

Temple of the Spider Queen

The Temple of the Spider Queen, on Spider Island, is a large stone structure composed of three levels, each 100 feet high, making the temple's dimensions roughly 800 feet by 800 feet by 300 feet high. Most walls, exterior and interior, are 10-foot thick and built of stone blocks. The only entrance is a great stone stairway leading up the outside of the building to the top. The temple is flanked by a pair of obelisks etched with dark elf glyphs. The locals periodically leave sacrificial victims tethered to the obelisks for the Spider Queen.

The interior has been left purposely sparse so that an interested GM can populate it with whatever traps, treasures and monsters she or he wishes.

TOP LEVEL: The top level is a maze of corridors. Near the center are four pit traps with a 100-foot drop to the middle level below. An apparent treasure chest sits just beyond each pit as a distraction and lure for careless explorers. They may or may not contain items of value or interest. In the very center is a great eye in the floor. This could be a simple decoration, or it may be an oracle and answer one question posed by those who successfully navigate the pit traps. The eye may allow the Spider Queen to see the questioners, however. Several giant spiders make their home on this level.

MIDDLE LEVEL: The middle level is another maze of corridors and rooms. The center of the middle level holds a large pool of liquid; anyone falling through the pit traps on the top level fall into this. The one set of stairs leading down to this level descend into the pool -- walls on either side of the stairs prevent explorers from jumping off to avoid the pool. The liquid in the pool is a dark sludge. It may be just foul water, or perhaps it is something else, such as mild spider venom or even a giant living ooze. A hidden tunnel in the bottom of the pool wall leads to the opposite side of the middle level, and is the only way to get there and to the stairs down to the lower level. Several rooms are packed with crates, chests, and sacks. They contain supplies of grain, drinking water, etc. There may or may not be items of interest and value among them. There are dozens of containers, however, so searching through each one will be a time-consuming affair and might be enough to attract the giant spiders who have made their home on this level, or coming down from the level above. The stone stairway leading down to the bottom level has collapsed and explorers may tumble 100 feet to the stone floor below if they carelessly start down the stairs without carefully looking.

BOTTOM LEVEL: The bottom level is a massive chamber with a red hour glass symbol painted in the center. An enormous fissure has opened up in the floor, almost splitting the chamber in half and bringing down sections of walls and the staircase down from the middle level. Gigantic spider webs cover portions of the room and close inspection shows some of them to hold human remains. In the center of the room where the two triangles of the hour glass meet are an altar and several books. A large urn stands to either side of the altar, each crawling with large spiders. A corridor runs around the perimeter of the chamber and holds hundreds of niches, most occupied by coffins, sarcophagi or skeletal bodies -- dead bodies perhaps, or maybe the undead. The four corners of this corridor are bricked up tombs holding ornate sarcophagi and numerous items. Two of the vaults contain sarcophagi of gold, another one of carved of onyx, and the other a sarcophagus made of ruby. Liches or other powerful undead may be entombed within one or more of the ornate sarcophagi, or perhaps demon servants of the Spider Queen.

The great fissure falls into darkness, and explorers peering into the chasm might make out

large shadows moving about. These are giant spiders of gargantuan proportion, the size of elephants or larger. The dark fissure leads into the earth and perhaps to the subterranean world of the dark elves or even down into the Abyss and the lair of the Spider Queen, herself.