

KILLIAN'S KRAWLS

Adventure Module MX-01

The Laboratory of Melifex the Mad

An adventure for level 2 characters

Second Printing: 2022

BY: STUART C. KILLIAN

ARTWORK BY: COURTNEY BOLING III



COMPATIBLE WITH

**DCC
RPG**

KILLIAN'S KRAWLS

Adventure Module MX-01 *The Laboratory of Melifex the Mad* *An adventure for level 2 characters*

2nd Printing - 2022

This product is compatible with the Dungeon Crawl Classics Role Playing Game.



By Stu Killian – Artist: Courtney Boling III
Editors: Aaron Downs and Wendy Killian
Playtesters: Jon Chambers, Aaron Downs,
Ben Downs, Julie Hawkins, Mark Hawkins,
Bob Ooton, Joan Ooton

Special thanks to the play groups at GaryCon XIV
and to The RavenCrowKing for product review.

Cartography via Campaign Cartographer 3
© 1997-2006 ProFantasy Software Ltd.
all rights reserved www.profantasy.com

This product is based upon the Dungeon Crawl
Classics Role Playing Game, published by
Goodman Games. This product is published
under license. Dungeon Crawl Classics and
DCC RPG are trademark of Goodman Games.
All rights reserved. For additional information,
Visit www.goodman-games.com or contact
Info@goodman-games.com



INTRODUCTION

The Laboratory of Melifex the Mad is an adventure for 5-6 characters of second level. Smaller and lower-level parties can be accommodated by using the scaling suggestions in the Encounter Table.

This second printing of the module incorporates changes suggested by players at the GaryCon XIV Convention and from peer reviews.

BACKGROUND

The adventure takes place in the city-state of Pinecliffe where Melifex, a promising wizard now shunned by the population and nicknamed 'Melifex the Mad', has constructed a tower housing his laboratory on a cliff overlooking the city. Although shunned, his money is still welcomed, and he is supplied monthly by an outfitter who would venture up the cliff, pick up a list, and deliver supplies to an outbuilding connected to the tower, where payment was waiting. However, the outfitter has made two trips to the tower and received nothing. Rumors now abound as to what has happened to the feared wizard and what he may have unleashed. The party's arrival to the city will elicit offers to go to the laboratory and find out.

ADVENTURE HOOK

There are many ways the party could be persuaded to venture to the tower. The Judge could steer the party by utilizing a group of NPCs to hire the party, or they could be enticed with the rumors heard around the town (refer to THE CITY OF PINECLIFFE). Some examples are as follows:

- Melifex has a few close friends in town who are genuinely worried about him and are willing to pay to have the party conduct a "welfare check".

- The town is worried about what Melifex may have done or what he may have unleashed in the tower. The town leaders want to put the fears of the population to rest.

- If the party has a cleric, they may be contacted by their deity or a high ranking member of their temple to rid the world of Melifex's "blasphemy".

- The party may simply want to treasure hunt. Obviously, a powerful wizard would have valuable and potent magic items in his laboratory.

JUDGE'S NOTES

Descriptions in ***bold italics*** should be read to the party. Any additional information not covered in the description is left up to the Judge. Occasionally, background information will be found in **highlighted gray boxes**. This information can be shared directly with the party or given out through role play. Additional Judge's notes for specific areas are in **boxed text**.

The Judge should spend time reading and learning about the City of Pinecliffe before running the adventure. A great amount of role playing, information gathering, and buying and selling will take place there, so knowing the background of the city is important.

ENCOUNTER TABLE

AREA	DESCRIPTION	TYPE
W-1	Carnivorous Grove	T,C
1-A	Enchanted Door	T
L-2	Geoverme	C
L-3	Air Elemental	C
L-4	Room of Locks	T
L-5	Enchanted Armor	C
L-7	Blattodes	C
2	Desk Drawer	T
3-A	Dragon	R, C

C= Combat, T= Trap, R= Role play

The encounters can be scaled to accommodate a smaller or lower level party. Make the following changes:

- Remove the poison damage from the Carnivorous Trees in Area W-1.
- Remove the vortex attack of the Air Elemental in Area L-3.
- Reduce the dragon's spellcasting ability by removing the following spells:
 - Patron Bond
 - Invoke Patron
 - Mirror Image
 - Emirkol's Entropic Malestorm
 - Eternal Champion
- Remove the dragon's poison breath weapon

ADVENTURE START

Your new life of adventuring in the outlands of Pinecliffe has become stagnant. Every cave and ruin has been searched and there's only so much adventure, coin, and "glory" you can gain from vanquishing chicken-stealing beasts and conquering not-so-haunted cemeteries. You decide to move on to the capital of Pinecliffe, where adventurers may be able to sell their service, get new information on potential adventures, or even liberate some of the wealthier of their extra money.

Packing up all the belongings you can fit on your back and selling everything else, you make your way along the cart paths and trails until you find a wide, stone-paved road. A red granite marker in the shape of a four-sided pyramid has arrows carved into the stone with the word "Pinecliffe" pointing to the East, and "Cobalt Valley" pointing to the West. Your spirits lift as you realize a new chapter in your adventuring life is about to begin.

Along the road are clearings caravans have made to stop for the night. As it is getting dark and will be cold soon, you decide to set up camp for the night. Other people, equipped much like yourself have already set up their spots and a large community fire has been built.

If this is the first adventure for the party members as a group, the Judge can use this time to have each character introduce themselves and learn about each other's characters.

After a long climb over winding hills and ridges, you reach the top of a hill overlooking a wooded valley of cedar and pine. Before you sits the largest city you have seen. Tall stone walls surround an area of about a square mile. Within lies the city; an orderly arrangement of houses, and shops dominated by a sawmill on the North side and a keep on the East.

The town sits under the protection of a cliff to the North. As you scan the cliff, you notice what seems to be the top of a tower peeking out over the pines.

You are stopped at the gate by two armored guards who ask your name, where you are coming from, and if you have any trade goods to declare. A scribe sits at a table inside the gate, collecting fees and taxes. He informs you there is an entry tax of 10sp per person.

THE CITY OF PINECLIFFE

The walled city is located at the base of a large cliff on the South side of a low mountain range. The city spreads out into a temperate valley. The city is bisected by a large road running East-West which winds its way around the mountains. A South road continues down the valley to plains. The main industries of the city are mining and forestry as the cliff is surrounded by a pine forest. Humans are the principal occupants of the town with an occasional halfling trader visiting. Dwarves are common as they occupy the mines in the mountains and provide forged items for trade. Elves are never seen and may be treated with suspicion.

The party can be expected to pay an entrance tax of 10sp per person. Additionally, the party will have to declare any expensive goods that are not personal items such as trade goods or any treasure greater than 15gp. The party will be required to pay a 1% tax on these items.

The city's population is approximately 7,000, but the realm of Pinecliffe stretches out over a hundred square miles. It is governed by a Stadholder. The city guard protects the town and enforces the law. The guard is commanded by a Marshall who is assisted by Captains who can command patrols of city guard. Investigators act independently but can call upon the guard to provide law enforcement. The city is a plutocracy with an open market system. Silver is the main currency, but gold is not rare. Party members paying for small items with gold may be refused since the vendor would not have proper change.

Nearly all faiths are represented, but the main temples in the city are the Temples of Justicia (L), and Amun Tor (N). The temples will provide healing to individuals who are of the same sect or are vouched for by a worshipper. Healing of damage or disease may require a "donation" depending on the seriousness of the healing or the faith of the recipient.

All equipment and adventure items can be found here at their normal price except for thieves' tools (which are illegal to possess), armor, and weapons beyond daggers, staves, slings and shortbows, which are twice the normal price. Any person buying armor or non-hunting related weapons will be questioned by an investigator (who will normally work in areas where these items are sold) as to why they need it and will require a weapons license (for a price of 10gp) to gain permission to purchase it. Horses and other mounts are not for sale or rent.

The party can visit Weird Ziggy the alchemist who concocts spell components, local remedies and elixirs to lessen pain and prevent infections. Prices are up to the Judge.

The party may be able to access the local underground market run by the Thieves' Guild (DC10 to make a connection if they can use the Cant), where they could procure the following items.

- Garrote	5gp
- Blackjack	5gp
- Blowgun (with 10 Darts)	9gp
- Counterfeit Weapons License	5gp
- Counterfeit Merchant's Permit (To avoid tax when entering the city)	13gp
- Thieves' Tools	35gp
- One vial of poison	77gp

JUDGE'S NOTE #1 As soon as the party settles down in one location (a tavern, inn, or public square) read the following:

It doesn't take long before you realize you stand out. Curious looks are passed your way and groups of people begin whispering to one another and pointing to you. Although you can barely make out the conversations, you catch the word "Melifex" a few times.

Eventually, an aged, well-dressed man approaches you. As he sizes your party up, he takes a long pull from his tankard, smacks his lips, and drawls sarcastically: "Adventurers eh? All dressed up and ready to die." He sighs deeply. "How about making yourself useful and check out ol' Melifex the Mad? It doesn't seem like anyone else cares if we all get ripped apart by demons, cooked by a dragon, or whatever that fool of a wizard conjured up."

Interrupting your obvious question, he continues: "So this Melifex was convinced his magical work would somehow help the world to become a better place; said he was going to use magic to aid the common worker and end slavery and military conscription. What a fool! Instead of being the savior of all, he ended up becoming a lunatic freak show. When his experiments failed and spells backfired, he started to look like some monster, and he would wander the streets of Pinecliffe aimlessly babbling to himself about experiments and theories. It didn't take long for him to go from 'Arcanus Melifex' to 'Melifex the Mad'.

"We ran him out of town, but he created a tower on the North cliff overlooking the city where he could conduct his stupid experiments and try to find a way to reverse his corruption. We never dealt with him again except for monthly supply deliveries from Old

Paul. He was either dumb enough or needed the money something fierce to venture up the cliff and deliver supplies to the tower. We haven't heard from that maniac for two years.

