

Ymir's skull

By Etani & James di Properzio

When the gods made this world from the corpse of the colossal being Ymir, they left his mountainous skull intact as a memorial, hidden among a maze of forbidding peaks. For millennia intrepid heroes have attempted to delve it, and died. Several of their undecayed magic items, most very ancient, litter each cavity. The eye holes and nostrils gape; the teeth are shut tight.

1 Right Eye—A gargantuan spider has webbed all but its access hole in the center. In the hill of bones within, several magic items from victims.

2 Left Eye—Oculus, huge floating eye, somewhat nearsighted, hypnotizes & drains energy, with paralyzing tendrils. Floating eyes orbit it, which it ripped from its victims heads.

3 Nostrils—Lead back to nasal cavity, and to upper and lower sinuses.

4 Nasal cavity—The hard palate forms a balcony high over the cavernous mouth, 7; with a significant drop for beings smaller than giant size.

5 Right Lower Sinus—Siamese twin trolls, imperfectly separate and immensely fat, with 3 arms, four legs and two merged heads.

6 Left Lower Sinus—Inhabited by a giant amoeba, the lower third of this chamber is filled with quicksand. Treasure lies on the bottom.

7 Mouth—Giants have made this a temple to Ymir. Fomorian giant cleric lives here, commands 7 undead giants. Altar is regularly painted with human blood. Cleric's treasure is hidden within a cavity in left rear molar.

8 Right Upper Sinus—A black pudding colony fills sinus & hangs down into right nostril, dropping on prey from above.

9 Left Upper Sinus—A gap in the upper left extremity of this sinus leads to a tube, the venous sinus, through the cranial bone, leading around to the back of the skull where it opens to the interior of the cranium, 10. Four dozen venomous scorpions inhabit the sinus.

10 Cranium—A primordial giant, Angrot, with a huge shapeless body covered in eyes, mouths and protruding limbs. Carries a shard of Ymir's canine tooth, wielded as a scythe-sword. Walks on 5 limbs (leg, arm, claw, hoof and a microcephalic head used as a foot); another 6 assorted limbs used as arms. Insane & non-verbal, he is fed by the priest. In a recess of the cranium, a pool, resembling molten gold, is the remains of Ymir's brain. A liquid relic, beings imbibing of it gain wisdom, minor insanity, & the gift of poetry: the ability to cast spells if they recite an original limerick for each.

11 Spine—A broad shaft, extending from the bottom of the cranium, descends many hundreds of feet. A massive purple worm inhabits the lower shaft.

