

## Libly Story Quest Ch. 3 – Two Problems, One Solution

After the burial, you look at the tablet that the man handed to you. Unfortunately, you aren't able to read it. You don't even know what kind of language it is; there are all kinds of weird symbols and other things engraved on it. All you know is that the man asked you to take it to the governor.

So, you decide to walk around the city to find this governor. The city itself is pretty big and you see all kinds of scorch marks everywhere. A few buildings look badly damaged, as if they were destroyed by some kind of explosion. The homes look like they haven't been used in centuries, so you imagine that there are no people here anymore.

"Which governor was he talking about?" you ask yourself. "There's nobody here."

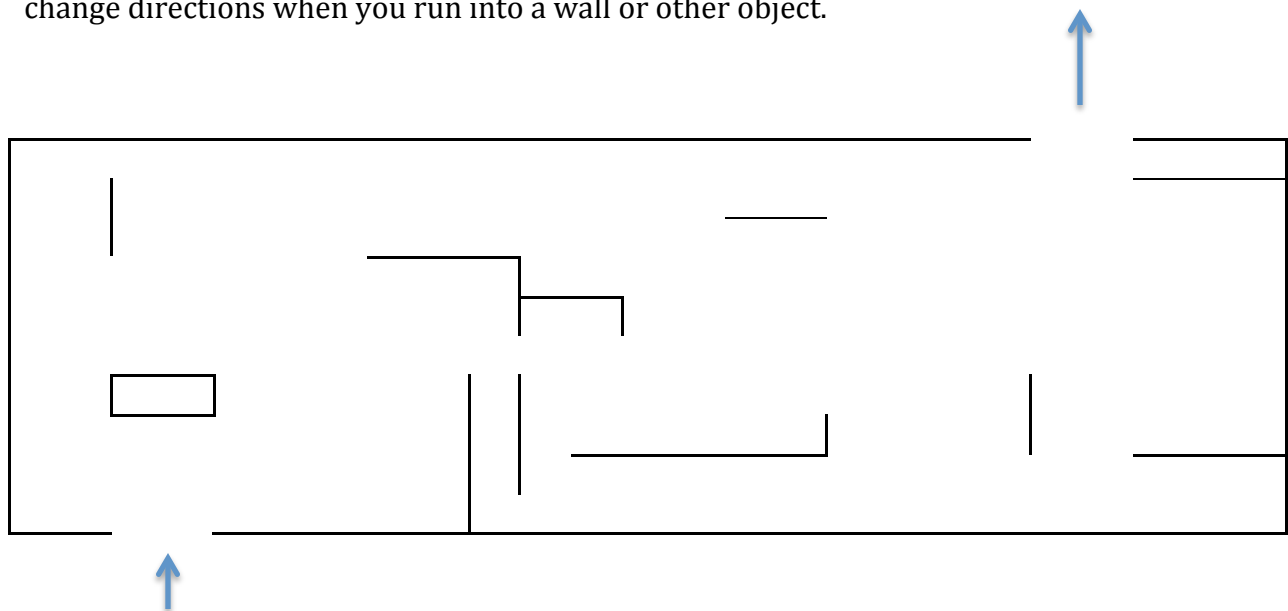
You find an old well on the northern side of the city, so you refill your water stores. While you sit and relax in the shade, you wonder where this governor is. Soon, though, you push the thought out of your mind and will yourself to start heading north, toward the mountains far in the distance. That is where Cirika said the Source is, so that is where you must head.

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Crossing the desert is a challenge, but you eventually make it to the base of the mountains. It goes a long way up, but isn't too steep. At one point you reach a small lake that you need to cross. The lake is frozen over and is extremely slippery, so you'll have to be extra careful...

**Task:** Crossing such a slippery lake is dangerous. You notice that when you move in a certain direction, you keep moving along that direction until you run into something. This makes things a little more difficult.

Draw a path (in pencil), from the southern side of the lake (marked with an arrow pointing into the lake) to the northern side (marked with an arrow pointing away from the lake). You may only move North (up), South (down), East (right), or West (left) and you may only change directions when you run into a wall or other object.



You make it across safely and continue along, following the path. Eventually, you make it to a place with people. There is a lot of yelling and working going on. There is nowhere to hide since the mountains have very few trees or bushes, but you find a large boulder behind which you can conceal yourself. From your hiding place behind the rock, you peer out at the people. They appear to be trying to smash through the side of the mountain with simple picks and hammers. They aren't making much progress, but they continue diligently.

Comfortable with your hiding place and with the knowledge that the people are too preoccupied to notice you anyway, you peek out from behind the boulder at the surrounding area. To the north and a little east are the people, hard at work. Behind you, looking south, is the path leading back to the icy lake. To the west is an enormous canyon; it looks like a giant took a knife and cut a deep gash into the land. You decide it's safe to creep out from behind the boulder, closer to the people, but as you do, you realize that the canyon is much closer than you previously thought. It looked like it was kilometers away, but you realize that you are standing on the edge of it now.

You gasp at the realization and some of the people take notice. They immediately run over to you, but rather than attacking they start asking you questions:

"Hi! Who are you? Where are you from? Did you come to help us? Did you see anyone on your way up? Are you hungry? Thirsty? How did you get here?"

You try to answer them as best as you can, but they ask so many questions so quickly that you have trouble keeping up. After a few minutes, the leader of the people comes over and sends them back to work. She seems friendly, but firm. She is the kind of person who looks like a natural leader. You both greet and she introduces herself as Lune. She tells you:

"There was an earthquake about a week ago. It shook some of the bigger stones loose. We had some miners in there digging for minerals, ores, and other compounds, but the rubble fell and trapped them. The rubble also blocked the flow of the river. There is still a trickle of water coming out, but as you can see, the river looks pretty dry.

We've been trying to break through the rocks, but we are having trouble making much progress. We did manage to make a small hole so we can pass food and water to them, but they can't live in there forever. We sent one of our finest pyro-technicians, Rend, to the ancient city in the desert to seek out a recipe for an explosive powerful enough to break up these rocks, but we haven't seen him since...."

You tell her about your encounter with Rend, the man in the desert. She looks horrified at his untimely demise. But, once you show her the tablet a great smile starts to appear on her face. "This is so exciting!" she says. "He must have found the recipe..." "Unfortunately, there is nobody here who can decipher the writing. You said he told you to take the tablet to the governor, right?" she asks. You nod and she continues, "The governor lives in our village. It's a long trek there, but I will send some people to help you get there. Please give the tablet to him. He should be able to understand it. I will stay here and continue to try to break up these boulders. Good luck and stay safe."