

The Sundering Spring, 08

Longwalker,

I have word from my scouts that ranged North of the Fortorn Hills. Evidence of Gray Dwarves in service to the hateful God Laduguer, also known as The Exile for he stands apart from those other deities in the Dwarven Pantheon, have been discovered in the environs around Firehammer Hold.

The Hold is ancient, though the Dwarves who dwell there were thought to be in service to Helga Brightaxe, the Lady of the Fray; a demigod among the deities.

My scouts have also discovered a mass grave within the woods nearby the known entrance to Firehammer Hold and within were the bodies of Men, Dwarves, and Halflings. It seems those Gray Dwarves who serve Laduguer have taken over the halls of the Mountain Dwarves dedicated to the Lady of the Fray.

Tracks have been found that indicate groups of Hobgoblins have been herding kidnapped people of the Delimbiyr Vale into the Hold and that recently a large band of Gnolls arrived and then departed much weighed down.

As you can no doubt see, logic dictates that the Gray Dwarves are arming the Gnolls. If it is true what Isteval's Company has discovered; that the Red Wizards of Thay are behind the recent scourging of the Duke of Daggerford's lands, and this seems very likely given there are Thayan Gnolls in the Ardeep forest and the report that the Goblins which conquered Jolkoun were led by a Red Wizard, then it

could very well be that the Gray Dwarves of Laduguer have allied with the Red Wizards and are using those people captured from Jolkoun to work the forges beneath Firehammer Hold to create arms and armor for the host of Gnolls within Ardeep.

This news is chilling to my very soul.

Uncle, my hope now is that those brave warriors that have held faith in Sir Isteval's ideals of a free and safe Delimbjur Vale even now battle against the Gray Dwarves of Laduguer.

My scouts report that the Company's tracks lead into Firehammer Hold itself, however they have not found any sign that Isteval's Company has made their way out.

This can only mean one of two things; either they fight on in the Dwarven Halls below or they have all been captured or killed.

Let us pray to Corellon that it is the former.

*Kelson*

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