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# Dragonlance: Dragons of Autumn Twilight

By George Strayton

I didn't hear you come in.  
We're not quite open yet.  
Don't mind me, young one.  
I just need to rest these tired bones  
while I await this evening's festivities.  
With all these goblins around,  
I'm afraid this place isn't  
as festive as it used to be.  
Maybe you could  
distract me with a tale?  
Very well. I know just the one.  
Now, how does it start again?  
I've never been good with beginnings.  
Oh, yes. The stars.  
Since the dawn of time,  
the Gods of Light have watched over  
the world of Krynn from the heavens.  
They have given us  
many wondrous gifts,  
bountiful harvests, moral guidance,  
and, most amazing of all,  
magical healing.  
I thought the Gods of Light left us  
and took their healing with them.  
So it is said.  
But the Gods of Light  
have always been opposed  
by the Queen of Darkness,  
Takhisis, and her evil allies.  
In the First Age,  
she and her dragon armies  
waged a war to dominate the world,  
and she was winning.  
But the peoples of the world,  
men, elves and dwarves,  
united behind the Gods of Light  
and prayed for help.  
In the end,  
with the help of the Gods of Light,  
especially the warrior god, Paladine,  
the good peoples of Krynn prevailed,  
saving the world from  
the evil reign of Takhisis.  
Unfortunately, this victory

made the people arrogant.  
Now believing themselves  
more powerful than their protectors,  
the people began to command  
the gods to do their bidding.  
The gods' response was  
swift and devastating.  
The Cataclysm changed  
the very face of Krynn.  
The gods were never heard from again,  
leaving the people of the world  
to fight for survival  
without their help,  
without their guidance.  
Belief in the gods waned,  
shattering the unity of the races.  
Elves, dwarves and men  
grew to distrust and fight one another.  
And so began the Age of Despair.  
Three hundred years have  
come and gone  
and still the gods remain silent  
in the heavens.  
DDo you think they'll ever return?  
DUnfortunately, one already has.  
And without the Gods of Light  
to protect us, Krynn is surely doomed.  
Takhisis, my queen.  
I return with news  
of our impending victory.  
Rise, Highlord Verminaard.  
I've destroyed Silvanesti in the east.  
Now only the northern lands  
remain to be taken.  
But have you located the staff?  
I've dispatched forces  
to scour the lands.  
The staff will be found.  
Do not underestimate  
the danger it poses.  
That staff has the power  
to reawaken the Gods of Light.  
It must not be allowed  
to reach Xak Tsaroth.

I will let nothing interfere  
with your plans, my queen.  
I'm sending my greatest warrior  
to guard the city.  
Even if the staff reaches Xak Tsaroth,  
Onyx will make sure the  
Disks of Mishakal remain in our hands,  
so the prophecy can never be fulfilled.  
Fail me, Verminaard,  
and it will be the last thing you ever do.  
I trust only you to carry out this task.  
Capture the staff,  
and guard the Disks with your life.  
Yes, my lord.  
Tanis? Is that you?  
DHello, old friend.  
DOId?  
Well, you've learned no manners  
in five years.  
Hoisting me around  
like a sack of potatoes.  
I hope no one saw us.  
DFlint, you haven't changed at all.  
DYou have. Why the beard?  
Weren't you ugly enough?  
I've been traveling in lands  
dangerous to those with elven blood.  
The beard helped hide my heritage.  
I guess it's the only good thing  
my human father ever gave me.  
What are you doing sitting out here?  
It's just a few more miles to Solace.  
I'm not too old to make it without  
resting, if that's what you're getting at.  
DI just needed to finish this whittling.  
DI see.  
Well, we do have friends  
waiting for us at the inn.  
I wouldn't want to be late.  
A little overeager for our reunion,  
aren't you?  
Now, who might you be  
so anxious to see? Kitiara, maybe?  
I figured she'd be your choice.

I mean, Laurana's beautiful, sure,  
but it was complicated,  
what with the elves and all.  
And her father really didn't like you.  
DYeah, can we just go?  
DFine.  
So did you find  
what you went looking for?  
Proof the gods have returned? No.  
I heard tales of magical healing,  
but it was all trickery.  
I never found any real healing magic,  
which means it's true.  
The gods abandoned Krynn  
I guess my faith in them was misplaced.  
Sorry, Tanis.  
I know how important this was to you.  
Horse!  
And hobgoblin.  
Halt! No one is allowed to walk  
within the limits of Solace after dark.  
DYou are under arrest.  
DBy whose authority?  
My own. I am Fewmaster Toede,  
leader of the forces  
keeping Solace safe from  
undesirable elements like yourselves.  
DSearch them for the staff!  
DIf any of you goblin scum touch me...  
We've been away from Solace  
for many years.  
We didn't intend to break any laws.  
If you'll just let us pass...  
If they resist, kill them.  
I advise you to back off. Now.  
Only one thing I hate more  
than a gully dwarf, and that's a goblin.  
DWhat are you slime doing in Solace?  
DSlime? At least I'm not a halfDbreed.  
Tanis!  
Tasslehoff?  
Next time, don't get started without me.  
I don't want to miss any of the fun.  
Like we need a kender's help.

