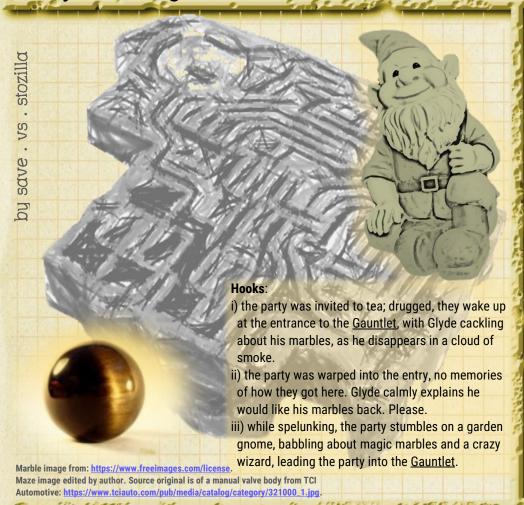
## Glyde's Gregarious Garden Gnomes in the Gargantuan Gauntlet



Background: The mad wizard Glyde slowly lost his marbles, literally and figuratively. His underground garden maze (the Gargantuan Gauntlet) was his passion, tending to it over the decades following his retirement.

Recently, Glyde lost his Magic Marbles:

- 1) cats-eye called "Mart",
- 2) steelie named "Bart",
- 3) red onion named "Cart", &
- 4) root-beer clear named "Tim".

His memory all but gone, *Glyde* animated a garden gnome to go find them. Whenever the gnome returned empty-handed, *Glyde* created another gnome to help. Ongoing failure to find his marbles enraged *Glyde*, causing him to unleash a <u>Curse</u> where Gnomes doubled (exponentially) upon their return to the entrance.

The Gnome population grows exponentially until the Gauntlet cannot hold any more...then, KABOOM!

**Goal**: The party must find the marbles and the exit from the maze before it explodes in 2 days.

## Maze Mechanics\*:

- The DM shuffles a standard deck of cards and deals 3 or 4 cards face down. Players choose one card and turn it over. DM narrates encounter based on card value:
- Diamond cards (2-9) = a path with a Trap. The value of the card relates to the difficulty of the encounter (an 8 of Diamonds trap is more difficult to bypass than a 2 of Diamonds):
- ---Trap: the path is covered with a <u>red fluid</u> (slippery & <u>flammable</u>). Card value of 2-7 = immobilized, increasing chance of falling for 1D2 damage, 8 or 9 = sloped and abrupt end that deals damage (1D4/1D6).
- ---Ten & Face cards denote a monster encounter:
  - i. Garden Gnome (Ten)
  - ii. Shrieker Mushroom (Jack)
  - iii. Mushroom Folk (Queen)
  - iv. Sludge Pudding (King)
- Odd-numbered Spades is a dead-end.
- Even-numbered cards lead to paths with two choices at the next intersection while odd cards (not Spades) have three options
- Aces represent finding a Magic Marble!
- \*Modified this concept from CRAIG PAYNE 2011/12/28, http://exploring-infinity.com/2011/12/28/building-a-better-labyrinth-a-maze-mechanic-idea/

## Encounters

- 1. Garden Gnomes (3D8). Chatty; 4+ Gnomes create Great Cacophony, = Save vs. Charisma / Intelligence or suffer Major Distraction (-5 to Perception-type actions), becoming brain-dead listening to them. You may start to respond in kind, babbling nonsense, asking non-stop questions, etc. Garden Gnomes explode into powder when hit (easy target, 1 HP each).
- 2. <u>Shrieker Mushroom</u> (max 3). Attracts Mushroom Folk in 4 Rounds. Save vs. or be Deafened.
- Mushroom Folk (1D6). Hard to hit; attack w/ mushroom spear, successful hit releases spores, victim must Save vs. Poison:
  - --Save=impaired vision for 2 Turns, -4 to hit. --Fail=slowly become a Mushroom Folk in 1 day.
  - -Mushroom Folk enjoy eating prepared <u>sludge</u> <u>pudding</u> (Item 7).
- Sludge Pudding. Splits in half (doubles) when hit with large instrument (traditional weapons). Can be damaged by caustic solutions or <u>Garden</u> <u>Gnome powder</u> (basic pH >8). Floats on *red fluid* but gains no traction on it, stays immobilized.
- ->Note: 3+ <u>Gnomes powder</u> will shrink a <u>Sludge</u> <u>Pudding</u> by 1/4; a baker's dozen (13) of <u>powdered</u> <u>Gnomes</u> will dissolve an entire <u>Sludge Pudding</u>.

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## Items

- 1) <u>cats-eye "Mart"</u>. When thrown with force, +5 to Hit, 1D8+8 Damage. Pierces hard armour but shatters; can be re-used twice if it hits "soft" targets.
- 2) <u>steelie "**Bart**"</u>. Smashes a hole in a wall of the <u>Gauntlet</u>, creating an exit to outside (single use).
- 3) red onion "Cart". Creates a wormhole to other dimension if thrown straight down hard enough to break it (single use).
- 4) <u>root-beer clear "Tim"</u>. When thrown with force, by hand or sling, creates a <u>Fireball</u> that always hits! Roll <u>ALL</u> the dice for damage (single use).
- 5) <u>mushroom spear</u>: can be used by a non-mushroom folk but must roll 1D6 every use. On a 1, it turns to slime.
- 6) red fluid: can be collected and used like oil (create slippery areas, torch/lamp fluid, flaming missile).
- 7) **prepared sludge pudding:** mixed with **red fluid** in a bowl makes a tasty dessert, a delicacy in the **Gauntlet**.

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