

TRAVEL
DIARY



7th

First day of my vacation. Friends suggested Denoba, but I preferred some place off the beaten path. So that's why I'm here on Daltene.

Met this little character - calls himself Vindah. The sketch I did doesn't do him justice. Talked my ears off. Told me about Daltene and what I'd be having for dinner back home. He reminds me of a Trellan wormeat, but when I asked, he denied all. Was obsessed about a youth, Helmar, who stole some gem.

VINDAH

Seems this Helmar was a twin. He and his brother, JonQuah, were orphaned or abandoned - no one's really sure. They were dropped off at the cave mouth of the "Order of the Jewel". This Vindah had no idea by who or why.

Years later, Helmar is playing in a chamber, grabs this gem, and its power changes the kid. The next thing they know Helmar and the Jewel of Light are gone. Without the jewel in its proper place, the planet has become unstable. Vindah seems real concerned.





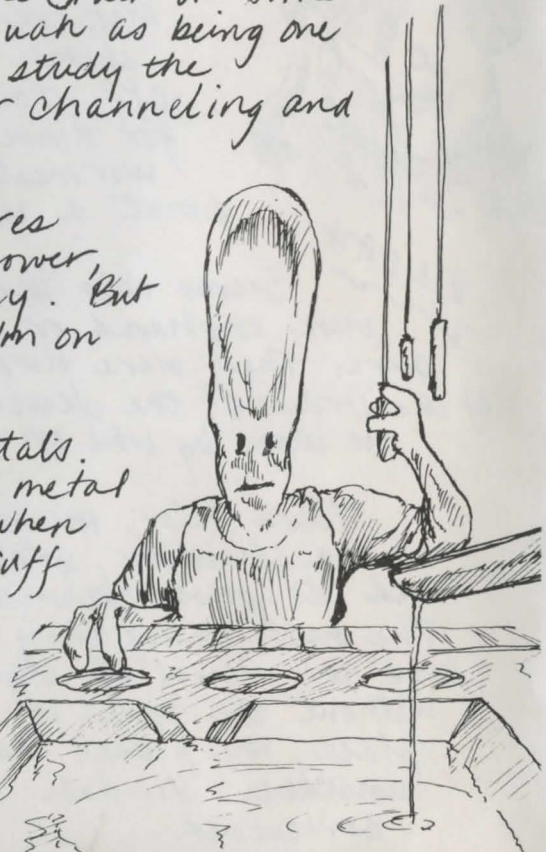
graff // Wondered into a strange place the inhabitants called the "Order of the Jewel." Seems these characters come from all over, attracted to the Order in some unknown way. They speak of Jonquah as being one of their best students. They all study the nature of using the jewels for channeling and focusing power.

I know better - the creatures themselves must have the power, a basic part of their biology. But I'm not here to argue - I'm on a walkabout.

Came across a molder of metals. Odd metabolism. Likes to mold metal into swords and such. Odd. When I asked him why, he was graff with me, told me to tend to my Kronzoids. How does he know about Kronzoids?

ALVAR
THE METAL
SHAPER

TENTRO





LANTRA
THE GARDENER

Nearby this barely-social soul was a thin person, named Tentro. He was working some mechanical contraption that made little fragments of information. Seems he's able to coalesce his raw materials from the air above his workshop. He called them "frags". Each one could hold a sentence or a paragraph of info. What was going on - I can't be sure. I think the whole thing - contraption and all - is biomechanical.

Some, like Alnar the metal shaper and Tentro, have made plans to move out of the Order in preparation of some creature who is due to arrive soon. They have made plans to summon him and provide him with help for saving them. They too, like that Vindah character, believe the little boy Helmar poses some threat. Oh, well. I'll be gone soon.

CRYSTAL
PLANTS



MASTER
TOWHEE

SCROLL



11th // Went on another walking tour -
found my way up to a floating
island being tethered by green vines.
Vines proved unclimbable, but did
find some bouyant plants - rode a
large one up.