My human side got the best of me.  
I shouldn't be so aggressive.  
They were asking for it.  
Come on. You know how Caramon eats.  
If we don't get to the inn soon,  
there won't even be a crumb left,  
and I'm starving.  
Great. You can never get  
that goblin smell out.  
DThen throw it away.  
DI can't do that. It's Flint's.  
DWhy, you little thief!  
DYou dropped it during the fight.  
I just picked it up for you.  
You should be thanking me.  
Look!  
Sturm and Caramon are already here!  
Tas!  
Watch your purse, Caramon.  
That little kender has sticky fingers.  
Nice beard.  
I'm sure it'll look good when it grows in.  
Very funny.  
DIs your brother coming?  
DI am already here.  
I see my appearance startles you.  
A small price to pay for the power  
I have achieved, I assure you.  
He's been this way since  
the test at the Tower of High Sorcery.  
What about Kitiara?  
She'll be here, Tanis.  
Our sister never misses a party.  
DTag, you're it!  
DCan't catch me!  
You're it!  
Hey, how come you're so short?  
Well, it makes it easier to sneak away  
from goblins or evil wizards.  
Evil wizard?  
I never met an evil wizard before.  
I guess it's their lucky day.  
We've got one right here.  
DI thought you boys would be thirsty.

DLittle Tika Waylan. You grew up fast.  
All right, Brinna, Erik. These nice men  
have had a long journey home.  
Let them relax.  
But I wanna hear  
about their adventures.  
Look, Greybeard's about to tell a story.  
You don't want to miss it, do you?  
I'll only go if he does.  
Now how can I turn down an invitation  
from such a cute little girl?  
Lead the way.  
Tika, you still serve  
Otik's spiced potatoes?  
Coming right up.  
To old adventuring companions,  
reunited.  
So, Sturm,  
did you track down your father?  
All I found of him were these,  
his armor and his sword.  
So, you are a knight now, are you?  
I encountered some trouble with goblins  
on my way here.  
So did we. They wanted to impound  
Raistlin's staff for further investigation.  
The ones we ran into were looking  
for some kind of staff, too.  
DI wonder why it's so important.  
DThere is talk of war,  
armies of strange creatures  
gathering in the wilderness.  
Perhaps these things are related.  
You folks need anything?  
Now, then. Once upon a time,  
the great hero Huma Dragonbane...  
My parents said he wasn't real.  
DWho?  
DHuma Dragonbane.  
Huma? That name sounds familiar.  
Oh, dear,  
now I've lost my train of thought.  
"Once upon a time,  
the great hero Huma Dragonbane..."

Oh, yes. Thank you, little boy.  
Once upon a time,  
the great hero Huma Dragonbane  
led the Knights of Solamnia  
against the evil dragons of Takhisis,  
the Queen of Darkness.  
Thanks, Tika.  
Tanis, this came for you.  
Well? Who's it from?  
Kitiara. She says her duties  
with her new lord are keeping her busy.  
She sends her best.  
We all took a sacred oath to be here.  
Well, that's done it.  
The circle is broken, the oath denied.  
Bad luck. Bad luck.  
New lord?  
I wonder if it's business or pleasure.  
With the mighty dragonlances,  
Huma and the knights  
destroyed the wicked dragons,  
and Huma offered his thanks  
to Paladine.  
Blasphemy, heretic!  
Corrupting our youth! Call the guards!  
Leave him alone.  
That can't be good.  
How dare you speak to me like that?  
I'm the High Theocrat of Solace.  
This man is not a heretic.  
His stories are true.  
The ancient gods are real,  
and they have returned.  
She's been deluded by charlatans.  
It's amazing what people will believe.  
Witch! She must be arrested as well.  
Where are those guards?  
I'm confiscating this.  
No!  
The chieftain's daughter says  
you will not take it.  
I take what I want.  
Hurry! Knock him down,  
so we can put out the flames.

DHealing magic?  
DLook at the staff!  
The goblins said they'd destroy Solace  
if they caught anyone  
harboring the staff.  
DYou'd better get out of here.  
DI was just trying to help.  
DTell that to them.  
DWell, you've done it again, haven't you?  
DWe must leave.  
DRun? From this rabble?  
There's something about that staff.  
We can't let it fall into goblin hands.  
Then I will stay and face  
these foul goblins in mortal combat.  
Sturm, there's a lady to protect.  
DWe have to get her out of here.  
DA lady? Right.  
DMadam, I am your servant.  
DWe don't need your help.  
Look, you're strangers here.  
We know our way around.  
We can get you to safety.  
Very well, lead us out of here.  
Raist, hang onto me.  
Raist!  
DThere they are!  
DCome on!  
Look what we've found.  
Give me the staff.  
Kill them!  
I'll get reinforcements!  
DGoing somewhere?  
DGet them! Stop them!  
Let's get out of here  
before more of them show up!  
Great! We're trapped  
between the goblins and the water.  
Now what are we gonna do?  
Flint, I'm gonna give this to you straight.  
We're taking a boat.  
I am not getting in that boat!  
That accident was 10 years ago.  
Look, I'll make sure Caramon sits still.