"Well, guess what? Old Paul goes up there and finds no list or money. He goes back up the next month and, yep, nothing again. Now everyone is up in arms as to what happened. My guess is he got in over his head and unleashed who knows what." He spits some of his drink on the ground. "The Stadholder is too much of a coward to do what needs to be done. But gods be praised if we don't have a band of heroic adventurers here before us to save the day! So don't just stand there navel gazing, get on up there and save the day!" He stumbles back into the crowd, and you notice all eyes on you as if they are waiting for you to make a decision.

Anyone in town can verify the man's rant is true. Government officials the party talks to are non-committal about the whole affair and have no problems allowing you to venture to the tower. Just don't expect any help from them.

If the party decides to chat with the local population to gather more information, the Judge can decide to read some of the rumors listed. Only one rumor is known in each area visited. Not all rumors are true.

- Melifex experimented with the dark art of necromancy and has turned himself into an undead creature!
- Melifex acquired a very large and valuable gem that has incredible magical power, but it is unknown whether it is for good or evil.
- Melifex's tower was attacked by a dragon who killed Melifex for his magical treasures and now makes the tower its home.
- Since Melifex stopped dealing with the city, a band of adventurers went to investigate but have never been seen again.
- Melifex created magical locked doors that can open portals to other worlds.

- At night, you can hear a low rumble coming from the cliff, as if someone is excavating the cliff to find something.

The party will be told they need to speak to Old Paul to know the route to the tower Paul is a bit folksy and a little slow, but he knows the route well and can make a fairly good sketch map. He will tell the party he only had access to the locked outbuilding. Inside was a strongbox containing his monthly list with an advance payment. He will provide the keys if asked but will offer no other help. He has been spooked by the rumors and has no desire to ever see Melifex's tower again.

WILDERNESS

Area W-1 CARNIVOROUS GROVE

The path described to you is easy to find. It is unmarked and narrow, barely enough room to fit a cart. The path climbs steeply up the ridge, winding through a thick forest of evergreen trees that blocks out the sunlight enough to make the whole area look like dusk. The scent of pine lingers and makes the air seem much fresher than back at town. You easily navigate around a few fallen trees and realize this path has not been travelled by cart in a long time. You crest an incline and notice what looks like a pile of cloth in the center of a grove of willow-like trees 50 yards to the right.

If the party decides not to investigate, they make their way up the ridge and back on the path without incident. Go to "The Laboratory" section. Otherwise, read the following:

As you step into the grove, you uncover a grisly sight. Animal carcasses and the dried-out corpses of five people, probably adventurers, lay strewn about the ground. Each body appears leathery and dry, with hollow eye sockets, as if every drop of moisture was pulled from them.

Elven characters and those having a background with plants will immediately notice the trees around them are not common willows. The trees are ash white in color with a slick, waxy-type bark. The branches are more like vines, with veins of black



running through them and around the trunk. Tiny, perfectly circular leaves line the branches and have a fuzzy coating on them, like hundreds of little needles.

The trees are carnivorous and will attack in one round after a character gets near or tries to inspect the tree. The branches will lash out and wrap around their target, injecting it with the hundreds of needles in the leaves and begin draining the victim of blood, causing 1d6 damage per round starting one round after being hit. As the victim is held, the tree will inject a venom that liquifies the internal organs. The character must make a DC13 Fortitude save or take an additional 2 points of damage for 3 rounds.

The branches can be severed on a successful hit doing 5 or more damage. The damage is counted towards the total hit points of the tree. The trees can only make one attack but have three branches available. So, when a branch is severed, a new branch will attempt to attack the nearest creature. A branch can be removed from the skin in two ways: it can be torn off but will cause 1d3 damage due to the needles tearing the skin off the victim. Alternatively, the branch will detach if an oil-based substance (like lamp oil) is poured on it, causing severe pain, but no damage.

Carnivorous Trees (3) Init +5; Atk Branch +3 ranged 10' (1d6+special per round), AC 16; HD 3d8; hp 16; MV 0'; Act 1d20; SP 3 branches, poison; SV Fort +6 Ref -10 Will -5

Branch (3 per tree) AC13, HP 5ea (Branch HPs count towards tree total), SV Fort +3 Ref +2 Will -5

Among the items are clothing, two pairs of high quality leather boots, A suit of human or elf sized studded leather armor, three daggers; one of which has the dwarvish word "Hvas" (sharp) engraved on the blade (Dagger +1), a longbow, 7 arrows. Three arrows appear to be made with an ironwood shaft and a head made of mithril honed to a wicked edge. (Arrows +1), a flask of oil, and some coins: 22cp, 38sp, and 8gp. When cut, the trees bleed a blackish-purple sap that can be used to poison one single weapon. On a successful hit, the poison will cause 2 points of damage for 3 rounds. The poison will wear off after 2 combats.

JUDGE'S NOTE #2: A character will need a background in herbs, plants, or chemicals to know the sap is poisonous. A DC10 Handle Poison check by a thief will also reveal its nature.

THE LABORATORY

After a long upward climb, the path finally levels off to a plateau. As you rest your burning legs and sore feet, you notice the city below you. A few large birds of prey circle around the cliff. The air is cool and brisk, and you start to feel a chill after your sweaty climb. Centered in the plateau is a tower made of dark gray cut granite placed so tightly together it resembles a single carved piece. The walls are impossible for anyone to climb. The tower appears to be nearly 40' high and peeks over the grove of pines surrounding it. A single, round window on the East side, two feet in diameter, is situated 12' from the ground. An outbuilding made of wood and stone is connected to the South side of the tower. The door to the outbuilding has been smashed open with only a few pieces of splintered wood still attached to the iron hinges.

A solid iron door 8' high bars access to the tower. As you see the door, you notice a slight pink sheen surrounding the door.

Area 1-A ENCHANTED DOOR

The iron door has a ringed handle on it. As you try to reach for the handle the pink glow becomes more visible and does not allow you to touch the handle, as if an invisible wall has been built in front of it. On the right side of the door are four smooth square plaques in a vertical row. The first three plaques have symbols carved into them that glow a faint pink. The fourth plaque is blank.

JUDGE'S NOTE #3: Give the party the Player's Handout.

Any attempt to break down the door will be repelled by the magical wall. The door has been warded and all spells have no effect. A character who places any part of his body on the blank plaque will see a pink glow where they touched. If they try to write

something, the figure will glow pink until they are done.

The party needs to draw a correct figure in the blank plaque to disarm the door. If an incorrect figure is drawn, the plaques and the door will glow green. If someone tries to open the door, the party will hear a thunderous boom. The character touching the door will take 2 points of damage and will be flung 5' from the door and be prone. The door and the plaques will return to their pink glow.

The solution to the puzzle is the number of arcs in each figure. The first has one arc, the second – two, and the third – three. The party needs to draw ANY FIGURE with four arcs. The arcs don't need to intersect anything, just so there are 4 arcs in the figure. When the proper figure is drawn, the door will glow red. Anyone who grabs the handle will be able to turn the handle to the right and the door will open into Area 1-C.

If the party tries to access the window, they will need to make a human ladder to reach it. The bottom character will need to make a DC 14 Strength check and the second character would need to make a DC14 Agility check or they will collapse. A halfling may be able to break the window and squeeze through to Area 1-C, but will certainly be considered an intruder by the invisible servant, who will warn the dragon in Area 3.

Area 1-B STOREHOUSE

This outbuilding has a stone foundation and wooden beam walls, it is lit by a window in the South wall. Everything in this building has been smashed, turned over, or ripped. Grain and flour are lightly spread on the stone floor. Inside the doorway to the left is a locked wooden box whose lid has been smashed open. The box is empty. On the North wall is an iron door 8' high. The door has a pink sheen surrounding it and has no handle.

This was the pantry and supply shed for the tower. The outfitter had the key to the outer door and the wooden box. He would stock the supplies in the shed. Pick up his payment in the box and lock the door behind him.

The door is magically sealed from the outside. It is warded against all spells.

Area 1-C RECEIVING ROOM

JUDGE'S NOTE #4: If a party member enters this room from the window, the invisible servant will not speak with the character, but will immediately go to Area 3 and warn the dragon. The entry door can be opened to the rest of the party from the inside with no harmful effects. It is up to the Judge to decide if the dragon in Area 3 confronts the party when warned or waits to surprise them in Area 3.

A yellowish glow lights the room. Attached to the wall are glass globes filled with a liquid giving off a bright yellowish glow resting in iron bases. A fireplace is built into the North wall. To the South, a partition wall separates the main room from a galley kitchen with a sink, water pump, preparation counters and a door to the South. The main room is furnished with comfortable lounge chairs, and a round eating table with wooden chairs is set for three. A wooden door to the Southeast leads to a small privy. In the Northwest corner of the room is a 7" diameter hole in the floor. A matching hole is in the ceiling right above it. A shaft of blue light rises through the center of both holes. Looking down, you see a stone floor 12' down. Looking up you see another hole in the ceiling of another room above. The shaft of light leads from the stone floor to what appears to be the topmost ceiling of the tower. As you are investigating, you hear a voice say: "Good day! May I ask why you are visiting? Do you have an appointment with the Master?"

Melifex conjured an invisible servant to meet his needs. It will not attack, other than push people out of the way if it needs to fly up to Area 3 to warn the dragon. The servant is immune to physical attacks and will simply run away to Area 3 if threatened.

If the party states they have an appointment or they are here to check on The Master's well-being, the servant will say he does not remember the appointment. He will state his master is working on an important experiment and can not be bothered. However, he is somewhat concerned since he hasn't heard from the master for a long time and the

master has not requested a meal in weeks. The party may convince him their visit is very important (DC14 Personality check; add or subtract to the difficulty depending on the player's story). If so, he will direct the party to go upstairs and will instruct them on how to use the levitating platform in Area 1-D. If not, the servant will ask the party to leave, flying upstairs to warn the dragon if the party refuses.

Area 1-D LEVITATING PLATFORM

Melifex used a modified version of the Force Manipulation spell to create this elevator. The platform is 7' in diameter and can hold up to four human sized creatures. The blue shaft controls its motion. If a character places their hand within the light, they will hear a light musical tone, low if their palm is facing downward and high if facing upward.

The key to operating the platform is using the position of the user's hand within the light. If the user's hand is placed palm down, the platform will lower and will raise if their hand is palm up. The platform is currently in Area 3, since that is the last place Melifex went.

