

Pathways to Prophecy

While many players will enjoy exploring the options and combinations of a complex rules system, others may feel overwhelmed by the various ways to develop their characters and become lost in the plethora of possibilities. To make sure everyone has fun playing a Border Town Burning campaign Chris Templin describes how the aspiring Scion of Chaos players and the Celestial Protectors can find the powerful Chaos artefacts, which play a key role in fulfilling the objectives.

What you will want to do during a Border Town Burning campaign besides developing your warband is finding the four Chaos artefacts: the Broadsword of Damnation, Ghartok's Skull, the Liber Chaotica and the Dragon Scale Armour.

the broadsword of damnation

The mighty broadsword is a daemon weapon wielded by Belandysh, Condemned Champion of Chen. This powerful Dramatis Personae is roaming the borderlands and Northern Wastes and the only way to get the sword is by looting it from his corpse.



The most obvious way to do this is by hiring Belandysh and sending him against an enemy warband in the hope he is taken out in the process. However, this tactic can backfire! It is just as likely to put the artefact in the hands of your enemy. Belandysh's hiring cost is also fairly steep! Especially the valuable campaign points should not be spent with levity. The cheapest option is to wait until Belandysh appears through the random happenings (result 42-43). This may happen more often than you think, but speeding it up cannot hurt. Let's have a look at what other ways of finding Belandysh there are.

- Random Happenings: **42-43 Belandysh comes!** Wait for it to occur and then slay him.
- Scenarios: **Traces to Emprise** may allow you to play **The Lost Caravans**. If you rescue the Merchant, he gives you a map that leads to Belandysh on a **5-6**. Also on **1-3**, it allows you to enforce the result *Belandysh comes!*
- Purchase a **Map of Cathay**. On a result of **6** you can enforce the result *Belandysh comes!*
- Exploration: **(555555) Chaos Champion** result. On a **1** you find a Map to Belandysh that allows you to enforce the result *Belandysh comes!*
- Lesser Artefacts: **12 Chaos Artefact**. On a **5** you get the Broadsword without even facing its scary wielder. Also see Lesser Artefacts below.

Ghartok's skull

Ghartok's Skull is the arcane helmet of Ghartok, a feared champion of Chaos. Luckily for the warbands this powerful warlord was slain a long time ago. Less fortunately however, his helm was buried with him so the players have to locate his unholy place of resting.



Finding ways that allow the warbands to choose the "Ghartok's Tomb" special scenario will offer some solutions of how they can get to this artefact.

- Exploration: **(55555) Ghartok's Tomb** result gives access to the special scenario.
- Exploration: **(555555) Chaos Champion** result. On a **2-3** you find a Map to Ghartok's Tomb.
- The Celestial Protectorate objective: **40 Buried and Forgotten** achievement. This allows protectors to play the special scenario.
- Lesser Artefacts: **12 Chaos Artefact**. On a **1-4** you find the helmet. Also see Lesser Artefacts below.

Dragon scale armour

The Dragon Scale Armour can be found by slaying the Chaos Dragon in the "Chaos Dragon Hunt" special scenario. Find the location of the beast's lair is what you need to do.

- Scenarios: **Traces to Emprise** may allow you to play **The Lost Caravans**. If you rescue the Merchant, he will give you a map that enables you to play the **Chaos Dragon Hunt** scenario on a **5-6** (and **4-6**). [5-6 and 4-6? Is that correct!?!]
- Exploration: **(555555) Chaos Champion** result. On a **4-6** you find a Map to the Chaos Dragon's lair.
- Lesser Artefacts: **12 Chaos Artefact**. On a **6** you find the armour without even having to face the dragon. Also see Lesser Artefacts below.



Liber Chaotica



For now at least, the forbidden lore of the Liber Chaotica is kept safely by the mystics of the border town. The Scion of Chaos will have to gather his followers and lead them against the town. The

Protectorate can try to make their last achievement before this happens.

- Scion of Chaos objective: **20 The Siege** achievement. This allows scions to play the **The Horde Approaches** special scenario, followed by the special scenario **Siege!**
- The Celestial Protectorate objective: **40 Buried and Forgotten** achievement. This grants protectors the artefact if it has not been found already.

Lesser artefacts

As you can see, hunting for Lesser Artefacts is also a way of tracking down some of the Chaos Artefacts. If you are extremely lucky and roll a **12** on the Lesser Artefacts table you can get either Ghartok's skull (1-4), Belandysh's Broadsword (5) or the Dragon Scale Armour (6). Here is how you can find the Lesser Artefacts:

- Scenario: **Horrors of the Underground**. If you manage to discover the Wyrms egg you find a Lesser Artefact on a roll of **11-12**.
- Exploration: **(222222) Slaughtered Convoy** result. You find a Lesser Artefact on a 5+.
- Exploration: **(444444) Giant's Carcass** result. You find a Lesser Artefact on a 5+.
- Merchant Caravan warband: **Connected skill**. The skill allows the merchant to purchase Lesser Artefacts for 200 + D6 x 15 gold crowns, Rare 16.
- Grave Robber Hired Sword: **Grave Robbing skill**. On a roll of **12** you find a Lesser Artefact.
- Cathayan Merchant Hired Sword: **Marketeer skill**. On a roll of **6** on the Black Market table you find a Lesser Artefact.

special scenario: the heist

Special mention should go to the "The Heist" special scenario, which was designed to allow warbands to steal artefacts from other warbands.

- The Silent Threat objective: **15 Burglary** achievement. This gives closet cabals access to the special scenario.
- Exploration: **(333) Unscrupulous Thief** result. This allows stealthy infiltrators to play the scenario once for a small fee.

Hints & tips

exploration

Influencing the results on the Exploration charts is a viable strategy to advance more quickly in your objective. You can either find Lesser or Chaos artefacts directly, get access to special scenarios such as the "The Heist" or the "Chaos Dragon Hunt" or find other items that are useful for your objective.

There is much miscellaneous equipment that allows you to re-roll or modify the rolls such as Tarot Cards, Wyrystone Pendulum and Rabbit's Foot. Also the *Wyrystone Hunter* skill, the *Dwarfen Resource Hunter* special skill and the Satchel of Maps (66666) will all prove useful here.

your enemy is your friend

The number of possibilities increases with the number of participants in your campaign. The more players join the hunt for the artefacts, the faster they will be found.

The warband types involved are quite relevant. The Merchant Caravans will always prove to be useful, if expensive. They act as a broker, negotiating the trading of artefacts between warbands.

the dark secrets

There are more subtleties lurking in the Border Town Burning supplement. Even dirty tricks like purchasing winter pelts and dragging an opponent into the Northern Wastes or having a fresh-faced enemy warband face the monstrous Wyrms in the Horrors of the Underground are ruses making enough difference to put you ahead of your opponents. Go and sniff them out!

