

**Synopsis**  
*The 12th Day of Ches in the Year of the Sudden Journey*  
While Kireth studies, Celestia looks for enlightenment at the temple, and Zero entrenches himself in the inn, Khalin and Tradden have agreed to assist one of the villagers, the elf smith Caldring, in looking for iron ore in the swamps to the southeast beyond the lake.  
The group headed into the marshes where Caldring spotted an iron cartwheel. As she tried to pull it out she fell into the swamp with a splash, but resurfaced with skeletons not far behind!  
The group managed to despatch the skeletons, but not without Caldring using her runic magic, causing a mist to descend on the group. When the mist finally cleared Caldring was nowhere to be seen. But then her shouts were heard some way off in the swamp and when Tradden and Khalin arrived, she was being attacked by ghoulish figures.

- [Khâlin Grundokri](#) - 2nd Level Male Dwarven Warlord
- [Tradden Aversward](#) - 2nd Level Male Human Fighter
- Caldring Andrezar - NPC

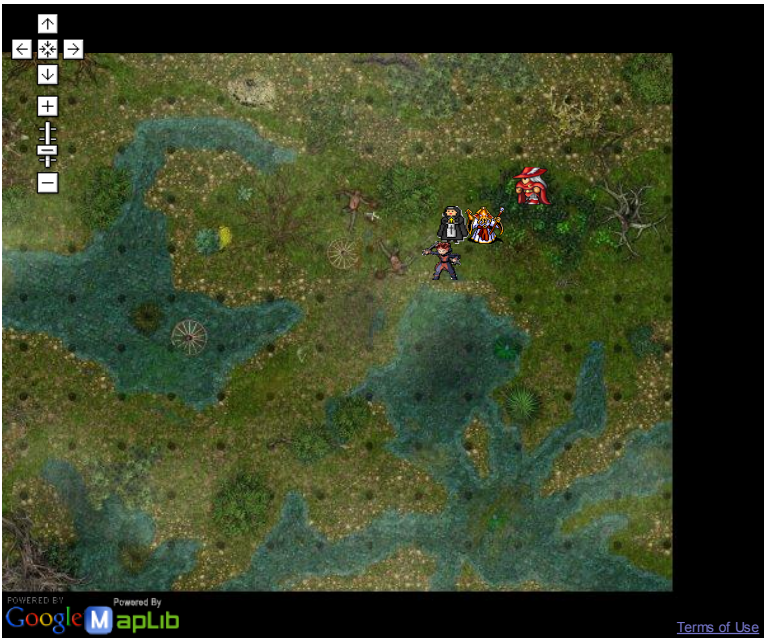
**Scene Length**  
This scene starts on Tuesday 23 November 2010 and is expected to be completed by the end of Sunday 28 November 2010. Players are expected to be able to post at least once a day.

## INITIATIVE BLOCK

Combat Encounter Complete

01) [24] Tradden - **1d20+3+2: 24** - HP 19/32  
02) [23] Sodden Ghoul #01 - **1d20+7: 23** - Dmg: 13+10+12+7+19=64  
03) [21] Sodden Ghoul #02 - **1d20+7: 21** - Dmg: 11+14+9+13+20=69  
04) [10] Khalin - **1d20+2+2: 10** - HP 31/31  
05) [07] Caldring - **1d20+4+2: 7** - HP 0/36 (Bloodied) (Unconscious)

## BATTLE MAP



[Standard Melee attack with Frost Longsword (Narcissus) vs SG#1's AC: **1d20+9+1: 22**] - hits!  
[Damage: **1d8+7: 13**] and [Marked]

Tradden charged in, and certainly drew the creatures' attention!



[Rending Pounce, Attack #1: **1d20+11-2: 11** vs Tradden's AC(18)] - misses!

[Rending Pounce, Attack #2: **1d20+11-2: 22** vs Tradden's AC(18)] - hits!  
[Damage: **1d6+6: 7**]

The creature swung both arms almost as once, as if to grab the young fighter. The razor-like claws skittered across Tradden's armour and found purchase on his arms.

[Claw: **1d20+11: 20** vs Tradden's AC(18)] - hits!  
[Damage: **1d6+6: 12**] and [Grabbed]



The claw cut across Tradden's face and then grabbed onto the straps of his armour, pulling the fighter towards the creature.

  Mark, me and Random: Sure enough Khalin was right behind his comrade, and angled his run towards the second of the two ghouls which had grabbed the young fighter. He deftly whipped his hammer hard into the ghoul, while interjecting his shield arm to best protect both Tradden and the fallen elf. Nov 24, 2010 ▼

[Shielded Assault vs Sodden Ghoul #2: **1d20+6: 20**] - hits!  
[Damage: **2d10+5: 11**]  
[+2AC to self, Tradden and Caldring (adjacent) until end of next turn]

"Keep going, young 'un!" shouted Khalin at Tradden.