There is nothing in the room sturdy enough to tie a rope to climb down, but the party could easily anchor a grappling hook to the floor. Jumping to the lower level will require a DC8 Agility check or take falling damage.

A grappling hook may be used to climb upward. It will require a DC11 Agility check to properly set the hook on each level.

Area L-1 LABORATORY ENTRANCE

The entrance to the laboratory is a half-circle opening to a 5' wide hallway lit with the fluid filled globes, which shed a pure white light. At the entrance sits a slant top desk and chair. Metal doors line the hallway, three to the right and three to the left. The air smells faintly of rot and has an acid-like quality that slightly burns your throat and nostrils.

The desk contains blank papers, pens, and an ink well. If the ink well is tapped with the pen twice it will magically fill with ink. The ink will disappear

after an hour of non-use. As the party moves down the hallway, the desk will follow them. Melifex enchanted this desk so he would always have a place to take notes wherever he was in the laboratory. The desk is magically bound to the floor and can not be carried out of the laboratory.

JUDGE'S NOTE #5: The doors to each lab are magically locked. The key to opening the doors is to complete the word spelled out on the plaques. Once the word is spoken, the door will slide open. They can be affected by a Knock spell.

Area L-2 GEOVERME

The door to this room has no handle and is magically locked. On the right side of the door is a smooth granite plaque with letters on it. The letters W-O-R are etched in the common tongue in quotes.

The key word for this door is WORM.

Dust and ash assail your nose as you open the door to this room. A large table rests in the West wall of the room. Five glass tanks almost 3' high are seated on the table. The tanks contain what seems to be controlled habitats with differing types of rock, soil and vegetation. Resting on top of the soils are the desiccated remains of unknown invertebrate creatures. One of the tanks has been shattered and contains no remains. A book sits in a slot beside the door. On the North side of the room is a pile of soil, sand, and some unique looking rocks. A part of the North wall has been destroyed and a 5-foot-wide tunnel has been dug into the earth behind it. From the tunnel, you hear a chitinous rattle as small piles of soil are flung out of it.

Inside the tunnel is a Geoverme, a creature created by selective breeding and magic. A geoverme obtains nutrients by breaking down rock and feeding on minerals. Metals, such as iron, copper, silver, and gold are excreted. If disturbed, it will attack.

The geoverme is 10 feet long and approximately 5 feet high. It is segmented with hundreds of spoon-like legs, has hard mineral plates along its body and exceptionally strong mandibles. If threatened, a

geoverme will spew a cone of lime dust and saliva 10 feet long and 15 feet wide at the end. The cloud causes severe burns to the skin, throat, and lungs. Any creature caught within the cone takes 1d8 damage (Reflex save DC 12 for half) and continues to take 1d3 damage per round until the lime is washed off the skin (taking 1 round to accomplish). Any character taking more than 10 points of damage loses 1 point of personality due to its disfiguring effects (clerics can heal the disfiguration). The geoverme empties its entire stomach with the spray and can only spray once per feeding.

Geoverme (1) Init +0; Atk Bite +3 melee (1d10+3); AC 16; HD 7d6; hp 27; MV 5'; Act 1d20; SP "Lime Spray"; SV Fort +6 Ref -1 Will +0

The book details how Melifex was experimenting on various types of worms and other invertebrates to create a species capable of digesting rock and moving large amounts of soil to extract metals. His desire was to create trainable creatures that could save people from the dangers of mining. Additionally, the worms would feed themselves and would require little care. Miners only needed to collect the excrement from the worms and smelt the metals. The ores in the room are merely oxidized iron and copper and have no value. The 5' high tunnel leads 20' to the north to a dead end.

Area L-3 PNEUMATIC EXPERIMENTS

The door to this room has no handle and is magically locked. On the right side of the door is a smooth granite plaque with letters on it. The letters I-N-D are etched in the common tongue in quotes.

The key word for this door is WIND.

The first thing you notice as you scan this room is a book in a slot beside the door. The workbench in this room is covered with bags made of various bladders and skins. Attached to the bags are hoses made of rubber, intestine, catgut and the like, as well as a small glass tank and leather straps which make the contraptions look like backpacks. All the glass tanks have either cracked or have broken into pieces. As you search, your face suddenly gets stung by flying slivers of glass and sand from the floor. Looking above, you see what looks like a

humanoid with two shining blue eyes. Its body is transparent and a blue gem rests in the center of the creature's body.

The creature is an Air Elemental conjured by Melifex. It would normally obey commands from a wizard, but it has been neglected for so long it has become uncontrollable. It will attempt to kill anything in sight and escape the laboratory soon afterward.

Although air elementals can only be wounded with magical weapons or spells, Melifex used an aquamarine gem as a spell focus for the creature. Destroying the gem with common or magical weapons will dissipate the elemental. The gem has hit points equal to the elemental and must be targeted directly. Damage is cumulative. For example, if the gem takes 5hp of damage, and the elemental takes 10hp from a magical weapon, the elemental has taken 15hp total damage.

The air elemental will take the first initiative round to create a cyclone with the effects happening in the third round. The cyclone lasts for only one round but inflicts 4d6 damage to any creatures who fail a DC13 Strength check (half damage from success) due to being slammed around the room. All party members will be knocked prone from the attack.

Air Elemental Init +8; Atk Hurled Object +8 ranged (1d6), Slam +8 melee (2d8); AC 16 [AC18 to target the gem]; HD 8d8; hp 33; MV Fly 40'; Act 1d20; SP Vortex (2 rounds to create) 4d6 damage to all in 30' radius (Ref save for half) ; SV Fort +6 Ref +10 Will +3

If the air elemental is defeated without destroying the gem, it will fall to the ground. The gem is approximately 2" in diameter and is worth 75gp.

The book contains notes on how Melifex was able to conjure air elementals and put them under control utilizing aquamarine gems for a spell focus. His goal was to create elemental powered suction devices to help housekeepers keep homes clean in quick fashion or to pump water to put fires out. There are also notes regarding the possibility of a "flight backpack".

Area L-4 ROOM OF LOCKS

The door to this room has no handle and is magically locked. On the right side of the door is a smooth granite plaque with letters on it. The letters I-C-K are etched in the common tongue. in quotes.

The key word for this door is PICK.

Ten doors are set in frames around the entire room. The doors are made of wood and are locked with mechanical locks of all kinds (skeleton key, tumbler, padlock, hinge lock, etc.). A workbench in the center of the room has various keys scattered about made of many different types of metals and alloys. All the keys are either bent, broken, or have shattered teeth. In the center of the workbench sits a large metal safe, 4' on each side, locked with a padlock. A book rests in a slot beside the door.

Successfully unlocking and opening the doors (DC11 for all) reveals a solid stone wall behind them. If the party searches through the keys, they will find they are all useless, but some are made of rare metals, about 15 keys in all. The metals could be sold for 35sp.

The metal safe is actually five safes within each other, each having a different type of lock. The doors and their DC to open them are listed below. Additionally, a Knock spell would be effective. As each door opens describe how it simply leads to another inner safe with a different door. All doors are made of thick steel and can not be broken, bent, or smashed.

LOCK	DESCRIPTION	DC
1	Padlock	8
2	Skeleton Key	10
3	Hinge	12
4	Tumbler	14
5	Combination	16

If the party successfully opens all the doors, read the following:

The door opens into a storage area about 8" on each side. Inside is a key made of a dull, dark gray metal. As you look at the key you notice the key morphs and changes shape every five seconds.

The key is a Magical Master Key. The key will morph into the shape of any lock and open it. It will not disarm traps or open magically locked doors. It is the only key that can open the door in Area 3-A. It will lose its magical properties and morph into a common skeleton key after 6 uses.

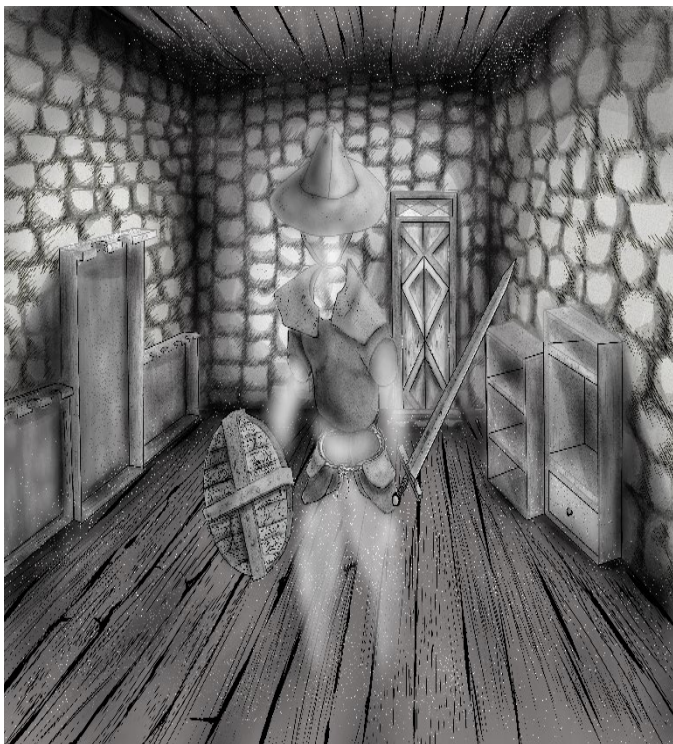
Melifex's notes on his experiment are found in the book. His motivation was to create a universal key to be used by law enforcers to enter secret hideaways and enforce warrants for information.

Area L-5 ARMOR ENCHANTMENT LAB

The door to this room has no handle and is magically locked. On the right side of the door is a smooth granite plaque with letters on it. The letters W-O-R-D are etched in the common tongue in quotes.

The key word for this door is SWORD.

Weapons racks line the walls of this room. Weapons and shields of every type and material are lined up in the racks. In the center of the room, six wooden mannequins are draped with steel and leather armor. Although the room is full of armor and weapons, you notice no blacksmithing or woodworking tools anywhere. A book is resting in a slot beside the door. You are startled and stare in amazement as a suit of studded leather armor, a helmet, wooden shield and longsword animate and fit themselves together as if a ghostly, invisible warrior was wearing and wielding them. A voice booms out "Engarde! Prepare to defend thyself thieving scum!"