Absolutely not. I took a vow.  
DTanis, search parties.  
DEveryone in the boat, now!  
Flint, get in!  
I'd rather take my chances  
with the goblins.  
There they are! Seize them!  
DThey're getting away!  
DWait!  
DToede.  
DArchers, flame!  
Archers, loose!  
Loose!  
Put those flames out!  
We're sitting ducks!  
Hey, sit still!  
Raistlin,  
you have anything up your sleeve?  
More than you'll ever know.  
DGood work, Brother!  
DStop them! They're getting away!  
Do it again!  
Get the big ugly one this time!  
I can't. I must rest.  
You said you'd achieved  
great magical power.  
No matter how powerful a wizard is,  
he's limited to the number of spells  
he can cast each day.  
I know that, but I've never seen a wizard  
get so exhausted  
just from casting spells.  
The test in the Tower of High Sorcery  
almost killed him, that's why.  
Interesting.  
And why do you talk in that  
funny language when you're casting?  
I healed that man's burns  
without saying anything.  
Well, maybe the staff helped a little.  
Tanis, the constellations of the gods,  
Takhisis the Queen of Darkness  
and Paladine the Valiant Warrior,  
they're gone.

It's only a bunch of stars, Raist.  
DWhat do you think this means?  
DChaos. War.  
Death. That is what I see.  
We hid the boat.  
Thank you for risking your lives for us,  
even though we are strangers.  
I'm Tanis.  
The brothers are Caramon and Raistlin.  
The knight, Sturm Brightblade.  
Flint Fireforge carries our wine,  
and Tasslehoff Burrfoot  
is our clever little locksmith.  
And you are?  
DGoldmoon and Riverwind.  
DWe're strangers no longer.  
Feeling any better?  
DPerhaps my staff will...  
DNo.  
My body was my sacrifice for my magic.  
DThe damage is permanent.  
DYour staff healed that man at the inn.  
DHow?  
DI don't know.  
DI haven't had it very long.  
DWhere'd you get it?  
Riverwind discovered it on a quest  
to an ancient abandoned city.  
He... We believed it was  
a gift from the Gods of Light,  
but the people of our village called us  
heretics and condemned us to death.  
When they tried to stone us, the staff  
magically transported us to safety.  
Only the true gods  
can grant real healing magic.  
Maybe this is proof they've returned.  
We came west hoping to discover  
the truth about the staff.  
The Highseekers in Haven might  
be able to tell us where it came from,  
Dwhat its powers are.  
DEnough!  
We never asked for your help.

In the morning,  
we go our separate ways.  
We can't let this magic  
fall into the hands of the goblins.  
The staff will be safer  
with more protectors.  
Listen with those big pointy ears.  
I don't trust you, halfDbreed.  
Speak to him like that again,  
and I will cut you down where you stand!  
If it's a fight you want, you shall have it.  
Riverwind!  
I'm sorry. Like the rest of my people,  
Riverwind doesn't trust those  
who aren't human.  
And what of you, my lady?  
Once I held the same prejudice,  
but no longer.  
We will be honored  
to travel with you and your friends.  
Tas, you got a map?  
I didn't steal anything!  
I mean, let me check.  
Hey! Laurana gave me that ring.  
This? You must've dropped it  
back at the inn.  
You're lucky I picked it up.  
So, you think the staff  
might lead to the Gods of Light?  
Does this mean your faith in them  
has been resurrected?  
It means I'm open to the possibility.  
DHighlord, the Blue Crystal Staff...  
DIt's been found?  
No, my lord.  
It was tracked  
to one of the plainsmen tribes.  
The village was searched thoroughly,  
but it wasn't there.  
Takhisis will not be pleased.  
No, wait, my lord. The staff was seen  
in a place called Solace.  
If the enemy has the staff,  
they may also know about the Disks.

Warn Onyx, and send my elite troops  
north to Solace.  
One way or the other,  
I will have that staff.  
You think there might be goblins  
living in there?  
I wish. I'll fight the living  
any day of the week, but not the dead.  
DThe dead!  
DAII you need to know, kender,  
is that none who enter Darken Wood  
ever return.  
Sounds like an adventure  
just waiting to happen.  
We're already on an adventure.  
DWe can stop for a rest, if you want.  
DWho, me? I'm fine.  
Actually, this is a good place to stop  
for a moment  
before we round that bend.  
DFor the record, I could keep going.  
DI know.  
DTas, can you scout ahead?  
DFinally, something fun to do.  
Now, look. No roaming off the road.  
Keep your hands  
out of people's belongings.  
Unless they're bakers,  
or fishmongers, or...  
Caramon, you mind?  
Don't worry, Tanis. Be right back.  
Your one true love's a sailing ship  
that anchors at our pier  
We lift her sails, we man her decks  
We scrub  
Crazy kender.  
Can I get you anything, Raist?  
I am preparing my spells.  
All I require is to be left alone.  
Well, I'll be right over there  
if you need me.  
No, we can't.  
Problem?  
He is a shepherd,

and I am a chieftain's daughter.  
No matter how I feel about him,  
we cannot be together.  
Being rejected because of your heritage  
isn't an easy thing.  
Perhaps you and Riverwind  
have something in common after all.  
Monks! Monks! Monks! Monks!  
DMonks? We can handle monks.  
DI don't like this.  
Stay calm. Sturm, you do the talking.  
If they're really monks,  
they should respect a knight.  
Greetings, brethren.  
Hail, Knight of Solamnia.  
Tell me, do you come now from Solace?  
We traveled through, yes.  
We are seeking  
a sacred crystal staff of healing,  
last seen in Solace. Do you know of it?  
One of our brothers is ill.  
He'll die without its blessed touch.  
DI'm afraid we can't help.  
DI bear the Blue Crystal Staff.  
DI can help you.  
DWe are grateful for your aid.  
By the gods, what are these things?  
Don't stab them! They'll turn to stone  
and trap your sword.  
Now, Raist!  
Sturm!  
My father's sword.  
Don't worry. I'll get it.  
Stay still. You've lost a lot of blood.  
He's dying.  
I am in your debt, my lady.  
Did anyone see that?  
Tanis, look!  
More of those lizardy things!  
Hurry! Into the forest!  
But that's Darken Wood!  
It's full of undead!  
We've got no choice,  
unless you want to jump off that cliff

