



Synopsis
The 14th Day of Ches in the Year of the Sudden Journey
Khalin and Tradden have set off for the island in the middle of the lake to explore the Tower of the Mists in the hope to bring Kireth some further texts to translate.
No sooner have they stepped on the island when they are attacked from above! After a brief battle with some stirges they enter the ruins of the tower, only to be confronted by yet another creature!

- [Khālin Grundokri](#) - 2nd Level Male Dwarven Warlord
- [Tradden Aversward](#) - 3rd Level Male Human Fighter

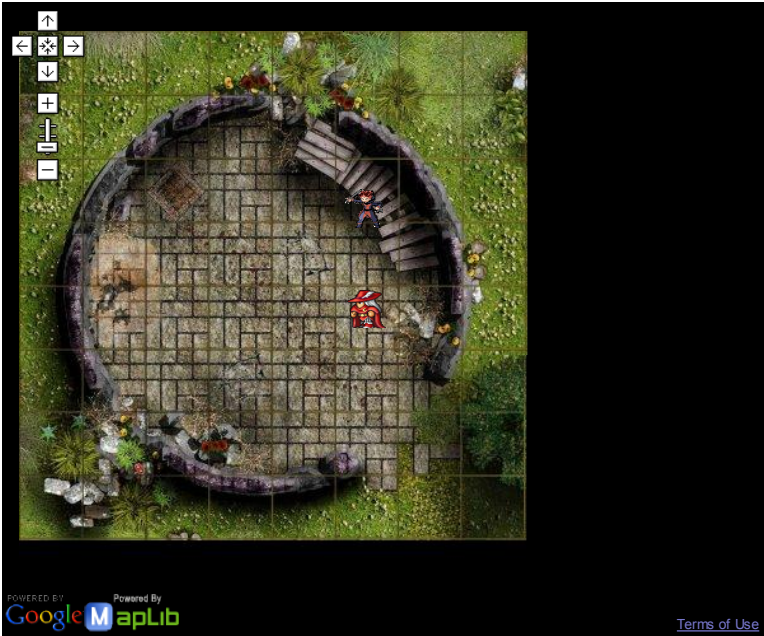
Scene Length
This scene starts on Friday 24 December 2010 and is expected to be completed by the end of Monday 27 December 2010. Players are expected to be able to post at least once a day.

INITIATIVE BLOCK

Combat Encounter Completed

01) [21] Ambush Spider - ~~1d20+8: 21~~ - Dmg: 13+12+4+12+15=56 (Bloodied)
02) [21] Ambush Spider #2 - ~~1d20+8: 21~~ - Dmg: 9+11+11=31
03) [20] Tradden - **1d20+3+2: 20** - HP 10/38
04) [14] Ambush Spider #3 - ~~1d20+8: 14~~ - Dmg: 4+4+12+10=30 (Bloodied)
05) [05] Khalin - **1d20+2+2: 5** - HP 20/31 (+2 to defences until end of next turn)

BATTLE MAP



[Surprise Round]

[Ambush Spider Venomous Bite: **1d20+7: 12** vs Tradden's AC(17)] - *misses!*

The spider's fangs bit down hard on chainmail and spared the young fighter.

[Standard Round]

[Ambush Spider Bite: **1d20+7: 13** vs Tradden's AC(18)] - *misses!*

Again, Tradden's chain mail came to the rescue before the spider moved away slightly up the stairs. [Shift]

Ah, yes, it was taking the shine off the steel rings as it dripped towards the floor. It seemed as though Caldring would have more than one repair to do when they got back.
Thinking about the training, hints and tips Khalin, ever wise in the ways of war, had been giving him, his first thought was that as they had a numerical advantage, they should try and use that by flanking it.


Crouching down at first, the young fighter moved towards the eight legged monster in a hop-skip-jump maneuver, firstly taking a spring off the first step on the crumbling stairs, then using the momentum to leap up towards the wall.
The spider made a fairly half hearted snap at him, but he was already over the top of it, kicking off from the wall and turning into a half-pike before landing expertly on the stairs behind it.