The Gallant Longsword +1: Melifex intended to create a Longsword +1 Defender but the spell misfired. This sword is filled with the spirit of battle and will continually urge its user on in battle giving its wielder a +1 on all will saves. However, it is overzealous. The Judge can have the sword insult the player if they shy away from battle or may get impatient during a negotiation and pick a fight regardless of what the character wants. Obviously, this is not a good weapon to take on any mission requiring stealth as it will shout a war cry at the sight or sound of a potential enemy. Be creative when you role play as the sword.

The room contains every common weapon available in the DCC RPG®, and the mannequins are dressed in the following (The Judge may decide the sizes of each):

- Chain Mail Armor (2 suits)
- Leather Armor
- Mithril Scale Mail
- Banded Mail
- 2 Shields

All armor and weapons are non-magical and in good condition. Melifex's notes detail how he dabbled in weapons enchantment in the attempt to create a "magical armor platoon". He was intrigued by the notion that a fighting force of enchanted armor needed no food, rest or pay, would never retreat or break ranks, would always follow orders and would eliminate the need for conscription of common men for military service.

Area L-6 PRECIOUS STONES LAB

The door to this room has no handle and is magically locked. On the right side of the door is a smooth granite plaque with letters on it. The letters S-H-I-N are etched in the common tongue in quotes.

The key word for this door is SHINY.

The enchanted armor consists of a normal suit of studded leather, a common helmet, a wooden shield, and a Gallant Longsword +1. The armor is magically commanded to fight without stopping. Characters who score a hit on the armor will notice the suit showing damage. The armor can be hit with normal weapons but is immune to any magical effect on the mind (charm, sleep, etc). The enchanted armor is NOT an undead creature.

Enchanted Armor Init +3; Atk Longsword +1 +4 melee (1d8+3); AC 16; HD 4d10; hp 30; MV 30'; Act 1d20 + 1d20; SP Immune to sleep, charm, paralysis, mind effects; SV Fort +4 Ref +0 Will +1

As the battle rages on, the players will hear taunts and battle cries every second round. When the party inflicts enough damage, the suit will collapse to the ground. The sword will call out to the party:

"Reveal thyselfes and let me know the worthy foe who hath vanquished me. I hereby pledge my service to you."

The largest red gemstone you have ever seen sits atop a pedestal 4' high in the center of the room. The gem emanates a deep red glow and is fastened in a setting that resembles an eagle's talons turned upside down. Fastened to the East wall is a cabinet with small wooden drawers approximately 4" on both sides and 6" deep. 25 drawers in total. An empty workbench is pushed against the West wall and a leather-bound book is filed away in a slot near the door.

Melifex utilized this room to test the magical properties of gemstones and their abilities as a magical focus. The drawers are labeled with the names of semi-precious and precious stones – from Amethyst to Zircon. The drawers contain rough-cut samples of each type of stone. Since the stones are rough, the entire haul would be worth about 350gp if a gem cutter could be found to sell them to.

Melifex's most prized possession, the red gem, is a garnet the size of a man's fist. It is magically attuned to the pedestal and will shatter if removed from its setting. The wizard's book documents Melifex's desperate attempts to use the garnet as a spell focus to create an aura of restoration which could reverse the spell corruption on his body. He states in his notes he was partially successful, but the results were not what he wanted.

Anyone who touches the gem will instantly disappear and return a second later, changed according to the table below. Have the player roll a D7 and read the description in the chart. Once an effect has occurred, it will NOT HAPPEN AGAIN. If another character rolls the same number, there will be NO EFFECT. The gem can only have an effect ONCE. If the character touches the gem again, nothing will happen.



The Gem of Restoration: The best way to roleplay this scenario is to tell the party the character who touched the stone vanishes and then returns in one second. The Judge should go to a private area with the player and describe the effects. If the player wants to tell the others what happened, they can, but it increases the mystery for the others in the party and makes them wonder if they want to touch the stone or not.

- 1 *You're in what seems to be another dimension. The ground below is smooth polished marble. In front sits the gem in its pedestal, nearly 100 feet away. You start to walk towards it when you feel a sharp pain in the back of your neck. Swatting it, your hand brings back the body of a large insect. The air soon fills with the biting, stinging menaces. They bite and sting you again and again, filling your body with their venom which seems to be making you weaker. You have to crawl on your hands and knees to make it to the pedestal; covered in sweat and every muscle in your body burning. You touch the gem and are instantly transported back to the gem lab. **You gain 1 permanent point of Stamina.***
- 2 *You are suddenly in a room that resembles a giant library. The round room is full of books from top to bottom. A magical force holds you in place. One-by-one, the books fly from the shelves and open themselves up in front of you, their pages flipping rapidly, but you seem to understand every word. After what seems like hours of absorbing the contents of the books, you blink your eyes and are back in the gem lab. **You gain 1 permanent point of Intelligence***
- 3 *You smell beer and cooked food. You shake your head to remove a groggy feeling and you suddenly notice you are in a tavern. A large, muscular man comes to you and says "How about an arm wrestle?" You hesitate at first, but the man grabs you by the shoulders, plops you down in a chair, and grabs your hand as he sits across from you. The contest begins. You put everything you have into the battle which seems to take hours, but eventually you are defeated. The muscular man claps you on the shoulder and loudly says: "Nicely done! Best competition I've had in ages! Maybe this will help you out next time." He pokes you in the forehead and you are sent back to the gem lab. **You gain 1 permanent point of Strength.***
- 4 *A large, round room surrounds you. The walls are of cut stone and have hundreds of holes drilled into them. As you are surveying the room, you hear what sounds like a crossbow firing and a bolt shoots from one of the holes and passes right in front of your face, sticking to the opposite wall. A few seconds later, another hole fires a bolt that you barely dodge. Before you know it, bolts are flying from every direction. You twist, turn, duck and dodge to keep the deadly missiles from hitting you. The firing stops. You feel something in your hand; it's a crossbow bolt. You're wondering how you were able to catch it when you realize you are back in the gem laboratory. **You gain 1 permanent point of Agility***
- 5 *A cold blast of wind attacks your face, and you are temporarily blinded by an intense light. You blink your eyes to adjust to the brightness and discern you are standing on a peak overlooking a great mountain range. A voice behind you says: "Greetings, it has been so long since I've had company. Here, come sit and have a chat." The voice comes from a short, balding man with a gray beard swaddled in a gray cloak. You sit and begin talking about life, philosophy, politics, and other worldly and divine truths. After hours of discussion, the old man reaches out and pats you on the head. You flash back into the gem research lab as you hear him say: "That will be enough for now." **You gain 1 permanent point of Personality.***
- 6 *A verdant green forest surrounds you. You spot a path hemmed in with moss covered rocks. The path leads to a small earthen hut with a chimney wisping smoke into the air. The door whooshes open and a fat, bearded halfling greets you: "Come to try the champ, eh?" He reaches into his breast pocket and produces a set of bone dice. "OK then, you get one roll, Beat mine, and you win." You each take turns rolling the dice, with your number winning. "Well, such is the fickle nature of the dice. Well done!" He hands you a gold coin. As soon as your hand touches the coin, you are teleported back to the gem laboratory. You look into your hand; the coin is gone. **You gain 1 permanent point of Luck.***

7 *An eerie graveyard surrounds you and darkness envelopes everything around so you can barely see. In the distance an apparition glides on the air toward you. The cold begins to make your teeth chatter as the ghost moves closer. You try to run but are held in place by an unknown force. Eventually, you are face to face with the spirit. A translucent skeletal body wrapped in tattered and torn clerical robes hovers before you. You are overwhelmed with the odor of mildew and decay. The ghost opens his mouth and whispers: "My life was stolen, but I freely give life to you." He breathes out a mist that envelops your body. When it clears, you see you have been returned to the gem lab. You gain 5 permanent hit points.*

Area L-7 BLATTODES

The door to this room has no handle and is magically locked. On the right side of the door is a smooth granite plaque with letters on it. The letters H-O-P are etched in the elven tongue.

The key word for this door is CHOP.

Your first instinct is to vomit when the door to this room swings open as the reek of excrement overpowers the air. A steel crib sits in the center of the room, running from wall to wall. On the floor around the crib are small traces of wood chips, bark, and pulp. Excrement of some sort is piled high in all four corners of the room. Surrounding the crib are six of the most hideous creatures you have seen. Standing upright on two legs, the creatures look like a combination of human and insect, with a hard shell for skin, an insectoid face, and arms resembling a huge cleaver with a hooked end for a hand. As the creatures notice the fresh air wafting into the room, they begin to turn and shamble towards you.

The creatures are Blattodes. A combination of humanoid and termite. Raised by Melifex to train in menial tasks. His notebook reveals a strong desire to rid the world of slavery with the idea of using the blattodes as a potential solution as they would be able to chop trees down with their hard cleaver-like arms and move the lumber. They could feed on the stumps of the felled trees and would need little

shelter. Unfortunately, the wizard was unable to halt the aggressive insect nature to feed constantly. He experimented with magical control to contain their appetites to no avail. He further wonders if society will accept the idea of blattodes as workers and not monsters.

The blattodes have eaten everything in the laboratory and are extremely hungry. All want to escape and will attack anything in their way. They will also be tempted by any wooden materials the party carries (shields, staves, arrows, axe handles, etc.) They attack by chopping with their arms and get two attacks per round.

Blattodes (6) Init +4; Atk Cleave +3 melee (1d8); AC 12; HD 4d6; hp 16; MV 30'; Act 1d20 + 1d20; SP Two attacks per round; SV Fort +5 Ref +1 Will +2

Area 2 MAGICAL RESEARCH ROOM

Bookcases crammed full take up almost every usable space of the North end of this room. The room smells of leather with a slight tinge of sulfur. It is lighted with the same glass globes as the first floor, but these glow light blue. The South half of the room is nearly empty with a podium in the center of the room facing a scorched and chipped wall. The floor on the South half is etched with magical runes and symbols. A large desk piled high with alchemy equipment sits in front of a fireplace on the north wall. A private privy is on the Southeast corner.