or fight more of those things.  
I think we lost them.  
What do you sense?  
There is a great and powerful magic  
laid on this forest.  
DEvil?  
DOnly to those with evil intent.  
Then you are the only one  
who need fear this wood, mage.  
Listen.  
Sheathe your swords.  
Trust me, they won't do you any good.  
Trust you? I think not.  
When it comes to the ways of magic,  
he knows what he's doing. I hope.  
You who have been long dead,  
use my voice to speak with the living.  
Who trespasses in the Darken Wood?  
Hello, I'm Tasslehoff Burrfoot.  
These are my friends.  
If you have entered this wood  
with evil intentions,  
you will not live to see the moons rise.  
No, no, no. You've got it all wrong.  
We're on a quest.  
It all started with this Blue Crystal Staff.  
And we...  
Blue crystal?  
Yeah, and... Hey, wait a second!  
Leave her alone!  
My hand, it's so cold.  
Follow me.  
Raist!  
DLet's go.  
DWait.  
Raistlin's done some shady things  
in his quest for power.  
What if he's leading us into a trap?  
I don't think we have a choice.  
Are you all right?  
I'm fine.  
Put aside your fears. Safety exists here,  
if it exists anywhere on Krynn.  
The draconians will not find this place.

Draconians.  
So that's what they are called.  
Food! Drink! Thank the gods!  
Please, come to me,  
bearer of the Blue Crystal Staff.  
DCan you tell us about the staff?  
DIt's intended for good,  
to combat injury, illness and disease.  
But in these times,  
it will also become a weapon  
against the very evil  
that seeks to banish it from the world.  
Did the staff come  
from the Gods of Light?  
Is it a sign they've returned?  
That I do not know.  
If you wish to find such answers,  
you must travel  
beyond the Eastwall Mountains  
to an ancient city, Xak Tsaroth.  
DWhat'll we find there?  
DGreat evil.  
But if you prove yourselves worthy,  
you will receive the Disks of Mishakal.  
The Disks of Mishakal?  
Sacred texts lost in the Cataclysm.  
They contain the truth of the gods.  
If that truth remains hidden, the world  
will fall under the shadow of evil  
and untold number of innocents  
will suffer and die.  
Then we must retrieve the Disks.  
Tanis, I appreciate everything  
that you have done for us,  
Dbut I don't expect you to accompany...  
DWe don't need the help of a halfDbreed!  
DWe'll finish this alone.  
DThen you'll die alone.  
Can I speak to you?  
With this rise of evil,  
I'm getting worried about Kitiara.  
I was thinking about looking for her,  
but maybe this quest is more important.  
DIf you know something, tell me now.

DIn a vision, I saw an army  
overrun Haven, Solace  
and the elven lands.  
The Disks of Mishakal might be the key  
to destroying such a force.  
So we should go to Xak Tsaroth?  
Do you think we were chosen  
for this quest?  
So my vision leads me to believe.  
Why? I can't even sort out my own life.  
I'm not a hero.  
Then you must become one,  
or the world is doomed.  
They will take you as close  
to Xak Tsaroth as they dare.  
Horses! Just what I need.  
Remember, Goldmoon,  
present the staff boldly,  
never wavering, and you will prevail.  
Dwarves were not meant to fly.  
They're too frightened to go on.  
We'll have to cross the mountains  
to Xak Tsaroth on our own.  
DWhere are we?  
DThe plains of Abanasinia.  
DOur village lies to the east.  
DNo!  
Tanis, look here.  
Who is this Verminaard?  
Obviously the one responsible  
for this atrocity.  
On my honor,  
I will make him pay for this.  
I found draconian tracks leading away,  
toward Xak Tsaroth.  
There's nothing we can do here.  
We'll have our revenge when  
we get to the city and find the Disks.  
The tracks go this way.  
How beautiful.  
A temple to the Gods of Light.  
Gully dwarves!  
The stupidest, most vile creatures  
that I ever...

Look! Draconians!  
Hide!  
This is a big city. There could be  
hundreds of those things.  
How are we gonna search for the Disks  
without getting spotted?  
We need an ally who knows the city,  
one who can help us avoid the patrols  
and lead us to the Disks.  
And where do you propose  
we find such an ally, mage?  
We don't find one. We make one.  
Hello, little one.  
You make me lose dinner!  
It's safe. You can come out now.  
DWhat did you do to her?  
DA spell of friendship.  
It looks like you overdid it a little.  
DMeet our new ally.  
DBupu! Good to meet!  
All treasure in city here.  
And the draconians  
don't know about this passage?  
No, bosses. Secret.  
DHere. Locked.  
DAIHow me.  
DNo want to wake her.  
DBy the gods, a dragon.  
Come on.  
Look for a book with a dark cover,  
Dstamped with runes of silver.  
DYes. Find for you.  
So that's why you wanted to come here.  
For a spell book.  
It could help us  
in our fight against the evil army.  
Don't give me that.  
You want its power for yourself.  
Don't point fingers, Tanis.  
You seek the gods for one reason,  
because you think  
they can resolve the war  
between your elven and human halves  
before it tears you apart!