[Move Action - Pass Forward]

"Maybe just having two legs has its advantages!" he mocked, before launching into an attack. Arguably the comment was lost on the arachnid.

[Melee Basic Attack with Frost Longsword vs Spider's AC: **1d20+9: 15**] - misses!
[Marked]

However, the spider had readied itself for the attack, and managed to avoid the human's blow by dropping down one whole side of its body deftly.


 Mark and Random: "That's a biggie for this time of year," remarked Khalin matter-of-factly. The dwarf had seen enough creepie-crawlies, both big and small, in the mountains and caves around the dwarven stronghold to take the sudden appearance of this little blighter in his stride. "Watch out for the mandibles though, they'll give you quite a sting!" Dec 26, 2010 ▼

As he spoke the dwarf deftly moved into a flanking position behind the spider [+2 to attacks for self and Tradden], and brought his hammer down in a neat arc to splat the creature...


[Warhammer attack vs Spider **1d20+6+2: 12**] - misses!

"Grrr!" grumbled the dwarf as the arachnid felt the sudden movement of air and scuttled quickly aside.

The dwarf then quickly raised his shield to better parry any counter from the creature.

 Matt and me: "Tricky blighter!" commented Tradden, holding his blades in a defensive position, ready for the Spider's next attack, should it choose him. Dec 27, 2010 ▼

It certainly was menacing. "Must be something in the mainland air that makes them so big!" It wasn't like the little, old Purple-Backs that used to run around his old house in The Mavens, back in Deepingwald that was for sure.


 Me and Random: The spider briefly appeared to weigh up its options. Above it, on the staircase, was a human wielding two points of steel. Below, a smaller figure brandishing a large blunt instrument. The spider leapt in the air, trying to get off the staircase as quickly as it could. Dec 27, 2010 ▼

Both Tradden and Khalin saw the movement, and struck with the opportunity granted.

[Tradden Opportunity Attack vs Ambush Spider: **1d20+9+2+2: 19**] - hits!
[Damage: **1d8+7: 13**] and [Combat Superiority: **Movement Ends**]

[Khalin Opportunity Attack vs Ambush Spider: **1d20+6+2: 22**] - hits!
[Damage: **1d10+5: 12**]

The spider remained rooted to the spot, stunned by the ferocity of the attacks. [Bloodied]

 Matt, me and Random: Tradden allowed himself a grin - he and Khalin had struck in unison - firstly the Dwarf had barged his shield into the side of the spider to slow its movement, and that had been quickly followed up by the young fighter aiming a solid kick at two of its legs, which had given way. The prone spider had then been an easy target for their blows. Dec 28, 2010 ▼

Looking to now take further advantage of their combined assault, Tradden weaved his swords this way and that, trying to ensure that the arachnid would not know where the next strike was coming from despite its many eyes...

[Surprising Stab vs Spider's Reflex with Frost Longsword: **1d20+9+2: 30**] - hits!
[Damage: **4**] and [Marked] and grants [Combat Advantage]


[Second Attack vs Spider with Shortsword: **1d20+9+2: 19**] - hits!
[Damage **2d6+7: 12**]


Tradden's attack arced through two of the spider's legs, slicing them clean off.

 Mark, me and Random: The dwarf swiftly followed up once more with his hammer. Dec 28, 2010 ▼

[Warhammer attack vs spider: **1d20+6+2: 16**] - hits!
[Damage: **1d10+5: 15**]


Khalin followed up Tradden's attack with a devastating hammer blow, squashing the remains of the spider onto the stone stairs with a squelch.

 Me: As Khalin's hammer blow against the stone staircase echoed around the ruined tower, dust and particles cascaded down from above. As the pair looked up, fearful for their safety, they failed to notice the long legs sneaking out from the rubble near Khalin's legs, as two similar spiders jumped out in revenge for their fallen comrade! Dec 28, 2010 ▼

 Me and Random: The first of the two new spiders turned it's attention straight to the dwarf that had landed the killing blow against its comrade, leaping up and trying to sink it's venomous fangs into the warlord. Dec 28, 2010 ▼

[Ambush Spider Venomous Bite: **1d20+7: 27** vs Khalin's AC(19)] - critical hit!
[Damage: **1d8+5: 13**] and [Slowed] and [Ongoing 5 poison] (Save Ends Both)

The fangs sank into Khalin's flesh and the dwarf could feel the venom flow into his bloodstream.