This room was utilized for Melifex's research into spells and potions. The bookcase contains scholarly works on every subject from plants to the anatomy of the races. The alchemy equipment on the desk is empty of any reagents and is dusty. The desk has a drawer in the center. It is locked with a DC15 lock and trapped with a DC15 poison needle. The poison on the needle will remove one point of Stamina every hour. If the character's stamina falls to zero, they die.

The drawer contains a large leather-bound book, two small folios and a syringe full of an orange liquid. The book can be identified as Melifex's Grimoire. However, the runes and notes in the book of magical research seem to be unreadable. Any

wizard or elf will notice some magical writings, but it all seems like row after row of nonsense.

The contents of one folio are hastily written notes regarding the possibility of combining necromancy with healing magic. Melifex's theory is that necromancy practiced on a live being could halt the aging process while healing potions could stop the decomposing process and potentially give people eternal life. The last line in his notes reads "Dare anyone try it?!"

The second folio contains three spells Melifex was able to perfect. Refer to the NEW SPELLS section for a description of the spells.

The syringe has a small piece of tape attached with a magical glyph representing "Reverse" written on it. The chemical in the syringe will revive Melifex from his chemical and magical stasis. It is a deadly poison to anyone else. No save is allowed.

Area 3-A MELIFEX'S ROOM

The small vestibule to this room is locked with a magically enhanced lock that changes its pattern every 5 seconds. It can not be picked. Only the Master Key in Area L-4 or a Knock spell result of 20 or higher can open it.

The aroma of cedar fills this comfortably furnished room. A large, cushioned bed sets to the South flanked by an armoire and an end table. Curved bookcases line the walls, along with paintings of blissful scenery. Two shuttered doors about 10' wide are constructed in the roof. A wooden door to the Southeast leads to a small privy. A massive green carpet covers the majority of the floor. In the center of the room sits a large, padded leather chair with what appears to be a person with a cowl over his head reclining in it.

JUDGE'S NOTE #6: If the Dragon has not been warned of the party's presence read the following. Otherwise move to JUDGE NOTE #7

You are startled to see a dragon the size of a horse with silver scales curled up in the East half of the room. He suddenly pops open an eye and snakes his head toward you. "What is this? An intruder? Why are you here?"

The dragon, "Razorspear", has become a good friend and will defend Melifex to the death. If the party shows no intent to harm anyone. He will explain to the party he is young and sought out Melifex to teach him magic. He states two months ago Melifex was conducting an experiment when he cast an unknown spell and drank a bluish-green potion. He has been sitting in the chair ever since and has refused to move or acknowledge anything, even pain. The dragon has tried everything in his power to revive the wizard but to no avail. He recalls Melifex telling him that after he drinks the potion, he and the dragon can be friends for centuries. The dragon ends his story by saying: *"If you're here to help, I welcome it. Otherwise, be gone."*

JUDGE'S NOTE #7: If the dragon was warned of the party. Read the following:

The blood drains from your face and you struggle to keep from being dizzy as you see a silver colored dragon the size of a horse crouched into a springing position and glaring at you. "Thieves and Assassins!!" he snarls. "Here to kill and plunder? No one shall harm the master! Run, explain yourselves, or DIE!"



The dragon, "Razorspear", is angry but is willing to hear the party explain themselves. If the party gives a well-crafted excuse and succeeds on a DC15 Personality check. The dragon will calm down and the Judge can have the dragon give the explanation noted above. If not, he will immediately attack. The dragon will use his poison gas breath weapon at first and will use his spine throw ability to pick off the survivors. If the party flees, he will not pursue.

The bookcases contain legends, novels, and fables for casual reading. The armoire contains clothing. The end table contains 24 small gold bars Melifex would use to pay his outfitter. Each bar is worth 5gp.

Adolescent Dragon Init +8; Atk 2 Claws +8 melee (1d8x2), Spine Throw +8 ranged 100' (1d8), Bite +8 melee (1d12); AC 18; HD 5 x 4hp; hp 20; MV Fly 40'; Act (1d20+ 1d3) + (1d20+ 1d3) + (1d20+ 1d3); SP Breath Weapon, Spells; SV Fort +8 Ref +8 Will +8

Breath Weapons (2 breaths per day):

Sleep Gas: Cloud 1d4x10' radius, Range 60' Fort save DC15 or fall asleep for 1d6 hours

Poison Gas: Cloud 1d3x10' radius Range 90' Fort Save DC15 or death

Spells: Spell die d30; Spell Check +6

Invoke Patron	Mirror Image
Patron Bond	Phantasm
Sleep	Dispel Magic
Forget	Planar Step
Emirkol's Entropic Malestrom	

Area 3-B MELIFEX THE MAD

You can barely make out what seems to be a human sitting in the chair. It appears the stories of Melifex's corruption were true. His left arm resembles a vine with small, slimy tentacles for fingers. His feet have been replaced with what looks like hooves and his face is serpent-like, with no ears and two slits for a nose. Parts of his skin look and feel like dry leather while his face is all scales. He sits in the leather chair staring blankly into a fireplace that has long since gone out. Although he is breathing very slowly, nothing seems to rouse him. In his withered right hand, he holds an empty beaker.

Melifex's experiment in immortality went horribly wrong and his body went into a state of suspended animation. He is fully aware of everything around him but can not do a thing about it.

The only way to revive Melifex is to inject him with the orange solution in the syringe found in Area 2. If the party fails to inject him, the dragon will tell the party to leave and promise them a reward if they can find anyone who can help. He will attack if the party tries to take anything from the room. If the party injects Melifex with the antidote, read the following:

Minutes go by with seemingly no effect, then suddenly, Melifex falls forward onto the floor and begins to writhe on the floor in pain. Despite the discomfort, his forked tongue flicks about and he excitedly begins talking: "It became a preservative. Necromancy... can't function... effects the brain. But healing magic made it into a preservative." He slowly begins to stand and paces quickly in front of the fireplace: "No good to extend life, but, maybe, just maybe... THAT'S IT! Time travel! Would need to have a dragon or elf as an assistant to give the injection at the appointed time..." He suddenly stops short, winces in pain, and clutches his chest. His breathing becomes labored, and he falls to the floor. The shock of the transformation was too much for the aged wizard. He is dead and unrevivable.

"HE'S DEAD!!" weeps the dragon. "He was my friend!" After a few seconds of mourning, the dragon's mouth opens and a purple-gray gas spews from his mouth and fills the room.

The dragon has used his sleep breath weapon to incapacitate the party. He will use his sleep spell on those not affected by his breath weapon. He will command any characters not affected to flee. He will not pursue any characters who flee, but will attack if threatened or ignored. He will take any unconscious characters away from the tower and drop them off into the wilderness, close to the cart path. Any character who runs from the tower should easily see the dragon fly overhead and land some distance away from them, then fly away.

CONCLUSION

You awaken in the pine forest. The dragon looks down upon you. "My apologies for any harm I have done. I realize now that Melifex's fate was his own doing. Sometimes, you can have too much knowledge and not enough good judgement. I am gathering others to destroy the tower and all its madness. I suggest you take what treasures you may have found and never return." Having said his peace, he takes to the air and begins flying East, away from the tower.

Characters who decide to return to Pinecliffe will have to pay a 5% goods tax on all treasure taken from the tower except for the research notes, weapons and armor. Those who refuse to pay the tax (or don't have a counterfeit merchant's permit!) will not be allowed into the city and had better get used to sleeping in the woods as the next town is several days travel away.

FURTHER ADVENTURES

If the party was opportunistic enough to have kept Melifex's research, several adventures could await them:

- The research may be invaluable to other practitioners of magic. The party may want to hold an auction to see who's willing to pay the most for Melifex's voluminous notes. The party must beware however. Wizards can be very covetous and will go to any lengths, even murder, to have knowledge no one else possesses.

- Additionally, some deities would consider Melifex's work blasphemous and unholy. The party may be enticed by a temple to destroy the work. Some temples may go as far as declaring a crusade to destroy the work and the people who unearthed it.

- Adventure Module MX-02 "The Treasure of Melifex the Mad" is available to continue the story and attempt to decipher Melifex's Grimoire as well.

This printing of MX-01: "The Laboratory of Melifex The Mad" is done under version 1.0 of the Open Gaming License, and the System Reference Document by permission of Wizards of the Coast, Inc. Designation of Product Identity: The following items are hereby designated as Product Identity in accordance with Section 1(a) of the Open Game License Version 1.0a: Killian's Krawls, The City of Pinecliffe, Names and characteristics of the following creatures: Geoverme, Blattodes, Name and properties of the Magical Master Key and the Gallant Longsword +1, all New Spells and effects, Razorspear the Dragon, artwork, symbols, depictions, and illustrations, except such elements that already appear in the System Reference Document.

Designation of Open Content: Subject to the Product Identity designation above, such sections of creature statistics as derived from the SRD are designated as Open Game Content. Some of the portions of this printing which are delineated OGC originate from the System Reference Document and are Copyright © 1999, 2000 Wizards of the Coast Inc. The remainder of these OGC portions of this printing are hereby added to the Open Game Content and, if so used, should bear the COPYRIGHT NOTICE "MX-01 "The Laboratory of Melifex the Mad" copyright © 2020, 2022 FSH Professional Ltd., all rights reserved contact sckillianfsh@gmail.com."

MX-01: "The Laboratory of Melifex The Mad" is Copyright © 2020, 2022 FSH Professional Ltd., all rights reserved contact sckillianfsh@gmail.com. Open game content may only be used under and in terms of the Open Game License.

OPEN GAME LICENSE Version 1.0a

The following text is the property of Wizards of the Coast, Inc. and is Copyright 2000 Wizards of the Coast, Inc ("Wizards"). All Rights Reserved.

