

Hermont the Elder

Sure I know some things about and a lot more rumours about him. I know he has been around longer than anyone except maybe the old man. Granny Hoth told me that when she was a child her Granny Holm told her that when Granny Holm was a child Hermont the Elder was already a great sorcerer that everyone knew and avoided. He's mean, cruel, petty and a bully but he's powerful. For a price he can do great magic but great magic has a great price.

How great?

I hope I am never so desperate that I need to find out. I've lived here almost 80 years now. Every generation or so there is some new young Hermont the Younger around his place. If they're still around by the time they reach 13 he starts sending them to the Stomach or the Knee to drop off potions and pick crafts or metal. They are obviously People of the Bear but no one ever acknowledges them as kin. No one ever asks where the kids come from or where they go. Funny ain't it, considering how much we love to gossip. By the time they reach 14 they learn about the Basket and that there are people outside the valley. Then they take a sack of food and leave, no one stops them. A new one is seen a few years later.

You want to meet him?

Well about $\frac{1}{2}$ way between the Knee and the Stomach head north up in to the mountains. Follow the game trails, whenever you reach a fork take the trail that feels just right, not too steep, not too flat, not too overgrown, not too trampled. I can't explain any better. You'll know it when you see it. If you keep going you'll come to Cathedral Grove. It is a grove of giant ancient trees. His place is in the center.

What's a Cathedral?

Did they drop you on your head a couple extra times when you were young? I just told you it's the name of a grove of giant ancient tree that surround Hermont the Elder's place. You sure you want to be going and messing with a sorcerer, not understanding somethin' as simple as that?

Hermont the Elder probably ain't there though. No one has seen him since the current Hermont the Younger started coming to the villages 7 years ago. Something is wrong with that boy, he seems bright but it don't take much sense to realize any life is better than living with Hermont the Elder once you've seen the village a few times. Still Hermont the Younger is the best chance of finding Hermont the Elder.

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