

# THE KING'S SCEPTER

BY ELVEN TOWER (DEREK RUIZ)

A STEWARD HAS RULED OVER THE KINGDOM FOR SIX GENERATIONS. ACCORDING TO LAW, EVEN SUITORS FROM THE ROYAL BLOODLINE CANNOT CLAIM THE THRONE UNLESS THEY ARE IN POSSESSION OF THE KING'S SCEPTER. PRINCE DEUTERIMUS DISCOVERED RECENTLY THAT THE SCEPTER WAS PURPOSELY HIDDEN IN AN ANCIENT TEMPLE. SAID TEMPLE WAS ON A SMALL ISLAND THAT WAS SENT MAGICALLY TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA. THE PLACE IS COMPLETELY SUBMERGED. THE PRINCE SENT A GROUP OF TREASURE HUNTERS TO RETRIEVE THE SCEPTER BUT THEY NEVER CAME BACK. THE PLACE IS FULL OF VILE SEA DEMONS.

PRINCE DEUTERIMUS IS LOOKING FOR STRONG FOLKS TO RETRIEVE THE SCEPTER. SHOULD THEY BE SUCCESSFUL, THEY WOULD EARN THE FAVOR OF THE KINGDOM'S FUTURE KING.

THE TEMPLE'S ENTRANCE IS NOW THE SIDE WALL OF A REEF. THE PLACE IS FULL OF LIFE. THREE GIANT ELECTRIC EELS PROTECT THE ENTRANCE AS IF IT WERE THEIR LAIR.

THE MAIN CHAMBER OF THE TEMPLE FEATURES AN ERODED ALTAR TO THE GODDESS OF DARKNESS. THE WALLS WERE ORIGINALLY DECORATED WITH BAS-RELIEFS DEPICTING EPIC LEGENDS. NOTHING LEGIBLE REMAINS. THE PLACE IS PROTECTED BY THE UNRESTING SPIRITS OF THE TEMPLE'S CLERGY.

FOUR ORNATED COFFINS REST IN THIS CHAMBER. EACH OF THEM FEATURES THE FAMILY SIGIL OF THE KINGDOM'S STEWARD. THE MUMMIFIED REMAINS OF FOUR UNDEAD GUARDIANS AWAIT INSIDE. THEY WERE PLACED HERE TO DETER ANY VISITORS FROM EXPLORING THE TEMPLE. SHOULD ANYONE ENTER THIS CHAMBER, THE FOUR UNDEAD ABOMINATIONS RISE AND ATTACK WITHOUT MERCY.



A DARK FIGURE RESTS ON THE STONE THRONE IN THIS CHAMBER. IT IS UNDEAD. ITS BODY IS FUSED TO THE THRONE, IT CANNOT MOVE. THAT DOES NOT MATTER AS ITS ONLY PURPOSE IS TO ALERT THE CURRENT STEWARD OF THE TEMPLE'S VISITORS. THE UNDEAD NEEDS A FEW MINUTES TO SEND THE MAGICAL WARNING. TO GAIN TIME, IT WILL TRY TO STALL THE ADVENTURERS WITH A RIDDLE OR TWO:

WHAT IS DEAF, DUMB AND BLIND AND ALWAYS TELLS THE TRUTH? (A MIRROR)

YOUR CANNOT KEEP THIS UNLESS YOU GIVE IT AWAY (YOUR WORD)

IF IT MANAGES TO SEND THE MAGIC MESSAGE, THE STEWARD WILL CONCOCT A PLAN TO AVOID PRINCE DEUTERIMUS' CORONATION.

THERE IS A SECRET PASSAGEWAY BEHIND THE ALTAR, IT CAN BE OPENED WITH THE STONE KEY IN THE LIBRARY. THERE WAS A WOODEN CHEST IN THE SECRET ROOMS. THE WOOD ROTTED AND DISSOLVED A LONG TIME AGO, THE KING'S SCEPTER RESTS SILENTLY ON THE FLOOR.

WHOEVER WIELDS IT CAN ASPIRE TO CLAIM THE THRONE.

THIS LIBRARY USED TO HOUSE ANCIENT RELIGIOUS TEXTS, THEOLOGY BOOKS, AND SCROLLS. ALL THAT IS LOST. THE STONE FURNITURE REMAINS. THERE IS A DECORATED BRASS BOX ON THE STONE TABLE. THERE IS A STONE KEY INSIDE THE BOX. IT HAS NO MARKINGS OR CLUES TO ITS PURPOSE.

THIS CHAMBER IS A MAKESHIFT HOME TO SEVERAL SEA FOLKS. SAHUAGIN IS THE NAME THE FISHERMEN GAVE THEM. THESE EVIL SEA CREATURES AMUSE THEMSELVES BY KILLING HUMANS IN TERRIBLE WAYS. THEY GRIN AT THE SIGHT OF THEIR PREY APPROACHING WILLINGLY.