

CAVE OF THE FIRE WYRM



Setting description

This setting is for the adjoining map pair shown above. In the Mavrigi Lava Plains few survive long. If the lava or the heat or the lack of water don't get you, it won't be long before you encounter something monstrous that lives here. The most terrifying of all is the fire wurm, Lhopharnosk. Her cave stands in a caldera of rock surrounded by a lava lake. To reach it one must traverse the Nesting Pillars, where her wyrmlings rest. Inside the cave, the passage snakes round into the main, lava-filled cavern where the wurm makes her home. Barren and blazing, it is hard to remain in for any length of time.

NPCs

- 1 Garida, a cultist of the Women of the Fire Wurm, takes her turn in service of the Wurm. She waits outside the cave entrance in case she is needed, feeding the wyrmlings and, armed with a fire bow, she will protect them from any who wish them harm.
- 2 Lydas, the burned man, crawls inside the cave. He came here to slay the wurm for glory, but was soon defeated. Kept alive by the wurm for her amusement, Lydas performs bard's duties, singing of the world for his mistress as he struggles across the coals.
- 3 Holoborn Winchfader is a dwarven blacksmith. He has travelled to the area to forge a divine axe in dragon fire but does not yet know how to approach the cave.

Lhopharnosk, the fire wurm

A colossal scaled red dragon, Lhopharnosk resembles living embers. Intense heat radiates from its skin, each scale surrounded by an orange glow. It has a long, whiplike tail that it uses to lash opponents, cutting them in half and cauterising the wounds at the same time.

Around the cave (see numbered map)

- 1 A jet of lava regularly bubbles up here and shoots towards the sky, splattering the pillar of rock.
- 2 Hidden at the bottom of this nest are several handfuls of precious gems. Beware, the wyrmling adores them.
- 3 A magma chamber has formed beneath the surface here. The crust is very thin, and ready to break.
- 4 The grand entrance to the caldera was built by those who worship the wurm. The wyrmlings have wrecked it.
- 5 Behind the hissing and splurbing sounds of the moving lava, the slow breathing of the wurm can be heard.
- 6 The wurm's perch area reeks of the smell of things both half devoured and hastily excreted.
- 7 Tucked in the corner of a small cave is the charred skeleton of a knight, clutching a glittering longsword that is seemingly untouched by the fire.
- 8 The slabs of rock float on a sea of magma. They will tip if any weight upon them isn't placed evenly.

Reasons to visit the Cave of the Fire Wurm

- 1 The party need to obtain some of the Wurm's scales in order to construct a special suit of fire-resistant armour.
- 2 Local people have asked that the Fire Wurm be slain. It has been venturing further along the coast, attacking travellers and towns at whim. It needs to be stopped.
- 3 After finally obtaining the phylactery of the great and evil lich that has plagued them for many months, the party have discovered it can only be destroyed by dragon fire.