

Patreon PDF Releases # 101

Food for
the GM's
Mind



Elven
Tower
Cartography

Cartography by:



Elven Tower Cartography

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The intent with this material is to create ideas and extra material for the illustrations I create. You're free to use this information or change it in any way to adapt it to your own game and players.

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Map 101 - Crystal Hunt

Cartography by:



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Crystals Hunt



Lord Maegh is one of the wealthiest men in the county; surpassed only by the rich spice merchant lords. House Maegh has enjoyed a wealthy and lavish lifestyle for the last 4 or 5 generations

due to their holding of a very rich iron mine. Discovered by accident, a large iron vein is mined day after day by House Maegh's subjects.

The current Lord, Richard Maegh inherited the mine and it's produce when hi father died a few years ago. He holds dreams of greater wealth and thus, as soon as he came into possession of the mine, began expansion projects and doubled the number of laborers working in the mines. He extended an open invitation to neighboring towns and villages for laborers, he offer a fair pay. In less than a month, he had half the county working for him mining as much iron as was humanly possible.

The mine ran deep inside the earth, they used a spiral architecture for the main mine tunnel. It facilitated the transit of coal carts and overall movement inside the mine.

The deeper they dug, the more often they found crystal formations in underground chambers. Some chambers were so full of crystals of different colors that they formed enormous geodes. Some sages analyzed the crystals and concluded that they were all formed from different minerals. Some of them were harder than others but none of them held any intrinsic value, so they were mostly ignored by the miners when found. It was noted that the deeper the crystals were found, the more possible it was for them to be luminescent. The radiated a warm light tinted by the crystal's own color. The sages explained that was caused by faerzress, a type of underground radiation that is only found in the underdark.

They also said it was not supposed to be dangerous, unless any magic was used near it; reports of magic malfunctioning due to faerzress are known but not thoroughly documented.

A week ago something happened deep in the mine. A large crystal filled chamber was recently discovered and is being mined since it directly touches the iron vein. Miners came back that day with high fevers. Their skins were also tinted bright in different colors. Blood doctors are tending to the sick miners, draining the contaminated blood inside them. Close to sunset, the remaining miners got out of the complex in a hurry, carrying several wounded and death miners with them. Something attacked them down there from the darkness. The ones that were close to the incident report to have heard a kind of explosion and a cave-in. something came out from below, some creature from the underdark. And the faerzress in the cave lit bright the moment it happened.

Adventure Ideas:

Lord Richard Maegh is really concerned about this current mining problem. He wishes for the operation to continue as soon as possible. If the PCs are in town he hires them to go down into the depths of the mine and clean it from any threat. As a secondary objective, he requests the PCs to retrieve any survivors they find, or the bodies of dead miners. He's only doing this because he needs to townsfolk approval, but he does not really care for them. When the ad-



venturers reach the big crystal chamber, they encounter a few survivors who are too sick and weak to walk from the faerzress. They tell of a group of miners who were taken alive by some underground creature.

Mira is a midwife whose husband did not return from the mine. He approaches the adventurers and requests help from them, she does not have any belongings except from a magical cane that belonged to her grandfather. If examined with a Detect Magic spell, it is confirmed; however she ignores any magical properties it may have and refuses to let the PCs examine it any further (You can give it any ability). If the PCs find the husband, alive or dead, Mira will gift the magical cane to the party.

Sir Joff Maegh is the court's wizard. He lives in a squat tower near the town center. He is a student of mineralogy and alchemy. As soon as reports came back from the mine about faerzress infused crystals, he became interested. The crystals were not going anywhere so he bid his time. His plan was to mount an expedition with some of his students to go down the mine and study the glowing crystals, and take samples. With the new developments and dead miners, Sir Joff fears that the mine is closed or permanently shut down. So he either hires the party as bodyguards to go down for studying and sample-taking, or he hires them to bring the biggest glowing crystal they can carry.

The Quest

The adventure requires an underdark creature to attack the miners. Good options are: Fomorian, Drow, Umber Hulk, Grell, Hook Horror or Grimlock.

The illustration features the large chamber at the end of the mine tunnel, but there are other side caves (secondary caves) that are perfect for some random encounters before a big fight. So in the end it's best to assume that a group of creatures came forth from the underdark. It could have been a drow raiding party, a hook horror pack or similar.

The faerzress is known to cause magical mishaps. Anytime a spell is cast inside one of the crystal chambers roll a D20, if a one comes up, then roll in the Wild Surge table in page 98 of the Player's Handbook. In case you're not playing DnD 5e, then just narrate how the spell doesn't work or has an unintended effect or consequence.

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