 Matt, me and Random: Just as Tradden grinned in victory, the smile was wiped from his face as two new spiders appeared! Seeing them both start to attack his friend, without a second's thought he leaped off the crumbling stairs - right onto top of the nearest spider! It was not enough to cause any harm to the large arachnid, but it must have enraged it to have the young human use it as a stepping stone! Dec 28, 2010 ▼

[Pass Forward as Move]
[Ambush Spider #2 now Flanked]

Now behind the two creatures, he lashed out with his longsword.


[Cleave vs Spider #2 - **1d20+9+2: 24**] - hits!
[Damage: **1d8+7: 9**] and [Marked]
[Spider #3 takes 4 damage]

Tradden's swipe came round in a great arc, hitting both the spiders.


 Me and Random: The third spider concentrated its fury on the dwarf that had splattered its mate on the stairs. Dec 28, 2010 ▼

[Ambush Spider Venomous Bite: **1d20+7: 10** vs Khalin's AC(19)] - misses!

The fangs hit bare metal at Khalin's breast and failed to pierce his armour.

 Me: As Khalin tried to concentrate on the two arachnids facing him he could feel the poison congealing within his blood. Dec 28, 2010 ▼

[Ongoing 5 damage]

 Matt: It was at times like this - i.e. where it didn't matter, that Tradden displayed signs of insight well beyond his years. Dec 28, 2010 ▼

"Uh oh Khalin - I think you killed its mate - it looks mad"



 Mark, me and Random: "You don't say!" responded the dwarf. "I hate spiders..." he grumbled, before lashing out with his hammer once more...

Dec 29, 2010 ▼

[Warhammer attack vs spider #2: **1d20+6+2: 18**] - hits!
[Damage: **1d10+5: 8**]

As his trusty hammer hit home once more he shrugged and steeled himself against the venom-induced fog in his brain.

[Minor action - Second Wind: 7hp regained, +2AC till end of next turn]
[Save vs venom: **1d20+5: 20**] - success!

 Me and Random: The second spider looked from foe to foe and decided to continue trying to down the dwarf that had killed its companion.

Dec 29, 2010 ▼



[Ambush Spider Bite: **1d20+7-2: 11** vs Khalin's AC(19)] - misses!

Khalin easily slowed its advances by raising his shield.

Tradden thrust his blade into the mix as the spider attacked Khalin. [Spider #2 Marked]

[Tradden's Combat Challenge vs Spider #2: **1d20+9: 24**] - hits!
[Damage: **1d8+7: 11**]

One of the spider's legs was hewn clean off! [Bloodied]

 Matt, me and Random: Not stopping at all, Tradden followed through on the slice that had sent one of the spider's legs flying across the courtyard and span round. The movement gave him momentum to once again cleave through both creatures.

Dec 29, 2010 ▼

[Cleave vs Spider#2's AC **1d20+9+2: 13**] - misses!

However, the young fighter had just been a fraction too slow, and both Spiders saw him coming.

[Use Action Point]

[Cleave vs Spider #2's **1d20+9+2: 30**] - hits!
[Damage: **1d8+7: 11**] and [Marked]
[Spider #3 takes 4 damage]

They did not see the second spin and cleave though - no human or goblinoid of this land had ever done anything quite like it as it cut the spider in two.

 Me and Random: The third spider now concentrated its fury on the young fighter, the obvious threat of the two.

Dec 29, 2010 ▼

[Ambush Spider Venomous Bite: **1d20+7: 22** vs Tradden's AC(18)] - hits!
[Damage: **1d8+5: 11**] and [Slowed] and [Ongoing 5 poison] (Save Ends Both)

The fangs pierced Tradden's skin easily, the spider's fury unleashed!

 Matt: "Yeow!", screamed Tradden in pain, his vision starting to go a bit green around the edges. "Get this thing swatted will you?" he asked with gritted teeth of his companion.

