

ELDERS ONCE SPOKE OF SOMETHING PRIMAL, SOMETHING ALIVE, TRAPPED BETWEEN OUR WORLD AND ITS OWN. IT WAS SAID THAT THIS "BEING" SUSTAINED A FERTILE ABUNDANCE THROUGHOUT THE LAND: LEAGUES OF LUSH FORESTS AND ARABLE FARMLAND. BUT THOSE STORIES HAVE LONG SINCE BEEN FORGOTTEN...

NOW, DEEP BELOW A SWAMPY WOODLAND WHERE STRANGE VEGETATION FLOURISHES, A HIVE QUEEN HAS FINALLY EMERGED VICTORIOUS IN A CENTURIES-OLD BLOOD FEUD. WITH AMBITIONS OF CONQUEST AND ENDLESS PROCREATION UNIMPEDED, HER DRONES WILL SOON ENCROACH UPON MORE CIVILIZED LANDS. MEANWHILE, THE MATRIARCH ALSO MAINTAINS AN ANCIENT SECRET WHICH PROVIDES SECURITY AGAINST HER OWN DESTRUCTION!

# TUNNELS OF THE TERRAN TITAN

A ONE PAGE DUNGEON BY MATT LATURA

**A. ABOVE GROUND.** STRANGE AND IMMENSE FLORA GROW TO SURROUND A CONSPICUOUS MOUND OF HARDENED EARTH. ATOP IT, 6 MOSSY STONE "TOES" QUIVER SLIGHTLY WHEN TOUCHED. 2 THORNY PREDATOR PLANTS HERE ARE DRAWN TO SCENTS AND SOUNDS.

**B. MOUND INTERIOR.** LEAFY VEGETATION OBSCURES AN OPENING IN THE MOUND. THE PUNGENT AROMA OF WET DIRT IS INESCAPABLE WITHIN AND A STEEP VERTICAL TUNNEL MAKES FOR A TRICKY CLIMB DOWNWARDS.

**D. OBSERVATION CHAMBER.** A ROUGH, GRANITE ORB WITH MARBLE-SHAPED DEPRESSION SWIVELS IN THE FLOOR TO TRACK THE MOVEMENT OF ANY WHO TOUCH THE SOFT WHITE ROOTS DANGLING HERE.

**F. WORM SLIDE.** A VERTICAL SHAFT EXTENDS DOWNWARDS. EMBEDDED WITHIN IT IS A GIGANTIC, CAMOUFLAGED "WIDOW" WORM. WITH TELEPATHICALLY INDUCED THOUGHTS AND EMOTIONS, IT ATTEMPTS TO LURE ANYONE LOOKING FROM ABOVE TO CLIMB DOWN INTO ITS GAPING MAW.

**I. OTHERWORLD OVERLOOK.** 6 STALAGMITE FINGERS GROW UNNATURALLY, REACHING SIDWAYS OVER A SHEER DROP. A VAST SUBTERRANEAN CHAMBER LIES BELOW: ONE TINY CORNER OF ANOTHER WORLD WHICH MEETS WITH OURS IN THIS PLACE. ONE OF EARTHEN FERTILITY, DECAY, AND REBIRTH.

**J. PULSING CHAMBER.** 2 CLOUDS OF HARD EARTH, SPECKED AND HEAVY WITH PRECIOUS METALS, ARE SUSPENDED BY ROOTS. A SCAR-LIKE CAVITY INDICATES A 3RD IS MISSING. SO LONG AS THE POOL IN AREA G IS "FED", THE 2 REMAINING CLOUDS BEAT WITH LIFE 3X PER MINUTE. 3 HIVE SOLDIERS + 1 WINGED ROYAL STAND GUARD.

EACH BEAT PUMPS A LOAMY FLUID THROUGHOUT THE WALLS AND A FEW DROPS SPILL FROM THE CAVITY. THIS "MUD" AUGMENTS AND ACCELERATES THE MATURATION OF ANY LIVING THING TENFOLD!

**L. THE AUDITORIUM.** THICK ROOTS HANG OVER A DARK VOID BELOW AND WET CLAY POOLS AND UNDULATES IN THE CEILING. IT AWAITS AN AUDIENCE ON THE PLATFORM. A MOUTH WILL FORM ON ITS SURFACE, DRONING DEEP BASSY NOTES OF ANCIENT GRIEF. ANY WHO GRANTS ITS UNINTELLIGIBLE WISH WILL BE REWARDED WITH AN UNCUT DIAMOND THE SIZE OF A HUMAN HEAD!

