

- 1 The Diamond Palace
- 2 Khardis Library
- 3 Seaside Tavern
- 4 Khardis Markets
- 5 The Graveyard
- 6 Orchard Row
- 7 The Bread Fields
- 8 Witch's Hut
- 9 Haunted Ruins

The Lost Artefacts of Khardis

1 **F**rom faceted seat, face ocean's breeze,
 And seek words bound for minds to seize.
 The marauder sword, beneath the shelves,
 A gift for Khard's to rule themselves.

Next, follow the echoes beyond the dead,
 And across the black till your eyes wet red.
 Here, 'midst the muck of a crone's domicile,
 Hides the ardent shield, for aid in Khard's trial.

Third, turn to the echoing bark of the limbs,
 Creep 'neath shaded bough of the crims.
 A regal cloak, Khard's great magic prize,
 Atop their stone king its golden weave lies.

Last, seek the bands of Shade and Shine,
 Towards the minstrels, past the mine.
 Beneath the bladed, wind-worn mound,
 The heirs are kept where grain is ground.

2 My dearest friend,

For a few days now I have entertained the fear that our mission has been compromised and that our lives are in grave danger. I've spent months deciphering the ancient riddle and I believe that I have at last broken its enigmatic secret. The poem appears to be a set of procedural instructions for uncovering the Lost Artefacts of Khardis. Included with this letter are my translation and a map for the city of Khardis. If you read this, then there is a very good chance that I am dead, and it falls to you to uncover these artefacts. We must protect the city of Khardis from destruction, at any cost!

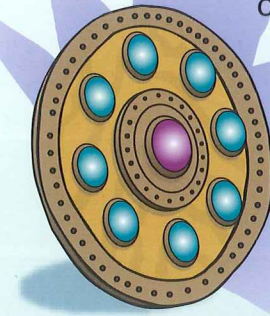
3 The first step requires that you start in a *faceted seat* — a seat is another word for a throne, which would be in the palace. Facets are the sides of a diamond, so this means you start at the Diamond Palace. Now what?

Face ocean's breeze suggests you should then look towards the Sea of Memories. *Words bound for minds to seize* suggests a book, for it is made up of words written on pages that are bound together. Combined with *face ocean's breeze* and *beneath the shelves*, this stanza suggests that you need to go to the Khardis library. If you face the Sea of Memories from the Diamond Palace, you will be looking straight at the library. Here, I believe, you will find the first item — the *marauder sword*, which was drawn out of Dragon Mountain. According to legend, only the true leader of



the Khard's was able to take the sword from the mountain's stone.

4 It seems to me that the first mention of *echoes* in this poem refers to the Echo Road, as you can follow a road. *Beyond the dead* is a simple direction: follow the road until you pass the graveyard. *Across the black* has to indicate the Black River, which makes sense, as *eyes wet red* suggests crying and crossing the river will bring you to the Swamp of Eternal Tears. The *crone's domicile* means the house of a witch. There are rumours about an ancient witch living in the swamp, so she must have the *ardent shield*. As the poem suggests, this shield is the next artefact, and symbolises the duty of a ruler to protect the people of Khard against any trials.



5 Next, you need to find the *echoing bark of the limbs*. I do not think the poem is talking about the sound of a dog barking but, rather, the Forest of Echoes, as trees have both bark and limbs. This is difficult, but I think the *shaded bough of the crims* refers to the stone circle called the Bandit Camp — *crims* is short for criminal. The fact they have a *stone king* makes sense, as the central stone of the circle is called the Bandit King. The third item you need, the *regal cloak*, will be found in this stone — it is golden, and must be worn by the ruler of Khard.



6 The final part of this riddle is proving difficult. I believe that *bands of Shade and Shine* refer to a black ring and a silver ring, called The Twin Heirs of Khardis. If you look carefully at the map, they are hidden somewhere out in the Minstrel Hills, but not as far up as the ancient mines in the Charcoal Mountains. There are only three locations where the rings could be hidden: Orchard Row, the Bread Fields and the Minstrel Windmill. You will need to work out this part of the riddle for yourself.

7 Following these instructions, you must collect each of the five items, and soon, for our enemies gather to invade Khardis. Without a true ruler, the city will fall, and who knows what will become of our fair homeland then? Once you have these items, you will have demonstrated that you are the rightful ruler of

this land and, with all my blessings, you shall lead the Khardis to victory!

Farewell my beloved friend and good luck. I fear that you will never see my face again.

Yours sincerely,

X



Questions

- This poem is a riddle leading to
 - the City of Khardis.
 - the Lost Artefacts of Khardis.
 - the enemies of Khardis.
- How many times is the idea of *echoes* mentioned in the poem?
 - twice
 - once
 - three times
- A *crone's domicile*
 - is a stone circle.
 - symbolises the duty of a ruler to protect Khardis.
 - is a witch's house.
- Which artefact does the Bandit King have?
 - the marauder sword
 - the regal cloak
 - the ardent shield
- Why does X want his friend to find all of these Artefacts?
 - so his friend can become the true ruler of Khardis
 - so his friend can destroy Khardis
 - so his friend can prove that X's deciphering was correct
- Where are the *bands of Shade and Shine* hidden?
 - Orchard Row
 - the Bread Fields
 - Minstrel Windmill

Vocabulary

Find words in the text that match the meanings below. The word is in the section shown in brackets.

- To grab, or capture something (1)
- Uncovered, discovered by the enemy (2)
- Mysterious (2)
- Represents, stands for (4)
- A garden where fruit is grown (6)

Grammar

Find the word in each group that is both a **noun** (object, person, place) and a **verb** (action).

- bark, bough, bandit
- crone, city, camp
- row, river, road
- final, face, found

Back To The Text...

- The riddle has been written with very little care.
 - true
 - false
- It is a rhyming riddle.
 - true
 - false
- X is probably a patriot.
 - true
 - false.

Think About This

- The map appears to be
 - very old.
 - painted on old paper.
 - sketched on paper.
- The riddle appears to be written on
 - an old map.
 - a parchment scroll
 - drawing paper.
- Which of the following artefacts probably contains no metal?
 - the marauder sword
 - the ardent shield
 - the regal cloak
- X believes that his friend
 - will probably die.
 - can save the Khardis.
 - has little hope of finding the artefacts.
- When will X's friend know if they are the true leader?
 - When they save the city of Khardis.
 - When they retrieve all the artefacts.
 - When they retrieve the first artefact.

Challenge Option

Writing: Write a story about how the Marauder Sword was found.

