

BONES OF A FALLEN KINGDOM

# THE RUINED LANDS **DF SHAYMAR**

# A GAZETTEER FOR ODYSSEYS & OVERLORDS

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# ODYSSEYS & OVERLORDS

In the ancient times, the Gods watched over humankind. This was a golden age of learning and peace. Humans revered the Gods, living in harmony with the divine and the companion beasts. Magic flowed freely allowing the learned and the faithful to alter their forms, prevent aging, and preserve health. The wild folk were born of this time as humans and companion beasts united in love. While most of the Gods rejoiced at this development, Ragnar, the God of Conquest was jealous and appalled by the humans choosing the animal companions as mates instead of the Gods. This caused a divine war during which the Gods who agreed with Ragnar tried to kill the other Gods. The first casualty of this war was Ember, the Goddess of knowledge. When Ember died, her scholar-priests, the Keepers of the Arcane were caught in a magical backlash creating the spellscorched. This war of Gods, called the Schism, raged for 1000 years, during which time the followers of Ragnar courted the worship and love of as many humans as they could. From these unions, the Abyss-kissed were born. After a long and bloody conflict, Ragnar and his followers were defeated. The Gods who fought them dragged Ragnar's followers into the Abyss where they are believed to still be fighting to this day. Only Ragnar and Chandra, the Goddess of the moon and nature remained among mortals. Declaring a cease fire, Ragnar retreated with a small retinue of cultists to the Tower of Wretched Wroth. Chandra and her highest clerics went to the Crystal Library on the surface of the northern Moon. Mortals were left to determine their own fates. The magic that had bound the souls of humans and the companion beasts shattered, though wild folk were already numerous enough to persevere. The spellscorched taught the ways of arcane magic sparingly, protecting the art nearly to extinction. Clerics of Chandra and Ragnar spoke of worship, but most mortal kingdoms rejected all gods and magic, relying on steel and blood to determine righteousness and rulership.

Now, the mortal lands are divided. A dozen kingdoms lie scattered across the world, separated by dangerous wilds filled with bandits and monsters. The bravest mortals act as adventurers, guiding travelers between the kingdoms, killing monsters to thin their numbers, and plundering ruins in search of the lost treasures of the golden age. This is the world of **Odysseys & Overlords**!

# **THE RUINED LANDS OF SHAYMAR**

Official Name: Territory of Shaymar Capital City: Rulix

**Ruler:** Formerly Baroness Marlin Shay, Now various vemlin warlords

The region that stretches the northwestern coastal line of the Untamed Gauntlet, with southern border of mountains, is referred to the Ruined Lands of Shaymar by those seeking lost treasure. It once had a population of over 20,000 individuals, with a majority living in the capital city of Rulix. This territory was known for its abundance of gems and a port that catered to shipping merchants looking to capture a share of the fortune. The wealth in this territory was mostly generated from the staterun gem mines located in the southern mountain range. These mines operated in continuous shifts with all mined materials transported to Rulix to be cut and polished. Once this process was completed, gems were either traded or forged into fine jewelry. Shaymar had the reputation of crafting jewelry imbued with magic and the Baroness would go to great lengths to hire skilled artisans to create such items.

Rulix having a major port to facilitate merchant ship traffic had only one major road leading into the city from inland. This single road called Mazefare was used by many to travel to the mines and the smaller towns residing in the southern portion of the territory. While it was well traveled and maintained prior to Schism, it is now nothing more than a large dirt trail. From years of little use and the harsh environment, almost all remnants of the road have disappeared. The area between the ocean and mountains was once abundant with flora and animals, until the Schism. During the war, battles raged across the land, mostly occurring high in the mountains leaving behind a devastating effect. The mountains now supply a constant flow of poisoned water and toxic air through the lower lands. Most of the area has become barren due to plants or creatures unable to adapt to their new environment. Any creatures encountered should be measured with caution as they usually have found ways to harness the toxic environment to their advantage. Adventurers traveling to this area should always pack double the provisions planned. If the environment does not kill them, the lack of food and water will.

