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XINTA TEMPLE

Hmm. Decisions, decisions. What secrets should I reveal about Mashiva's oldest and most... shall we say... "interesting" tourist destination?

Let's start with the basics, shall we?

Xinta Temple is an ancient key'vin'ta religious structure which was once one of a pair of nearly identical temples flanking the Mashiva River, a bit to the northwest of the Grand Falls. It sits on a high, rocky outcrop consisting of gray granite bedrock with quartz and purple gobsite intrusions. A large, flat, and square black granite plinth makes up the visible base of the temple.

The temple itself consists of a massive, though proportionately squat looking obelisk at the very center of the plinth, with a set of eight shorter, more slender obelisks surrounding it in a roughly octagonal pattern, one at each vertex. The thick walls of the plinth contain numerous chambers. The only obvious entrance to the temple is on the southwest face of the plinth, where a long, steep incline leads up to a modest gate.

The chambers within the walls of the plinth serve a mainly domestic purpose, serving as housing, workshops, and storage. It is here that longer term temple captives would live and work. Little concrete evidence remains of the actual manner in which each room was equipped or furnished, and current reproductions are largely speculative.

The secondary obelisks are double-ended structures capped with massive cubic crystals of flawless amethyst, with the lower half of their structure hidden beneath the surface of the plinth, and penetrating deep into the bedrock. Entrance to each obelisk is achieved by surmounting a low platform and entering the open passage which faces the main central obelisk. The base level is a foyer of sorts. Stairs lead up to a series of five levels which once served as the bedchambers for temple supplicants and priestesses. A hovering platform in

the very center of the foyer leads down into the lower part of the obelisk containing the 'soul capacitors'.

The living chambers are rather unusual. There are dressers along the side walls, with large sheets of purple slime gobzite filling the walls above them. Evidence suggest that these were intended to hold members of the temple 'choir' captive. The beds provided for the residents consist of purple slime gobzite sarcophagi, padded with the same mysterious 'soft solid purple slime' which was used as chastity attire for certain specific temple servants.

The soul capacitor portions of each secondary obelisk consists of an entirely hollow structure, with oval half-bubbles of purple slime filling each of the four walls. There are 115 of these on each wall, mounted in partially overlapping, alternating rows of 3 and 4, with 460 total in each obelisk. These would be occupied by captives snatched from the hovering platform by tendrils of slime, held in place, half-melted into purple slime, waiting until the energy flowing between their mortal bodies and immortal, higher-dimensional soul is required. When that happens, the subject is completely dissolved and, if the key'vin'ta tell the truth, is sent directly to an eternal afterlife in the Nine Heavenly Hells. This energy is pulled into a beam of exotic energy that flows up from the bottom amethyst, through the top amethyst, and then to the central obelisk.

The main, central obelisk has surface and subterranean portions as well. The surface portion is completely hollow. It is accessed by a massive portal facing the temple gate. A tall altar stands opposite, complete with a sacrificial 'diving board' framed with a square of silver with amethyst inlays. The center of the floor is recessed, with a perfectly polished obsidian 'lens' in the very center. When powered, a beam of exotic energy flows down from the massive amethyst at the top of the obelisk and into the center of the lens. Purple markings on the walls glow, and are said to match the number of worlds the key'vin'ta ruled, or had a foothold on, at the height of their power.

Beneath the surface portion of the central obelisk are a series of chambers each containing another obsidian lens in the floor. The walls of these chambers are filled with little vessels of purple slime, each of which is said to contain a captive soul who's purpose is to help focus the energy flowing through the lenses. At two levels, access to the dark caverns where purple slime gobzite was once mined is provided. At the very bottom is rumored to be some artifice that the temple was built in part to power, but the less said about that, the better, I think.

Now, if rumor and evidence offer an accurate picture, I might hazard to suggest that the purpose of the temple involves key'vin'ta ritually 'diving' from

the altar in hopes of finding their way to a favored place within the Heavenly Hells. There are nine obsidian lenses, and it seems fairly obvious that the object was to test one's devotion by casting oneself down, in hopes that they might pass through all of the lenses, and land in the palace of their dark mistress. Souls of lesser devotion won't make it all the way, and they'll wind up on another of the Hells' layers.

Now, one might well force one's way further into the Hells by dragging some of the souls within the focusing vessels with them as sacrifices to serve as the Hells' playthings. This can cause a cascade effect, disabling the temple until enough souls are absorbed into the vessels to reactivate all of the lenses. This is done when captives sitting on the lens above the chamber with vessels to fill are pulled through during some ritual event.

Of course, that's just my opinion. It's not like I have any real clue what actually happens, right?

If you want to know more, you might want to head to the temple and see it for yourself. It's somehow come back to life, after all. Perhaps the old powers still function. I'm sure it would be fun to see it all working first hand. And I'm sure they could use a few more captives for the soul capacitors. That would be so much fun, wouldn't it?

Wink wink. Nudge nudge.

Oh, well, fine. Think about it. Just let me know if you decide to give it a try. I've got a new cambot I'd like to test out in there... and you look like you'd make a fine specimen to document. Mmm?