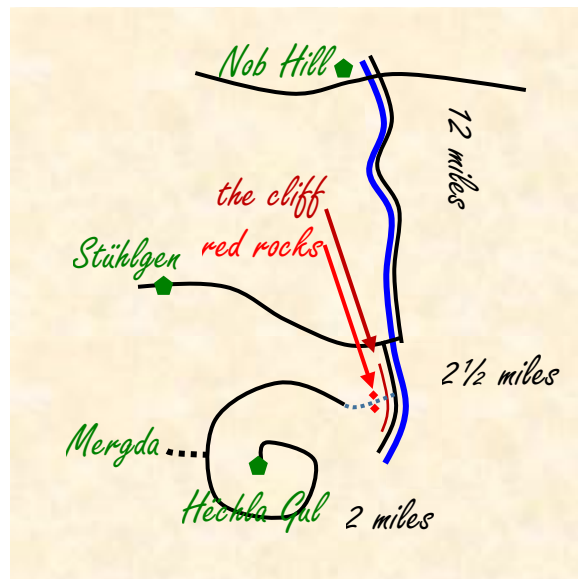


The Home of Lahe'nelle

Three books were found on this adventure. Two of them were technical discussions on magic, but one was a personal diary, written in Elvish, probably from Lahe'nelle herself. It contained the following passage, translated:

“Got a letter from Jaisah. She seems to be doing well. Married someone named Brandon Olmstead, apparently a man of some importance. I'll have to get used to calling her Olmstead; so strange how these humans take the man's name upon marrying. Apparently wants me to look at a letter she got from her niece. Her niece claims to have uncovered a scroll which gives clues to the location of 'the Gnomish Talisman of Concordance.' Could this actually be one of the fabled Talismans of Concordance? Hard to believe, but maybe. Worth a look. Isn't much of a journey to the South Garrison near the river fork. Worth a look in any case. And if it is the Talisman – worth finding out.”



The Haunted House

This was an exploration of the home of Landon and Letitia Olmstead. The map below left was from a safe in Landon Olmstead's office. The next two documents both came from what was the bedroom of Jaisah Olmstead. The first is the final page of a three-page letter; the rest of this letter is unreadable.

in the town archives. The mayor said it came from the time of the migration of the gnomes. His translation was a little rough, as he said his Gnomish wasn't the best, but it definitely said it was the Gnomish Talisman of Concordance. He let me take the map, which I've enclosed, along with a drawing of the talisman.

Anyway, it was great to hear from you, and I'd love to have you visit me here in "The Hill" as the locals call it. I'd love to show you around, and the people are delightful. It is always wonderful to hear about your boys growing up: are they taller than me already? Take care of yourself; I can't wait to see my favorite aunt again!

Love,

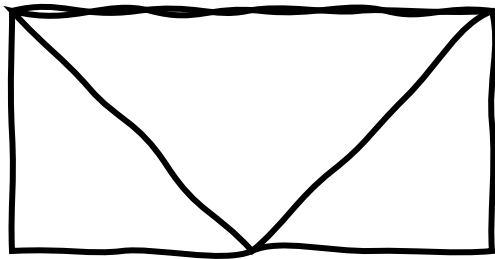
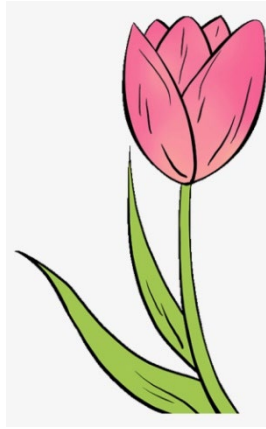
Belinda

Jai Jai, Get Well Soon!

We love you so much and want you to feel better! Make sure Nursee takes care of you! We love your storees!



Caroline says shez going to go find the tallish man when she grows up! She drew a pitcher of it! Daddy put the map you gave us in the safe! I drew the flowerz cuz I no you love flowerz!
Hugs and kisses!



The letter below was found on the desk of Landon Olmstead, probably written by him just before he was murdered. The one after it was found in the safe in the same room.

May 18, 1347

Dear Max,

I am writing in hopes that I can convince you to do the right thing. You have seen the letter, and you know that Falkion's claim is valid. He is unmistakably the proper heir to the house of Olm and it is your duty and honor to step aside and let him lead the family. You do not need to be a Duke to live comfortably; do not I fare well, even without the title? I want to call you friend again.

Until that time, I must insist that you send no more of your regulars to my estate. I have told you before they are not welcome, and you will not intimidate me with them. Three weeks from now, if you do not relent, I will present the letter and other evidence before the high court, and you know what they will decide. Give it up gracefully. This is your last warning.

I recently went to see the local pastor, and he agreed with me. He will not travel now, as his wife is great with child, but he showed me the marriage record, and the birth record. Once his child is born and healthy he has agreed to come with me.