I don't need a lecture  
from someone who's willing to endanger  
the lives of his friends, even  
his own brother, to get what he wants.  
I think I found them.  
The Disks of Mishakal.  
Let him go!  
DYou destroyed my village.  
DOne step closer and the mage dies.  
Bring me the Blue Crystal Staff,  
lady of the QuDShu.  
Obey me,  
or I will kill your friends, one by one,  
until you alone  
are left begging for mercy.  
I know what I must do.  
If you believe in the gods,  
you must trust them, and me.  
Don't let Riverwind stop me.  
DGoldmoon!  
DShe knows what she's doing.  
Good, you know your place.  
Now, lay the staff down before me.  
As you wish.  
Go! Save the Disks!  
Goldmoon! No!  
This is your fault, halfDelf.  
I could've stopped her.  
We have to get out of here!  
Back through the secret passage!  
Riverwind, you'll be killed if you stay!  
DTanis, come on!  
DGo! I'm right behind you.  
DTanis went back for Riverwind.  
DBy the gods, they're dead.  
DWhat happened?  
DThe plainsman saved you.  
DThe Disks?  
DHere.  
But there's a problem.  
We cannot decipher them.  
They're written in a language  
I've never seen.  
So that's it? Goldmoon died for nothing?

You know,  
I'm really getting sick of these guys!  
We should leave the city  
before we run into more of them.  
I go with you, but will miss my tribe.  
Bupu, you have been  
a good and true friend,  
but I have to travel down a dark  
and dangerous road.  
DI can't ask you to go with me.  
DBut you be sad without Bupu.  
I'll be happy knowing  
you're back with your people.  
DYou sure?  
DI'm sure.  
Then I go. First, take present.  
DThe Spellbook of Fistantilus.  
DYou like?  
Yes, little one. I like. Thank you.  
Farewell, Bupu.  
It's not your fault, Tanis.  
DI let her sacrifice herself for nothing.  
DShe acted out of faith.  
Then I know who's to blame!  
What kind of gods are you  
that you demand a human sacrifice?  
I wanted to believe in you!  
Well, we don't need you!  
I don't need you.  
Goldmoon?  
Tanis, I told you, faith is the answer.  
Goldmoon, you're alive.  
I never should've doubted.  
If you're still alive,  
what about the dragon?  
The dragon? Destroyed. Only through  
my faith in Mishakal have I been reborn,  
and she's made me a true cleric  
with the gift of healing.  
Mishakal, heal this man  
who has served you so well.  
She can heal without the staff.  
That hasn't happened  
since the gods left 300 years ago.

The gods didn't leave us.  
We turned away from the gods.  
And, hey, she cast that spell  
without using those funny words.  
Why can't you do that,  
allDpowerful mage?  
She's channeling  
the power of a god, you dolt.  
I'm wresting arcane energies  
from the very fabric of the universe.  
DIt's completely different.  
DMy lady, the Disks of Mishakal.  
Even Raist couldn't read them.  
Can you?  
No, but Mishakal tells me  
there is one who can.  
One with the strength and wisdom  
to unite the world  
against the forces of evil.  
DThe armies! War has begun.  
DWe must return to Solace quickly.  
There we will find  
the great leader we are seeking.  
Seems you found  
the proof you've been looking for.  
Only a real miracle  
could've brought Goldmoon back.  
I thought I'd feel different somehow,  
but I feel the same.  
Well, then maybe the problem's  
never been up there.  
Maybe it's always been in here.  
I heard that. I heard people start  
to lose their minds when they get old.  
Not my head, your head!  
I'm just saying that maybe  
what you've been really searching for  
is faith in yourself.  
Solace!  
DChaos. War. Death.  
DWelcome home!  
Move and I'll kill the kender.  
Disarm them and take their gear.  
We can't let them have the Disks.

If they realize what they are...  
It'll be all right.  
I have cast a spell upon our belongings.  
Any who touch them  
faces a hideous death,  
painfully devoured  
by the great worm Catyrpelius!  
I've never heard of that spell.  
Put them in the wagons.  
Where are you taking us?  
To Verminaard's slave mines  
in Pax Tharkas.  
My lord will be pleased  
to have slaves of your caliber.  
Caramon?  
Tanthalas?  
I almost didn't recognize you  
with that beard. You look human.  
DTanthalas?  
DMy elven name.  
This is Gilthanas, my cousin.  
Theros!  
He was helping the elves escape  
Verminaard's genocide.  
He now pays for his loyalty with his life.  
DI'm a healer. He needn't die.  
DAway!  
Let him die in peace  
without any of your barbarian rituals.  
DGilthanas, she's a true cleric.  
DThat's impossible.  
Mishakal, grace this man  
with your blessing.  
If his destiny be not yet fulfilled,  
heal him,  
so he may live  
and serve the cause of truth.  
DWhoa. We're moving.  
DGilthanas, what happened here?  
Dragons.  
Red dragons? We fought  
a black dragon in Xak Tsaroth.  
Dragons, you say?  
Hey, you're that crazy storyteller

