

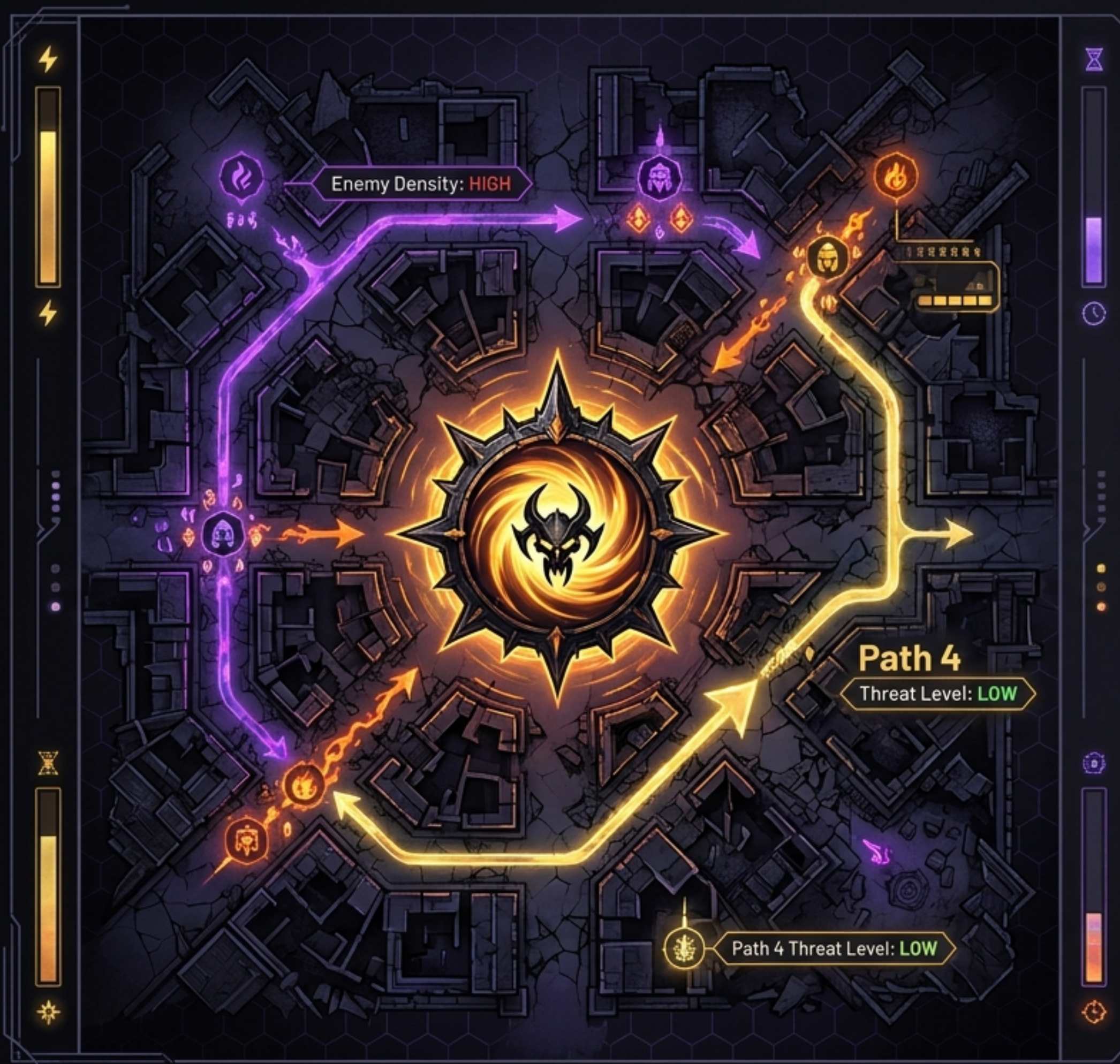
THE SIEGE OF PRAAG: THE FALL OF HEROES



DECLASSIFIED AFTER-ACTION REPORT.

Documenting the catastrophic push toward Arek
Daemonclaw, the tactical failure at Node 4, and
the ultimate loss of Rory Emberscale.

9.28



TACTICAL OBJECTIVE: INTERCEPTING AREK DAEMONCLAW

Arek Daemonclaw's forces have breached Praag, splitting into localized massacres in a race for the glory of Tzeentch.

