

# Trax the Forged



By  
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The grinding of stone on stone echoed through the square chamber. Valrus glanced at the lowering ceiling just before diving to the side evading the ice shards flying at him.

"How was I supposed to know the trap switch was under it!" Valrus said angrily glancing at the dead ogre. "If Indel was here, she would have disarmed it. I told you we should have stopped for the others."

A stream of fire shot across the room exploding in the center of the group of ice imps vaporizing them.

"I'll stop the imps," Marius said preparing to cast his next spell. "You stop the ceiling from coming down to crush us."

Valrus sheathed his sword as he ran to the northern wall where the three levers were. "What about the other ogres outside the door?"

"Worry about them after you stop the ceiling, please," Marius said.

Valrus examined the three levers, none were marked, and all were identical. The warrior pulled the lever on the far left. A mechanical thud echoed just before holes opened in the ceiling and floor. Water poured out of the holes in the ceiling adding a fishy smell to the musty one that permeated this place.

"Our situation hasn't improved," Marius said with a raised eyebrow. "Or perhaps it has, cover me."

Valrus drew his sword as he charged at the ice imps. He dove forward into a roll coming up stabbing his sword into one of the little creatures.

Darting around on their wings of ice, ice imps were elemental creatures of ice resembling small demons. They stood about twelve inches tall, with long sharp claws.

Valrus swung his sword to the right, launching the creature impaled on it into the nearest imp, both shattering into hundreds of pieces.

Marius ignored all distractions as he cast his next spell. A gale of freezing air blasted out of his hands freezing several of the nearby water pillars. The sound of groaning stone echoed as the ceiling slowed.

"How much time will that buy us?" Valrus asked dispatching the last of the imps.

Marius frowned, "not long, but enough time to solve this trap... I hope."

"Sounds better than that time in the swamp with the hags." Valrus said with a smile.

"That was not my fault," Marius said. "Dell was the one that stepped on that cat."

Both men laughed as they dispatched the last imp then moving to the levers. Marius scratched the beard on his chin. It was greyer than Valrus remembered.

"We are getting too old for this. I told you I was retired," Valrus said rotating his shoulder.

"Perhaps," Marius conceded, "but I couldn't pass up one last adventure."

Valrus patted him on the shoulder, "neither could I. So... What do you think?"

"The lever on the far right." Marius said.

"Why that one?" Valrus asked examining the levers. "They all look the same to me."

"Just a hunch," Marius admitted.

Valrus grabbed the lever, "good enough for me."

A mechanical thud echoed in the chamber followed by a rhythmic thumping as the ceiling started to rise. The water stopped flowing as the holes closed.

The two men laughed until the stone doors unsealed letting the rest of the ogres in.

“Ugh... I hate this part,” Valrus said drawing his sword.

“No you don’t,” Marius said with a smile.

“No... I don’t,” Valrus admitted.

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Valrus was breathing hard leaning in the doorway. “I remember this being easier.”

“Yes, I’m sure you do. That life running the Silver Axe is making you soft,” Marius said with a grin.

“Yeah, but you still like the free drinks,” Valrus said with a smile.

“So do I,” a voice behind them said.

“Dell? Indel?” Marius said as much as asked looking at the two figures in the hallway behind them. He looked at Valrus. “You told them?”

“Of course he did,” the small elven female said with a grin. “Unlike you, he still likes us.”

The burly man next to the elf chuckled. “Now, now Indel, we are back together again. That’s all that matters. Odam’s blessing is truly with us.”

Indel shrugged. “Oh, I suppose so.”

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Indel crept slowly up to the corner. She crouched down using a small mirror to look around the corner. *This must be it.* She thought to herself. She turned back towards the group making several gestures with her hands.

“What did she say?” Marius whispered.

“Four more orcs, and they are guarding a metal door,” Valrus said.

“This must be it,” Marius said, “but why do orcs and ogres have the torches lit? These creatures can see in the dark.”

Valrus shrugged, “no idea.”

“So, what exactly are we looking for?” Dell asked.

“Story goes that orc raiders found some lost vault and something dangerous inside,” Marius explained. “They brought it here to this abandoned temple. We are here to take it from them, so they can’t use it on anyone else.”

Valrus pulled out his bow. “Watch the rear.”

The warrior crept up next to the elf. “What’s our play?”

Indel smiled. “Right here, right now? Oh Valrus Trax, you naughty little man. I was hoping...”