from the inn.  
Yes, the name's Fla... Forb...  
Fizban! That's it.  
That's not a name.  
It's not? That's too bad.  
I was rather fond of it.  
DYou know something of dragons?  
DDragons? Where? Oh, yes, dragons.  
Long ago there were countless dragons  
in the world.  
They were a nightmare to behold  
and they dominated the lands.  
What happened to them?  
The Gods of Light bestowed a gift  
upon the good people of the world.  
The dragonlances.  
They had the power to destroy dragons.  
But that was long ago,  
and the dragonlances have been lost.  
Now it seems  
the dragons have returned.  
I saw you heal that man.  
Can you help my daughter?  
Brinna!  
Mishakal, please heal this child  
if it is her destiny.  
Thank you. It doesn't hurt anymore.  
Her injuries were too great.  
You couldn't save her. I guess  
even Mishakal isn't strong enough.  
No, I'm not strong enough.  
In the past there were clerics so faithful  
that they could channel the magic  
of the gods to bring back the dead.  
Now only the Disks of Mishakal  
can return that power to the world.  
Finally, Porthios and his archers!  
DThis is our chance to escape.  
DHow? They took my lock picks.  
Where are the gods  
when you need them?  
Here, let me. Knock!  
DMagic? Why didn't you do that before?  
DNo one asked me to.

The prisoners are escaping!  
DWe need a diversion.  
DComing right up.  
Now, let's see. What's that called?  
Oh, yes. Fireball!  
DWe must retrieve the Disks!  
DOver there!  
Tas, get your lock picks  
and free the other prisoners.  
Everyone else, grab what you can.  
Hurry!  
Porthios, thank you for...  
NonDelves are not allowed here,  
Tanthalas.  
I suggest you flee from this area  
as fast as you can.  
These people need your help.  
It is enough that we have freed them,  
human.  
DWe elves have our own problems.  
DTanis?  
You will take everyone into Qualinesti  
and provide for the refugees.  
We will do nothing of the kind.  
Humans caused the gods  
to turn their backs on the world.  
You're wrong! The gods never left.  
I'm one of their clerics.  
I saw her heal a man  
who should've died.  
The Speaker of the Suns may wish  
to see this for himself.  
I saw her come back from the dead  
by the power of the Gods of Light.  
Perhaps Gilthanas is right.  
The Speaker will want to investigate  
this claim.  
DYou will be our honored guests.  
DMore like honored prisoners.  
DYou seem to know many of these elves.  
DI was born here in Qualinesti.  
And you're not welcome  
in the land of your birth?  
A human killed my mother's husband

and then raped her.  
She died in childbirth. A human father  
makes me only halfDelven.  
The elves could never accept me,  
so I left.  
I understand what it's like  
to be an outcast,  
but no matter what,  
you have to believe in yourself.  
Of course,  
my village stoned me for my beliefs.  
Rest here while I report to the Speaker.  
Food! Finally!  
Tanthalas!  
Laurana, someone might see us.  
I can't believe you're back. I guess you  
heard the elves are leaving Qualinesti.  
DThey are? Why?  
DLaurana!  
I've got a lot to do. I'll see you later.  
I bid you welcome, Tanthalas,  
son of my brother's wife.  
Greetings, Speaker.  
I'm called Tanis now.  
You deny your elven heritage  
by taking a human name?  
Your mother would be appalled.  
It is you, woman of the plains,  
who concerns me most.  
You claim to have healed this man,  
Theros Ironfeld?  
Your son Gilthanas saw me heal him.  
He was overwrought and may  
have mistaken witchcraft for healing.  
She is a healer,  
a true cleric of the Gods of Light.  
DWhy should I believe you?  
DLook on this.  
Blasphemy!  
Stop this nonsense!  
Who are you?  
DWhat was that name?  
DFizban.  
DBut like I said, it's not really a name.

DSolostaran, call off your guard.  
If the Gods of Light have truly returned,  
then perhaps there is hope  
some of us will survive.  
DWhat are you talking about?  
DSee for yourselves.  
There's Solace!  
DWhat are those?  
DArmies of dragons and draconians  
brought to this world  
by the evil goddess, Takhisis.  
Even now, there at Pax Tharkas,  
High Dragonlord Verminaard  
gathers his forces  
to invade our homeland.  
Verminaard.  
He murdered everyone in our village.  
He has declared his intention  
to wipe out the elves, as well.  
But surely this city is easily defended?  
Without the dragonlances,  
we cannot withstand armies of dragons.  
We must abandon our lands and flee.  
Even so, the dragon horde  
moves far more swiftly  
than we can  
with our women and children.  
DWe may still be overtaken.  
DSo we're too late.  
Takhisis has already won.  
No, there is a chance.  
If you and your companions  
can delay Verminaard's forces,  
we can reach the sea before they arrive.  
How can we stop an entire army?  
Infiltrate the mines at Pax Tharkas  
and incite a rebellion among the slaves.  
That should divert  
Verminaard's attention.  
Why haven't you already  
sent elves on this mission?  
The slaves are humans.  
They will not listen to an elf,  
but they may listen to you.

