

## Expedition R22

**Expedition Date:** January Week III, 1026

**Lead Pursued:** Meet the Botanist (Completed)

**Members of the Expedition:** Clay Potts, *warrior* ; Bizarro Olesonson, *acolyte* ; Myrtle Stupendous\*, *medium* ; Scott Scooter, *veteran* ; Cheese Strawford, *medium* ; Altruism Johnston, *conjurer* | Battlefield Commission: Wombus Hieronymus Welkin Woof

**Hirelings:** Wombus, Arms, Lights

### **Summary:**

For the first time since November 1024, an expedition was made through the entrances on the western slope of the hill of Redux. A group of 8 was assembled to Find the Botanist, a mission which itself hadn't been attempted since March of 1024.

Arriving to Redux was no difficulty, nor was discovering the three western entrances. The party had the advantage of a detailed map drawn by one Brother Waldgrave, whom nobody in the party had known firsthand. They followed the map pretty closely to get deep into the dungeon. Here and there they poked into a room, but mostly went straight towards the blanker areas of the map.

Myrtle listened at a door and heard loud snoring; further on was a door behind which was heard distant whispering. Intrigued, Clay used his crowbar to force open the door. Down a hallway somewhat further, the party came upon a horrific sight, **The Endless Birthday Party of Kazzoo The Wise**. Propped-up and animated corpses of Kazzoo the Wise, Martin Trench, Oli Foops, and Karl Sloop sat around a table, evidently a birthday party, engaged in a tortuous (to listen to) philosophical dialogue. The party listened to a snippet about the substance of Being. Finding no treasure other than some wrapping paper, they moved on.

Following the map closely, at length they came upon a room with a Glubitrubabubtrub, which Rambo Nammers promptly touched the lights of, reducing him to a size not much more than a foot tall. Myrtle carried Rambo on their shoulders.

They passed through a room with a cool 'S' scratched into the floor, and at length came upon a hallway blocked with a Burtbubaburtibulg--Myrtle tossed rambo through the lights, and he clattered normal-sized on the other side. Myrtle then climbed up onto the thing, touching the lights and immediately becoming gargantuan. In the tight hallways there was not enough room for Myrtle--Rambo was pinned and crushed against a far wall by Myrtle's head, dying instantly.

The rest of the party was pushed backwards by Myrtle's feet. Myrtle's arm snapped, wedged within the hallway.

The remaining party members rushed back to the Glubitrubabubtrub, tied a rope around it, and towed up up to Myrtle's feet. Touching them Myrtle shrank down to normal size. Rambo's body was removed of its possessions and Myrtle shrank Rambo's corpse and wrapped it in wrapping paper.

Pushing forwards, the party found themselves in a winding brick hallway worn smooth by age. Here they came at last upon a brass gate with a sign listing "Hours: 10-3". Beyond the gate was a large chamber filled with all kinds of tropical plants. The party spoke to Lazarus, a practicum student of the botanical garden who urged that they speak to the botanist.

The Botanist at first thought the party was bringing him a package, but later was happy to converse with the party. They asked him about Alfonso Ultima and his god, but while he seemed to know of Ultima, he was completely uninterested in the subject. Asked about Gerard, he acknowledged acquaintance, but insisted he "didn't want to be political" and left it at that.

Through more conversation they learned that the Botanist had been operating the botanical garden for 50 or 60 years. The Botanist was most excited to show the party the Tree of Leaves, or The Leaving Tree, far more ancient than he or any other thing. Several members of the party were invited to pluck a leaf from the tree, and this is what the leaves said:

*Whither wither?  
Whether without water  
We wilt despite pools  
Of tears.*

\*\*\*

*Hark! And besides—  
We cannot know everything*

\*\*\*

*I can not see nor hear nor smile  
And yet  
I feel its been a while*

\*\*\*

*Weeping does not achieve inaction;  
Violence does*

\*\*\*

*Along came Thackeracky to sing me a song  
Aswoon, fully stuffed tight  
Of future visions towards might  
He wooed my branches, fed my roots,  
Edited my leaves—  
Promised safety, he did  
And Thackeracky is dead*

\*\*\*

*Words are wrong, yes  
Libraries evil, true  
Plants a burden, of course*

At this time the party was over-exerted, and so returned home feeling pleased to have made such a big discovery. The Botanist urged them to bring him some water from the Well of Orr, and pointed to a spot on their map where it was.

**Deaths:** none

**Rooms Traversed:** 14

**Foes Encountered:** 1 Glubitrubabubtrub, 1 Burtbubaburtibulg (crushed), The Botanist, 2 Practicum Students

**Treasure Recovered:** none

**Experience Points:** Base 300 (leads) + 0 (Level II) = 300 experience was awarded to each principal character, modified by experience bonuses and relative levels.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Old XP</u>	<u>Awarded</u>	<u>New XP</u>	<u>Threshold to next lev.</u>
Clay Potts	War.	2294	330	2524	4000
Bizarro Olesonson	Aco.	120	330	450	1500
Myrtle Stupendous*	Med.	2360	300	2660	2500
Scott Scooter	Vet.	0	330	330	2000
Cheese Strawford	Med.	1050	315	1365	2500
Altruism Johnston	Con.	5507	300	5807	6000
Wombus Hieronymus Welkin Woof	Hir./ Vet.	0	330	330	2000

\* Reached XP threshold for next level this session