



ADVENTURE HOOK #6

Choose from limited options in a high-stakes fight

A powerful and intelligent frost giant seeks a mine's riches

Greed unites enemies to work together

Players must maximize their combat utility to win

Save the town before the volcano erupts

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VOLCANIC BATTLE

The mining town of Goldtooth is in peril once again! Wumbrog the greedy frost giant won't stop his attack until the mine's riches are his. The town guard has managed to hold off Wumbrog's ogre minions for now, but there are more strange happenings about. The dormant volcano within Sargoth Mountain has become active again, leaking lava flows and blasting out steam. Hikers have spotted fiery snake creatures, known as salamanders, wandering around the snowy mountain, leaving behind odd runes carved into the rocks. Cracking a few ogre skulls makes it clear the salamanders and Wumbrog are in cahoots.

After the runes are studied by a sage, the terror of Wumbrog's ambitions are revealed. He is carrying out a magical ritual to reignite Sargoth Mountain and detonate the volcano to wipe out Goldtooth in one fell swoop! Wasting no time, Wumbrog and the ogres launch an assault. With everyone in town occupied holding off the attack, you see four salamander groupings on the mountain, initiating a magic ritual. If the ritual succeeds, Goldtooth is lost. Will you split your party to attack the ritual sites, hold back the assault, or evacuate Goldtooth?

This hook can serve as inspiration when you want to run a large battle where the players must make strategic choices about how to best deploy their skills. For example, the wizard and bard could use magic and distraction to disrupt the rituals sites, while the fighters could help the town guard hold off the assault.

The clock is ticking. No matter what options the players choose, the volcano is about to explode.

Prompts for Dungeon Masters

How did Wumbrog gather the ogres and salamanders?

Is there something in the mine besides riches?

If there is no way to take out all four ritual sites, what happens when the volcano explodes? Could the degree of magical ritual disruption affect the outcome?

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