

SPRING/NEXUS OF BINDING

We start the session off recovering from the encounter with the fire crab. Siggie casts a prayer of healing back in the middle of the chambers, except Elska, forever wary of magical effects, who begins to wander around, calling out to the cave and for Azra in Dwarvish.¹ In the earthen chamber, a large rock-like bird answers the call

?: Who is it you're looking for

***Elska:** We have been sent to find a young ogre woman named Azra Mistborn? She was coming to open the Nexus here but there are others that she cares for who are facing the consequences of her actions. Have you noticed her around at all? We have so many questions for her*

?: I know not who you speak of. The nexus is open. But who are YOU who speak the tongue of the kin and are not the kin, and why do you trespass here?

***Elska:** First things first, what may I call you?*

?: 'Earth'

***Elska:** My name is Elska and my father is dwarven. If you haven't seen her, is there something we can help you with while we are here?*

***Bird just stares:** You are not of the kin, and yet you are here. You are trespassing!*

Vasira steps in and pulls Elska off to the side to whisper form a plan

***Vasira:** This is about to break bad for us. We're TRESPASSING. We're good to go if Azra's not here. I don't want to get avalanched by a bird!*

***Elska:** I agree! I don't even have any good bird puns, I'm stuck on crab ones! I still have "Large Crustacean" stuck in my head!*

***Vasira:** ELSKA PRIORITIZE*

They both turn back to the bird, and Vasira gestures for Phoebe to come over

***Elska:** Unless you have seen Arza, we have no need of being here and will be on our way, Apologies for disturbing your rest*

***Earth:** I wasn't resting.*

***Earth looks to Vasira:** why do YOU speak dwarven? How did you find this place*

Elska repeats why they are here while Vasira beacons for Phoebe to come speak

***Earth:** I was talking to [Vasira]*

***Phoebe through Vasira:** We were given a stone attuned to the elements by a priestess of the dwarven temple we're in pursuit of someone named Azra*

***Earth:** I told this one I have met no one named Aza. This stone, give it to me*

***Vasira:** I ate it...it was salty*

Elska facepalms

***Earth:** Then I must retrieve it*

***Elska to the group:** We've got to go! Now!*

¹ A group of crabs can be called as cast! More puns!

Initiative Begins

ROUND 1

Vasira: Shouts, *“Oh shit, calm down!”* and shoots twice, only hitting once before moving back as far as she can

Phoebe: Backs up and with Vicious Mockery retorts to The Party, *“I take it negotiations didn't go well?”*

Siggy: Says *“keep it up,”* while casting Shield of Faith on Phoebe before slashing the bird with their Hjem sword

Harlow: Stammers out, *“What did you say to it?!”* while readying their action

***Elska and Vasira scream over each other:** We tried to tell it we were leaving and the stone got eaten, we've to go!!!*

Elska: Stabs it with her golden dagger before disengaging and backing up

***Elska:** I'm going to kill Azra when we find her!*

***Siggy:** That's the spirit!*

Bird: Dives underground but not before Siggy gets an attack of opportunity. The bird comes back up and attacks Vasira for eating it's rock

***Siggy:** Get fucked!*

ROUND 2

Vasira: Disengages and moves back while hitting the bird with her crossbow. She shouts, *“Somebody give it the stone!”*

Phoebe: Disengages as well and moves back to center of group and pulls out her chorus to provide Bardic Inspiration to Siggy while echoing *“keep it up!”*²

Siggy: Winks at Phoebe before crouching into the dirt and sending Shatter with Destructive Wrath to inflict as much damage as he can before moving

Harlow: Moves adjacent to the bird and hitting it with one of their attacks

Elska: Misses, disengages and backs up

Bird: Goes after Vasira and hits again which she Uncanny Dodges

ROUND 3

Vasira: Shouts, *“goddamn give it the stone!”* and hits with both attacks with one knocking out an eye

Phoebe: With Vicious Mockery shouts back *“We are NOT giving it the stone Vasira!”*

Siggy: Misses attacks

Harlow: Shouts back, *“Why aren't we giving it the stone?!”* and gets one hit in

Elska: Hits, disengages and steps back

Bird: Goes after Vasira but misses

² Bardic Inspiration is a single note and it resonates in your ribs like loud bass at a party, leaving the receiver feeling invigorated with a musical second heartbeat

ROUND 4

Vasira: Shouts, “*Good ass question, just give it to it!*” before firing her crossbow again

Phoebe: *Why should we give it to him?*

Elska: *Now is NOT the time to discuss this!!!*

The cross bolt hits the other eye, sinking deep into the socket and killing the bird who shifts back into a stone that happens to be bird shaped, and ends combat

Elska: *Can we just get out of here*

Vasira: *Let's take a vote, all people who were attacked by a giant bird raise your hand*

Siggy: *Just to circle back, we need the bag of gems to that we were asked to find and we need to find Azra*

Elska: *I asked the bird! It said it hadn't seen her and attacked*

Siggy: *And we trust it?*

Vasira: *It's a known fact that rocks don't lie*

Elska and Siggy bicker back and forth about what to do while Vasira and Phoebe search again for any possible sign of Azra.³ They find none, but they notice that there is now a recently cut sprig on the air altar and a rapidly cooling pile of magma on the fire altar. Elska questions the productivity of destroying the altars while Phoebe looks for things moving out of place or via Invisible Hand and finds nothing.⁴ Harlow wonders if this was The Party's doing, and heads over to the water section.