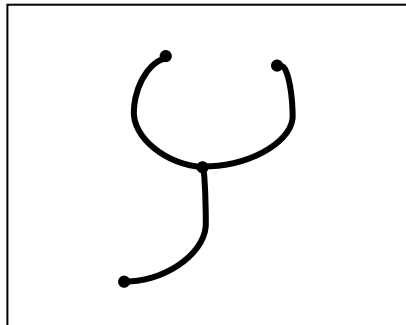
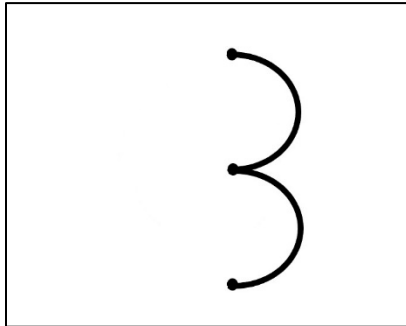
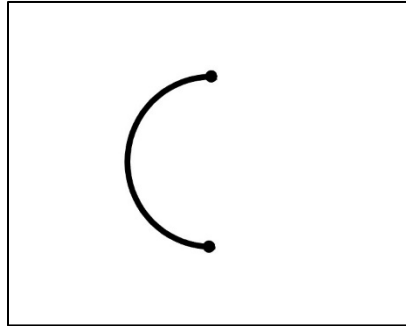
1. **Definitions:** (a)"Contributors" means the copyright and/or trademark owners who have contributed Open Game Content; (b)"Derivative Material" means copyrighted material including derivative works and translations (including into other computer languages), potation, modification, correction, addition, extension, upgrade, improvement, compilation, abridgment or other form in which an existing work may be recast, transformed or adapted; (c) "Distribute" means to reproduce, license, rent, lease, sell, broadcast, publicly display, transmit or otherwise distribute; (d)"Open Game Content" means the game mechanic and includes the methods, procedures, processes and routines to the extent such content does not embody the Product Identity and is an enhancement over the prior art and any additional content clearly identified as Open Game Content by the Contributor, and means any work covered by this License, including translations and derivative works under copyright law, but specifically excludes Product Identity. (e) "Product Identity" means product and product line names, logos and identifying marks including trade dress; artifacts; creatures characters; stories, storylines, plots, thematic elements, dialogue, incidents, language, artwork, symbols, designs, depictions, likenesses, formats, poses, concepts, themes and graphic, photographic and other visual or audio representations; names and descriptions of characters, spells, enchantments, personalities, teams, personas, likenesses and special abilities; places, locations, environments, creatures, equipment, magical or supernatural abilities or effects, logos, symbols, or graphic designs; and any other trademark or registered trademark clearly identified as Product identity by the owner of the Product Identity, and which specifically excludes the Open Game Content; (f) "Trademark" means the logos, names, mark, sign, motto, designs that are used by a Contributor to identify itself or its products or the associated products contributed to the Open Game License by the Contributor (g) "Use", "Used" or "Using" means to use, Distribute, copy, edit, format, modify, translate and otherwise create Derivative Material of Open Game Content. (h) "You" or "Your" means the licensee in terms of this agreement.
2. **The License:** This License applies to any Open Game Content that contains a notice indicating that the Open Game Content may only be Used under and in terms of this License. You must affix such a notice to any Open Game Content that you Use. No terms may be added to or subtracted from this License except as described by the License itself. No other terms or conditions may be applied to any Open Game Content distributed using this License.
3. **Offer and Acceptance:** By Using the Open Game Content You indicate Your acceptance of the terms of this License.
4. **Grant and Consideration:** In consideration for agreeing to use this License, the Contributors grant You a perpetual, worldwide, royalty-free, non-exclusive license with the exact terms of this License to Use, the Open Game Content.
5. **Representation of Authority to Contribute:** If You are contributing original material as Open Game Content, You represent that Your Contributions are Your original creation and/or You have sufficient rights to grant the rights conveyed by this License.
6. **Notice of License Copyright:** You must update the COPYRIGHT NOTICE portion of this License to include the exact text of the COPYRIGHT NOTICE of any Open Game Content You are copying, modifying or distributing, and You must add the title, the copyright date, and the copyright holder's name to the COPYRIGHT NOTICE of any original Open Game Content you Distribute.
7. **Use of Product Identity:** You agree not to Use any Product Identity, including as an indication as to compatibility, except as expressly licensed in another, independent Agreement with the owner of each element of that Product Identity. You agree not to indicate compatibility or co-adaptability with any Trademark or Registered Trademark in conjunction with a work containing Open Game Content except as expressly licensed in another, independent Agreement with the owner of such Trademark or Registered Trademark. The use of any Product Identity in Open Game Content does not constitute a challenge to the ownership of that Product Identity. The owner of any Product Identity used in Open Game Content shall retain all rights, title and interest in and to that Product Identity.
8. **Identification:** If you distribute Open Game Content You must clearly indicate which portions of the work that you are distributing are Open Game Content.
9. **Updating the License:** Wizards or its designated Agents may publish updated versions of this License. You may use any authorized version of this License to copy, modify and distribute any Open Game Content originally distributed under any version of this License.
10. **Copy of this License:** You MUST include a copy of this License with every copy of the Open Game Content You Distribute.
11. **Use of Contributor Credits:** You may not market or advertise the Open Game Content using the name of any Contributor unless You have written permission from the Contributor to do so.
12. **Inability to Comply:** If it is impossible for You to comply with any of the terms of this License with respect to some or all of the Open Game Content due to statute, judicial order, or governmental regulation then You may not Use any Open Game Material so affected.
13. **Termination:** This License will terminate automatically if You fail to comply with all terms herein and fail to cure such breach within 30 days of becoming aware of the breach. All sublicenses shall survive the termination of this License.
14. **Reformation:** If any provision of this License is held to be unenforceable, such provision shall be reformed only to the extent necessary to make it enforceable.
15. **COPYRIGHT NOTICE** Open Game License v 1.0 Copyright 2000, Wizards of the Coast, Inc.
 - *System Reference Document* Copyright 2000-2003, Wizards of the Coast, Inc.; Authors Jonathan Tweet, Monte Cook, Skip Williams, Rich Baker, Andy Collins, David Noonan, Rich Redman, Bruce R. Cordell, John D. Rateliff, Thomas Reid, James Wyatt, based on original material by E. Gary Gygax and Dave Arneson.

MX-01 "The Laboratory of Melifex the Mad" copyright © 2020, 2022 FSH Professional Ltd., all rights reserved contact sckillianfsh@gmail.com

Artwork and Illustrations copyright © 2020 Courtney Boling III contact BOLING.BFA@GMAIL.COM

Cartography via Campaign Cartographer 3 © 1997-2006 ProFantasy Software Ltd. all rights reserved www.profantasy.com

PLAYER HANDOUT



JUDGE'S TOOLS

The following gaming aids are to assist the Game Master in managing combat scenarios and tracking experience and treasure for the party. Feel free to make copies of these tools to assist in managing gameplay.

- Encounter Sheets
- Treasure Tracking Sheet
- Experience Tracking Sheet

AREA W-1 – CARNIVOROUS TREES

Initiative +5 Movement: 0'

AC: 16

SAVES	<u>FORT</u>	<u>REFLEX</u>	<u>WILL</u>
	+6	-10	-5

Action Dice: 1d20

Attack: Branch (+3 to attack) 10' Ranged 1d6+special damage per round
Special: Venom DC13 Fort save or 2 damage for 3 rounds
Flesh Tear: 1d3 damage if branch torn from skin

Hit Die: 5d8

Hit points

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
16	16	16

Branch (3 Per tree)

	# SEVERED	
Tree#1	Tree#2	Tree#3

AC: 13 5 HP each (subtract from tree total)

SAVES	<u>FORT</u>	<u>REFLEX</u>	<u>WILL</u>
	+3	+2	-5

AREA L-2 – GEOVERME

Initiative 0 Movement: 5'

AC: 16

SAVES	<u>FORT</u>	<u>REFLEX</u>	<u>WILL</u>
	+6	-1	0

Action Dice: 1d20

Attack: Bite (+3 to attack) 1d10+3 damage

Special Attack – Lime Spray: 10' x 15' cone. All in area take 1d8 (DC12 Reflex save for half) +1d3 per round until washed off (1 round action).

Hit Die: 7d6

Hit points:

<u>1</u>
27

AREA L-3 – AIR ELEMENTAL

Initiative +8 Movement: 40' (Flight)

AC: 16 (can only be hit by magical weapons or spells)
18 (to target the spell focus gem with normal weapons)

SAVES	<u>FORT</u>	<u>REFLEX</u>	<u>WILL</u>
	+6	+10	+3

Action Dice: 1d20

Attack: Hurlled Object (+8 to attack) 1d6 damage
 Slam (+8 to attack) 2d8 damage
 Vortex (once per combat, 2 rounds to generate) 4d6 damage to all (Halved on DC13 Strength check)

Hit Die: 8d8

Hit points:

1
33

AREA L-5 – ENCHANTED ARMOR (Note: NOT an undead creature)

Initiative +3 Movement: 30'

AC: 16

SAVES	<u>FORT</u>	<u>REFLEX</u>	<u>WILL</u>
	+4	0	+1

Action Dice: 1d20 + 1d20

Attack: Longsword +1 (+4 to attack) 1d8+3 damage

Hit Die: 4d10

Hit points:

1
30

Immune To:

Sleep
Charm
Paralysis
Mind Effects

AREA L-7 – Blattodes

Initiative +4 Movement: 30'

AC: 12

SAVES	<u>FORT</u>	<u>REFLEX</u>	<u>WILL</u>
	+5	+4	+2

Action Dice: 1d20 + 1d20

Attack: Cleave (+3 to attack) 1d8 damage

Hit Die: 4d6

Hit points:

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
16	16	16	16	16	16

AREA 3 – ADOLESCENT DRAGON (RAZORSPEAR)

Initiative +8 Movement: 40' (Flight)

AC: 18

SAVES	<u>FORT</u>	<u>REFLEX</u>	<u>WILL</u>
	+8	+8	+8

Action Dice: (1d20+1d3) + (1d20+1d3) + (1d20+1d3)

Attack: 2 Claws (+8 to attack)	1d8 damage
Spine Throw (+8 to attack)	1d8 damage (100' range)
Bite (+8 to attack)	1d12 damage