Besides, this will give you a chance  
to rescue more of your human brethren.  
But Pax Tharkas is a fortified citadel.  
We'd never even make it  
through the gates.  
Gilthanas knows a secret way  
into the fortress. He will guide you.  
I don't know.  
We're on a quest to find a leader who  
will unite the world against Takhisis.  
Please... Tanis,  
my people will be destroyed.  
Help me save them.  
I know your choice is difficult,  
but you must decide quickly.  
Almighty Paladine,  
if you're listening, I need guidance.  
I want to be the hero you wish me to be,  
but I'm afraid.  
As the world falls underneath  
the shadow of Takhisis,  
I find myself filled with doubt.  
I know what I have to do.  
I just don't know if my faith  
is strong enough.  
Tanthalas,  
please don't throw your life away.  
Come away with us,  
where you'll be safe.  
There comes a time when you have to  
risk your life for what you believe in.  
Leave with me,  
and we can finally be married.  
I'm sure my father would perform the...  
Your father once said I was  
half of one thing and all of nothing.  
DHe'll never agree to our marriage.  
DOf course he will.  
Gilthanas was my best friend  
and even he turned against me  
when he found out about us.  
The elves have no love for me.  
They'll learn to love you  
as much as I do.

You're still so naive.  
DBut, Tanthalas, I...  
DDon't call me that!  
And stop trying to convince me  
of something that'll never be true.  
It's over.  
I've fallen in love  
with a human woman, Kitiara.  
With her, I'm accepted for who I am.  
We have just received word that  
Onyx was defeated at Xak Tsaroth.  
DAnd the Disks?  
DTaken.  
Then we must finish this  
before the Gods of Light can interfere.  
By nightfall,  
I want the elven stronghold destroyed.  
Yes, my lord.  
The elves are my kin, no matter  
how much they try to deny me.  
I'm going to Pax Tharkas alone.  
Take the Disks and leave with the elves.  
The human slaves are  
in as much danger as the elves.  
It is my duty to rescue them.  
I believe the one I seek  
may also be among the slaves.  
Your quest is mine. I go where you go.  
Hey, there's no way you're leaving me  
with all these elves!  
Accept the inevitable, Tanis. For good  
or ill, we face this mission together.  
DDon't forget me.  
DNo. You're going with the elves.  
I go where I choose, and I choose  
to go with you, Tanis HalfDEIven.  
Then we leave within the hour.  
This is gonna be fun!  
I've never fought a whole army before.  
The SlaDMori. The Secret Way.  
All right, everyone know the plan?  
Find the slaves and send the women  
and children back out this way,  
while we and the men

keep the draconians busy.  
That should give the elves  
enough time to escape.  
What in the name of the Abyss  
are you doing here?  
You said you were risking your life for  
something you believe in, and so am I.  
You're going back to the elves.  
You can't let her go alone.  
If she's captured, she might alert  
the draconians to our plan.  
All right, but stay out of the way.  
It's dark in there.  
I can take care of that. Into the tunnel.  
I mean it. Get inside that tunnel now.  
Don't make me get your father.  
Everyone remember how to get  
back here. It's our only way out.  
The gate's open.  
Why don't they escape?  
We're here to rescue you.  
Hurry, before the draconians...  
You!  
You're the witch  
that caused the attack on Solace!  
It's because of you that we're all here!  
This is your fault!  
My wife is dead because of you!  
Verminaard is the one  
who took your wife from you,  
as he took my family from me.  
I'm not a witch. I'm a cleric of Mishakal.  
DWhy should we believe you?  
DThis man is dying.  
If you're really a cleric,  
you can save him.  
Mishakal, if it be your will, cleanse  
the disease from this man's body.  
Thank you.  
I'm Elistan, the leader of these people.  
We need to get all of you out of here.  
No. Verminaard's placed our children  
under the guard of a dragon.  
If we try to leave, they'll be killed.

That's why they don't try to escape  
even though the cell is unlocked.  
Then we'll have to rescue the children  
from the dragon.  
No, we can't face a dragon.  
You saw what they did to Solace.  
Don't worry, Tika. We've faced  
a dragon before. We can handle it.  
The way to the dragon's lair  
is guarded by draconians.  
If we have to fight the draconians,  
the dragon will surely hear us  
and slay the children  
before we can free them.  
There must be a way to get past  
the draconians without a fight.  
I have an idea,  
but you're not gonna like it.  
I want to make one thing clear.  
This never happened.  
You're early this morning.  
The children need their exercise.  
I'd love to give you some exercise.  
Steady.  
But Verminaard's got us pulling  
double duty with the army marching out.  
Maybe later.  
I've never seen  
an uglier woman in my life.  
Who is it?  
We're here to take the children  
for their exercise.  
The little ones had a restful night.  
Keep an eye on little Erik.  
I think he's getting a cold.  
This dragon is half blind and insane.  
This is going to be easier  
than I thought.  
We'll watch out for him.  
Come along, children. Come on.  
Where are you going?  
The courtyard is the other way.  
They're getting a special treat today,  
courtesy of Verminaard.

