

# Sunstone Obelisk by Tom Cartos

## Background

After the fabled 'Battle of the Dragon' where a sandstorm eradicated an invading army, this carved pillar of jet-black stone was found outside the city walls, uncovered by the raging winds. It was bought inside and stands now as a shrine to the desert. When the Sun strikes the obelisk directly, it's dark exterior seems to glisten with a vivid rainbow of colours. The Order of the Magi believe it to be an ancient arcane device but have had no luck in unlocking its mysteries.

The 'Sunstone Obelisk', as it is known, was actually a central part of a Temple of the Sun that stood in the desert many centuries earlier. The mystics who dedicated themselves to the Temple were said to have some power of the passage of time. Although not able to alter its course they could see into the past, and the strongest among them could even bring objects from the past through time with them to the present.

In the many years since the great Battle and the city's true founding, the Sunstone Obelisk has been slowly drawing power from the desert sun to bring the Temple itself through time to reside below the rock upon which the Obelisk stands. Almost complete, the Temple now waits for someone to enter and return it to the Sun's light.

## Grid Information

GRID SIZE – 34x22 (300DPI)

VTT SIZE – 4760x3080 (140DPI)

RECOMMENDED PRINT SIZE – A1/ANSI D

## Design Notes

### Sunstone Obelisk 01 Obelisk

- **01 – Mountain Path** – The Obelisk was placed at the top of a small foot hill within the city walls. It is the first place in the entire city to feel the morning sun's light.
- **02 – Sunstone Obelisk** – The jet-black carved stone stands well over 30ft tall and shimmers with an otherworldly light under the desert sun.
- **03 – Rooftops** – Over the last few hundred years the city has expanded and there are now residential buildings right up against the base of the Obelisk's mound. What was once a great attraction and curiosity has become just part of the backdrop and few visitors come to see the Obelisk anymore.

### Sunstone Obelisk 02 Sun Temple

- **04 – Sun Puzzle** – Those who discover how to access the Temple via the Obelisk are transported down into the Sun Puzzle chamber. Doors to the East, South and West

are locked with no clear keyhole or opening. Instead, the great carved Sun in the centre must be rotated in sections to align the coloured gems with each individual doorway. Unfortunately, the automated Temple Guardians seem to have been bought through time along with the Temple.

- **05 – Sun Forge** – In the past, the heat from the sun was magnified and used to power the forge here, creating weapons and objects infused with the sun's power. Some remnants of these remain, but their inner light is dimmed.
- **06 – Hourglass** – This room was used by the mystics to focus their power and gaze back in time. The gyroscope suspended in the centre seems like it can rotate, but no amount of physical force will move it.
- **07 – Sundial** – When the Temple was above ground, sunlight flooded into this room through an open ceiling, marking the passage of time throughout the day.
- **08 – Prayer Room** – A huge effigy of an unknown sun God sits on a podium in front of cool stone benches.
- **09 – Mystics Quarters** – This was likely the part of the Temple where the Mystics lived, slept and ate, but most of it is still left in the past. Perhaps over time more will emerge?