Breath Weapons: 2 Per day

Sleep Gas: Cloud 1d4x10' radius, Range 60' Fort save DC15 or fall asleep for 1d6 hours

Poison Gas: Cloud 1d3x10' radius, Range 90' Fort Save DC15 or death

Unique Powers:

Curse 1/day

Turn Invisible 1/hour. Invisible for 1 turn

Hit Die: 5 x 4hp

Hit points

1

20

Spell Die: d30

Spell Check: +6

Spells:

Invoke Patron

Mirror Image

Patron Bond

Phantasm

Sleep

Dispel Magic

Forget

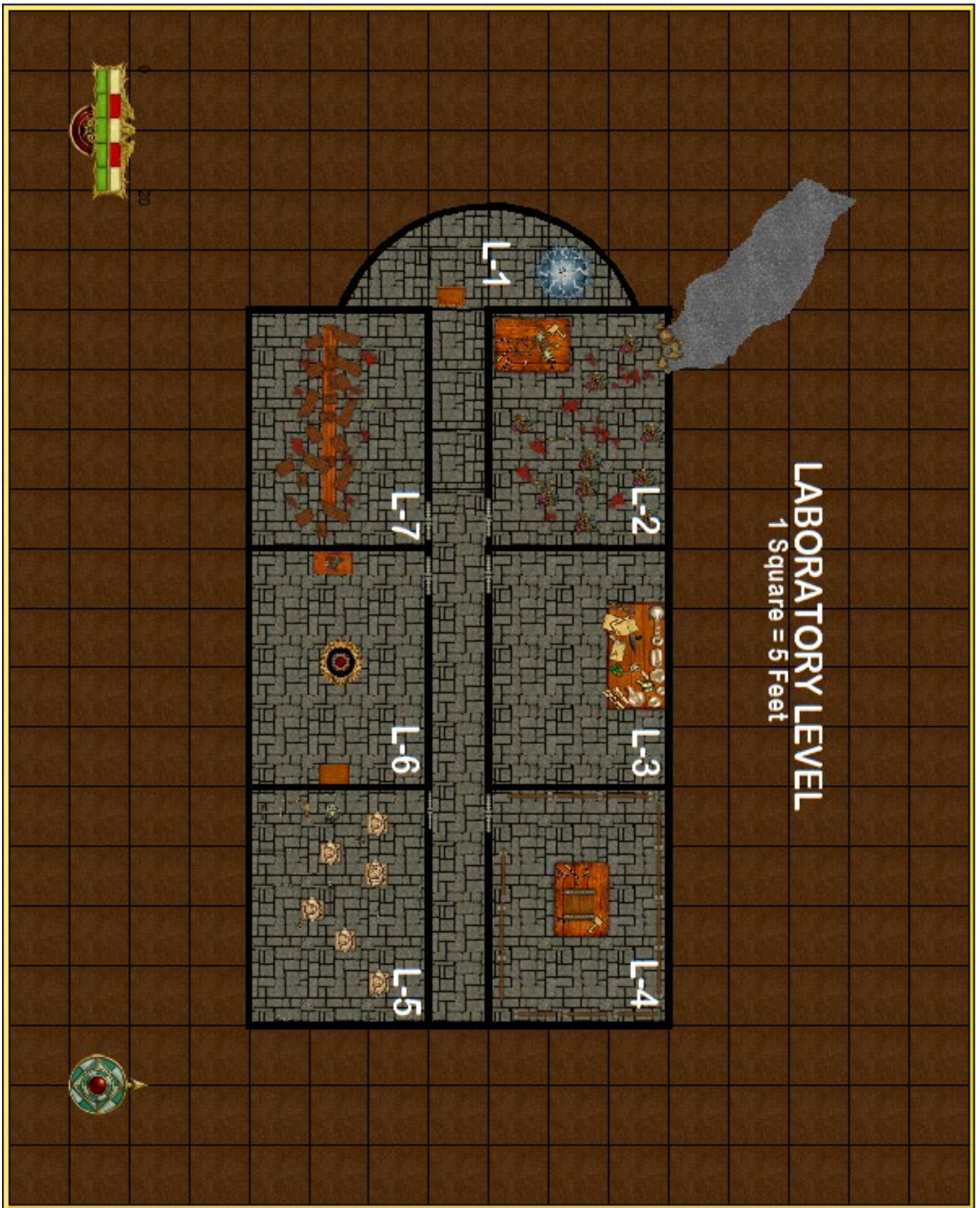
Planar Step

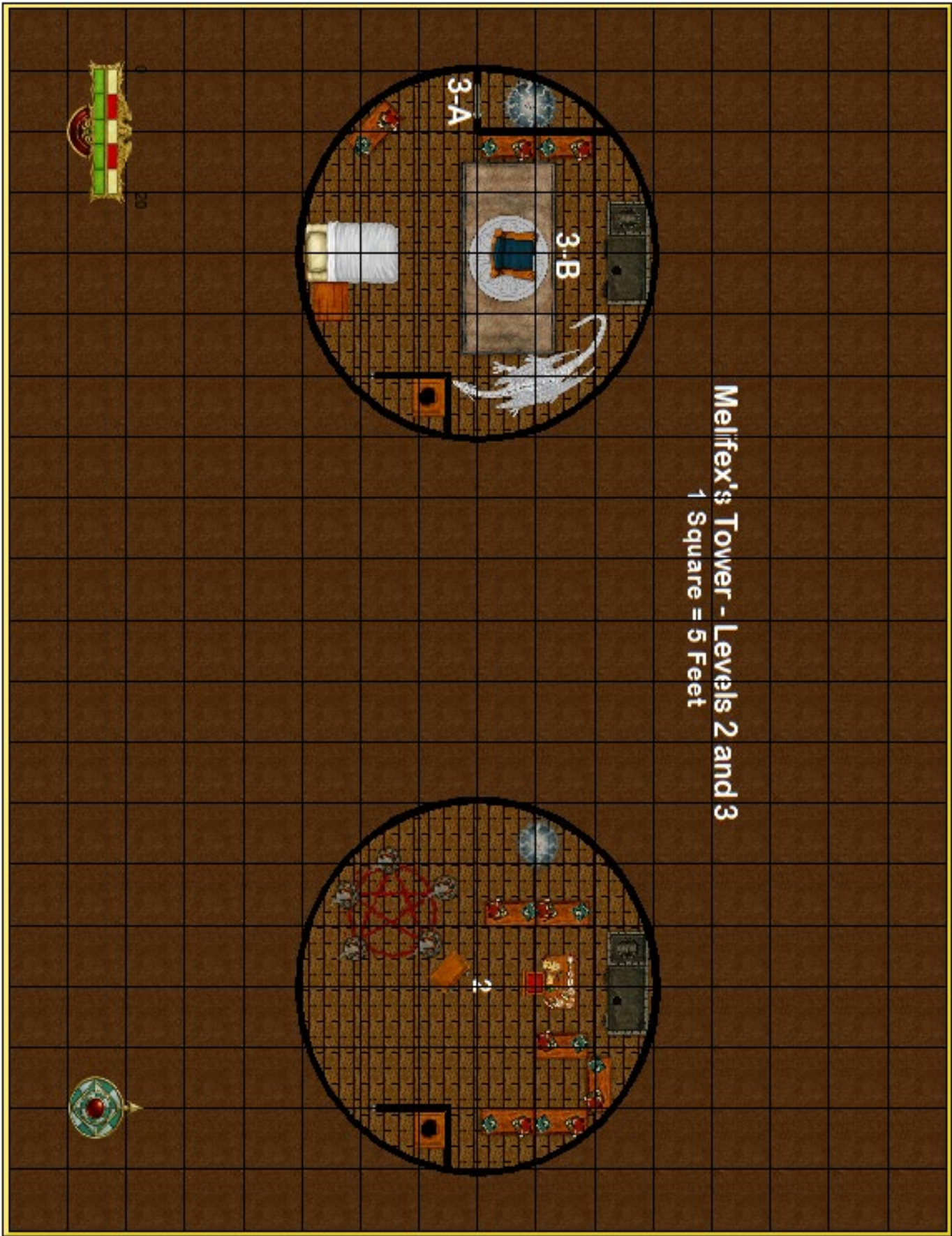
Emirkol's Entropic Malestrom

EXPERIENCE POINTS REWARDS		
AREA	EP TOTAL	EP AWARDED
W-1 Carnivorous Grove	0-4	
1-A Enchanted Door	0-4	
L-2 Geoverme	0-4	
L-3 Air Elemental	0-4	
L-4 Room of Locks	0-4	
L-5 Enchanted Armor	0-4	
L-7 Blattodes	0-4	
2 Desk Drawer	0-4	
3-A Dragon	0-4	
TOTAL EXPERIENCE	0-36	

TREASURES		
AREA	ITEMS (VALUE)	COLLECTED
W-1 CARNIVOROUS GROVE	2 Pairs High Quality Boots 1 Human or Elf Sized Studded Leather 2 Daggers "Hvas":Dagger +1 Longbow 4 Arrows 3 Arrows +1 Flask of Oil 22cp 38sp 8gp	
L-3 PNEUMATIC EXPERIMENTS	Aquamarine Gem (75gp)	
L-4 ROOM OF LOCKS	Magical Master Key Misc metal keys (35sp)	
L-5 ARMOR ENCHANTMENT LAB	All Weapons Listed in DCC RPG® 2 Suits Chain Mail Armor Leather Armor Mithril Scale Mail Banded Mail Gallant Sword +1	
L-6 PRECIOUS STONES LAB	Rough Cut Stones (350gp)	
2 MAGICAL RESEARCH ROOM	3 Spell Scrolls (see New Spells Section) Melifex's Grimoire	
3-A MELIFEX'S ROOM	24 Small gold bars (5gp each = 120gp)	







NEW SPELLS

The following spells are from the magical research of Melifex found in Area 2. These spells can be copied to a spellcaster's spell book taking one day per spell level to copy. Even if copied, the caster will need to study each spell for a number of weeks equal to the spell level and make a successful spell check of DC10+Spell Level to learn.

These spells can be used for other adventures and campaigns but may not be legal for convention or tournament play. Check with the Judge before play.

