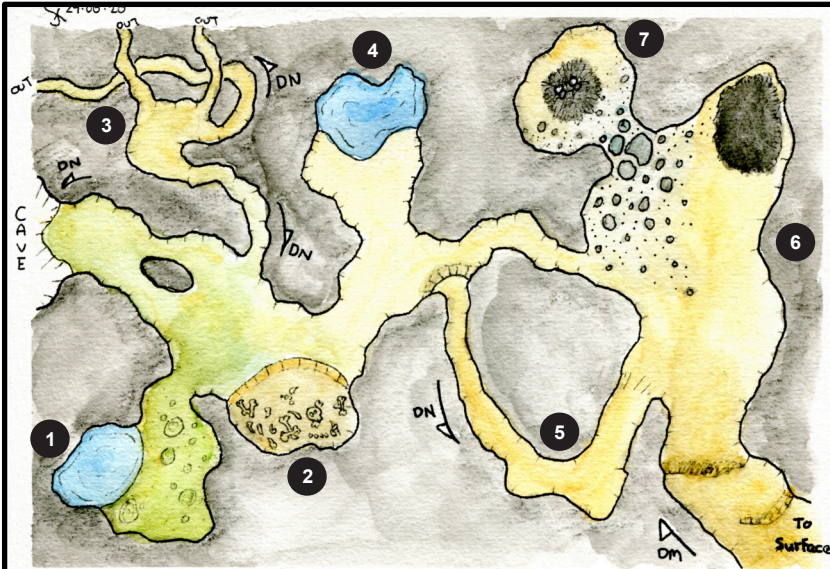


The Wailing Manticore



The Cave...

...lies high up the slope of a craggy mountain, rumoured to be the lair of a flying monster that steals shiny trinkets from passing merchants.

Recently, a wailing howl has been heard coming from the cave, and local merchants want it to stop, for it is affecting their business. Any treasure found there can be kept by whoever is brave enough to venture inside, put a stop to the howling, and maybe an end to the monster too.

The Manticore...

...that lairs here is howling because its young have become trapped from a cave-in. It wails and sobs on its bed of loot, helpless to free them.

- 1 A pool of water with stalagmites and stalactites.
 - The stalagmites and stalactites have been carved into sculptors of manticore's, many worn to vagueness by time.
 - In the water are 1d100 **silver coins**, thrown in by travellers who passed this way making wishes; before the manticore made its lair here.
 - A **GREY OOZE** has taken up residence here, acting as a waste disposal for the manticore's prey. It waits until someone reaches into the water before it attacks, unless fed with something meaty beforehand.
- 2 A pit littered with the gnawed bones, mostly animals.
 - Amongst the bones are 2 **wyvern horns** & 4 **claws** (worth 150 gp each), and 4 **wild boar tusks** (50 gp apiece).
- 3 A cave, home to a couple of dozen bats, which swarm out if disturbed.
- 4 Deep pool of water where the manticore drinks.
 - In the water is a **statuette of a mermaid**, carved from polished granite (worth 500 gp to a collector).
- 5 A narrow tunnel, a couple of feet high, reached by a hole and ledge 10' up the wall.

- 6 The **MANTICORE** lairs here, on a nest covered with its stolen loot.

The creature lies here, wailing, its claws blunt and broken from trying to tear the rocks away from the smaller cave where its babies are trapped.

It is more concerned with freeing its babies than fighting, and will be grateful if anyone helps free them, remembering their kindness for the rest of its life.

- In its nest are 975 **gold pieces**;
- 2 **statuettes of manticore's** (worth 500 gp each);
- 3 **rolls of bright green silk** (400gp each).

- 7 A cave-in has blocked this shallow cave, where the small nest now lies in darkness. A couple of **MANTICORE BABIES** are trapped here, crying for their mother.

- The babies have been using a soiled **cape of large wolf fur** (worth 1000 gp, if cleaned) as a comfort-blanket.