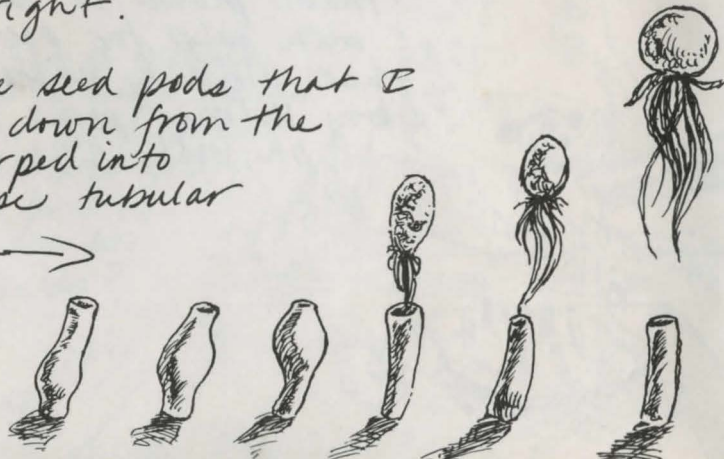


Vegetation on Daltere proves to be remarkable
and interesting. Glad I decided to
vacation here. If it weren't for that
stuff that Vindah said about the
instability... well, he couldn't
be right.

Thought I'd sketch the seed pods that I
used to get up and down from the
islands. They're burped into
existence by these tubular
plants.

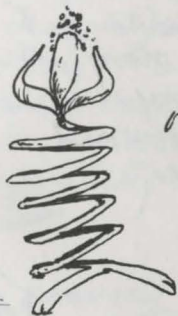


FLOATING
ISLAND





SPRING
THING

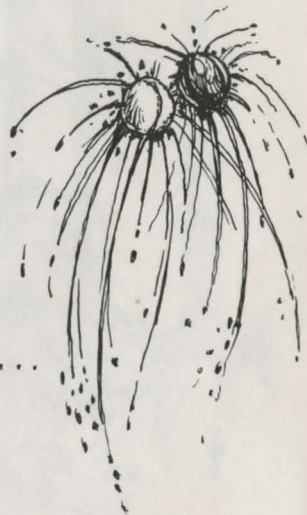


13th || Could barely stay out of the way of the spring thing. Wooded area was full of traps and dead ends. Tough for light to filter through. Glanced toward a pool of light, blazing to the west. No way it could have occurred naturally.

Vegetation here, as in other places on Daltene, is very weird. Coloration and form don't seem to follow function. Vine walls - why? Where do they come from?

The more I see of this place, the less I really understand.

Maybe there is something to this Helmar...

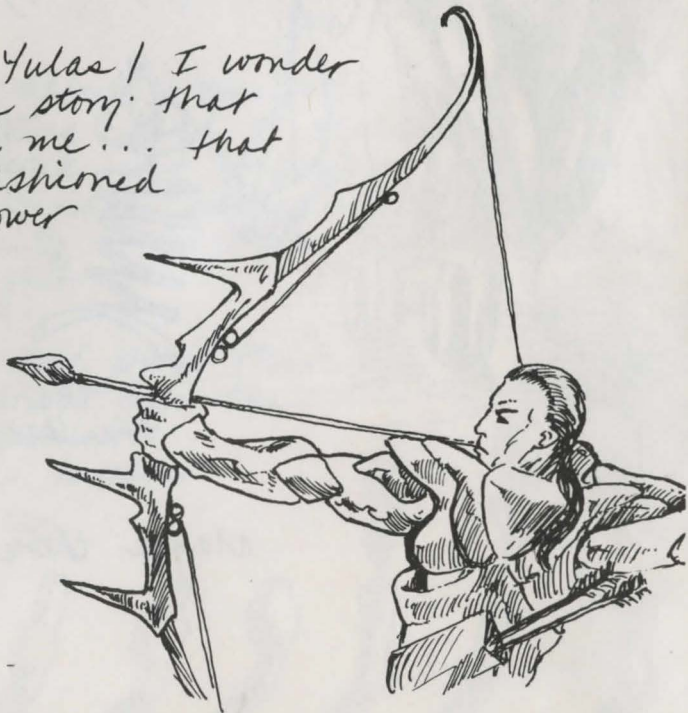
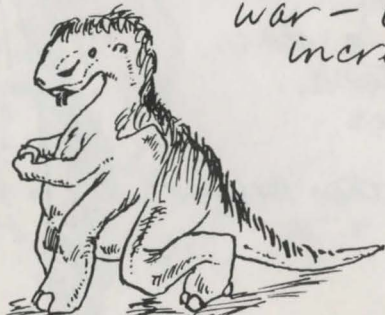