“Indel, focus,” Valrus said.

“I am,” she said looking at the man’s crotch.

“On... the... orcs,” he said.

Indel rolled her eyes. “Fine. I’ll take the left, on five.”

Valrus nodded as Indel turned invisible. He took two arrows out of his quiver, knocking both. On the count of five he stepped around the corner putting both arrows into the throats of the orcs on the right. At the same time, Indel appeared jabbing her daggers into the throats of the two on the left. All four dropped to the ground with a light thud.

Indel turned around, blowing the warrior a kiss.

*Maybe Marius was right.* He thought as he walked up to the door. He looked down at the precision of her strikes. *Still, probably safer for me to invite her instead of leaving her out.*

Indel was checking the door as Marius and Dell approached. She had her tools out as she was working on the door.

"Anything?" Marius whispered.

"Not a sound from the inside," Valrus said. "I don't like it."

A click sounded from the door. Indel gave the others a thumbs up.

Valrus took out his sword. "Indel and I first, wait three then follow."

"Right," Marius and Dell said in unison.

Indel gently pushed the door open, a metallic groan sounded in protest. Indel and Valrus slipped in, running behind a nearby pillar.

The chamber was large and mostly open with an alcove in the back, pillars along each side of the room. It was dark, the only light was coming in from the door. A putrid odor filled the room, smelling as if week old corpses were near although none were visible. Seeing no immediate danger, the pair moved to the next pillar, Marius and Dell running to the first one. Indel made some motions with her hands at Marius and Dell.

"She said there aren't any orcs and that is a chest in the back." Dell said reading her hand signals.

"Oh ho ho! What do we have here?" A voice said echoing throughout the large chamber as torches across the room flared to life.

Out of the shadows across the room floated a spherical bodied creature, a melimore. It had several tentacle-like stalks coming out of its body. Eyes littered the creature's spherical body with the largest just above a gaping, tooth-filled maw. They noticed the

creature had four other smaller mouths that spoke independently of the larger one.

“Oh ho ho! Intruders we have! Dinner, dinner I have!” the creature said.

“Shit!” Marius exclaimed peaking around the pillar. “It’s a melimore.”

Melimore were dangerous magical creatures that could cast multiple spells at once with its many mouths and tentacles.

“I am Narcolex the Great!” The creature bellowed “I am not some common miscreant.”

“Tell them we need to take out its large eye, otherwise we’ve lost,” Marius whispered to Dell.

Valrus leaned in close. “What did they say?”

“Ugh,” Indel grunted. “He either said shoot it in the large eye or he wants two mutton chops and an ale to go... He really needs to work on his sign.”

Valrus shook his head. “Do you want to lead or shall I?”

Indel curtsied, “after you fine sir, just give me ten to get into position.”

Valrus pulled out his bow as Indel twisted a ring on her finger turning invisible again.

“Shit!” Indel said a couple of seconds later.

“Oh ho ho! Thought you could sneak past the great Narcolex. Wrong you are, dead wrong.”

Valrus looked around the pillar. Indel was visible and standing a few feet away from the creature. The creature spoke the words to a spell out of one of the smaller mouths just before a light green glowing beam shooting out of one of the tendrils striking the elf. Valrus noticed she hadn’t dodged or ran, she stood there motionless.

"Indel!" Valrus shouted firing an arrow at the creature. His aim was off, the arrow skipping off the creature's thick hide. He ducked behind the pillar just as another beam shot out of a different tendril. This one, a darker green. It disintegrated part of the pillar Valrus was hiding behind causing the warrior to flinch. The warrior moved more to his right as another beam tore another hole through the pillar.

Marius peeked around the pillar, pointing a wand at Narcolex. "Crack!" the mage said speaking the command word.

Lighting arced out of the wand straight for the melimore, only to disappear as the large eye looked at it. The lightning reappeared across the room striking the far wall. The creature's large mouth opened drawing air in. Marius felt his connection to the weave of magic falter and fade, the creature was sucking the magic out of him.

Valrus spun around the pillar, two arrows fired in quick succession at the beast. Again, the dark green beam lashed out, disintegrating both arrows halfway to their target. The beam continued grazing Valrus' arm before the warrior could move. The warrior ducked behind the pillar examining his arm. The flesh where the beam had struck was red and raw but luckily still intact.

"Oh ho ho! Give up while you can, I'll make it quick if you do," Narcolex said with a menacing grin.