Elska: *Hey Azra, your brother has lost his job and was beat to shit because of you. Do you even care about how your actions are affecting him?*⁵

Harlow moves to the water's edge and using some container, scoops out some of the water. The moment the vessel touches the water, things get cold.⁶ They take damage and are pushed closer to the water itself as a large wall of ice completely blocks the chamber. The rest of the water freezes over and yet the waterfall still goes, quickly filling the chamber up with the water already up to their shins. Elska swears, calling after Harlow and runs up to the ice wall to start chipping away at it, with Phoebe behind her, getting ready to cast Shatter. Siggy tells the girls to step back, and gestures for Harlow to step back as well, and casts Thunder Wave at 3rd level. In doing so, he weakens a 10ft section which Harlow then goes and destroys with Searing Smite. Siggy steps forward to help Harlow through the hole in the wall and takes cold damage.⁷ Harlow steps out, taking less cold damage due to their new resistant shield, and discovers that there is now a stone sitting on the 'earth' altar.⁸ Phoebe casts Faerie Fire at the space

³ Investigation Check: Vasira 19, Phoebe 22

⁴ Perception Check: 13

⁵ Persuasion Check: 15

⁶ Dexterity Saving Throw: 12

⁷ Constitution Save: 10

⁸ Constitution Save: 19

between the 'water' and 'earth' altars and with a flash of pastel green, nothing happens.⁹ Everyone gathers back at the altars

Harlow: *Where. Are. You.*¹⁰

A spectral hand floats out from the gap in the ice wall carrying a small chunk of ice. The ice is dropped onto the altar, and with a flash a half ogre woman, about an inch taller than Harlow makes herself known. She wears long robes in the style of religious vestment, leather gloves, a large ice staff, and has her hair tied back.

Azra, in heavily accented Common: *Nice try with the light, but no success*

With the flash, one look at the altars show the ice melted, the magma solidified, the rocks crumbled, and the twig wilted. There is now a 3in x 3in cube floating above the altars and Azra plucks it out of the air, pondering it. After thanking The Party for dealing with all the traps, she informs them where to find the stolen gems, pulls out a knife and cuts her finger wearing the ring off, and turns to leave through a portal to the Fire Plane that opens up once some sigils on the cube flash. Harlow vaults over the altars, lunges forward grappling her, and makes a grab for the Ice Staff on her back which they are successful on and Azra casts Gaseous Form and floats through the portal which closes behind her.¹¹ Elska and Vasira cheer at Harlow's success

Harlow: *We're not here to try to stop this, we just need to take back the objects that were stolen*

Azra: *Reasonable request. You did assist me with the traps.*

Vasira checks out the ring on the severed finger. It does not seem to be magical, and yet inexplicably it will not budge off the finger.¹² Phoebe uses a discarded glove to pick it up so they can return it to Travok, and Elska has her drop into "the Gross Pocket " in her bag that also holds the not cleaned component that she dug out of Fake Carric's chest. Harlow and Siggy go off to the 'air' chamber and find the Bag of Holding filled with gems next to the lightning-ed tree but the bag will not open, despite their creative ways to attempt to trick the bag into thinking that one of them is either Willow or Azra.¹³ Harlow questions what happens now that the Nexus is opened, and Elska recites the Dwarven Texts they found back at Terra's temple, saying that all that was written was that "secrets will be revealed"

Harlow: *What does it being open mean?*

Siggy: *For the moment not my problem*

Vasira and Elska: *I strongly agree*

⁹ Passive Perception: Harlow 11, Siggy 13

¹⁰ Persuasion Check: 21

¹¹ Athletics Check: NAT 20! For 27 and Dexterity Check: 15

¹² Arcana Check: 7

¹³ Siggy puts on one of Azra's gloves at one point which is WAYYYYY too big for their arm

The Party finally make their way out of the Nexus, into the late afternoon sun and begin the hike back to Kanatrium. Siggy teases Vasira for being able to fit in with the pirates now that she has a scar on her knee, to which Vasira says is an unnecessarily cruel thing to say while Elska laughs.

