

Session/Game: ACKS/Gatavia III #50

Date: September 20, 2015

Episode 50: The Battle of Mago's Tomb

Campaign Date: August 15 , 1431 AY

Characters

Exorcist Rinaldo, human, cleric-10, neutral (Robert Swan)
Mighty Beavis, gnome titan-6 neutral (henchman)
Manfred, human, mage-8 neutral (henchman)
Osmund, human, explorer-5, neutral (henchman)
Deadeye Hayes, human, blade-dancer-7 (henchman)
Rabid Jack, dwarf, fury-2, neutral (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-10, neutral (Tim Moyer)
Helpful Bill, human, fighter-6, neutral (henchman)
Sister Helena, human, blade dancer-7, neutral (henchman)
Pontifex Amicus, human, cleric-10, neutral (Andrew Smith)
Louise Impetuous, human, fighter-4, neutral (henchman)
Sister Helena, human, blade-dancer-7, neutral (henchman)

Judge: Dave Nelson

Prologue:

After rumors flew about concerning the march of a mercenary army, which included Milton's Massacre Men, and was led by a mysterious "Exalted Master", Rinaldo, Murderface, Amicus and Tiberius moved to intercept its march before it reached the village of Diggers.

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The two forces meet at the Crypt of Pomponius Mago, halfway between Diggers and Milton's. The Herald of the Exalted master, and his 3 lackeys, surmount the Crypt and call forth for someone to receive their master's demands. Mighty Beavis is sent to treat with them and receives their message that the Skull Collectors should hand over ¼ of the Badlands or face bloody war. Beavis hurls back defiance and the battle begins.

At first it appears that the Skull Collectors are facing just a band of 30 or so spearmen and 15 or so knights from the army of Milton Von Massacre, but when battle is joined, a grove of trees disappears proving to be illusionary cover for a Cyclops and 6 hill giants. In the rear, a warlock and a band of 7 mystics appear from invisibility. More frighteningly, from behind a hill among the Collectors appear 2 mind flayers, 2 medusae and 12 gargoyles, likewise invisible. Most terrifying of all, the Dragon guardian of Boscoburg flies in to the attack as well.

The wizard Manfred attempts to use his ring of human control to dominate Milton von Massacre at the head of his knights, but is crushed into paste by boulders hurled from the giants. One-Axe and Two-Axe Jack fly with great dispatch and quickly kill the Warlock at the back of the enemy lines. The mind flayers stun Amicus and Helpful Bill right off the bat.

Tiberius responds by summoning 2 purple worms who begin the process of destroying the 2 medusae and their gargoyle body guards.

The dragon breathes fire and injures Beavis and Amicus, but then Fancy Jill uses a potion of dragon control to turn the dragon against the giants, and it manages to cut the head off the Cyclops. The mind flayers manage to stun Tiberius and 3-4 additional collectors.

Meanwhile, Murderface assaults the mystics, only to discover that the Exalted Master is actually the former Skull Collector Brother Punchy, and the dead warlock was his henchman Wilhelm. Murderface tears Brother Punchy to pieces in no time flat, and then spends some time tearing the other mystics to shreds. He then rushes back to his comrades to kill one Mind Flayer and to protect his pals from the Dragon, who has become free of the control potion when Jill was struck by a mind flayer's mind blast.

The forces of Milton von Massacre have some success. His spearmen manage to shoot down Whispy Nuggets, Sister Helena, Osmund and Rabid Jack. The knights eventually kill the two summoned purple worms and Amicus's two summoned crab warriors.

However, the tide begins to turn. Most of the stunned collectors are restored by healing spells and Tiberius summons two hydras, who manage to pin the knights and defeat the giants. The dragon cuts Murderface into gooey chunks but then is torn apart by a squad of Crab Warriors summoned by Amicus.

The Herald and his lackeys, actually Mountain Spirits in disguise, defeat one-axe Jack, but then Helpful Bill destroys the Herald, causing his lackeys and their summoned earth elemental to flee.

Now all that remain are a few fleeing giants and Milton's men. Milton and his knights attempt to ride off, but are destroyed by Amicus's Flame Strike. Half of the giants are slain, but 2-3 manage to stumble off the field. Although helpful Bill slaughtered heaps of them, a dozen or so spearmen manage to escape the field.

Most of the dead and gravely injured Skull Collectors are revived, except for Whispy Nuggets, who dies and stays dead. Murderface loots his corpse and throws it in a ditch (just an elf after all).

It was thus that the Skull Collectors defeated the last independent force in the Badlands, and the Restored Kingdom of Gatavia began its rise as a realm as large as any other in the entire province of Gatavia.