The Strategy:
Bypass the lieutenants via **Path 4** to confront Arek before his defenses can consolidate.

Pre-Engagement Arcane Warding



Heroes' Feast
(Cast by Zhanis)



Granted +17 Max HP.

Result: Completely negated Nurgle's Rot poisoning and Beholder's Fear Ray.



Mind Blank
(Cast by Kemurial)



Applied to Zhanis, Rory, and Kemurial.

Result: Negated Beholder's Psychic damage and Charm effects.

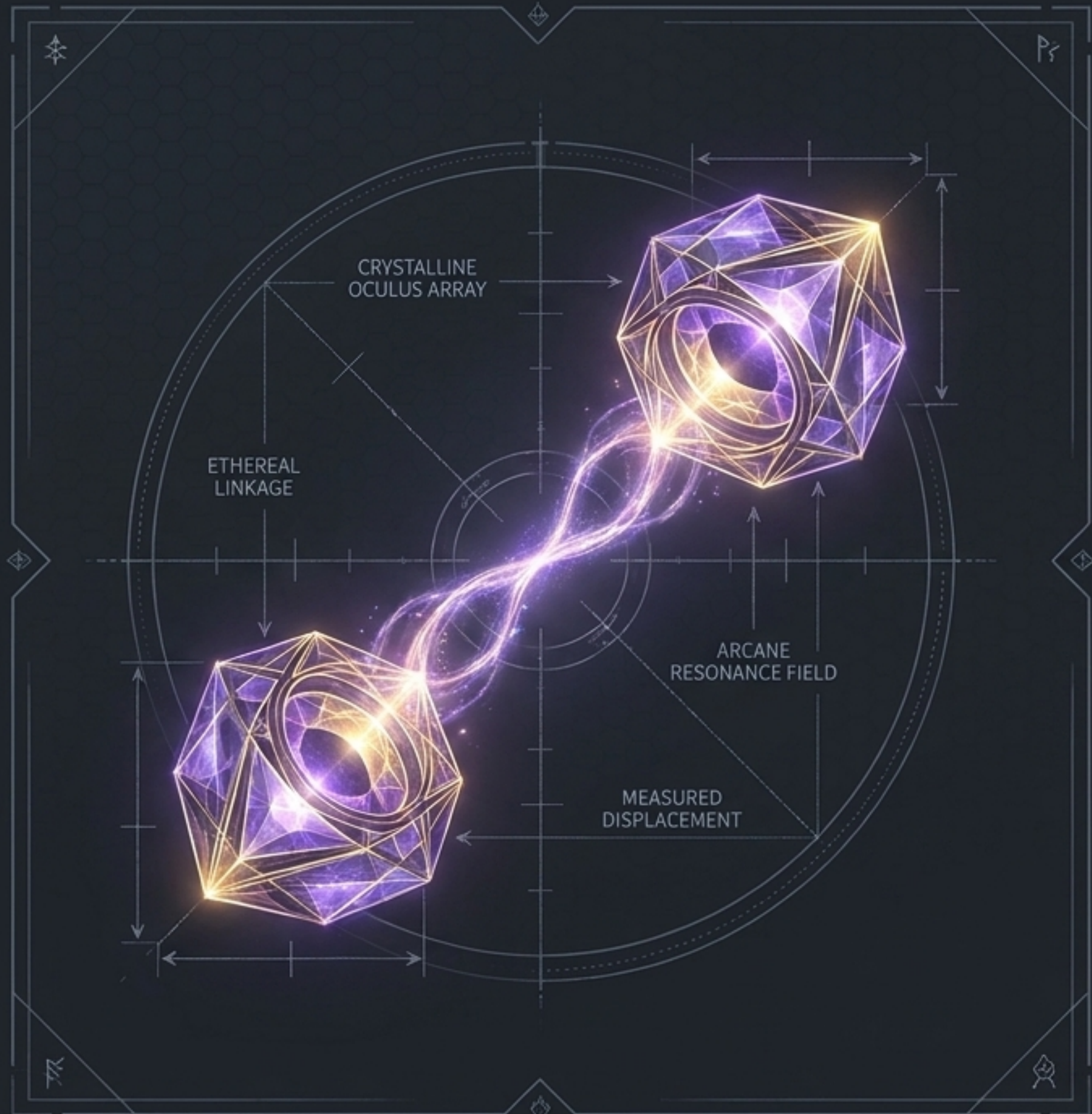


Beacon of Hope
(Cast by Friar Karl)



Maximized incoming healing.

