

THE Tasks of TANTALON

SOLUTION

Answers:

The Stinn Dungeon: Move lever to the LEFT. Therefore, answer is 5.

Fickling Rise: Demon Fish eats Red Fish. Red fish eats grey fish with red dot. Red Dot eats grey fish with black stripe. Black Stripe eats tiny grey fish with white belly. Flag shows White Belly eating Fly. Therefore, you must buy a fly to catch the Demon Fish, which costs 6 Copper pieces.

Weirtown: There are 13 Hag-Witches, including the four insets and the top of the page opposite.

The Eede Dam: Valves three, four, and seven must be closed to stop the flow of water. The sum of these three values is 14.

The Brimstone Dragon's Hoard: There are 102 gold coins in the picture.

The Princes of Ham: Counting *only* the Princes' hops, 12 hops are required to free them.

The Minotaur's Maze: The four Blue Orbs of Shantos (*The Princes of Ham: 3; The Minotaur's Maze: 4; King Tag: 5, 6*) give clues as to which route is safe. The four entrances are marked with 3 stars, 2 stars, 5 stars, and 7 stars. Thus entrances 2 and 7 can be discounted as they are not in the Orb of Shantos. You cannot reach the centre from entrance 3. Therefore, the correct route is from the entrance marked with 5 stars.

The Ting Ring: The Ring is hidden on the wooden test-tube rack at the bottom right-hand side of the picture, disguised as a hole. It has 0 stones set in it.

King Tag: This is a fiendish puzzle. While fleeing Casper, King Tag meets his wife Davina and heads south through Eacham to Greycloud Manor. At the *Brimstone Dragon's Hoard*, Chauncey the Dwarf referred to Tag's 'ailing wife Davina'. Tag would therefore likely visit the Healing Well (grid ref. 2:5) to heal his wife. Since he is '*in exile living underground*', King Tag must be hiding *below* the well, at grid ref. 1:5. Totalling the two values gives the answer 6.

Hornhelm's Crown: The tallest tree on Windswept Moor has 4 trees growing next to it.

Cumbleside Prison: The correct key is not found in Cumbleside, but rather in the *Stinn Dungeon*, and is marked with the value 15.

The Medusa's Lair: The book makes several references to Sir Duke that are helpful for this Task. In the *Brimstone Dragon's Hoard*, Chauncey the Dwarf remarks that Sir Duke has an identical twin brother called Sir Beade. At *Fickling Rise*, the fisherman says Sir Beade was sent to the verminpit Weirtown. There are two persons in the picture of *Weirtown* who match statues in the *Medusa's Lair*: the man on the horse, and the man in blue wearing a yellow cloak. The introduction states that it was '...the bearded Sir Duke who suggested the Crown be held by Tantalos.' Since the man on the horse does not have a beard, the bearded Sir Duke must be the statue marked 14.

Totalling these numbers together gives a value of 196. The Rune marked 196 on the *Princes of Ham* page has some very tiny writing along one side of it, requiring a strong magnifying lens to read. The hidden messages are detailed below.

Hidden Messages:

Rune #196 (The Princes of Ham): YOUR WISDOM IS THE MATCH OF YOUR COURAGE FOR YOU HAVE DISCOVERED THE SECRET OF THE RUNES. NOW FIND RUNESTONE 271.

Rune # 271 (The Return to Tantalón's Court): DEDUCT FROM THIS RUNE THE NUMBER OF GOLD PIECES FOUND IN THE DRAGON'S HOARD. THE TOTAL IS YOUR NEXT RUNE. *[271 - 102 = 169.]*

Rune # 169 (The Eede Dam): ADD TO THIS RUNE AS MANY COPPER PIECES AS YOU SPENT ON BAIT. THE ANSWER IS YOUR NEXT RUNE. *[169 + 6 = 175.]*

Rune #175 (The Princes of Ham): DOUBLE THIS RUNE AND DEDUCT A NUMBER WHICH HAS RESCUED A ROYAL JEWEL AND A NOBLE PRISONER. FIND THIS NEXT RUNE. *[175 x 2 = 350. 350 - 5 = 345.]*

Rune #345 (The Brimstone Dragon's Hoard): DIVIDE THE RUNE BY CASSANDRA'S KEY. THE RESULT IS ONE TENTH OF YOUR NEXT RUNE. *[345 ÷ 15 = 23. 23 x 10 = 230.]*

Rune #230 (The Minotaur's Maze): HOW MANY HAG WITCHES DID YOU FIND? ADD THEM TO THIS RUNE AND SEARCH OUT YOUR NEXT. *[230 + 13 = 243.]*

Rune #243 (The Return to Tantalón's Court): FOR ADVICE ON YOUR NEXT RUNE DEDUCT SIR DUKE'S PEDESTAL PLUS THE EEDE'S SOLUTION FROM THIS ONE. *[243 - (14 + 14 = 28) = 215.]*

Rune #215 (King Tag): SEARCH THE DRAGON'S LAIR FOR A RUNE THE SUM OF WHOSE NUMBERS MATCHES THE SUM OF TAG'S COORDINATES. *[1 + 2 + 3 = 6.]*

Rune 123 (The Brimstone Dragon's Hoard): MULTIPLY THIS NUMBER BY THE NUMBER OF TREES STANDING NEXT TO THE TALLEST. DEDUCT 100 FOR YOUR NEXT RUNE. *[123 x 4 = 492. 492 - 100 = 392.]*

Rune 392 (The Eede Dam): TAKE TEN TIMES THE NUMBER OF PRINCELY HOPS FROM THIS RUNE. SEARCH FOR THE RESULT. *[392 - (12 x 10 = 120) = 272.]*

Rune 272 (The Return to Tantalón's Court): YOU HAVE SOLVED TANTALÓN'S GRAND ADVENTURE QUEST. YOU MAY NOW CLAIM YOUR FINAL REWARD. LOCATE RUNESTONE 777.

Rune 777 (The Ting Ring): THE GODS OF GALLANTARIA HAVE PREPARED A SPECIAL RECEPTION TO HONOUR YOU. YOU MUST MEET YOUR TASKMASTER. FIND RUNESTONE 321.

Rune 321 (Fickling Rise): THE SPIRIT OF TANTALÓN HAS RETURNED TO GALLANTARIA. HIS MEMORY IS A FAMILIAR REFLECTION. FIND RUNESTONE 682.

Rune #682 (Cumbleside Prison): TANTALÓN CARRIES A PRIZE WELL BEFITTING YOUR SHARPNESS OF MIND. LOOK TO ITS INSCRIPTION FOR HALF YOUR REWARD.

Sword of Justice (Hornhelm's Crown): THIS SWORD OF JUSTICE MUST BE MATCHED WITH THE CROWN OF COURAGE. YOUR LAST GOAL IS TO FIND THIS CROWN AND READ ITS INSCRIPTION.

Crown of Courage (Rear Cover): WHOMSOEVER MATCHES THIS CROWN WITH THE SWORD OF JUSTICE IS DESTINED TO RULE GALLANTARIA THROUGH A LIFETIME OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY. YOUR QUEST IS FINALLY OVER.