

Nilchi with Darnit: ATK +9 DMG 2d4+4 Advantage all Survival and Nature-related checks. Meld Into Stone (self) Stone Shape 3xday each; 1xday Mass Healing Wind (2d8+4 HP 60ft radius); theme song: We Will Rock You®; Hogwarts House: Gryffindor®; Golden Girl: Dorothy Zbornak®; Disney® princess: Pocahontas®; played by: Dwayne “the Rock” Johnson®

Fei with Hiare: ATK +5 DMG 1d8+2 Freedom of Movement (self permanent); advantage Dex saves/skills; Irresistible Dance 3xday; Haste 3xday
favorite drink: tequila sunrise; theme song: dancing queen; hogwarts house: obvi; golden girl: Rose Nylund; Disney® princess: no thanks; played by: Debbie Clark aka Storm (American Gladiators’ Storm)

Hayate with Ego: ATK +9 DMG 1d8+4 Bardic Inspiration 4xday d8; Hypnotic Pattern (but sound-based), Calm Emotions, and Shatter 4xday total; favorite drink: negroni; theme song: rhythm nation; hogwarts house: ravenclaw; golden girl: Sophia Petrillo; Disney® princess: Mulan; played by: Boris Johnson®

Poyraz with Hrothulf: ATK +11 DMG 2d8+6 He is an immovable rod®. Frost Breath (recharge 5 rounds) 15ft cone 4d8+5 cold (CON save DC12 half) and target’s speed is halved; 1xday Wall of Ice (exhausts Frost Breath); magic item: monocle

Sefarina with Dorinda: ATK +7 DMG 1d10+3 Advantage Stealth, Evasion. Invisibility spell slots 3 2nd level, 2 3rd and 4th level, and 1 7th level; Darkness 3x/day

Tuulikki with Elian i.e. Spiderman®: Wish 3xday. Disintegrate. Hideous laughter. Conjure Freedieedi.

I don’t know who needs to hear this but we are literally (Webster’s-I prefer OED myself but still...) all Gryphons...soo hogwarts house...

Anonymous Dingo ate my anonymous rights reserved babies

At dawn on the third day the griffins are awaiting as we awake with determination in their eyes. It is time. A trial awaits yet again! The griffins split and between them comes Dhund Hal Ka in donned priestly/paladinial regalia. She says, “The location that your mounts will take you is known only to the hearts of the griffin cavalry. If you are the branch you claim to be, entrance should be as simple as announcing yourself. What happens within the temple® is unknown, except that your motives and deed shall be weighed. Should they balance in the scales, you shall receive an audience with the goddess of air and balance. Should they not find balance... well no one’s ever left the temple. All other branches have simply remained within and have not been heard of. And finally in three days I will request return of the cavalry, with or without you.”

[These particular griffins have been on a steady diet of salamanders and water bears. Though generally horses are their preferred meal.]

HDK: “For the sake of the gods. I hope to see you again soon.”

Izar: “I’ve said it before but I’ll say it again. I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean...”
[Izar then thinks better of casting *Irresistible Dance* now]

FYFYI: The cavalry is Lawful Neutral

We storm away with the cavalry. In a twinkling of an eye we find ourselves on a high plateau on a rock that seems to be atop an epic spire of a mountain. It is in the mezzolux. It is easy to discern from this height, seeing the darkness of the east and the light of the west, that we are right in the middle of the mezzolux. At this precipice we are right in the middle of what looks like a 120' diameter rock – a large butte.

After a moment, Dorinda recalls Dhund Hal Ka's words that we should simply announce ourselves and if we are the branch we say we are, we will be allowed entrance.

Hrothulf readies Poyraz's *immovable rod*.

Ego says, "We are the Branch of Teresias!"

Dorinda, "We seek an audience with Gliten!"

We all notice a twitching tension of our griffins, and half a second later we feel a warm breeze that becomes more of a heavy swirling cyclone. We instinctively grip our griffin. The swirling continues. We see the dirt and small rocks form a cyclone, dust particles rising into an F5 twister that Bill Paxton called the Finger of God. Our griffins are gripping the butte with much fervor, and a sense of evasive maneuvers when dodging natural obstacles.

We gather near Poyraz, who activates the *Immovable Rod* ability to keep us stable.