Result: Enabled massive mid-combat recovery via Potions of Superior Healing and Keoghtom's Ointment.



Asset Procurement: The Psi Lenses

The final preparatory action before the siege was securing the city's remaining communication magic.

Inventory Distribution	
Total Procured:	3 pairs
Assigned to Zhanis:	2 pairs
Assigned to Freya:	1 pair

These lenses provide instant physical extraction to a connected lens—a lifeline intended for coordinated troop movements, ultimately used as a desperate escape mechanism.

Threat Escalation Matrix: Path 4

Encounter 1: The Plaguebearers

- ✿ **Enemy:** Nurgle's forces
- ✂ **Party Tactic:** High-yield AoE (Cone of Cold, Fireball)
- **Resource Cost:** High (Spell slots, HP)
- **Status:** Cleared



Encounter 2: The Bray-Shaman Horde

- ✿ **Enemy:** Hordes of Cultists
- ✂ **Party Tactic:** Precision Strikes (Hasted Rory, Green Flame Blade crits)
- **Resource Cost:** Low
- **Status:** Dominated



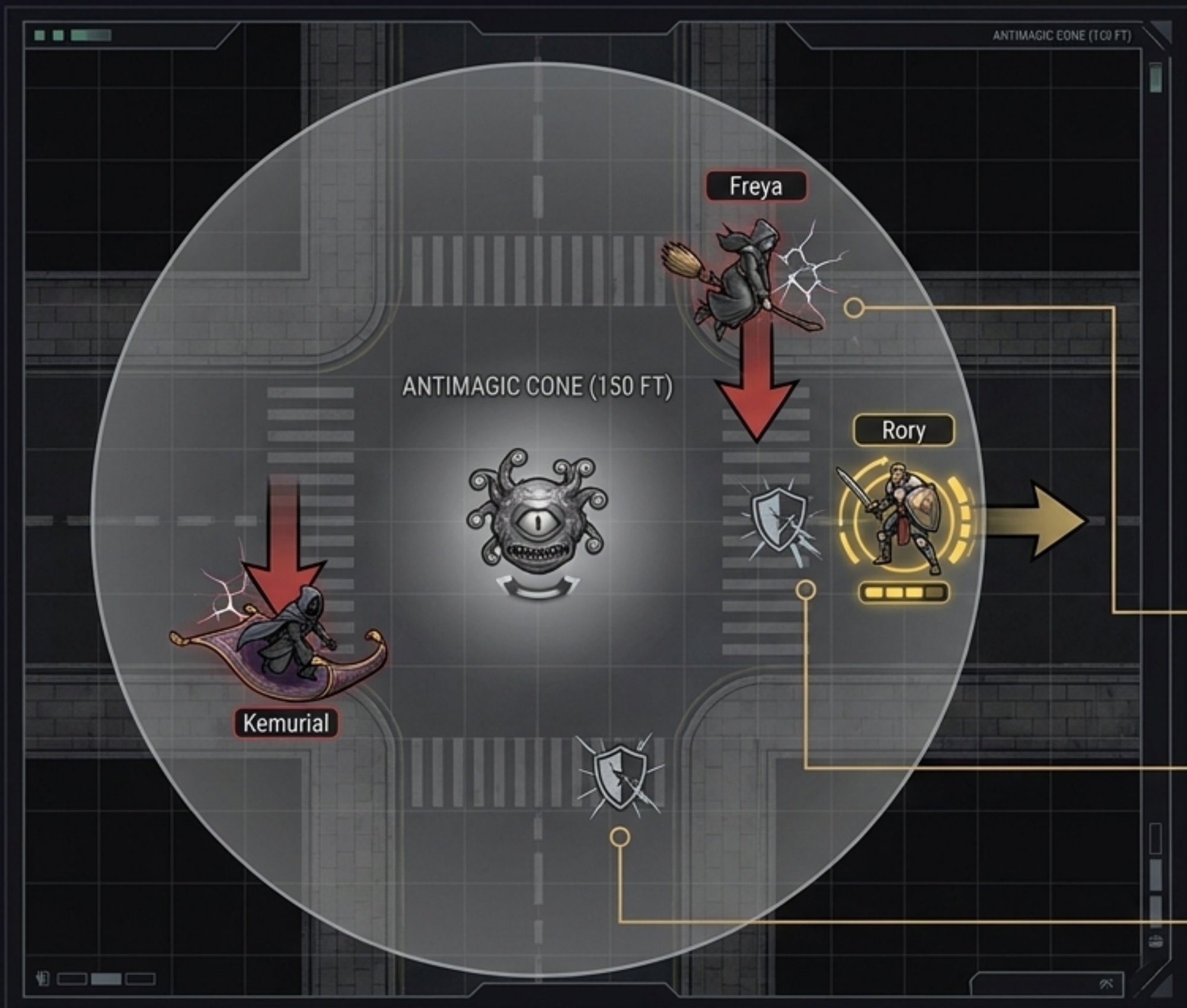
Encounter 3: The Beholder & Knaves

- **Enemy:** Aberration + Armored Infantry
- **Environment Shift:** Antimagic
- **Status:** Catastrophic Failure



The Paradigm Shift: Antimagic Saturation

The deployment of a 150-foot Antimagic Cone immediately neutralized the party's vertical superiority and defensive wards.



Freya's Broom fails (30ft drop).

Kemurial's Flying Carpet fails (10ft drop).

Shield spell rendered inert.

Arcane Defenses Tested

The Beholder unleashed a barrage of targeted ocular rays. Pre-siege warding proved critical in preventing an immediate total party collapse.



Telekinetic Ray vs. Rory:
Saved physically.

Fear Ray vs. Rory:
Nullified by Mind Blank & Heroes' Feast.

Slow Ray vs. Kemurial:
Deflected by Lucky feat.

Disintegration Ray vs. Rory:
Damage reduced to 25% via Ring of Force Resistance.

The Fall of Rory Emberscale

The Anatomy of a Fall



Isolation

Rory uses Remarkable Athlete to climb a 20ft chain to strike the Beholder directly.



Paralysis

A Paralyzing Ray breaches defenses. Rory falls prone and incapacitated.



The Swarm

Human Knaves surround the paralyzed warrior, striking with advantage and halting all movement.



