

The Sundering Spring, 05

Longwalker,

My scouts and I are in the wilds on the lookout for the Duke's missing heirloom; a perfect time for training exercises in lieu of this fool's errand. We shall keep an eye out for Gnolls on the Trade Way as well.

Indeed, I was disappointed that the Company of Isteval elected to travel to Harpshield Ruins for treasure instead of Phylund Lodge to face the Gnolls in their lair and so my scouts will do what we can.

Our dinner with the members of the Company was a telling affair; they had lost comrades while liberating Jolkoun however their zeal to aid Daggerford, and line their pockets with gold, was clear to behold.

Still, they will accomplish both at the ruin known as Harpshield Castle that once was the seat of power in the Kingdom of Men so long ago. Perhaps they will discover lost relics of the ancient three-crowned kingdom Phalorn or at least antiquities from the Kingdom of Men.

I wonder, Uncle, do you see within any of Isteval's Company a commitment to the ideals of Phalorn; that all goodly folk can co-exist and stand shoulder to shoulder in

defense of peace and life to build something truly beautiful? I am unsure and this brings a sadness upon me in the darker hours of the watch.

As you know, three tribes of Orcs hold the ruins of Harpshield, led by one called the Pale Chief, and in routing them the Company of Isteval will face even greater trials than in Jolkoun. To be successful, they will need determination and Tymora's blessing. I fear that if their ultimate goal is only material enrichment then we have placed our faith in Sell Swords rather than true Heroes and so will ultimately find ourselves bereft of strong allies. However, I have been known to be wrong before; though not often.

I will send word immediately once I hear of the Company's fate; let us pray they find victory and not defeat.

-Kelson

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