

"DESIRE CAN ONLY
GUIDE US SO FAR..."



"YOUR END,
THAT WAS MY
PATH'S BEGINNING.
OR WAS IT...?"



MAYBE I AM SELFISH.
FOR TWAS IT NOT REJECTION
THAT MADE ME DON THIS
ARMOR... THE ILLUSION OF
CONTROL DRIVING ME TOWARD
THOSE WHO MIGHT
CHANGE HER FATE?"

"BEFORE..."

"I WOULD NOT LET THIS
WORLD CLAIM YOU. INSTEAD, I
WOULD CLAIM EVERYTHING IT
HAD. NO MATTER HOW MUCH
I BURNT, I COULD NEVER LET
THIS WORLD OF ASH PREVAIL."



"I WOULD GET
MY WISH. WE WOULD
BE TOGETHER AGAIN."



IT'S PEOPLE CONDEMNED TO UNDEATH... TO WANDER THE LABYRINTH UNTIL INEVITABLY FALLING FOUL TO ITS DEVICES...



AGAIN.

AND AGAIN.

AND AGAIN.

WITH EACH DEATH
LOSING A LITTLE
MORE OF THEIR
SOULS. EACH TIME
GROWING A LITTLE
MORE *HOLLOW*...



COME,
COME AWAY
LATHALIA--

WHAT VEXES
THEE SO?

AHH,
WELL MET,
TRAVELLER.

HISSES

RAAHHHHH

OLD LATHALIA'S
A PRICKLY SORT BUT
MEANS NO ILL WILL
TO THEE.

COME SIT A
SPELL AND REST
THY WEARY
BONES.

THY SIGIL
BURNETH BRIGHT,
DARK ONE. ALL WHO
BEAR ITS BURDEN
CROSS THIS SHRINE
EVENTUALLY.

WOULDST
THOU CARE TO
SEE THEIR
STORIES.

THEN
LOOK NOW INTO
THE FLAME. LOOK
DEEP AND KNOW THE
SECRETS THAT BURN
THEREIN.

FOR IN THESE
TIMES OF DARKNESS
EVEN THE BRAVEST
SOUL--

-- NEEDS A LIGHT
TO GUIDE THE WAY.



WE MUST ASCEND INTO THE RUINS, IN SEARCH OF THE REMNANTS OF AN ANCIENT CHAPEL. THERE THOU SHALT FIND THE PEACE THOU SEEK.

MEANWHILE, THOU KNOWS MY STORY, SUCH AS IT IS. WHAT OF YOURS?

IT IS A DARK AND UNHAPPY TALE, YET I SHALL TELL IT.

"BEFORE THE COMING OF THE CURSE, THE VILLAGE OF HARROWMARK WAS A SMALL BUT PROSPEROUS HAVEN, A PLACE I HAD CALLED HOME SINCE THE DAYS OF MY CHILDHOOD."



"I TRAVELLED WIDE AND FAR IN SEARCH OF PAYMENT AS A HIRED BLADE, BUT ALWAYS I WOULD RETURN TO THAT PLACE TO FIND RESPIRE."

"UNTIL THE DAY I CAME HOME TO FIND NOUGHT BUT STEAMING ASHES AND THE CHARRED REMAINS OF MY KIN, HEAPED UPON THE VILLAGE SQUARE LIKE TINDER FOR A BONFIRE."



I LATER LEARNED THE TRUTH - THAT THE CURSE HAD COME, AND IN THEIR MISGUIDED ATTEMPT TO AVERT IT, THE SURVIVING VILLAGERS HAD RAZED HARROWMARK TO THE GROUND, FOLK AND ALL."

