Niilo, The Deities, and The Grafting Machine

At the start, Niilo was a touch unsure about the drawing from the Deck of Deities; He was a loyal servant of Baravar Cloakshadow, and had already been burned by fate in the past when the party was saved by Beshaba, earning him the mark of the Maid of Misfortune. But after the other members of the party started to draw from the deck his curiosity, twinned with his chaotic nature, took over and he started to draw from the deck.

The blessing of the Firelord *Kossuth* lit a fire within, flames coursing through his veins, making him feel like he could purge his foes though flames. The tips of his hair now glowed like hot coals, and his blue in his eyes was extinguished and replaced with a flickering red.

The next card he drew, *Umberlee*, filled him with dread. He now feared that The Bitch Queen would extinguish his flame if he were ever to be drawn under the water.

Niilo promised himself he would only draw one further card, which was the *Moradin*, the head of the Dwarven pantheon. Niilo's drew his dagger from its scabbard, and saw its form change in from of him; it looked sharper, finer, and had a faint glow about it.

Sadly the Maid of Misfortune was not on his side, and Niilo was forced into drawing one further card... *Bane*, The Lord of Darkness. For a brief moment his little hand turned black and he felt pure hatred towards all others; what dark power had he gained from the tyrant?

Niilo now felt more torn than ever before, having the blessing or curse of deities of all alignments: Good and Evil, Chaotic and Lawful (see appendix). He was still a loyal servant of The Sly One, but his powers were drawn from many different deities. Naturally he was most concerned about the curse of Umberlee, and the 'power' granted to him by Bane; he hoped he would never get the chance to see either be used.

When Nuala, the party's new Gnome artificer, discovered "The Grafting Machine" with all its levers and mechanical attachments, Niilo felt a sense of dread. He watched as one by one, his companions entered the machine, and left mutilated (but with new found powers). Looking at the levers, none of them really called out to Niilo, so he decided to leave it to fate, and asked Ralnac to pull the illegible lever for him.

The metal door closed, and a single sharp metallic probe approached Niilo's face. The probe had three 'fingers' which lined up with his left eye, lurched forward grabbing his eyeball, and just pulled. The pain was incredible as the eye was plucked from his head, the probe disappeared for a moment returning with a small crimson gem which it pushed into the empty eye socket. There was horrible burning sensation as the gem felt like it was fusing with his eye socket. The

door opened and the party stared at Niilo with his blood soaked face and his shiny new left 'eye'; little did they know the divine power that was contained within.

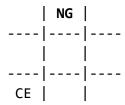
Now only one question remained: What would Jemadonk think of all this?

Appendix

Before the Deck of Deities

Baravar - NG

Beshaba - CE



After the Deck of Deities

Baravar - NG

Kossuth - NN

Umberlee - CE

Moradin - LG

Bane - LE