Succumbing. Overwhelmed by critical strikes from the mob, Rory is battered into unconsciousness and ultimately death.

The Final Transmission

With his last breath, Rory discreetly activated his connected Psi Lens, attempting to signal the Praag Command Post for emergency aid.

In a flash of teleportation magic, Rory's body vanished from the battlefield, leaving only his Cloak of Billowing to settle into the dust.



The Disintegration of Zhanis

Isolated and targeted, Zhanis endured a sustained barrage of Legendary Actions before succumbing.

Survives Death Ray
(Half damage via Luck)

Drinks Potion of
Supreme Healing

Hit by second
Disintegration Ray.
Fatal damage. Zhanis
is reduced to dust.



Survives Paralyzing Ray
(Successful save)

Hit by Disintegration Ray.
Luck exhausted. Save failed.
Concentration broken.



STATUS: DECEASED / REDUCED TO DUST

Retaliation and Eradication

Stripped of two allies, the remaining trio executed a desperate, resource-heavy counter-offensive to break the siege node.



Friar Karl lands a critical Guiding Bolt.



Freya breaks cover, landing three sequential Eldritch Blasts—including a lethal critical strike—to finally destroy the Beholder.

Emergency Extraction

The gauntlet was broken, but the party was defeated. Kemurial gathered Zhanis's ashes and gear.



Utilizing the Psi Lenses procured hours earlier, Freya, Kemurial, and Friar Karl initiated an emergency extraction, teleporting back to the Command Post.

The Ritual of Return

At the Command Post, an archpriest initiated a grueling resurrection ritual for Zhanis, bolstered by Kemurial's prayers and Freya's demands.



Zhanis



Outcome:

Zhanis is successfully restored to life at full health.

Lingering Cost:

Resurrection trauma imposes a -4 penalty to all d20 tests, reducing by one per Long Rest.

Beyond the Veil

The same ritual was attempted for Rory Emberscale. The spiritual pull was not strong enough to pluck him from death's grasp. Zhanis's plea for Divine Intervention remained unanswered.



Status: Rory's spirit remains lost. Only True Resurrection or a Wish spell can return him.



Thus concludes the adventures of Rory Emberscale. At least for now.