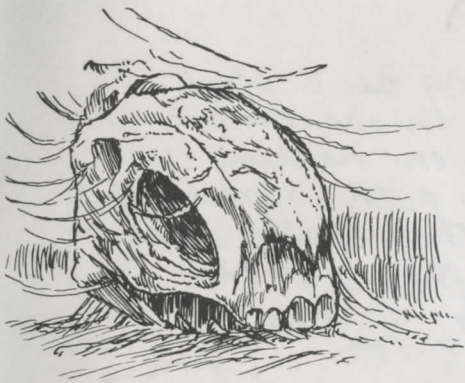


14th ||| Saw a massive creature way off to the north.
Used my autoscope to magnify the image. This
creature had to be at or near the top limit of
size for any standard biology. Fascinating. Creature
was obviously sentient, with a sophisticated
background and social system.

These must be the Yulas! I wonder
if there's any truth to the story that
many-eyed Towhee told me... that
a young prince who fashioned
an arrowhead from a power
gem - shot a Yula,
killed it. Starting
the Yula - Human
war - it's too
incredible.

YULA





15th

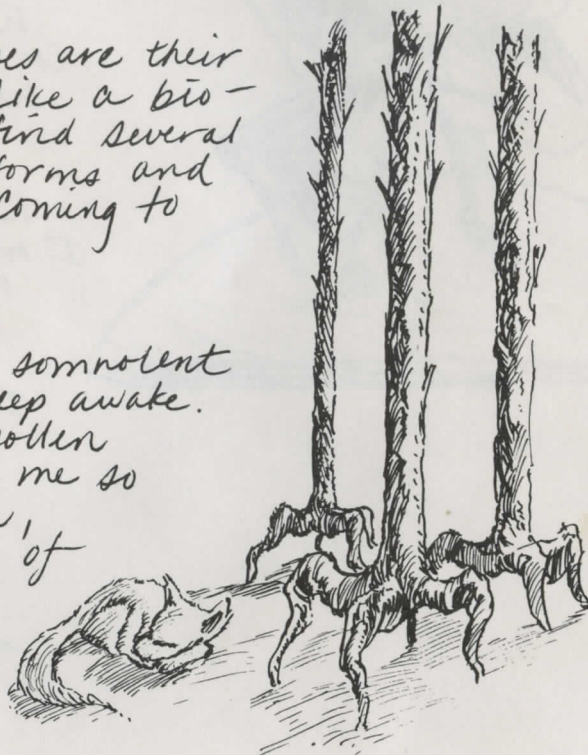
Heard about the Yulas, how they walk to their graves, shedding their fears along the way. They arrange themselves for a peaceful eternal sleep, then die. Their bones are huge.

Etched into their bones are their very life experiences. Like a bio-history. I managed to find several and could actually make out some forms and designs. What amazing biology. Coming to Dalere was definitely a great idea.

17th

Found a heavily vegetated and somnolent area. It was all I could do to keep awake. Perhaps some plant emits a pollen or some airborne-particle made me so sleepy. Hard to tell. A smallish, fearless creature slept, unaware of my presence.

Decided to rest here..





Caught a glimpse of something as I slept, which is not normal for me... nightmarish creature, the ARKAREA, bent on hacking and slashing anything in its path. Somehow it is linked to a castle. This castle was once pristine and beautiful, but now has fallen into disrepair. Or has it been somehow corrupted? Too hard to tell.

I leave here tomorrow for home, Tanla - Borug. I miss Elda and Freda, and this place - it's starting to get to me.

It will be good to be home.

KIM