Marius glanced around the room, looking for anything they could use.

"What do we do?" Dell asked with panic in his eyes, "I can't feel Odam's grace!"

"It's his large mouth, it can draw magic out of the air, even people if they are close enough," Marius said. "We must take it and the eye above it out if we are going to have a chance. I have an idea,

do you have anything you can throw? It will probably be destroyed.”

“I have some hatchets,” Dell said.

“Good,” Marius said with a smile. “Tell Valrus to fire everything he has.”

Dell made the signs to Valrus. “He says he’s ready.”

Marius gripped the wand in his hand tightly. He took in a deep breath. “Throw everything you have... Now!”

Dell came around the pillar, a hatchet in each hand. He threw one after another, pulling more from his belt as he went, at the same time Valrus launched his volley of arrows.

Beams of several colors shot out of the creature’s tendrils as all four mouths were speaking. The dark green one disintegrated several arrows. A blue one struck Valrus pushing him back against the back wall. He hit with a loud metallic thud as his armor slammed against the stone, pinning him there.

A stream of fire alongside a bolt of lightning shot out in Dell’s direction, the lightning striking the priest. He staggered back a step before falling to the ground. The fire struck the hatchets, but didn’t slow their motion. Dell’s aim was true, both hatchets burying themselves into the creature, two in the large eye, one into its tongue. Narcolex’s scream, accompanied the sensation of Marius’ magic returning, which was what he was waiting for. He charged around the pillar launching lightning bolt after lightning bolt at the creature.

The pressure on Valrus disappeared and the warrior wasted no time. He fired arrow after arrow at the dangerous tendrils, putting arrows into half of them in seconds. Deafening thunder echoed in the chamber as Marius continued his lightning assault. A red pulse from a tendril shot out passing through the mage. Marius

dropped his wand as he ran for the door screaming, his eyes wide in fear.

Valrus dropped the bow as he drew his sword. He charged at the creature only to be swept aside by one of the tendrils landing on a pile of coins and treasure several feet away.

"I'll drag you down the mountain by your entrails!" Narcolex screamed out of one of his mouths.

Valrus reached for his sword, but it was gone, disappearing into the pile when he landed. He grabbed the only thing he saw, a large maul. The weapon glowed softly, and he could feel a slight hum as he lifted the surprisingly light weapon.

The warrior dove to the left as green and blue beams tore through the space he just left. The creature floated in, its razor filled maw open wide and filled with its own blood. Valrus swung the maul with everything he had, willing whatever magic was inside to release itself.

A loud "thummm" rang out as the weapon connected with its target with a sickening crunch. The sound of the maul rang out reminding Valrus of a large bell. Narcolex's flesh split open from the weapon's impact releasing a trail of blood and guts as it flew across the room, slamming into a pillar on the far side. The creature lay still, no sound or motion escaping it, only a putrid smell.

"Indel!" Valrus shouted as he ran to the elf. She didn't appear to be hurt and was slowly breathing. Her eyes were open and alert, she just wasn't moving.

"I'll be right back," he said seeing that she was ok. He ran over to Dell who was laying on the ground, whisps of smoke rising from the body.

Valrus smiled then looked to the door as Marius cautiously walked back in. Seeing Narcolex's body he smiled, "I knew it would work."

"You knew?" Valrus said raising an eyebrow.

Marius shrugged, "well, I hoped. How are they?"

"Alive, thank the gods," Valrus said. "Dell is a little cooked from the lightning but breathing and Indel..."

"Paralyzed, yes," Marius said straightening his robes. "Give Dell this potion so we can free Indel."

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"I can't believe you left me there, for the whole fight!" Indel yelled at Marius.

Marius sighed, "I have already explained it twice to you. The large mouth was able to draw in magic from the surrounding area, even from people. There was nothing I could do to free you while it was drawing magic."

"Pfft. A likely story," Indel scoffed.

"Come now friends," Dell said stepping between the two. "The day is won, and we are all still alive, Odam be praised."

"Hey over here!" Valrus yelled.

The others joined him on the treasure pile where a large ornate chest was resting.

"What do you think?" Valrus asked Indel, his new maul resting on his shoulders.

Indel crept closer then stopped. "It's protected by magic, powerful magic."

Marius cast a series of spells before crouching down to examine the chest. "She's right. It will take me a little bit to unravel this."

