

Sept. 10, 2023

Plumbing The Depths

Party members are all 2nd level and consist of Ben Sayvin: Halfling Cleric, Twisted Finger: Tiefling Paladin, Doran Brass: Human Rogue, Mill Burray: Halfling Bard and the new addition of Cosmas, the Half-elf Wizard.

When we last left our party, they were resting in their favorite tavern, The Bloody Bucket, as bard and barmaid extraordinaire, Ginger Jugs, was telling the tale of their last adventure. A young messenger boy burst in with a request for help from a wizard in the next village. He needed help recovering a lost ring. The promise of payment was enough to get the group to travel to the wizard's laboratory to hear the rest of the details.

When the group arrived, they found the wizard in his messy lab - book, scrolls, bottles of liquids and other wizardly looking objects. Two ornamental suits of armor stood in the corners. The wizard explained that his ring was lost down the drain, he desperately needed it recovered as soon as possible as a storm was due to arrive that evening. The use of the Gem of Returning is explained to the party and questions concerning the use of Mage Hand and Arcane Eye were met with a scornful gaze from the DM so the party agreed to the wizard's terms and disagreed that the suits of armor were "ornamental".

After being shrunk down, the party made their way down the drain to the P-trap under the sink. The water had a faint glow to it and they decided to investigate. There they managed to spot a magnet tied to some rope under the water. Just as they were approaching the magnet, they spotted the jellyfish floating in the water. Once they determined that the jellyfish were making no attempt to move towards the party and all they needed to do was avoid the tentacles, the party decided to kill both the jellyfish for just sitting there and minding their own business. Once the jellyfish were in jellyfish heaven, the party discovered that they still have to make a Dex save to avoid the stinging tentacles of the dead jellyfish. They made their saves and continued down the drain.

The party came to a long vertical pipe that had a large crack opening and spiders could be seen in the crack. The party attacked and the spiders began making their way towards them. The battle lasted a few rounds with the spiders being defeated. The party made their way down to the crack and noticed the dead body of one of Gon's assistants encased in spider webs. Ben examines the body to determine the cause of death and discovers a note to the apprentice from Gon. It appears that Gon may not be so good after all. They also recovered an Immovable Rod and Potion of Spider Climb from the dead apprentice.

As the party descended down the pipe, they could see a glow from further down the pipe. They come to an angled section of pipe where calcite dams have formed which have built up several pools of various colors. A successful Arcana check revealed that this formation is the result of Gon pouring failed experiments and potions down the drain where they combined and formed in

unexpected ways. Through a few Athletics and Acrobatics checks and Bardic Inspiration from Mill, the party used the magnet, rope and Immovable Rod to fashion a zip line to bypass all of the pools. Everyone but Twisted Finger. He had spotted a diamond at the bottom of the first pool. Twisted Finger took a hit for the team and retrieved it and used his healing pool to negate the acid damage. From there Twisted hopped into the blue pool and found his new best friend, Blub Blub. After feeding Blub Blub, the creature warned Twisted of the "Yuck Yuck No No" purple slime monster in the next pool. Twisted made his way to the next pool which would have healed him had he been injured. The final pool gave him a +1 to his Strength so he passed that message along and the rest of the party took turns having a random attribute increased.

The party pressed on, looking for the missing ring and dropped down into the next section of pipe where they spotted an enormous ladybug hanging out. They were curious and approached when suddenly a rat burst into the pipe and viciously consumed the ladybug. The party, not wanting to chance trying to sneak by the rat, chose to attack the rat. Twisted Finger used his pike to deal some serious damage to the rat and it retreated back into the hole. At that point Ben used a Mending spell to repair the pipe to prevent the rat from attacking them again.

The adventurers continued down the plumbing and dropped down into a pipe to discover another shrunken human being chased by a quartet of mushroom soldiers. "Help me you imbeciles!" the brash young man shouted to the party. The five of them laid into the mushroom men exchanging blows with Ben succumbing to the stunning spores of one of the mushroom soldiers.

With the mushroom men defeated, the young stranger introduces himself as Cosmas Half-elven, one of the apprentices of Gon. He then went on to explain that Gon is not what he appears to be. Gon the Good is more like Gon the Rotten and that the wizard will most likely kill the party when they return with his ring. They will need to make plans on how to deal with the threat before they return to his laboratory.

Cosmas then tells the party of yet another apprentice (Balthatar) who discovered where the ring is but has not returned. There is a magic mirror between the party and the rest of the plumbing that is preventing them from passing. Balthatar explained the secret of the mirror as "Only one whom does not have a reflection can pass through". He also mentioned something about a giant snake. The party then proceeds to test the mirror with animate and inanimate objects and seem stymied when a clearly annoyed Cosmas explains "It's obvious, you can't see your reflection and pass through. You need to walk through backwards" and then proceeds to do just that and passes through the mirror. The rest of the party follows suit.

Our hardy band of adventurers is then confronted by four very large and very hungry frogs. Combat ensues with the party emerging victorious despite Ben getting bitten and grappled by one of the frogs.

From there they come across the snake mentioned by Balthatar - a giant snake skeleton blocks their way. They also see a very gross and very dead Balthatar. He has been dead for some time

and has mushrooms growing out of him. Cosmas and Ben pray over the body while Doran investigates the snake skull. Passing his Investigation check, he determines that the skull is rigged to be a trap and most likely was what killed poor Balthatar. With the trap nullified they party now looks into the issue of climbing the snake skeleton. They decide that Mill can shuttle each of the players to the top of the skeleton using the Boots of Levitation that were just pilfered from Barthatar's corpse. Problem solved!

Finally, our party finds themselves in the throne room of the Mushroom King! The king is flanked on either side by two mushroom soldiers. As the party approaches, the Mushroom King uses his Rapport Spores to telepathically communicate with the party. He asks why they are here in the plumbing. The party tells the story of the wizard and the lost ring. The King is clearly reluctant to part with it. The party then attempts to barter the large diamond they found in the acid pool for the ring. The Mushroom King may be interested in bartering but he does not want the diamond. As he approaches the party, he reaches out to touch the holy symbol worn by Ben. The Mushroom King will give the party the ring they desire if Ben will part with the holy symbol of his order.

Ben was having none of that.

Fighting erupted with Twisted making a play for the ring. As the combatants maneuvered and exchanged blows, the ring fell from the Mushroom King and was snatched up by Twisted who held the Gem of Returning in his other hand. "Shamalamadingdong!" he shouts and the party is instantly returned to the waiting Gon gets two syllables out of his mouth before Twisted points the ring at Gon and lets loose with the best Power Word Kill he can muster. Unfortunately, the Ring of Wishes can only approximate spells up to 8th level and Power Word Kill is a 9th level spell. So, the ring does the best it can and produces the 8th level spell, Power Word Stun.

Reality rips open as arcane energy arcs from the ring and envelops Gon as he screams in agony and collapses to the ground. At this point the two Animated Armors begin to stumble towards the party, but as they inflict wounds on the powerless wizard, their steps begin to falter. With his death they collapse entirely.

With the wizard defeated, the party ransacks the wizards laboratory, finding gemstones and magical gear and begin their journey back to The Bloody Bucket for some rest and recuperation. But the peace is short lived as a sheep comes running into the tavern with a scroll of Speak With Animals in its mouth.