[Inspiring Word: Tradden spends healing surge and regains **1d6+8: 9** hp]

  Me and Random: With the creatuers now fully occupied with Khalin and Tradden attacking them, Caldring struggled to her feet [Move]. She swayed for a moment - she was in bad shape, caught off-guard as she had strayed from the others in the mist and been ambushed. Nov 24, 2010 ▼

The stench of the creatures were on her, and the rending cuts and bites stang in the rain. She was angry that she'd brought the two adventurers here thinking they would be safe, and now due to her they were in dire straits.




Trassen along Caldtrings scimitar glowed a dull red as she traced the outline of a rune in the air. She gritted her teeth against her own pain as a rune appeared shimmering on the breast of Tradden's chain mail.

[Caldring enters **Rune of Destruction** stance]

[Rune of Mending (Minor): Tradden spends a healing surge and regains **8** hp] and [each ally within 5 gains +2 to damage until end of next turn]

She then swung for all her might at the creature they were surrounding, another rune flaring on her scimitar.

[Rune of Iron's Rebuke vs Sodden Ghoul #2: **1d20+6: 24**] - hits!  
[Damage: **2d8+5+2: 14**] and [Slowed] and [Cannot Shift] (Save Ends)

   Me, Random and Matt: Now over the shock of being grabbed at by the two creatures, Tradden could at least take heart from the fact that Khalin was indeed by his side and that Caldring had been saved for now from the ghastly things. There was, however, no time to let up... Nov 24, 2010 ▼



[Cleave vs Sodden Ghoul #1: **1d20+9: 14**] - misses!  
[Marked]

Bringing his longsword round to cleave in an upwards diagonal motion, the young fighter misjudged exactly where the ground was and he caught the blade on a stumpy section of swamp grass! Ironically, the action did manage to give him momentum, which he used to twist athetically away from the grappling arms of the ghoulish monster!

[Escape Grab - Athletics: **1d20+9: 23** vs Sodden Ghoul #2's Fortitude] - success!

Hoping to continue what he thought was a trend of impressingly Caldring (slightly), he mocked the two beasts.



"Ha! Is that all you have?"

  Me and Random: The first creature ignored Caldring's rise and Khalin entering the fray and continued it's assault on the young fighter, drawn to him by Tradden's taunting. Nov 24, 2010 ▼  
[Rending Pounce Recharge: **1d6: 2**] - failure!

It struck out one of its loathsome extended hands towards Tradden with a swift movement that belied itys gangly frame.

[Claw: **1d20+11: 20** vs Tradden's AC(18+2)] - hits!  
[Damage: **1d6+6: 8**] and [Grabbed]

Claws snagged into Tradden's armour holding him fast.

  Me and Random: The second creature looked from side to side at Khalin and Caldring as though contemplating which was the most threatening foe. It seemed to decide upon Khalin, having already tasted the dwarf's hammer, and the dwarf not yet being injured. With it's claw now free after Tradden's escape, it tried to grab the dwarf with both claws. Nov 24, 2010 ▼




[Rending Pounce, Attack #1: **1d20+11-2: 29** vs Khalin's AC(18+2)] - critical hit!  
[Damage: **1d6+6: 12**]

[Rending Pounce, Attack #2: **1d20+11-2: 27** vs Khalin's AC(18+2)] - hits!  
[Damage: **1d6+6: 7**]

[Grabbed] and [Ongoing Damage: **5**] (Save Ends)

The creature grabbed hold of Khalin with both hands and dragged him towards itself. Khalin was overwhelmed with the stench from the creature - rotten and slimy.

[Save vs Slowed and Cannot Shift: **1d20: 2**] - fails!

   Me, Random and Mark: The ghoul tightened its grip on Khalin and the dwarf gritted his teeth against the pain. Nov 24, 2010 ▼  
[Ongoing Damage from Grab: **5**]

The warlord shrugged hard against the demon, his stocky yet powerful frame overpowering the creature's grip.

[Escape Grab - Athletics: **1d20+9: 25** vs Sodden Ghoul #2's Fortitude] - success!

The dwarf roared with rage. What should have been a simple search and salvage operation was turning into a journey into the elemental chaos.



[Heroic Effort (Minor): Khalin gains **5** temporary hit points, and Tradden and Caldring can add **+3** to damage rolls]

Khalin swung his hammer at the ghastly creature again, singing a prayer to Clangeddin that his luck with the weapon would finally turn.

[Warhammer vs Sodden Ghoul #2: **1d20+6: 20**] - hits!  
[Damage: **1d10+5: 9**]

As the dwarf's warhammer struck the side of the creature there was an audible crack, and brackish blackened blood seeped out from a great rend in its side. [Bloodied]

[Save vs Ongoing Damage: **1d20: 14**] - saves!