Indel rubbed her hands together. "Perfect, that gives me time to take my cut."

"Indel!" Dell said putting his hands on his hips.

"No, she's right Dell," Valrus said, "look around, I'll stay by Marius in case he needs something."

"Yay!" Indel cheered clapping her hands.

Dell smiled as he followed his elf friend. Marius waved his hands in the air, reciting arcane incantations for several minutes before his casting was finally finished. A bright flash from the chest was the only warning they got.

"Look out!" Valrus said tackling his friend, putting himself between the chest and the mage. The explosion sent the pair flying several feet away landing hard on the pile of coins.

Dell and Indel sprinted up to their fallen comrades. Marius sat up, appearing to be fine but Valrus was laying face down, a large glowing chunk of crystal sticking out of his lower back. Indel grabbed the crystal only to scream as lighting arced out shocking her.

"Don't touch it!" Dell said, "let me check him first." The priest closed his eyes as he chanted.

"You have to save him!" Indel pleaded with Dell. Marius put a hand on the elf's shoulder noticing the tears in her eyes.

Marius face was stern. "We will save him, no matter what it takes."

The mage and priest cast spell after spell but nothing they did allowed them to remove the crystal or stop his bleeding.

"We have to get him to the temple back in Donathal!" Dell pleaded with the mage.

Marius nodded, "gather close."

The mage started casting another spell as an area ten feet around Marius began to glow a soft blue. The torchlight and musty smells of the melimore chamber was suddenly replaced with a clear night sky and fresh air. They were back in Donathal standing outside of the temple of Odam, God of Strength. The three friends

carried Valrus in, all thoughts of treasure and fortune gone from their minds. The only item they took was the new maul Valrus had found.

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Dell tipped the tankard back, draining the last of the ale.

"You're gonna get sick again," Indel said flatly.

Dell let out a loud belch. "Na I..." He started but suddenly covered his mouth as he ran out of the tavern.

Indel smiled, "told ya."

"Is he sick again?" Valrus asked wheeling himself around the end of the bar.

"Yup" Indel said a look of sadness in her eyes as she watched her friend roll his wheelchair up to the table.

Valrus had survived the explosion from the chest in the chamber of the melimore, but not without cost. The priests at the temple of Odam had been able to remove the crystal in the warriors back but a small chunk had wedged itself into his spine, paralyzing him. He could still move his legs slightly, but not enough to walk or even stand.

Marius blamed himself after the incident. He stormed off in a fit of rage, swearing to find a cure, locking himself away in his tower at the edge of Donathal village seeing no one, not even Valrus for the last two years. Indel knew it was eating Valrus up inside, but the proud idiot would never let it show.

Valrus smiled, "well someday he..."

The doors to the Silver Axe Inn flew open, Marius charging in. His beard was completely grey now and halfway to his stomach. All the hair on top of his head was gone and wrinkles covered his face

making the man appear years older. Marius was also much thinner than before looking like he hadn't eaten in weeks or months.

"Marius?" Valrus said as much as asked.

"Valrus I've got it!" Marius said excitedly running up to his friend. "I finally figured it out!"

"What are you talking about?" Valrus asked.

"A way to fix you!" Marius said, excitement dancing in his eyes. "I've got it!"

Valrus squinted, not just at the news, but also at the smell.

"Marius you smell horrible, let's get you cleaned up and some food..."

"No, no, no, there is no time for that," Marius said heading back to the door. "We have to go now!"

"Go where?" Indel asked, a look of concern apparent on her face.

"To the tower," Marius said. "I have everything ready, but we have to go now."

"No," Indel said reaching for one of her daggers. "He's not..."

"It's ok Indel." Valrus said putting a hand on her shoulder.

"This is Marius, not some stranger."

Indel looked with concern at Valrus, "but..."

The warrior smiled. "It'll be ok. I'll be back before you know it."

Indel stuck her bottom lip out, "fine." she pouted. "But I ain't leaving until you're back."

"Deal," Valrus said with a smile. "Alright Marius, let's go."

Marius raised his staff as he cast a spell teleporting them away.

Dell crashed back in through the doors. "Hey, I think I just saw Marius!"

Indel rubbed her temples as she walked up to the bar. "I'm gonna need something stronger."

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Smells of various chemicals and something burning assaulted Valrus' nose. They were in a circular chamber with two tables. One table was empty and one held some kind of construct made of metal and wood, a golem Valrus figured. Shelves of jars and books lined the walls of the dimly lit room.