I am pleading to you, as cousin to cousin, that you choose the honorable course and

June 18, 1263

The Red Rocks Clan

Dearest Father, Lord Duke, the Defender of Olm.

How are you and mother? Though you do not believe me, I do miss you both. I want to remind you, I did not leave in anger, but because I had to find my own way. Am I not sixteen, a man and able to make my own decisions? It was time to make my own way in the world.

Father, I have joined the Defenders here in the South Garrison. I have made the rank of Captain, and am honored to help these brave people here in the south. Yes, you offered me that rank, and more, but it means so much more to have earned it without anyone knowing who I am. I do not fear the onslaught of orcs, which seems sure to come, for I am defending something I love.

Which leads me to another subject. I have met and fallen in love with a woman. Her name was Marie Farrier. Yes, I said was, for we have married, legally in church, and it cannot be undone. She may be a commoner, but she has taken my name, and is now an Olm. And she is with child – already three months along. You will have another heir, father, and I know that is what you wished for more than anything.

The captain is calling me to watch soon, but I hope to get this letter out before the battle, so you will know I love you, come what may.

Love,

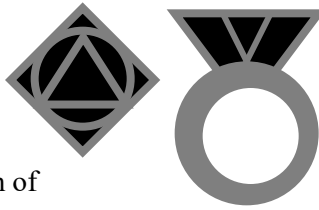
Marhall

The following document is from the archives in Nob Hill. The first line is in Common, the rest in Gnomish.

Given by Larada the Quartermaster to Mayor Farview Palatini as the last wave of the gnome migration passed.

I fear the worst. Queen Miela has not returned to Stühlgen, which makes me think she failed in her quest against the advancing goblins and hobgoblins. I write this note in case she returns, so she can find the Gnomish Talisman of Concordance. We have hidden it well, including it in what looks like an ordinary mosaic. We have used our magic to mask its presence, so even a detect magic spell will tell nothing. At first we thought to hide it at Hechla Gul, but that is too obvious, so instead we put it in the hidden caverns of Mergda. These can be reached by traveling west from the westmost point of the path to Hechla Gul. After passing through a narrow pass, there will be an archway against the rocks, but this just a distraction, it is not Mergda. The entrance to Mergda is about half a mile to the right of this point. We have left some traps in place to stop the unwary, but the Queen will know about these and how to avoid them. She will recognize the Talisman, even hidden as it is, with the main color matching the cyan of our flag, and the blue and magenta of the links. Once located, it can be removed only by breaking the tiles; of course, the Talisman is immune to such mundane damage. Please hold this note for the Queen if she does return, or perhaps to some future leader who arises. We thank our halfling friends, and wish you well.

Meadowlark Hill



The following is written in common, from Ella's mother. The family tree at right is a combination of various sources compiled by Ella. At right is a sketch of the ring

Darling Ella,

I am leaving this message in case the worst happens, with instructions that it not be opened until you become an adult. Sister Malia will take care of you, I know, as she loves you almost as much as I and your father do.

