

THE RUINS OF MEVERRIN MONASTERY

Setting description

What remains of the ancient monastery at Meverrin Hill? Where once stood the rooms in which the small community of monks studied, slept or dined, now stand only crumbling ruins. The wall that once kept the world away from the monks stands unbroken, still holding much of the wild at bay. Inside its perimeter, storms have felled roofs, vines have pulled down stones and only the chapel still has a roof to protect the meagre treasures of its architecture. Sheltered in the rooms below ground are other treasures – the holy tombs in the crypt, the books of the monastery library. But around Meverrin something more than books, bones and graffiti remains of the monks that once lived here; places where the air chills...stones where unnatural darkness falls...shadows where robed figures seem to lurk.

Three 'Meverrin Monastery' tasks that could be listed on the Adventurers' Guild Job Board

- 1 A Mission on Behalf of the Archdiocese of Kingsalter – to Protect from Desecration the Holy Tombs at Meverrin. News given to the Archbishop by an itinerant monk who was robbed on the road from Port Periwinkle, indicates that the gang who left her for dead intends to plunder the holy tombs, having made merry at the irony of meeting a monk whilst on their way to the monastery.
- 2 A birdranger, Geofrin, has reported that the rare and beautiful blush-chested sparrows, which nest in the chapel roof at Meverrin Monastery, are being regularly attacked by monstrous bats. Geofrin attempted to repel the bats, which are perhaps of an undead nature, using arrows to no avail. The Ornithological Circle has the means to fund a hunting party to exterminate this threat to the nesting birds. Applicants must display suitable avian knowledge.
- 3 I am looking for highly discreet individuals (and I will happily acquire your discretion with gold) to discover for me, and hopefully also obtain, the key and secret ingredient in the old, brewed beverage known as Monks' Mother, to help me resurrect (for the Salt King Stillery, my brewery) the legendary mead produced at Meverrin Monastery in the age of the Old Kingdom. Note: I have myself previously sought to research at the ruins of Meverrin, but was chased away by what I believe to be the Armless Abbot phantom. Speak: Vic Pecking, SKS.

Some books still in the monks' library

- 1 *Eown's Collected Legends of the Forest of Wyklyn*
- 2 *An Architectural History of Baroncliffe Castle* (ms)
- 3 *Brewing and the Way of the Mead*, by Abbot Herrin
- 4 *Gods to Please and Gods to Punish*, a pilgrim's guide
- 5 *Illustrat'ns of Medcin'l Herbs & Roots* by Br Issidor (mss)
- 6 *A Treatise on the Tides & the Monsters That Cause Them*

Monks' graffiti scratched in the walls

- 1 Gods, protekt us with fire from the Creeping Brother.
- 2 My golden Sun, I buried your Light by the chapel Door.
- 3 How I long to sup from the Nipple of my Mother. Her chest beareth 7 teats!
- 4 Abbot Barnie's barnet still barks! He keeps it on a lead!
- 5 For my sin, they lock me in. I repay with blood and skin.
- 6 Turn trice & holy wat'r pour, demon knock upon th'door, prom'ses by both are swore, pay th'toll for evermore

Hauntings and ghosts around the monastery

- 1 The chapel is filled with eerie chanting. Anyone who cannot get the sound out of their head takes a penalty to perception checks.
- 2 Sitting at a desk in the library induces the sense of being the last monk to sit there – a man shamed and wearing a hair shirt. A character will remain itchy for many hours.
- 3 The cloister flashes with scenes of the monastery's fall when the remaining monks were murdered. Characters experience psychic fear and lash out at each other.
- 4 The Armless Abbot roams the crypt and attacks anyone who touches any of the tombs.
- 5 The Creeping Brother may emerge at any time from the library floor, tearing books from hands and attacking.

Unusual plants growing around the monastery

- 1 Tebbleweed, a peppery leaf used in healing teas
- 2 White Ockrot, a root used to induce vomiting
- 3 Witchclaw, a purple flower used in prophecy rituals
- 4 Nipple Flower, with abundant milk-flavoured nectar
- 5 Feather of Frog, a grass used to flavour fish stews
- 6 Sweetpig, a herb worn in small sprigs, said to bring luck



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