### Folk

While the Baroness was human, fair-skinned, freckled with black hair, the people that resided in Shaymar ranged from all types due to many immigrating for work in the mines and access to the port. The population was made up of 80% human and 20% Wild Folk, with majority of the Wild Folk residing near the mines.

# **CAPITAL CITY: RULIX**

Once an abundant city with wealth, it had a population of 16,000 residents. Rulix was known for its gem market, fine jewelry and crafting items that were imbued with power from the gods. The Baroness ruling the land resided in the Great Castle that overlooked the port operations. Her family had ruled these lands for over a century which included the operations of the gem mines. The Baroness controlled the day to day functions of the city and all the business dealings of the gem market. She would decide on the quantities and types of gems that would be released for sale, maintaining strict control over the trade. To uphold the fluctuation of the gems, the Great Castle housed a giant vault where many of the jewels were stored until the right time. Utilizing this strategy kept the demand and value of the gems at a higher rate, which contributed to the wealth of the city.

Rulix was successful until the war. When the Schism began, it was evident that the citizens wouldn't have a favorable outcome and began to flee. To protect the years of acquired craftmanship of gem cutting, jewelry making and magic-crafting, the Baroness ordered all recorded tomes containing knowledge of the art to be locked in the vault under the Great Castle and sealed. The artisans were also entombed under the castle to prevent their skills from being utilized elsewhere. The vault was said to be as large as the castle with catacombs leading under the city. The Baroness stood watch from the Great Castle as the city was destroyed by the war. In the end, she refused to leave her watch and her body was lost under the ruins of the castle.

### **ENCOUNTERS / CREATURES**

No creatures have taken up permanent residence in the city and it's been left empty except for the remaining ruins. It wouldn't be uncommon to witness an exploration party sent by the Kingdom of Luxania, looking for an entrance to the vault of the Great Castle. **Gargoyles** have taken a fondness to the area as it is easy for them to hide among the ruins and prey on the unsuspecting passerby and occasionally spirits of the casualties of the war can be seen roaming the remnants as **ghosts** or **specters**.

# The Maze - Gem Mines of Shaymar

In the southern mountain range was the location of numerous mines, operated at the direction of the baroness. There was a labyrinth of tunnels through the mountains which led to the rich deposits of gems. It was common for the mines to be referred to as "The Maze" and those that worked there as "Mazers". Few mazers were able to navigate these tunnels and worked with lead lines so they could find their way through the network. Wild Folk were the favored individuals for this type of work for their keen sight in the dark. Those that worked the tunnels were paid well and it was considered honest work by many. When the war began with the Gods, all operations ceased with everyone fleeing the area seeking refuge.

The tunnels now lay dormant due to the poisonous effect left behind by the Schism. The few that have returned attempting to harvest the remaining gem deposits have been faced with numerous challenges that have prohibited successful operations. One such challenge is a lingering toxic mist that begins to suffocate those who inhale it and the water that drips from the walls seeps with a poison that can make a person extremely ill. The tunnels have become home to many ooze creatures that roam the corridors looking for mineral deposits to feed upon.

#### **ENCOUNTERS / CREATURES**

The Maze is now home to many ooze creatures that lurk through the corridors feeding on minerals or have materialized from the toxic environment. One can encounter many types of oozes or slimes that currently exist, and occasionally a sentient ooze may appear that has never been seen before.