"Where are we?" Valrus asked.

"My tower. The place of your rebirth!" Marius said, his arms stretched out wide.

"Rebirth?" Valrus asked.

"Exactly!" Marius said. "Say goodbye to Valrus Trax the man, and say hello to Valrus Trax the Forged!"

"What?" Valrus asked not following what his friend was saying.

"I have scoured book after book, library after library and no one could identify the crystal from... that day," Marius said. "I talked to scholars and mages and none of them had the answer. I talked to clerics from all the faiths, none knew how to cure you, but I found a solution!"

"What are you talking about Marius?" Valrus asked.

Marius smiled, "you're right, none of that matters, only the solution does. I will take your soul and transfer it to this body." The mage said pointing on the construct on the table.

"What? No," Valrus said, "Marius listen. I am perfectly happy now. I don't..."

"Liar!" Marius yelled. "I see the pain in your eyes, the pain I caused."

“The pain is not having all my friends by my side. We miss you, we all do,” Valrus said. “Forget all of this and come back with me. Get some food...”

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Valrus rubbed the temples on his head trying to force away the headache. They had been arguing for hours and Marius had only grown more distant and angry as the time passed.

“Marius... Send me back to the Silver Axe to think it over.” Valrus said.

Marius scowled at the warrior. “You want to go back... fine. I’ll send you back.”

The mage grabbed his staff as he started casting a spell. After a few seconds Valrus realized it sounded different than the one that teleported them.

“Marius what are...” Valrus said just before blacking out.

Pain greeted Valrus as he woke up. It was a numb tingling pain as if his whole body had slept in an awkward position. The light that greeted him was the same from Marius’ tower, but he couldn’t smell anything.

*He must have knocked me out, but why?* He thought. He reached up to rub the blurriness out of his eyes when he noticed his hands. He sat up quickly looking down at his hands, then his body. He was in the body of the construct that was on one of the tables in the room, the Forged he called it. He looked to his right seeing his body strapped to the other table. The skin was now ashen in color, drawn tight over the bones.

“Ah! Finally awake I see,” Marius said entering the room.

“Marius... What have you done?” Valrus asked trying to stand.

“Easy now,” Marius said gently as if talking to a child. “It will take some time to get used to your new body...”

“What have you done!” Valrus screamed.

“Oh! Found your voice I see,” Marius said with a smile.

“You’re right! Time to show your new body to the others.”

A staff appeared in the mages hand as he cast the teleportation spell. The lights of the tower fell away to be replaced by the sights of the Silver Axe. Several people screamed as the pair appeared out of nowhere.

“Ladies and gentlemen, if I may have your attention, I would like to introduce you to the new Valrus Trax!” Marius said with a sweeping bow at the end.

Indel appeared out of nowhere, standing right before Marius. “What have you done to him you crazy mage!”

“Saved his life!” Marius said. “Not that a low-brow like you would understand.”

“Low-brow!” Indel said drawing her daggers. “I’ll show you low-brow!”

“Stop!” Valrus yelled. “Indel stop!”

“That is you, isn’t it Valrus!” Idel said, tears flowing down her cheeks.

“It is,” Valrus said with a nod.

Indel looked to the ground. “Then he’s dead.”

The elf moved faster than the eye could follow, charging right up to Marius daggers going right for the mages throat. A sudden flash and she was flying across the room into a set of tables and chairs.

“Marius stop!” Valrus said stepping in front of the mage.

“She started this, and it is past time she learns her place,” Marius said, a grim look on his face.

"This is all your fault!" Indel screamed. "This all started with that stupid little adventure you were trying to leave us out of." She was standing on one of the tables, several of the patrons moving away from the dangerous elf.

"You're right," Marius said calmly. "And now I have corrected my mistake, making Valrus better than he ever was."

"Better?" Dell asked standing by the door, his mace in his hand. "Is this what he wanted?"

"He was too proud to admit the pain he was in. You two were too blind to see it." Marius yelled starting to get angry, "and so was he. So, I stepped up and did what you refused to. I did what I had to."

"Marius listen to yourself," Dell said.

"Ever the self-righteous bastard, making decisions for everyone else," Indel said.

"None of you understand, but I'll make you understand," Marius said gripping his staff tightly.

A stream of fire shot out of the end of the mages staff heading for the elf. Indel stepped back off the table flipping it on its side providing a shield against the flames.

