a bearded man and crowned woman, whom they eventually reason out to be Jupiter and Juno. Underneath the picture is the word "First."

## **Part Four: The Other Pictures**

In another chamber they defeat 4 large elementals by using a ward against elementals scroll. There they find another carving, this time of the same couple involved in some form of public ceremony where Jupiter hands an object to Juno. Eventually, with a hint from Fancy Jill, they reason it out to be a wedding. Underneath the picture is the word "Second."

Soon afterwards, in another chamber they are ambushed by 4 Blink-Ape warriors who teleport about after making an attack. These creatures are killed realivly quickly. In their room is a full statue set of a kneeling man being crowned by a woman. There is a carved word "Third" underneath the statue and the crown is of real gold and is removeable, and is removed.

After a further search they are attacked by 2 Mighty Owlbears of amazing size. This pair is killed quickly, but not before tearing large chunks out of Murderface's hide. Here they find a prayer altar to Juno. When Amicus prays there humbly, the surviving Skull Collectors are swept back to the Hag's house.

### **Part Five: The Questions of the Hag**

Again in the presence of the Hag of Hod. She asks, "Who are we?" To which Amicus answers "Jupiter and Juno." Then she asks "What must we do?" To Which Amicus answers "Get married." And then she asks "What will you gain?" To which Amicus answers "The Crown of the Kingdom." She then says "You are correct. Will you marry me?" Amicus agrees, and kisses her, at which her hideous guise falls away and she stands forth as Octavia, the heir of Gatavia.

At once the air opens up and the Ice Cavern passes from the Spirit Realm to he Visible world, and all the ice prisoners released, including the 200 ancient warriors who swear to serve the king.

Accepting the Throne, Amcius addresses the Hodites and Skull Collectors thusly:

With this marriage sealing a divine pact between Ardea's Jupiter and Westron's Juno, we unite the entire province of Gatavia under a single banner to oppose the other-worldly forces of law and chaos that threaten our world. Make no mistake, the seeds of this kingdom have been planted only because of the combined might of the Skull Collectors and the various elements of the Skull Coalition. This crown belongs to all of the Skull Collectors as much as it belongs to anyone, and I look forward to our continued partnership to the end of driving the otherworlders from our province, and our nation, and ultimately the whole world of Baldgarth. Three cheers for the Skull Collectors! Long live the Coalition!