# **BANED FOREST**

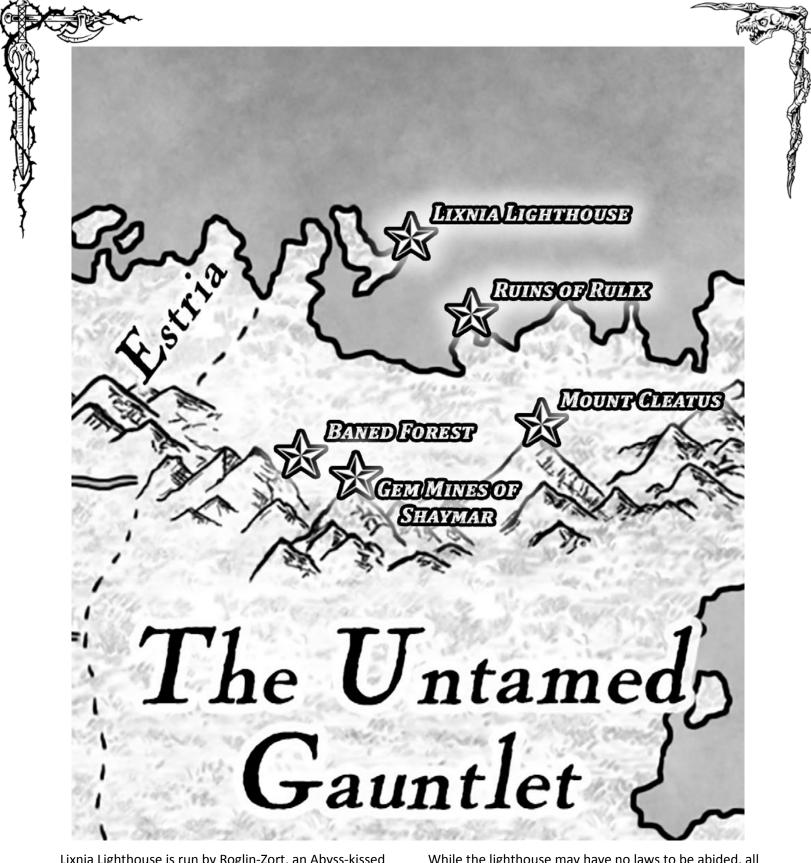
After years of trees and shrubbery dying from the toxicity generated from the mountains, a forested area has taken root, adapting to the environment. The flora in this area has found a way to adapt by becoming toxic itself and developing ways to neutralize the poison conditions present. Many of the plants are desired by alchemists for crafting potions to aid in healing or anti-toxins. Attempting to gain the proper ingredients for these healing aids does come with its risks. This dense forest made up of evergreen trees, ferns and shrubbery are inhabited by small humanoid creatures called Vemlins. Vemlins are territorial creatures that will attack trespassers of the forest. The Vemlins that populate this forest work in small clans organized by warlords, all with a common goal of protecting their land. While conflict between rival warlords rarely occurs, dispute of claiming bodies of intruders can occur.

#### **ENCOUNTERS/ CREATURES**

Baned Forest is home to many creatures with the vemlin being the most prevalent. Other creatures commonly found in the forest are giant snakes, spiders and carnivorous plant life.

# LIXNIA LIGHTHOUSE

On the small island off the coast of Shaymar, there is a lighthouse which was used by Rulix to help guide ships into port prior to the Schism. The lighthouse, untouched from the war, still stands with buildings extending from it. This 100-foot-tall stone lighthouse is still in use. Instead of guiding merchant ships to port, the lighthouse now guides pirates to a sanctuary of repose and opportunities to extend their dubious dealings.



Lixnia Lighthouse is run by Roglin-Zort, an Abyss-kissed retired adventurer, who retired from the life of treasure seeking when he discovered the lighthouse was intact and unoccupied. He seized the opportunity to cater to those making a living on the sea. He quickly added onto the current lighthouse with additional buildings to maintain a business that would serve those desiring a place to rest or searching for entertainment. While the lighthouse may have no laws to be abided, all seafaring individuals docking at port know the unspoken code of "Zero Blood". Any person guilty of shedding blood on land, will deal with sentinels employed by Rogin-Zort. When the code is broken, the guilty are banished from port with a bounty placed upon them, resulting in all patrons looking for an opportune time to collect.

