

Map Notes for Temple of Poseidon

This Temple is devoted to the worship of Poseidon, Lord of the Seas. Sacrifices, mainly in the form of bull calves, are made by purifying them in the central pool, then casting them from the ledge overlooking the sea, each new moon. The Temple is topped by an elaborate copper dome (now green with oxidation), a gift from the present Great King's great-grandfather, Mennidas I. Over time, a number of elaborate marble statues to the lesser deities of the ocean have been placed in an arc outside the Temple proper – Amphitrite, Mother of seals and dolphins; Triton her son, Lord of merfolk and Tritons, Delphinus, Poseidon's ambassador to win Amphitrite's hand and Lord of the Dolphins; and Thetis, progenitor of heroes.

However, since Gorgias, now Exarch, was 'exiled' here by a spiteful monarch, Mennidas II, there have been dire changes.. Gorgias was always a dour, humourless man, but his 'ill-treatment' by the Great King has him seething with resentment, with no-one to take it out on except the band of priests and acolytes residing at the Temple quarters situated a bit inland from the Temple. And, of course, the poor residents of the region and the village of Zeunesa.

Gorgias has brought a sterner view of Poseidon to the Temple – an Earth-Shaker, a destructive force who requires better sacrifices than young bulls. Every third new moon, his acolytes are forced to abduct a maiden or youth from the outlying farms, and they are sacrificed by being forced to leap to their deaths from the now infamous 'Plank of Doom'.

The King is not interested in rectifying the situation – so long as the populace pays his increasing taxes to pay for the building works in his capital, and the build-up of military forces in yet another bid to conquer Aladousis, he will turn a blind eye to whatever the psychopathic cleric is up to. Yet another psychopath in this unhappy realm ruled by such,

Finally, the abduction of the mayor of Zeunesa's youngest daughter has inflamed the populace, and plans are underway to destroy the temple and its priests.

And in this they have been helped by a number of refugee acolytes and priests who fled the oppressive rule and cruel practices of the monster, Exarch Gorgias.