We're taking them to the roof  
to look at the mountains.  
Well, be careful they don't fall off.  
My children's wings  
haven't grown in yet.  
DShe thinks they're her own offspring.  
DWe'll keep them safe.  
Is anyone willing to stay and fight?  
A good number,  
but they want to make sure  
the women and children  
are out of the fortress  
before they turn against Verminaard.  
Then we should get back to  
the secret tunnel as soon as possible.  
DDraconians. They found the tunnel.  
DBut that's our only way out.  
Except for the main gate.  
You mean where  
the entire draconian army is gathering?  
They're too busy getting ready for war.  
We can sneak right past them.  
DIt's too dangerous.  
DWe're trapped like rats.  
Tanis, what should we do?  
DI don't know.  
DNow hold on just one second.  
You can't give up now.  
But there's no way  
we can make it out of here alive.  
If the gods did return,  
they've abandoned us  
when we need them the most.  
Wasn't it your faith in each other and in  
the Gods of Light that got you this far?  
Faith is your greatest weapon  
against Takhisis.  
Embrace it  
and you'll become beacons of light  
Dto lead the slaves out of darkness.  
DI don't know if I can!  
It's because you doubt that you fail.  
You're the only hope for these people  
and for the elves.

Hold on to your faith,  
even in the moment of death,  
and the Gods of Light  
will come to your aid.  
But if you waver,  
the Queen of Darkness will prevail.  
This is our chance,  
but we have to move fast.  
Shut the gate!  
The slaves are escaping! Verminaard!  
Verminaard.  
I offered you a chance to work for  
the further glory of my queen,  
but you have denied her,  
and now you will pay with your lives!  
Let the children go!  
I will destroy the men,  
the women and the children!  
Excellent, Lord Verminaard.  
Kill them all.  
Are there any you can still save?  
DNo, they're already dead.  
DWe can't just stand here!  
DBut how can we fight a dragon?  
DWith another dragon.  
Verminaard's killing your children!  
You have to stop him!  
Destroy them all!  
Where are you going?  
Stand back.  
I'm going to blast open the gate.  
Now, what's the name of that spell?  
FurDsomething...  
Firs, Foof, Fireball. Fireball!  
DRight.  
DEveryone get down!  
Fireball!  
Fizban!  
Feather!  
The gate! Goldmoon, Riverwind, Flint,  
lead the slaves out.  
Take Laurana and Tika with you.  
DThe rest of us will hold off Verminaard.  
DBut, Tanis...

Go! You have to protect the slaves  
and the Disks.  
Good luck, my friend.  
DMay the gods be with you.  
DFollow us!  
Be careful. He's a cleric of Takhisis.  
Just as Goldmoon can call upon  
Mishakal for the power of healing,  
he can call upon Takhisis  
for the power of death.  
Surrender your weapons and I will ask  
the Dark Queen to spare your lives.  
Takhisis, destroy!  
Die!  
No!  
Midnight!  
I can't see!  
Tanis, help me!  
Hold!  
DFools! You'll never escape.  
DThe Gods of Light have returned  
to destroy you and your queen,  
Verminaard.  
Look around you, halfDelf.  
What evidence do you see  
that the Gods of Light  
have come back to the world?  
Your gods can't save anyone.  
Your faith is misplaced.  
And now innocent children will die for it.  
No!  
Midnight!  
I can't fight them off any longer.  
Perhaps everyone's right.  
You are too old for this.  
I am not old!  
Slay him, my servant.  
You'll never win.  
The Gods of Light will...  
The prophecy is broken.  
Nothing can stop the Dark Queen.  
She will rule the world  
and all will bow before her.  
DNo.

DEven now you know it's true.  
I can sense it. You doubt your gods.  
Paladine, where are you?  
Takhisis is real.  
You can see her power for yourself.  
Commit yourself fully to her,  
and I will spare your life.  
DNo. Never!  
DThen you will die.  
You can kill me, Verminaard,  
but that won't change anything.  
The Gods of Light have returned.  
The people will unite  
under their banner to destroy Takhisis!  
Paladine? But the prophecy is broken!  
How could you have returned?  
Unwavering faith.  
You thought your victory was inevitable,  
but you were wrong.  
The world will rise up against you.  
You may have interfered with my plans  
for the moment, Paladine,  
but the world will be mine.  
I promise you!  
Takhisis, why have you abandoned me?  
There was a flash of light, and then  
I was freed from Verminaard's spell.  
Takhisis severed her link with him.  
All his power came from her.  
Hey, you all right down there?  
Verminaard!  
My children will live!  
No! Fizban!  
They killed the dragons!  
Run away!  
Fizban saved my life, but the shaft  
collapsed before he could get out.  
I couldn't rescue him.  
Tanis, what's wrong with me?  
I've never felt like this before.  
There's nothing wrong with you.  
You're gonna miss him. We all are.  
DThey're the Disks of Mishakal.  
DYou can read it?

Yes. Why?  
And so, with Paladine's blessing,  
the two who stand before you  
have now become one.  
Riverwind and I were kept apart  
by the traditions of our people.  
But if we are all to survive  
the rising tide of evil,  
we must overcome the ways of the past.  
Together we will create a new tribe  
in the name of the Gods of Light!  
Thank the gods!  
Cheer up! We destroyed  
Verminaard's army and saved the elves.  
It's a great victory.  
We may have won a battle,  
but the war has just begun.  
If we are going to have  
any hope of surviving it,  
we need to find the dragonlances,  
if they still exist.  
I thought she was so naive,  
but she handled herself well  
on the field of battle.  
She's more courageous than I thought.  
Maybe I made a mistake.  
Too late.  
She seems to be enjoying  
the company of someone else.  
Perhaps that's for the best.  
I just hope Kitiara has managed  
to survive all this, wherever she is.  
You summoned me,  
Dragon Highlord Kitiara?