  Me and Random: A rune on Caldring's shield glowed a pale yellow casting dancing shadows over the battlefield. Nov 24, 2010 ▼

[Battleforged Shield Daily Power (Free) - Extra Healing Powers]

Light from the symbol then washed out, drawn from Caldring and splashing onto Khalin and Tradden.

[Shield of Sacrifice (Minor) - Tradden regains 16 hp, Khalin regains 14 hp, all receive +5 AC bonus until end of next turn]

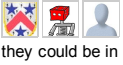
Runes along Caldriings scimitar glowed a dull red as she traced the outline of a rune in the air. She gritted her teeth against her own pain as a rune appeared shimmering on the breast of Khalin's scale mail.

[Rune of Mending (Minor): Khalin spends a healing surge and regains 14 hp] and [each ally within 5 gains +2 power bonus to damage until end of next turn]

She then twirled acrobatically and slashed one of the creatures with her scimitar.

[Symbol of Wrath Reversed vs Sodden Ghoul #01: 1d20+6: 22] - hits!  
[Damage: 1d8+5: 10]

Caldring looked exhausted.


 Matt, me and Random: Caldring had been calling on some clearly potent powers, and both he and Khalin had been battling ferociously, but Tradden could see that they were up against it, even with a numerical advantage. The Elven smith now looked like she would struggle to even raise her blade again, and if these monstrous things kept on clawing and biting as they had, they could be in real trouble... Nov 24, 2010 ▼

Flicking his eyes from side to side, and subconsciously realising that at this point he could strike with impunity at either creature, the young fighter struck out, lazily at first, on the one which looked most injured. If they could take one down quickly, they may have a chance...

[Surprising Stab vs Sodden Ghoul #2's Reflex: 1d20+9: 12] - misses!  
[Marked]

He then tried to wriggle free from the grasp of the other, kicking out.

[Escape Grab - Athletics: 1d20+9: 24 vs Sodden Ghoul #1's Fortitude] - success!

 Me and Random: The first creature turned its attention to the enemy causing the most hurt and pain now that Tradden had focussed his attack elsewhere. Nov 24, 2010 ▼

[Rending Pounce Recharge: 1d6: 5] - success!

[Rending Pounce, Attack #1: 1d20+11-2+2: 24 vs Caldring's AC(19+5)] - hits!  
[Damage: 1d6+6: 11]


[Rending Pounce, Attack #2: 1d20+11-2+2: 23 vs Caldring's AC(19+5)] - misses!

As the creature attacked the rune that Caldring had traced before her last attack shimmered softly over the creature's head. Tradden noticed the rune of out the corner of his eye, and as the creature was distracted trying to understand the faint light, Tradden took his opportunity...

[Symbol of Wrath Reversed - Tradden Opportunity Attack vs Sodden Ghoul #1: 1d20+9: 24] - hits!  
[Damage: 1d8+7+2: 10]

...and opened a large cut in the creature's thigh. [Bloodied]

Caldring looked to be on her last legs, her scimitar faltering in front of her.

 Me and Random: The second creature, sensing blood, whirled upon Caldring, regardless of Tradden's attempts to block it. Nov 24, 2010 ▼

[Rending Pounce Recharge: 1d6: 3] - failure!

[Claw: 1d20+11+2: 25 vs Caldring's AC(19+5)] - hits!  
[Damage: 1d6+6: 11]

The creature swiped its claw across Caldring face, her guard barely raised.

[Khalin Immediate Reaction - Fearless Rescue: 1d20+7: 20] - hits!  
[Damage: 2d10+5+2: 13] and [Spend Healing Surge] - none left, go to 0 hp.


Khalin reacted immediately as the killing blow swept in and thrust his hammer into the creature's face. Although he found good purchase, it wasn't enough to fully block the blow, and the claws knocked Caldring to the floor. [Unconscious]

In the confusion Tradden managed to stick his sword into the creature's midriff...

[Tradden Opportunity Attack vs Sodden Ghoul #2: 1d20+9: 10] - critical miss!

...but only succeeded in slicing off some of the creature's lank hair.

[Sodden Ghoul #2 Save vs Slowed and Cannot Shift: 1d20: 9] - fails!

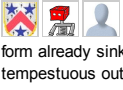
 Mark, me and Random: Having blocked the the killing blow, Khalin breathed a silent plea to Berronar that the goddess of healing might protect the fallen elf, before instantly trying to drive home the sudden advantage. Following up Tradden's lunge, the dwarf swung his hammer at the nearest ghoul again. Nov 24, 2010 ▼

"By Moradin's Hammer, you shall burn!" yelled the dwarf as he brought the weapon to bare.