Hrothulf suggests that, like a branch in the wind, we might let ourselves bend but not break, staying where we are.

We try to center on the butte, for balance. Fei tends to like each being their own griffin, but she huffs and puffs over, playing along. We notice as we move closer to the center that the wind dies down as far as what we're feeling the closer to the center we get. The powerful winds are toward the outside of the butte. The closer we are to the middle, the less the griffins feel the need to hold on to their position.

Crashing from above with superhuman speed and superhero landings, a fleet of gargoyles surround us. They all look identical.

Hayate flies among a grouping of gargoyles and her beak opens, emitting a melodic array in *Hypnotic Pattern*. Of the four in range it is difficult to know which, if any, were charmed and incapacitated, being gargoyles and all.

Nine gargoyles swoop in, many on Hayate/Ego whose charm clearly did not do all she hoped. Hayate gets in an attack of opportunity on a gargoyle who fumbles, spinning it around. The gargoyle right in front of Hayate does not move at all. The third surrounding Hayate is clawing, to no avail thus far.

Izar has a gargoyle attempt to lift him off Fei, but Fei's freedom of movement makes the gargoyle slide right off, unable to grasp Izar.

Dorinda however does get displaced from her griffin, and is held aloft by a gargoyle.

The gargoyles around Hrothulf can't land a punch on him, though they keep clawing and scratching all they can.

Fei strikes the gargoyle next to her, and Izar *chill touches* the one nearest him, his chilling hand reaching out with magic coming forth. They then move deftly to an open area.

Darnit, atop Nilchi, swings Barkamena. It clangs and frosts over, but it doesn't seem like the gargoyle's motion is in any way hindered by it.

They sidestep and Nilchi *Stoneshapes* a nearby gargoyle into a birdbath.

Sefarina launches into the air and flies to Dorinda. Sefarina and Dorinda both attack, timed so as to allow Dorinda to grasp hold of Sefarina and mount her again. The gargoyle takes solid hits from both and Dorinda gets away and remounts Sefarina with flair. She's back in the saddle!

Hrothulf, atop Poyraz: Poyraz emits his *Frost Breath*, coating two gargoyles in frost, though they seem surprisingly resistant to the attack. Hrothulf unleashes watermelon's wail on another gargoyle, but misses.

Hayate takes a 5-ft step back and unleashes a piercing *Shatter*, striking three gargoyles (or two gargoyles and a bird bath, as it happens). Meanwhile, Ego quick-draws her Railgun and fires at the most harmed gargoyle (that isn't immobile) next to her. The gargoyle's wing crumbles, and Hayate gathers some of the stony remains for Ego's next shot.

A couple of gargoyles gang up on Darnit, roughing him up and pushing him and his griffin around. Meanwhile a gargoyle surprises Hrothulf with a divebomb, part of the gargoyle itself crumbling off on contact it hits so hard. Hrothulf manages to stay upright. He is hurting, but on turning around he finds no gargoyle, but only a pile of rocks.

A gargoyle swoops down at Izar, and as he is deflecting the gargoyle, the birdbath manages to waddle over and fall on top of Izar.

A gargoyle near Ego attempts to assault her, but she and Hayate can pretty easily keep it away, holding it at bay with a claw. But the one with the injured wing manages to sneak behind and kamikaze Ego, bloodying her but not rendering her unconscious.

Izar runs up and pokes a gargoyle with the ranseur then runs over and jumps onto Fei, who attacks the gargoyle still attacking Ego.

Darnit strikes again with Barkamena, and produces stone ice cubes from what was once a gargoyle. Nilchi attempts to *Stoneshape* another gargoyle, this time into an exact replica of the Liberty Bell (whatever that is). The gargoyle begins to re-form, but then sticks its wings out, resisting the stoneshape and retaining its form.

Sefarina attacks the nearby gargoyle, followed by Dorinda with her curveblade. The gargoyle is obliterated.

Poyraz melee attacks the gargoyle in front of him, grounding it as its wings take the brunt of the damage. Hrothulf follows up with a little watermelon's wail. It is super confident in itself, catching Hrothulf's blade, but then a small crack forms in its palms, and continues down its arms, through its chest and legs, and it crumbles to the ground. Hrothulf utters, "Huzzah!"