**C. MOTHER GECKO'S GROTTO.** BELOW THE HOLLOWED STUMP OF A ONCE MASSIVE TREE, A LUSH CHAMBER OF FLOWING WATER AND REFRACTED LIGHT IS NOW A GRAVEYARD. INSECTILE LIMBS AND BODY SEGMENTS ARE EVERYWHERE. A LARGE, REPTILIAN SKELETON IS BEING PICKED CLEAN BY EMOTIONLESS HIVE WORKERS AND SPECKLED EGGSHELLS DECOMPOSE IN ONE CORNER.

**E. WIND TUNNEL.** WITH REGULAR CADENCE, THE POROUS STONE WALLS IN THIS AREA PULL AND THEN EXPEL DEEP "BREATHS" OF AIR, CAUSING DANGEROUSLY STRONG GUSTS IN THE TUNNEL ABOVE.

**G. DIGESTING POOL.** TALLS MOUNDS OF REFUSE IN ACIDIC SLOP, PILED HIGH BY A PARADE OF HIVE WORKERS. AN OCCASIONAL "THUMP" CAUSES GURGLES, BURPS, AND PULLS EACH MOUND FURTHER BELOW. SOON TO BE ENGULFED, A JADE-CAPPED MACE GLINTS BRIGHTLY; IT'S POSSESSED BY AN ANCIENT AND FERVOROUS PRIESTESS.

**H. BLOOM ROOM.** LARGE FLOWER BUDS HANG FROM ROPEY VINES. IN THE PRESENCE OF LIGHT, BUDS WILL OPEN AND THEN CROWD THE SOURCE. IF TOUCHED BY ANYTHING LIVING, A BLOOM WILL QUICKLY GO LIMP, WITHER AND FALL OFF. IN MOMENTS, A SEED WILL BE PRODUCED IN ITS PLACE AND DROP TO THE FLOOR. IF PLANTED AND CARED FOR, IN 1 MONTH THE SEED WILL YIELD A \*NEARLY\* IDENTICAL COPY OF WHATEVER TOUCHED THE FLOWER. 104 SEEDS ALREADY LAY ABOUT.

**K. HIVE THRONE.** ACCOMPANIED BY A HUNDRED INSECTOID EGGS AND A WINGED CONSORT, THE IMMOBILE HIVE QUEEN IS FED A CONSTANT DIET OF "MUD BLOOD" (SEE AREA J). DAY AND NIGHT, WORKERS MARCH THROUGHOUT THE TUNNELS TO PRODUCE MORE OF THIS NUTRIMENT.

THE MATRIARCH KNOWS THAT THE SURROUNDING LANDS BENEFIT GREATLY FROM THE LIFEFORCE THAT HER HIVE SUSTAINS IN THESE TUNNELS. SHE'LL USE THIS AS LEVERAGE IF THREATENED.

**HIVE BEHAVIOR** - WORKERS WON'T ATTACK UNPROVOKED BUT MAY TRY TO CARRY INTERLOPERS TO THE DIGESTING POOL (AREA G). IF ATTACKED, THEY'LL DEFEND THEMSELVES AND CAN CALL FOR 104 SOLDIERS USING AIRBORNE PHEROMONES WHICH TAKE 1 ROUND OF UNINTERRUPTED FOCUS TO RELEASE. SOLDIERS WILL AIM TO KILL OR TAKE PRISONERS TO THE QUEEN WHO WANTS ONLY TO GROW THE HIVE'S NUMBERS AND TERRITORY.

**RANDOM EVENTS** - EVERY 30 MIN ROLL 1D10: (1-6) NO EVENT (7) PAIR OF JUVENILE GIANT GECKOS APPEARS, PURSUED BY 106 HIVE SOLDIERS (8) DISTANT "THUMP" SHAKES DIRT FROM WALLS AND CEILING, 20 SECONDS LATER ANOTHER PULSE CAUSES A TUNNEL COLLAPSE (9) WITH SUPERNATURAL SPEED, A LARGE PLANT SEEDLING EMERGES FROM THE GROUND, GROWS TALL REACHING FOR SUNLIGHT, AND THEN SHRIVELS AND DIES IF NONE IS FOUND (10) 3 HIVE WORKERS ATTEMPT TO MANEUVER A LONG, SMOOTHLY CUT BEAM OF LUMBER THROUGH THE NARROW TUNNELS.