

## Relic

Nimrod, a master hunter, had come to live in the Black Mountains 20 years ago. He hunted deer and most of the time not far from his cabin located in the Hollow, a small, sheltered valley in the depths of the wilderness, which had a small natural lake a hundred paces from his cabin door that he also spearfished a few mornings a week as a change of meat from constant venison, and behind the cabin was spring fed brook for drinking water.

One day, in the spring Nimrod had left his bow and arrows at the cabin and took a leather bag half full of grass to go up to a plateau where numerous turkeys nested to gather a batch of eggs, which Nimrod did every year at this time. Nimrod had left at dawn and as he neared the top of the plateau, he could see a severe storm in the distance, so he headed for a cave he had found several years ago but did not bother to explore it, as there was in his mind no use for caves except for shelter from severe weather like the rapidly approaching storm now.

Nimrod gathered some dry deadwood and went into the cave out of reach of the coming downpour and built a small fire at the back of the cave and lay down resting his head on the leather bag full of grass, but the storm was violent and Nimrod, bored, made a torch and began to investigate the walls of the cave when he found a small cavern hole, as he peered into it he saw the black surface of obsidian, which was excellent for making what he thought of as the perfect arrow head, for it was easy to work and both extremely sharp and durable. Nimrod reached in and was mystified when he pulled out with one hand a perfect square black box of stone, which he could tell even by its small size it must be hollow but as he shook it, he detected no sound, that it contained nothing within it.

Nimrod built up the fire and sat down and examined the black box of stone to find that it was crafted in some strange way that there was no way he found to open it, thus he was curious not so much that it might contain something a value, for he was quite sure it contained nothing, but why one would go through so much labor that was of no use except that it was a beautiful thing to behold. Nimrod noticed that the storm had passed while he was intrigued by the black box of stone, and he placed it in the leather bag and headed straight for his the Hollow to show his cabin mate and lifelong friend Noctum his discovery, who Nimrod thought without much doubt that Noctum would know what the relic was and the reason behind it.