Dell grabbed the mage from behind in a bear hug, Valrus grabbed his staff.

"Marius stop this!" Valrus pleaded.

"No!" Marius said throwing up his arms. A pulse of energy flew out of the mage throwing Dell and Valrus back. "You never have to worry about starving, never have to worry about aging. Your legs work again! I have given you everything and more! Can't you see that?"

Indel was in front Marius in an instant. She stabbed her left dagger out in reverse grip into Marius' right wrist. Her right fist

punching the mage in the nose causing him to drop his staff and stagger back.

Dell charged him from behind, but Marius had already drawn a wand. He turned shooting a bolt of lightning at the priest, but the shot was wide. Dell managing to dive into a set of chairs out of the worst of it. The doors to the tavern exploded from the bolt sending shards of wood flying out into the street.

Indel stabbed both daggers into Marius side but if he felt them, he didn't show it. He shoved the elf back pointing his wand at her. Lightning arced out taking Indel in the chest. The elf took a shaky step back before collapsing.

"Indel NO!" Valrus screamed racing to her side. "Marius stop!"  
Marius smiled, "this is all for you! All for you!"

The mage pulled a second wand out of his robes launching a fireball out into the street at the approaching guards. This one exploded with concussive force launching the soldiers and citizens outside in all directions. Marius started laughing.

A beam of white, hot, holy energy struck Marius, burning his robes and flesh. Dell stood amongst several chairs and tables chanting his holy spell.

The mage turned launching another fireball at the table and chairs where Dell was. The explosion sent fire and splintered wood flying in all directions. Small fires started to break out around the room.

Valrus tackled Marius sending another fireball to the back of the room exploding where several of the patrons were standing. The warrior pinned the mage to the ground as screams and cries for help filled the air. Smoke was starting to fill the room making it difficult to see.

"That's enough Marius!" Valrus screamed.

The mage threw the forged off with a surprising show of strength. Valrus flew out the doorway into the street. Marius casually walked out of the inn, a look of satisfaction on his face. He turned launching another fireball into the inn setting the whole place on fire.

“No one can deny, you are Valrus Trax, a man healed and whole once again! And that it is all thanks to me, Marius Crane!”

A sword tip burst from Marius’ chest. One of the guards snuck up from behind striking the mage while he was distracted.

“No!” Valrus screamed collapsing to his knees.

Marius dropped both wands as he fell to the ground, face down. Marius chuckled as the blood ran out of the corner of his mouth. “I did it... I really...”

Marius lay still as the whole world seemed to slow to a crawl as Valrus watched his friends die. His whole body and mind felt numb. He hadn’t even realized he had fallen to the ground as the darkness took him.

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Valrus stopped, taking one last look back at Donathal village. It had been two weeks since the incident with Marius, after which the mage’s whole tower had vanished without a trace.

Valrus was questioned for two days about what had happened by the local magistrates, but he had no answers. He told them everything he knew, the little that it was. They released him from custody telling him he was free to go, but he didn’t feel free, not even close. He lost everything, Indel and Dell were dead, the Silver Axe was destroyed. There was nothing left for him here, other than pain.

He didn't know what happened to Marius during those two years locked in that tower, but all the answers disappeared with it. Marius wasn't the man he knew when he showed up that day in the Silver Axe. So, with a heavy heart he walked down the road away from what was his life. He stopped at a statue of Adom, the God of Strength. A smile crept onto his face.

"Chin up," he said reciting a phrase Dell had said to him many times during their years of adventuring. "A new day is just over the horizon. Easy for you to say old friend."

He looked down at his hands. He had a new body that he was finally getting used to, and he did feel stronger than ever. Marius had been right in one thing, he did feel like he had been reborn, but into what and why he didn't know.

Valrus looked back up to the statue. "I will try old friend. I will continue to see where this road leads because I know it is what you guys would have wanted me to do, besides I don't know what else to do. I have never been a holy man but..."

He glanced down at his hands again then the maul resting on the ground beside him. It was the only thing he had taken from that last adventure. "I hope you guys lend me your strength. I know that wherever this leads I will need it. There is one thing though, Valrus is dead, he died that day. From now on I am just Trax, Trax the forged."

He picked up the maul, resting it on his shoulders. He walked down the road feeling a little better. He didn't know what was in his future, but he would meet it head on. He would search for Marius' tower and find his answers.