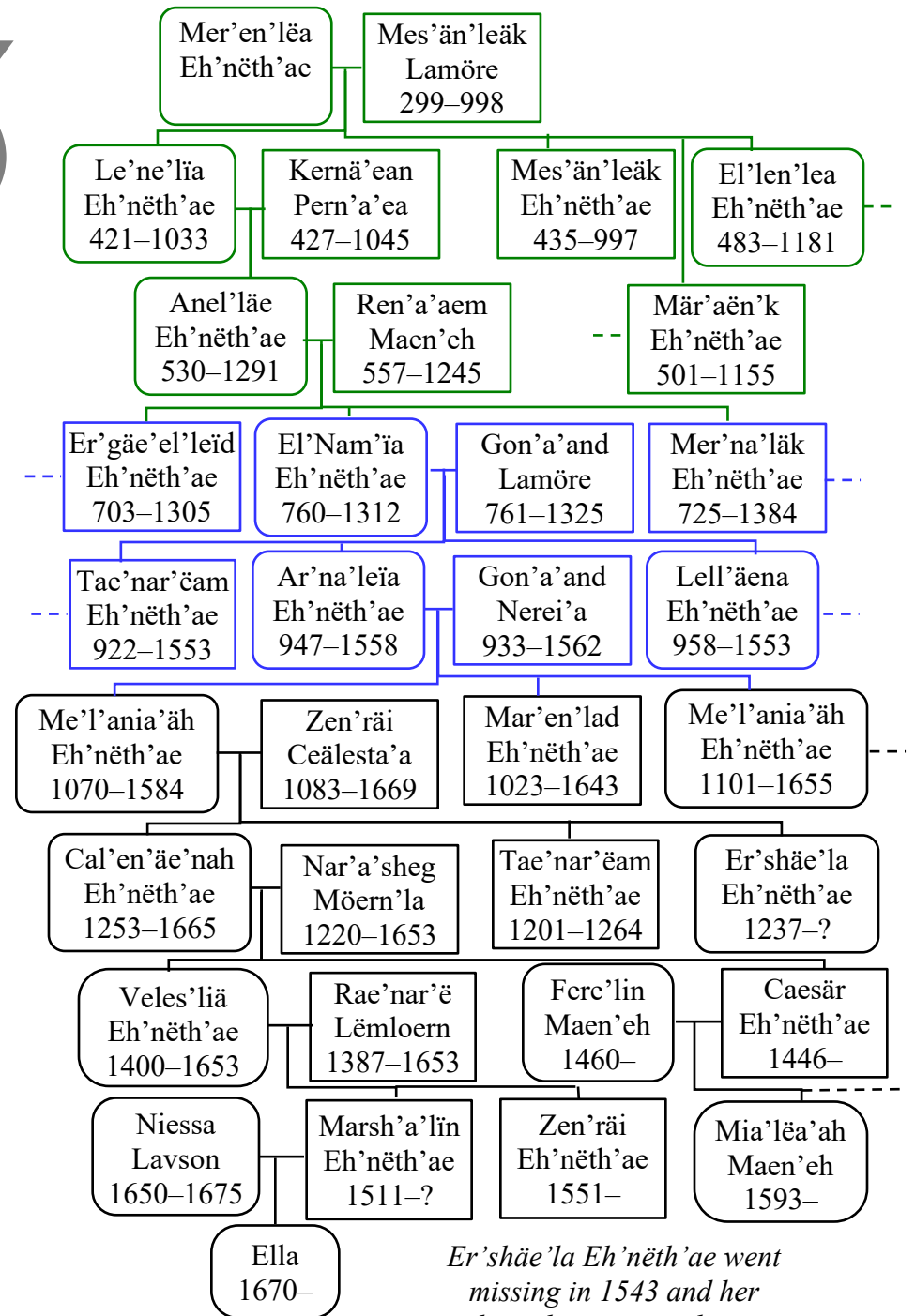
You should know that your father only went away because he had learned that there was a great danger coming to this land. His family was entrusted with one small piece of magic that was to play a role in protecting this realm from a powerful evil, but it was lost centuries ago by his ancestors, and he had made it his quest to find this lost item. He had been trying to trace his ancestors and learned some of them had lived here, which is how we met and fell in love.

He never did get permission to go into the crypts to research his ancestry, but he found another clue and went off seeking this piece of the puzzle. All I know is that it was to the north somewhere.

He gave me the ring I've enclosed, as he said it was a family symbol. I now pass it on to you, as his oldest daughter and only child. He also gave me the enclosed chart, which he said explained part of your ancestry.

Please know that your father and I love you more than anything, and everything we did was for you and your future.

Love, Mom



The Home of Brannon Bodger

The letter below was written in Common, and found in a small mahogany box found in the office.

My dear friend Brannon,

I hope you get this before you leave; if not, I wish you a good journey. I appreciate your plan, but if the flooding is getting as bad as you say, maybe you should not leave the Talisman in your wine cellar. Such a place might get flooded, and do we know for sure that your Talisman would not ultimately be lost? I am not entirely clear on your instructions of how to find it. What are these stone plates that have to be stacked? What do you mean by the merchant puzzle? It wasn't entirely clear.

I have continued my research of the Talismans, and there is no question that they are somehow connected. At the very least, they could be made to function for longer times once they were "linked". Apparently this linkage had to be periodically renewed. But surely the linkage means more. I intend to continue my research.

The revival of the ancient beasts has been largely successful, though some of them are more dangerous than we anticipated. For the sake of safety, Mes'än'leäk and the kids have headed to the east coast, and if things get bad they may head back to the mainland. Who knows? You may bump into them. But more likely they will return as soon as I get things under control here.

I have a lot of work to do, both with my research on the Talismans and dealing with all these things, so I apologize for the short note. Hope to hear from you soon.

Your friend,

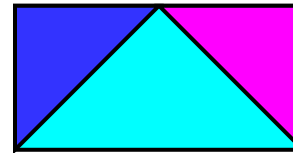
Mer'en'läa

The talismans

So far you have found two of them, but each of them provides a "tug" which requires a perception of 20 to notice to two others, provided those others are more than 200' away and in the same plane. They are nearly indestructible, can be wrapped around the upper left arm of any humanoid, and cannot be removed by anyone except the wearer so long as the wearer is alive. They can be activated once per day for 4 hours, with a bonus of +4 hours for each talisman it is "linked" to any time in the last year. Linking requires touching the two talismans together on a matching color for one round. Each is inscribed with the words "Separate but together, the six are one."

Activation is mental and takes no action. Once activated, you become fluent in one language, gain a +1 bonus for one of your six ability scores (stacks with all other bonuses), and gain +2 bonus on charisma-based skills with the corresponding races.

Gnomish, Gnomes, Charisma



Halfling, Halflings, Dexterity