# **ENCOUNTERS/ CREATURES**

At any time there can be 1d4 ships docked, with all of them being pirate or privateer vessels. Most of the time crews from these vessels will head into port for entertainment, with a small portion of the crew members remaining on the vessel to keep watch.

# **MOUNT CLEATUS**

Mt. Cleatus is the highest point in the mountain range stretching above the clouds and out of sight. With the mountaintop slicing through the clouds, it has become the source of endless storms, bringing poisonous rain and lethal lightning to the land below. No one has ever made it to the top to know what may lie there, but the peak seems to be the source of the toxicity polluting the surrounding lands.

At the base of the mountain is a shrine dedicated to Velenu, the deceased God of Poison. It was recently positioned there by the Cult of Silent Death as a place of pilgrimage to bathe in the mountain waters and offer prayer.

#### **CULT OF SILENT DEATH**

Velenu fell in battle fighting alongside Ragnar on top of Mount Cleatus. As she died, her body was absorbed into the mountain allowing her essence to merge with the mountain. Members of the Cult of Silent Death are Abyss-kissed born from Velenu's bloodline. It is believed by the cult that when the right opportunity arises, Velenu will respawn in a cult member as they bathe in the waters coming from the mountain. Until then, their prayers are answered by Ragnar.

# **ENCOUNTERS/ CREATURES**

Silent Death Pilgrims can usually be seen traveling in caravans of horse drawn wagons to and from the base of Mt. Cleatus. The pilgrims would be led by 2-5 (1d4+1) **Clerics** of levels 1d4 (rolling for each). The caravan would also require a certain level of protection with 2-5 (1d4+1) **Fighters** of levels 1d4 (rolling for each) armed with longswords and wearing chainmail escorting the party. The reminder of the pilgrim party will be composed of 3-18 (3d6) noncombative individuals.

# Monsters

### VEMLINS

With tempers much larger than their size, these small humanoid creatures stand 3-4 feet tall with beady red eyes, with an average weight between 45-50 pounds. They are void of hair and fur with leathery skin that ranges in color from dark green to light brown. Vemlins have claw-like hands that make formable weapons that contain a mild poison. They occasionally will be wearing armor made of wood. Their spoken language is a series of clicks and whistles, making it

Their spoken language is a series of clicks and whistles, making it difficult for any creature to communicate with them. The origins of the vemlins are

unknown and the only location they have been spotted is in the Baned

Forest in the Ruined Lands

of Shaymar. Vemlins live in clan societies led by Warlords. The vemlin views all others as a threat and use their untamed temper to rid their territories of intruding humanoids. Those hit by the vemlin's claws must

save vs. Poison or take 2 points of damage from their mild poison.

The most common of the vemlins have the basic knowledge for attack tactics and will usually attempt to mob their victims. If a solo vemlin is encountered, it will keep its distance surveilling the situation, until it is united with others before any attacks are attempted. For every additional vemlin in the group add one additional Morale point.

They usually wearing items from the natural

environment as clothing, they use their claws as weapons.

# Vemlin

Armor Class:	12
Hit Dice:	1-1*
No. of Attacks:	2 claws
Damage:	1d4+2 poison/1d4+2poison
Movement:	30'
No. Appearing:	2d6/ lair 6d6
Save As:	Fighter 1
Morale:	7
Treasure Type:	R Each
XP:	30

# **VEMLIN WARLORD**

When the strongest of the vemlins rise through the ranks of the clan, they occasionally break away creating their own clan in a nearby area becoming the warlord for a new clan. Warlords will usually be found wearing armor made of wood, banded together with twine.

### **VEMLIN WARLORD**

Armor Class:	14
Hit Dice:	4
No. of Attacks:	2 claws
Damage:	1d6+2 poison/1d6+2 poison
Movement:	30'
No. Appearing:	1
Save As:	Fighter 5
Morale:	9
Treasure Type:	R Each
XP:	240



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