Dec 29, 2010 ▼

 Mark, me and Random: "Dam things..." Khalin was still muttering, while wondering what Zero would've made of the multi-legged monsters.

Dec 31, 2010 ▼

He shimmied round to better shield Tradden, while arcing his hammer in another almighty swing...

[Shielded Assault vs Spider #3: **1d20+6: 7**] - critical miss!
[+2 to AC to self and adjacent allies until end of next turn]

..the swing was high and wide however, and the spider easily dodged the blow.

 Matt, me and Random: [Ongoing Poison Damage: 5]

Dec 31, 2010 ▼

Wobbling only slightly as his body fought the poison now looking to take a hold, Tradden tried to attempt a similar manoeuver to that which had initially taken him onto the steps when fighting the first Spider.

[Move Action - Pass Forward]

The young fighter's legs felt light however, and this time the move was far from graceful. However, he got there in the end and stabbed downwards, hoping to end the foul creature and so be able to take a rest. [Spider #3 Flanked]


[Reaping Strike vs Spider #3's: **1d20+9+2: 24**] - hits!
[Damage is **1d8+7: 8**] and [Marked]

[Daily Power - Frost Sword Narcissus Frost Damage: **1d8: 4**]

He felt his blade stab home, and the entry point showed signs of his blade's frost damage coming into play, a flower of ice expanding across its slimy abdomen.

Things started to blur again - he shook his head violently, trying to clear his senses.



[Save vs Venom: **1d20+1: 11**] - success!

 Me and Random: The spider turned it's attention towards the young fighter who towered above it on the stairs. It quickly darted forward, trying to catch him on the thigh.

Dec 31, 2010 ▼

[Spider #3 Bite: **1d20+7: 24** vs Tradden's AC(18)] - hits!
[Damage: **1d8+5: 12**]

The bite opened a nasty wound on Tradden's leg and blood poured forth.

 Matt: "Gah!" sputtered Tradden, once again through gritted teeth. "It's my birthday soon, " he shouted down to Khalin, "I would like some leg armour!"

Dec 31, 2010 ▼

 Mark, me and Random: "Kireth can get his own books next time!" grumbled the increasingly irritated Khalin. The final arachnid was proving more than a nuisance now. Still he was loathe to once again kill a creature, despite the fact the spiders had attacked first. Perhaps he could scare it off...

Dec 31, 2010 ▼

"GAARRR!!! Away with you, before more blood is spilt!" snarled the dwarf, thrusting his visage at the beast.

[Intimidate vs spider #3: **1d20+9: 25**] - success!


The spider, on it's last legs, visibly retreated on Khalin's cry. Then, with a look from side to side, it tried to scamper away on its remaining legs to the far corner of the tower. Tradden saw the beast flee, though, and took a swipe with his longsword.

[Tradden Opportunity Attack: **1d20+9: 20**] - hits!
[Damage: **1d8+7: 10**]


The blade sliced the spider in half, leaving blood and ichor trailing across the stones.

 Me: [...Combat Encounter Completed...]

Dec 31, 2010 ▼


 Me: *Silence fell in the tower, broken only by the lungfuls of air gasped by Tradden. The young fighter and the dwarf looked at each other after the spider had been hewn in two and a mixture of relief and concern passed their faces.*

Dec 31, 2010 ▼


 Matt: Tradden sheathed one sword on his back and used the other to poke around the clutter and stones around the base of the tower, just in case there were anymore of the arachnids hiding.

Jan 1 ▼

"That was a good trick" he mentioned to Khalin, "You ... did mean for me to kill it, right?"

 Me: *A thorough poke with a sword revealed no further surprises amongst the stones, cobwebs, and smashed barrels at the foot of the stairs.*

Jan 1 ▼

 Matt, me and Random: Seeing nothing of note in the ruins, and studiously ignoring the eyebrow now raised by the Dwarf in answer to his last question, Tradden looked around to see what there next step would be - was there a door, trapdoor or similar that could hold further dangers?

Jan 1 ▼


[Dungeoneering Check: **1d20+3: 4**] - critical failure!