***Siggy:** Small victory is you didn't leave*

***Vasira:** It's not a victory it's a miracle*

The Mountains

The 6 day long trek back to Kanatrium is uneventful. The Party take turns carrying the 7ft tall staff and out of the blue one day, Vasira attempts to break the ice a little bit more by running some puzzles, games and riddles by the group. At night, the staff keeps the area around the camp cool, boarding on chilly, and Elska again asks Siggy to light her dagger before bed

***Siggy:** It feels like home!*

***Elska:** I fucking hate this*

Kanatrium

The Party arrives back in the early mid afternoon, with it being Siggy's turn to carry the Ice Staff. Elska looks around for The Tail, doesn't see them, and suggests that the staff be the first object returned due to its inconspicuousness and The Party heads to the Gladiator Museum where they find Inquin filling out paperwork.

***Vasira in Ogre:** Hi. Found your staff. Crazy shit.*

***Inquin:** And [Azra's] ok?*

***Harlow through Vasira:** She's on the fire elemental plane*

***Siggy through Vasira:** At least the last time we saw her*

Elska:** Vasira, tell him his sister is a bitch and doesn't care about him. **Vasira does not translate

***Inquin:** Thank you for the staff. An inspector from the Institute is arriving soon, so I am happy to have it back*

Guest Terrace

The Party make their way back to the Guest Terrace to return the gems to Willow, and hopefully find information on Travok's location within the Dwarven Temple. On the way over, The Tail is seen once more, much to Elska's annoyance, but this time they are eating an apple instead of a pear

***Elska:** Doesn't she have anything better to do with her time*

***?:** Yes*

***Elska:** DO WE AT LEAST GET A NAME YET?*

***?:** No*

Elmstaff's Extraordinary Emporium: Magic Shop

Upon returning the stolen bag of gems, Azra pulls out a diamond from their coat pocket and throws it to Siggy for The Party's troubles, and The Party gets furious. For the most part, they feel as if Willow has lied to them about the access to diamonds, which made their whole 14 day adventure a waste of time, but Willow also lets slip that Iris had told her about The Party, after The Party had gone out of their way to purposely not take Iris up on her offer to connect them all with her ex in Kanatrium. She also tells The Party she, Iris, and formally Azra, are all members of Lithite Consortium.¹⁴ If they ever need work, to just let her know.¹⁵ Elska storms outside after the diamond is produced to sulk for a while. Willow does pay The Party with a Bag of Holding, which after the events within the Nexus, is a not very consoling consolation prize. Harlow and Siggy storm out shortly after, with only Phoebe and Vasira concluding the business inside. Phoebe politely, but not warmly, thanks Willow and takes the Bag of Holding, and Vasira asks where she can find a good haberdashery. Elska has an idea for payback at the Headless Hydra, Siggy goes off to find a place to let out his anger via a punching bag, and Vasira, Phoebe, and Harlow go to return Travok's ring¹⁶

***Elska:** I have a proposition. Since Willow is paying our tab for one more night, I think it's only fair we get any sort of real compensation and we run up a tab worthy of our efforts in the Nexus*

***Vasira as she turns to go to the Temple:** GET ME STARTED ON A DRINK!*

The Dwarven Temple

As the remainder of The Party heads back down into the ground, the sound of Travok's voice arguing with Terra rises up to greet them. Terra chastises him as they walk into the main chamber. Phoebe hands him back his ring which he then angrily throws back at her, shouting at the group for being amateurs before stomping away back up the stairs. The Party then fills Terra in on the location and adventures within the Nexus and on the whereabouts of Azra. Terra doesn't recognize the ring, but can tell that it has been connected somehow to the finger, but thanks The Party for their help in finding such an important location

***Harlow:** Maybe just don't include us in the records of this*

***Terra:** Anonymous mercenaries? I can make that happen¹⁷*

¹⁴ Consortium is also an acceptable name for a group of crabs! That's right, one more crab pun!

¹⁵ <https://www.dndbeyond.com/backgrounds/249174-consortium-agent>

¹⁶ Full RP: [SESSION 15: The Truth About Willow](#)

¹⁷ No one likes being called a mercenary. We've got to find a new word

Phoebe, *returning the attuned stone*: *Be careful. The elementals seemed rather insistent on taking this from us*

Terra: *There were elementals?*

Phoebe: *Yes? Should there not have been?*

Terra: *Ao no we just didn't know*

Harlow: *Also don't touch the water that ended poorly*

Phoebe: *Just proceed with cautions*

Terra: *Additionally. If you're mercenaries you do require payment. *tosses their war hammer to Harlow* You came blessed by the earth, you leave blessed by fire as well*

NOTES:

1. What is the plan next? Do we stay? Do we move on?
2. See Lyron Campfire chat for travel RP
3. Track down the Magical Institute Rep to ask about the cube?
4. Phoebe and Elska tea attempt #2 possibly? Should anyone else want to join?
5. If we stay, Elska maybe track down Vanus for some sparring/fighting tips if she's looking for a way to spend some down time
6. Sending a letter vs sending. I don't think she ended up coming back in so she didn't hear about Lithite Consortium, someone will need to fill her in on that