

Game: Gloomwrought Campaign, D&D 5e

Date: June 27th, 2020

Characters:

Ping the Vile, half-elf ranger - 14 (Dan Gilbert)

Rear Admiral Nigel Ramsbottom, half-elf rogue/warlock - 7/7 (Quinton Laughman)

Ser Pipkin Goodwood, half-elf paladin - 14 (Andrew Smith)

Colonel Sigmund, dragonborn sorcerer - 14 (Nate Grim)

Inara, human cleric - 14 (Kayla Nicholas)

Ptheven, backyard behir (NPC)

“Hawkeye” Yeoff Revictus III, human fighter - 14 (Connor Kanya)

Rowan, Shadar-Kai cleric - 14 (Kayla Nicholas)

Sister Sabine Pippins, celestial paladin - 13 (Andrew Smith)

Vlad, lizardfolk pugilist/acolyte of Trogdor - 14 (Nate Grim)

Campaign Date:

DM: Justin Nicholas

Log:

During the three days Abraxas gave the questors, preparations were made. Inara retrieves Ptheven the Behir and creates space for him in the backyard of the Questors' headquarters. Nigel makes some calls to others. Pipkin goes shopping, and is offered the Shield of the Champion of Robur Veritas to wield along with the holy avenger liberated from the vault of the Divine Soul. Sigmund does some research in the impressive Robur Veritas libraries and learns quite a lot about Bezos' capabilities. Yeoff procures some supplies, including sleep darts, healing grenades, and potions of fire resistance for everyone. A gnome from the local HOA arrives to complain, but the questors aren't impressed.

The night before the attack on Bezos, the Questors take some time to share perhaps their last meal together. Inara conjures a hero's feast and each of them share their feelings. Inara recounts how awful the Divine Soul was stealing all her hard work on Robur Veritas and forcing her to serve him instead. Pipkin checks in with Ping, asking the ranger if he is sure that giving his eternal soul for this cause is worth it. Sigmund breaks down and reveals that his wife Harriet and daughter Evelyn aren't in fact waiting for him in Ravnica. They are both dead - slain in the conflict with Unnar, Eater of All.

Preparations finished, the Questors headed to Chesterton Manor to meet with Abraxas. The demon lord waxes nostalgic, and then opens a portal to the layer of the abyss near Bezos' headquarters. The party all mount the behir and ride triumphantly into hell. They arrive in a vast empty plain, smelling of cardboard and brimstone. In the distance, a large mostly featureless warehouse towers over the lands. This stone edifice is swarming with flying drone-like demons

carrying packages both in and out through windows arranged toward the top of the building. A sign on the side of the monolithic structure reads "Fulfillment Center" in infernal. A panopticon at the top of the complex houses the demon lord Bezos himself, available from a grand cursed spiral staircase from within the great hall below or through stained-glass windows in the penthouse itself.

At first, the Questors aren't sure how to proceed. Do they all just mount the behir and charge this strange "Fulfillment Center?" Yeoff summons his goth crow familiar, Theodore. He pops into existence with a jaunty black top hat and scouts out the damned warehouse. A plan is formed. Nigel sneaks past the drone-imps into the installation. He locates a teleportation circle by a sign marked "express delivery" near the massive, cursed spiral stair. He relays the details of that circle to Sigmund.



As one, the Questors move on Bezos. Ping summons a pair of pixies that enter the warehouse and begin to cause a distraction. Meanwhile, Sigmund triggers a teleportation circle for the rest of the party to get into the installation. Nigel leads the charge up the grand stairs to Bezos' panopticon. They burst in, and see the hairless demon lord flanked by two impressive drones and two arthropodic bodyguards.

This is the Questors' moment. They were destined to win this fight, and all the preparations paid off. Sigmund's twinned lightning blasts tore through the demons. Ping rained arrows down on the demonic bodyguards. The holy sword Pipkin took on cut through the alien drones like a hot knife through butter. Yeoff waded into the fight with his ancestral sword, while Nigel continually made sneak attacks backed by the powers of the Lady of the Light.

Enraged, Bezos took the fight to Ping. His titanic caustic flail and horrid touch burns the party, scarring them all. The Questors were not to be denied, and even these setbacks were addressed. Pipkin protected his comrades from magic with his holy aura and Inara at one point healing just about the entire party to keep them from death's door. Bezos tried to escape the blades of the party by flying into the air around the panopticon only to have Yeoff snort some pixie dust to bring the fight to the demon lord. Radiant streams of energy from Inara drive Bezos back to his throne where Yeoff actually hits him with a sleeping dart, knocking him out.

The Questors surround the prone demon lord, while Inara magically conferences with Abraxas. With her listening, the lord collector calls the Divine Soul to him and murders him. The screams of terror and pain are like music to Inara - finally vindicated and free of the tyranny of Bahamut. Abraxas arrives on the plane of the warehouse and nonchalantly severs Bezos' head - another item for his collection.



Abraxas tells the Questors exactly how he plans on using Bezos' wealth and power for his own ends, gloating about how he will one day return to the Prime Material Plane in glory. Before he opens a portal to see the Questors out, Nigel reveals his plan. Heaven sends agents of the light to stop Abraxas' plans before he can claim Ping's soul. Rowan, Sabine, and Vlad appear in the panopticon, ready to continue the fight. Nigel leaps to attack Abraxas, leading the charge.

The Questors' allegiances are tested. Honoring Ping's wishes, Inara and Yeoff refuse to go back on the deal and don't attack. Pipkin attacks, never refusing a chance to destroy a demon even if his powers are depleted by the previous fight with Bezos. Sigmund strikes with magic, wounding the monster. Rowan, Sabine, and Vlad move to crush the demon lord collector. Nigel has an opportunity to finish Abraxas off, but a look into Ping's eyes tells the pirate that his old friend has already made his peace. It is time to say goodbye. Nigel lowers his weapon and Abraxas makes his escape taking his newfound servant Ping along with him.

Following the battle, the Questors break up and make new plans now that the security of Robur Vertas has been assured. Mordenkainen reappears and thanks the Questors for their help. Unnar has returned to Ravnica, but Sigmund travels with Rowan back to the Shadowfell to join the struggle against darkness there. With her necromantic magic restored, Inara decides that she should be the new princess of hell. With Vlad's help, she plans to reconstruct and rule Bezos' domain in her own vision. Inara takes Yeoff as her prince in an infernal destination wedding styled by Pipkin's aesthetic. Nigel considers a marriage proposal of his own from Pipkin, but is unsure about the paladin's standing engagement to a woman and being tied down in the Feywild. The fate of that union is another story yet to be told.

The tale ends with Ping, now the only friend and confidant of the demon lord collector Abraxas now left with only his own demonic plane of curiosities. Ruling Bezos' resources was denied to him. Fuming, Abraxas goes on a tirade belittling the half-elf and his former companions. A wry smile crosses Ping's face as he thinks back on his past life. He knows that his sacrifice has empowered his friends to be their very best selves, and that he has more work to do honing his passive-aggressiveness in eternal demonic service.