Tradden saw, he saw - yes, it was most definitely, indeed, yes, Khalin would be proud of him spotting that - oh, its nothing.

The most obvious exits to Tradden were those the way they had entered the ruins, or up the stone staircase to the floor above.

 Matt: *"Up I guess."* said Tradden. It was more of a statement than a question. *"Shielded-ones first?"* he continued, with a shiny white toothy grin, making a complicated bowing & gesturing motion to his companion.


Jan 1 ▼

 Me: *A small dwarven oath issued from under Khalin's breath and then the dwarf hefted his shield and hammer once more and concentrated upon the stairway. Tradden followed into step behind, cleaning his sword casually on his thigh.*


Jan 2 ▼

Cracks in the walls allowed enough light to illuminate the first floor in an eerie shade, and Khalin found it fairly easy to see. Tradden struggled somewhat in the gloom and started fishing in his pack for a torch. When the young fighter finally held aloft his illumination he found a scene of what appeared to be devastation. It was hard to tell what the floor had been used for, but rubble and timber lay strewn around the floor. Nothing of any note remained.

"Hmm, still warm here," stated the dwarf, somewhat to himself.

 Matt: "What's warm?", said Tradden distractedly, peering through a gap in the brickwork and looking back out over the bay.

Jan 2 ▼

 Me and Random: "The whole tower - can't you feel it?" replied Khalin, already moving to the bottom of the next stairwell and peering up. "A bit less so here, but warm nonetheless."

Jan 2 ▼

Khalin started to climb the stone staircase gingerly.

[Khalin Dungeoneering Check: **1d20+3: 8**] - failure!

As the dwarf moved slowly up the staircase there were a couple of ominous cracks, and then the step that Khalin was on gave way!


[Crumbling Stair: **1d20+6: 18** vs Khalin's Reflex(13)] - hits!

Khalin's foot went through the crumbling masonry and he slipped down the stairs in an ungainly fashion.

[Damage: **2d6+1: 10**]

From the bottom of the staircase Khalin looked up at Tradden, now standing above him, concerned. "Erm, careful up there," said the dwarf with a blush. "It's not entirely safe!"

[Khalin spends two healing surges]

 Matt, me and Random: "Hmmm." said Tradden, now carefully ascending - torch in one hand, shortsword in the other, which he used to tap and prod each step. He tried to stay focused and detect any further possible problems before they arose.

Jan 2 ▼

[Dungeoneering Check: **1d20+3: 10**] - success!

 Me and Random: *Tradden negotiated the staircase and raised his head above the floor level as he ascended. Larger cracks in the walls allowed shafts of light to illuminate the floor quite well and Tradden extinguished his torch.*

Jan 2 ▼

There were more solid remains on this level that gave some indication as to its previous use. Warped planks of wood belied the remains of old bookcases, although any books seemed to have disintegrated long ago.

"This must be where Valino found those other tomes," said Tradden, poking the remains with the point of his sword. "Doesn't appear to be much left now."

Disappointedly he looked at the shattered remains of the staircase leading up.

"Doesn't look as though there's much left further up, either."

[Khalin Perception Check: **1d20+1: 2**] - critical failure!


[Tradden Perception Check: **1d20+3: 16**] - success!

A good look around the floor revealed nothing of interest to the pair.

[Khalin Dungeoneering Check: **1d20+3: 5**] - failure!

"I'm not sure Kireth would have sent us here on a wild goose chase, though," stated Khalin. "Let's head back down to the warmth and grab a bite to eat - all this rowing and fighting has made me hungry!"

With that Khalin carefully descended the stairs to the bottom floor, with a dejected Tradden behind him.

 Me and Random: *Back on the ground floor, Khalin moved absent mindedly to the warmer corner of the tower to the northwest. Grabbing a ration from his pack he sat down on the warm floor to eat his trail food.*



Jan 2 ▼



"At least that Skillet packs a decent meal," the dwarf said between munches.

[Khalin Perception Check: **1d20+1: 12**] - failure!

[Tradden Perception Check: **1d20+3: 11**] - failure!