Melifex's Mental Intrusion

Level: 2	Range: see below	Duration: 1 Hour	Casting time: 1 Turn	Save: Will Vs Spell Check
General:	The caster concentrates on a creature they have seen or know. The spell requires either intimate knowledge of the target creature or a personal item from the creature (strand of hair, scale, highly personal item, etc.). The caster can intrude on the creature in different ways even to the extent of mentally dominating the creature and speaking as or taking action on the creature's behalf.			
Manifestation:	The caster enters a deep trance and their eyes glow bright blue. Caster can not speak or take any action while Concentrating on the spell.			
Corruption:	Roll 1d6: (1) Caster becomes an imperfect clone of the target creature with no memory of who they were or any of their abilities. Create a Zero-Level character for the caster or consult the statistics for the monster; (2) Caster takes on a random physical trait of the target creature (skin type, appendage, face, etc.); (3) Caster's spirit separates from their physical being. The caster is in a coma for 1d12 days, losing one point of Stamina permanently. (4) Caster's eyes permanently glow bright blue, blinding them; (5) Caster suffers from dual personalities which have a 35% chance of changing every day. Create a zero-level character for the added personality with the same ability scores; (6) Caster suffers excruciating headaches and nose bleeds every day for 1-3 hours. Caster can take no action until the pain and bleeding subsides.			
Misfire:	Roll 1d6: (1) Caster's target becomes a random creature in an unfamiliar area; (2) Caster dominates the mind of a party member and can only act through that person until spell is finished; (3) Caster teleports himself to the location of the target creature; (4) The target creature and anything within 5' of it teleports to the caster's location; (5) Caster teleports themselves to a random location 1 mile away from their original location; (6) Spell is lost and caster loses 3 points of Intelligence which recover one point per day.			
1	Failure, and worse! Roll 1d6 modified by luck: (0 or less) Corruption + Patron Taint + Misfire; (1-2) Corruption + Misfire; (3) Corruption; (4+) Misfire			
2-11	Lost. Failure.			
12-13	Failure, but spell is not lost.			
14-17	Caster is able to see the location of the target creature as if projected on a screen and can see details of objects within 10' of the target.			
18-21	Caster is able to see the location of the target creature as if projected on a screen and can see details of objects within 15' of the target. Caster can hear conversations or other background noises.			
22-25	Caster transports all of their senses into the area as if they were an invisible participant. Caster can move their senses around the area up to 30' away from the target creature's initial location.			
26-28	Caster occupies the targets mind and can sense everything the target senses. While in this state, the target creature is unaware of the caster's presence in their mind. Caster's mind will move with the target creature until the spell ends.			
29-31	Caster occupies the targets mind and can sense everything the target senses. While in this state, the target creature is unaware of the caster's presence in their mind. Caster's mind will move with the target creature until the spell ends. Caster can also control minor actions the target creature makes and can make the target miscast a spell (-1d to spell checks), drop an object, trip, etc. Caster can not cause the target to do a painful or suicidal action. Caster can extend the spell's duration by 3 hours.			
32+	Caster has complete dominion over the target's mind and body. They can take any action or speak as if they were the target creature. Caster can make the target do a painful or suicidal action, but the target creature gains a +2d bonus to its saving throw. This domination can last up to a full day with a successful spell check. Upon breaking the domination, the target is completely unaware of what happened while it was under control. Caster must spend a day of rest or suffer a -1d penalty to all actions until fully rested.			

Melifex's Abnormal Attraction

Level: 1 Range: 30' + 10' per CL Duration: See Below Casting time: 1 Action Save: See Below

General: The caster has the ability to attract objects to them. They can use this ability to retrieve items from a far distance, enchant an object so that it becomes magnet-like, change the path of flying objects, or steal items from their owner.

Manifestation: The air around the caster begins to warp and waver as if fluid.

Corruption: Roll 1d6: **(1)** Caster becomes a living magnet. Small objects fly off and stick to the caster at random; **(2)** Objects fly away from the caster as if repelled. Caster must make a DC13 agility check to grasp any object and use it, sit down in a chair, etc.; **(3)** Casters hands turn into lodestones and they lose one point of Agility permanently; **(4)** Caster gains 50# of weight instantly, ripping anything worn and requiring objects such as rings to be cut off or lose the finger; **(5)** Caster knocks over objects they pass within 5' of such as chairs, bottles, etc. **(6)** A medium sized object attaches itself to the caster permanently. The object is lodged so far into the casters body that trying to surgically remove it would cause death.

Misfire: Roll 1d6: **(1)** The target object hurls itself at the caster with tremendous speed causing 1d3 damage; **(2)** Spell effects another random object; **(3)** Caster becomes magically fused to the ground for 1d4 rounds; **(4)** The target object flies past the caster and attaches itself to a random creature within 10' of the caster; **(5)** A sticky, green glue drips from the caster's hands for 1d3 hours. **(6)** The target object is repelled from the caster 10' from it's original location.

1 Failure, and worse! Roll 1d6 modified by luck: **(0 or less)** Corruption + Patron Taint + Misfire; **(1-2)** Corruption + Misfire; **(3)** Corruption; **(4+)** Misfire

2-11 Lost. Failure.

12-16 Caster is able to attract an object less than 3# toward them. The object will make a straight path to the caster and can be interfered with by grasping the object or placing a barrier between the object and the caster.

16-19 Caster is able to attract an object less than 3# toward them. The caster can control the path the object takes in order to avoid detection or interference. Anyone trying to prevent the object from moving must make an Agility check Vs the spell check in order to interfere with the object and the caster.

20-23 Caster can target an object less than 3 square feet. Anything touching the object is held fast for 1d4 rounds. Anyone trying to free the object must make a Strength Vs Spell check. The caster can place this enchantment on a suit of armor or shield in order to disarm an opponent.

24-27 Caster is able to manipulate objects up to 200# and move them toward the caster up to 20'. If the object is a living being. The target can make a Strength Vs. Spell check to break the hold.

28-31 Caster is able to manipulate objects up to 200# and move them toward the caster up to 30'. Creatures targeted can not save.

32+ Caster enchants an object with an unbreakable attraction controlled by the user. Any chosen object within 5' will attach itself to the object and can not be removed in any way until the caster breaks the spell. If the enchanted object is armor or a shield. The wearer will receive no damage from an attack and the weapon will be stuck to the armor until the caster breaks the spell.

Melifex's Deft Deflection

Level: 2	Range: See Below	Duration: 3 Rounds	Casting time: 1 Action	Save: N/A
General:	This spell allows the caster to create a field of energy that can be directed at the caster or the caster's allies. This field acts not only for protection, but changes the trajectory of a physical or magical attack to potentially strike foes within range or reflect the attack back on the attacker			
Manifestation:	See Below.			
Corruption:	Roll 1d6: (1) The caster's flesh and bones becomes like rubber and cartilage, permanently removing one point of Agility; (2) Caster knocks over objects they pass within 5' of such as chairs, bottles, etc.; (3) A field of force surrounds the caster's hands and make the caster unable to manipulate anything; (4) Objects within 5' of the caster randomly fly away or knock over, making it hard to grab objects or make them stay in place; (5) Caster becomes surrounded by a shell of force in which nothing can come in or go out, the caster will run out of breathable air after 8 hours unless dispelled. (6) Caster's body becomes misty and ghost-like, objects worn or held by the caster fall off randomly.			
Misfire:	Roll 1d4: (1) The field of energy becomes an attractant, making all attacks against the caster at +1d; (2) Deflection of an attack or spell hits an ally within 10' of caster, if no ally is within 10', caster takes the damage or effects; (3) Field of energy benefits transfer to the nearest foe; (4) Energy field deflects all attacks from allies. Arrows shoot straight up, spells fire into the air. The effects last three rounds;			
1	Failure, and worse! Roll 1d6 modified by luck: (0 or less) Corruption + Patron Taint + Misfire; (1-2) Corruption + Misfire; (3) Corruption; (4+) Misfire			
2-11	Lost. Failure.			
12-13	Failure, but spell is not lost.			
14-17	Caster creates a field of energy around themselves. Any normal missile attack will deflect harmlessly into the ground. Magical spells, effects, and weapons are unaffected. Melee attacks are unaffected			
18-21	Caster creates a field of energy around themselves. Any missile attack will deflect harmlessly into the ground. Melee attacks are at -2 to hit and on a miss, have a 20% chance of hitting a foe within range of the weapon. Magical attacks are at -2 to their spell check.			
22-25	Caster creates a field of energy around themselves and any ally within 10'. Any missile attack will deflect harmlessly into the ground. Melee attacks are at -2 to hit and on a miss, have a 20% chance of hitting a foe within range of the weapon. Magical attacks are at -2 to their spell check.			
26-28	Caster creates an impenetrable shield around themselves and all allies. Any missile attack is deflected and has a 30% chance of hitting a foe determined randomly. Melee attacks are at -4 to hit and on a miss, have a 20% chance of hitting a foe within range of the weapon. Magical attacks deflect to an area 30' behind the caster. Any area effect spells (fireball, etc.) are at -4 to their spell check			
29-31	Caster creates an impenetrable shield around themselves and all allies and is able to focus the spell's energy directly on the attacker. All attacks from the attacker are directed back at them with normal to hit and spell checks. All area effect spells will center on the attacker. Effects of the area spell or attack are disregarded by allies.			
32+	Caster creates an impenetrable shield around themselves and all allies and is able to focus the spell's energy on a particular target. All attacks from enemies are directed at the chosen target with normal to hit and spell checks. All area effect spells will center on the chosen target. Effects of the area spell or attack are disregarded by allies.			

KILLIAN'S KRAWLS

Adventure Module MX-01
The Laboratory of Melifex the Mad
An adventure for level 2 characters

The city of Pinecliffe has tolerated the presence of Melifex the Mage for years, but his corruption and increasingly unusual experiments eventually had him driven out of town and to a secluded tower on the ridge overlooking the city. Now, no one has heard from Melifex “the Mad” for two months, and the city is becoming worried. Did Melifex die from his corruption or has he unleashed a sinister force that could destroy the land! Answers, adventure, and priceless magical treasure await the party brave enough to find out.