[Minor Action: Flame Bracers]  
[Brash Assault vs Sodden Ghoul #2: 1d20+6: 26] - critical hit!  
[Damage: 1d10+5: 13 plus 1d6: 6 flame damage]  
[Critical hit: additional 1d6: 1 flame damage]

Flames raced down Khalin's arms from the bracers and surrounded his warhammer as he struck the creature. The flames engulfed it and with a scream it ran off further into the swamp like a torch, and fell to the ground some distance away, still burning.

Khalin then kept on the offensive, swiftly moving around the remaining creature, trying to distract it to allow Tradden to attack.


 Matt, me and Random: The mountains and valleys of Tradden's emotions continued – his sense of elation at he and Khalin having finished off one of the fiends tempered by his despair at having been unable to have prevented Caldring from being struck down. At the sight of her prostrate form already sinking slightly into the boggy ground, the edges of his vision started to blur as he fought back both tears and rage. He threw himself at the remaining creature, his coldly efficient blow belying his tempestuous outburst: Nov 25, 2010 ▼

"Take your filthy claws away from her, you, you ..... Thing! You want some warm blood? Try me!"

[Surestrike vs SG#1's AC (flanked) with Frostsword Narcissus: 1d20+11+2: 26] - hits!

[Damage **1d8+3: 7**] and [Marked]

Tradden taunted the creature and slashed across it's side.

 Me: *The creature roared with the loss of its companion and snarled at the young fighter's strike.* Nov 25, 2010 ▼

[Rending Pounce Recharge: **1d6: 5**] - success!




*With renewed vigour it struck out with both it's claws at Tradden.*

[Rending Pounce, Attack #1: **1d20+11-2: 22** vs Tradden's AC(19)] - hits!  
[Damage: **1d6+6: 11**]

[Rending Pounce, Attack #2: **1d20+11-2: 27** vs Tradden's AC(19)] - hits!  
[Damage: **1d6+6: 12**]

[Grabbed] and [Ongoing Damage: **5**] (Save Ends)

*With a snarl it grabbed the youth and hissed at Khalin viciously.*

   Mark, me and Random: "Stay with me Master Tradden! You're no help to the elf maiden if you fall!" yelled Khalin as he tried to focus his comrade. The battle was not yet won. Nov 25, 2010 ▼


[Minor Action - Inspiring Word: Target Tradden regains **1d6+8: 10** hp]

The dwarf again looked to draw his foe's attention away from the ailing fighter...

[Brash Assault vs SG#1: **1d20+6: 26**] - critical hit!  
[Damage: **1d10+5: 15**] plus [1d6: 4 flame bracer damage]

*The creature folded under another of Khalin's immense blows, releasing Tradden and sinking to the floor writhed in eldritch flame.*

 Me: [...combat encounter complete...]  
Tradden spends 2 healing surges to get to maximum.  
Both Tradden and Khalin gain 1 Action Point, and 1 Magic Item Use Point. Nov 25, 2010 ▼

 Me: *The rain continued as Khalin and Tradden surveyed the scene, splashing in the pools in the swamp. Both were exhausted - three or four hours marching at night, followed by two chaotic encounters were enough for anyone - but they were not in as bad shape as Caldring.* Nov 26, 2010 ▼

*As the last creature fell Tradden rushed over to the elf's side, barely acknowledging Khalin's awesome dual flurry of pyrotechnics. She was hurt, badly, and the youth wasn't sure if she was going to make it or not. Emotions flooded through him and he shook his fist at the night.*



"Calm down, Master Tradden - she's stable," stated Khalin. "Though we need to get her out of this rain before she freezes to death."

"Where are we going to find shelter in this forsaken place?" wailed Tradden.

*The pair looked around. As far as they could see - which wasn't very far - was bog and weeds and pools of murky water.*

"Well," said Khalin, not relishing the thought he just had. "Those creatures had to live somewhere, right? Carrying the smith is going to slow us down, especially in this rain - it'll take us a number of hours to get back to Blackengorge. We need to get her warm before then. Let's hope we can find where they lived."

*Tradden looked at him despondently.*

  Me and Random: *The pair looked around, trying to guess where the creatures had their lair.* Nov 26, 2010 ▼  
[Tradden Nature Check: **1d20+3: 15**]  
[Khalin Nature Check: **1d20+1: 10**]

*Khalin seemed fresh out of ideas, but Tradden indicated that the fleeing creature might have been trying to get somewhere until the flames finally snuffed out its life.*

*Tradden pointed in the direction the creature had run with his shortsword, before sheathing it. "Let's head that way. Keep an eye out for, well, any sort of shelter I guess."*

*He then carefully picked up Caldring over his shoulder, grimacing slightly at the unexpected weight and plodded after Khalin.*

 Me: [...continued in [Scene #04...](#)] Nov 26, 2010 ▼