"Ave," replied Tradden, and sat on the wooden part of the floor here to open his own rations.

  Matt and me: "Sho.", asked Tradden, his words obscured by the slice of pie currently being consumed. "Why would, *chomp* this old tower have a warm shectshun *chomp*. Ish it Dwarvish?" Jan 2 ▼
Tradden was thinking of tales he had been told by Old Mr Ironfoot of the Dwarves using hot water springs to heat their often magnificent constructions.

  Me and Random: "I'm not sure," replied Khalin, continuing to munch on his rations. "I've been trying to work that one out for a wee while. Pass me that ale, would you?" Jan 2 ▼

Tradden grabbed the skin of ale that Skillet had provided and tossed it across to the dwarf. Khalin fumbled the catch and it bounced on the wooden floor, the stopper coming loose. Golden ale flowed out of the flask and over the wooden boards. Khalin cursed and quickly tried to recover the skin before all of the ale escaped.

"Just not my day today, I guess," muttered the dwarf, watching the ale seep away through the cracks in the boards.

[Khalin Perception Check: **1d20+1: 12**] - failure!
[Tradden Perception Check: **1d20+3: 22**] - success!



"Wait a minute," gasped Tradden, and started to push Khalin to one side.

"What do you think you're doing, lad?" muttered the dwarf with a scowl.

"Look!" offered Tradden, sweeping debris and dust away from the wooden boards revealing a square trapdoor. "Why didn't we see this before? Where's Zero when you need him, eh?"

The wooden boards formed a perfectly square door, complete with an iron handle in the southern end.

"Shall we?" beamed the young fighter.

  Matt and Random: Tradden went to lift the hatch - but then stopped himself, mindful of electric shocks and the like in the past. Jan 2 ▼



He had watched Zero work a few times now - maybe something had rubbed off and he might see a trap?

[Dungeoneering Check: **1d20+3: 12**]

 Me: The trapdoor looked like a perfectly normal wooden trapdoor to Tradden. Jan 2 ▼

 Matt: "Hmmm. Oh well - we need to check one way or the other." stated the young fighter. Jan 2 ▼



He re-lit the torch he had used earlier, and with his other free hand he opened the trapdoor and had a look.

  Me and Random: Tradden gingerly opened his eyes as the trapdoor opened without any incident. Waves of warm air flooded up from below. Jan 2 ▼

[Tradden Perception Check: **1d20+3: 10**]

A thin cloud of soot rose from the underside of the trapdoor and dispersed into the air above the pair's heads. As Tradden pulled the trapdoor all the way back the vertical there was an ominous 'click', almost causing the youth to drop the handle, but nothing untoward seemed to happen and the trapdoor locked into place.

As Tradden waved the soot away from his face, Khalin peered down into the darkness below. A simple stone spiral staircase led downwards and away into the dark where even the torch couldn't penetrate.

  Matt, me and Random: "Once again, my bravery is not in question my friend - but on the other hand, you have a shield! Please be my guest..." Another flourishing bow followed. Jan 2 ▼

It occurred to Tradden that Valino and his men may never have found this hatch. Were there any tell tale signs that they did?


[Perception Check: **1d20+3: 10**]

Judging by the release of soot perhaps they hadn't.

  Mark and Random: Khalin peered into the darkness... Jan 3 ▼

[Perception check: **1d20+1: 12**]
[Dungeoneering check: **1d20+3: 6**]



Khalin wondered whether the venom he'd ingested earlier was still dulling his senses, or perhaps he just needed a good night's sleep. Still, there was some dim light below from somewhere, and no nasties immediately apparent. The dwarf raised his shield cautiously and carefully descended into the gloom.

 Matt: It was times like this, when there was a dark passageway likely full of danger to be negotiated, that Tradden looked at Khalin's shield, and wondered about the merits of fighting with such a stout form of protection. Jan 3 ▼

He had a sudden vision of himself and Khalin stood, ready and able, at the outside of the tower, both resplendent in fine armour and with shields. Odd, Khalin looked taller in the vision.

The vision-Tradden had a fine kiteshield on one arm instead of a blade.

