



The

Poodle Mulch

Progress Report

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Issue XLV

Stuck in the Wildlands, the Misfits found talking to Cain, a simple bald man who advocated peace above all else. He was the non-spiritual leader of the people living in the valley called The Anvil. Some questions by the curious Misfits revealed some interesting stuff.

Cain admitted to being one of the children of the first couple in the world. He also revealed the following:

1. There is only one god above all, and he created everything. His name is God, but he has been called things like The All Creator and One Above All, etc.
2. Cain a child of the first couple in the world.
3. Cain is cursed to roam the world forever because he killed his brother. He was jealous that God favored Abel more than himself. God branded Cain's forehead with the image of a leafless tree. When someone views the mark, they hear (in their head) "Whosoever causes harm to Cain will have revenge visited upon them sevenfold".
4. Cain indicated that he can die, but he cannot be destroyed. Evidently, if killed, he comes back, which has happened in the past many times. Case in point is that he was eaten three times by the blue dragon living in the Wildlands. He came back three times to convince the dragon to leave the people of The Anvil alone.
5. Cain has a healthy disdain for the gods, or "godlets" as he calls them. He says that God is the one above all others, and that God created everything. The godlets are nothing more than eldritch titans from another worlds, come to interfere in the development on Irith.
6. Cain said that the godlets had come to Irith once before. They had helped to get people started on the road to evolution through intellect and technological advancement. After a certain point, the godlets left. The inhabitants of Irith continued on their path and eventually created weapons that led to a great war, nearly making man extinct.
7. The godlets returned a second time and introduced magic into the world they were helping to rebuild. When Cain learned from the party which godlets had been stirring up trouble lately concerning wizards and the use of magic, he realized that they were the same godlets that opposed introducing magic into Irith as it would interfere with the natural evolution of man. Kinda makes ya think, huh?

Angered by the godlets' interference with man, and angry about the false god Aballanak's actions with the companions' friends and family, Cain agreed to go with the party. He had been approached by the godlet Aroth sometime after Cain had come into the Wildlands. Aroth told Cain of a way out that would collapse once he went through and that only non-

indigenous people could go through. The trouble was that the opening was offshore about 100' down. Cain had invented an airbag of stitched animal skins and a tube you could breathe through.

Cain brought in all of the non-indigenous people who had come into the Wildlands and offered them the chance to leave with him. Some agreed, others decided to stay. So, for the next few days, the party worked in creating airbags. After they were done, they made their way out of the valley to the beach.

Wearing airbags and rocks for ballast, they descended to an opening in the rocks and went through. Cain went last, causing the whole shebang to collapse. And of course no escape from the Wildlands would be complete with an encounter as a shiteload of Sahuagin and a couple Aboleth's decided to turn the party into din din.

The Misfits prevailed and made their way to freedom. After stuffing the extras into a bag of holding, Lykos teleported everyone to the doorstep of the Citadel of Stars. They entered the temple and the priest there summoned Aballanak. The flaming godwannabe demanded that Cain come through the portal. Cain said he could not. Aballanak reached through, grabbed Cain, and tried to pull him through. There was a crack of energy as Cain was stopped by the force. Cain said that he was cursed to roam this world and no other.

Aballanak released the prisoners to the party and stepped through to have a little chat with Cain, who began degrading the fiery bad guy about being a false god. We ended with Cain having enlisted the aid of the party to strike down the false god. Of course, the party agreed.