"Naaaaahhhhhhhhh", he said to himself, as he followed the Dwarf down the stairs, holding the torch up high and looking for brackets to light as he went.

  Me and Random: The stone staircase led down at quite a tight angle, the pair's view obscured by the walls at either side and lit only by the torch held aloft in Tradden's hand at the rear and by a faint glow from what they appeared to be the bottom of the stairs. Jan 3 ▼

After a few cautious moments, with both heroes trying to be as quiet as possible, Khalin held up his hand, motioning for Tradden to stop. The youth could hear the dwarfsniffing and then grumbling to himself.

[Khalin Perception Check: **1d20+1: 5**] - failure!
[Tradden Perception Check: **1d20+3: 17**] - success!

Khalin started forwards again and Tradden sniffed for himself.



"Wait!" the young fighter hissed, and quickly started to extinguish his torch. There was something in the air that Tradden didn't like the smell of.

The dwarf stopped, and turned to Tradden. "We're at the bottom just round this last bend - another ten steps or so. What's the matter?"

"Can you smell that in the air, Khalin?" asked Tradden. "Smells like those sarcophagi in the mausoleum. Well, not the same, not as fishy, but similar."

"Hmm, you're right lad," Khalin replied after a moment. "Well, let's proceed with even more caution then. You alright to see?"

"Yes, of course," lied the youth. "Lead on."

  Me and Random: Khalin reached the bottom of the stairs, facing west, ten or so feet from the tower wall, and giving no indication of the room beyond. The last few steps had revealed a soft light from below with a reddish tint and the dwarf had noticed the amount of soot covering the stone steps and clinging to the walls of the staircase. Jan 3 ▼

At the bottom of the stairs it was simple to see the source of the light - alcoves cut some six or seven feet into the walls contained what appeared to be a flickering red flame, illuminating the area with that soft tint.

Khalin crossed to the wall and placed his back against it, motioning for Tradden to follow suit. They shuffled around to the north and surveyed the area.

[Khalin Perception Check: 1d20+1: 14]
[Tradden Perception Check: 1d20+3: 19]

The room appeared to be larger than the tower above, some fifty or more feet across, although remained circular. Soot covered most of the area, hiding forms and shapes in the dim light, but the pair could make out what appeared to be a heap of garbage directly in front of them, a large table to the southwest covered with implements, and a large cabinet or bookcase to the southeast. Directly to the south was a strange contraption, built into the far wall, that looked like a giant gate.

Beads of sweat ran down Tradden's forehead and he absent mindedly wiped them away with his sleeve.

"You weren't wrong about it being warm around here," sighed Tradden. His voice sounded muffled - no echoes seemed to escape the layers of soot.

Khalin bent down to examine the garbage pile at their feet.


[Khalin Perception Check: 1d20+1: 4]
[Tradden Perception Check: 1d20+3: 14]

Most of the garbage appeared to be bits of old leather, fairly well preserved, perhaps by the thick layer of soot.

"Looks chewed!" joked Tradden as Khalin held a long strip aloft, then nervously looked about.

Khalin dropped the leather piece and headed cautiously over to the cabinet or bookcase. As he neared he gasped. "Tradden, quick, over here!" he called. "Looks like we've hit the jackpot for Kireth!"

The furniture was indeed a bookcase, and was covered with a number of texts. There didn't appear to be any soot covering the spines of the tomes, much to Khalin's relief. As the pair started to examine them, they both heard a scuttling sound from the other side of the room, and whirled about quickly.

 Me: At the far side of the room, beyond the great table and near the strange gate there was an evil looking shape. It was the size of a pack animal and yet seemed neither mammal or insect, a cross between the two. Four insectoid legs attached to a main body with a long spiny tail and mean, fang-laden mouth. Two great feelers extended from its maw and waved about in the air in anticipation, as though weighing up these two new intruders. Jan 3 ▼

The feelers waved around in the air for a moment and then snapped back along the beasts body. It then moved with unnatural speed, barrelling straight for the dwarf in a charge!

 Me: [...continued in [Scene #04](#)...] Jan 3 ▼