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Skyrim Forbidden Legend Puzzle Solution

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Unraveling the Past: A Complete Guide to the Skyrim Forbidden Legend Puzzle Solution

Deep within the frozen wilds of Skyrim, ancient Nordic tombs hold secrets that have waited centuries to be unearthed. Among the most compelling quests in *The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim* is the "Forbidden Legend" – a sprawling adventure that tasks the Dragonborn with discovering the fate of Archmage Gauldur and his three sons. While the combat encounters are challenging, the true test of your wits comes in the form of intricate claw door puzzles scattered across multiple dungeons. For many players, finding the correct Skyrim Forbidden Legend puzzle solution can be the difference between claiming legendary artifacts and wandering lost in dark catacombs. This guide provides a complete, step-by-step breakdown of every puzzle you will encounter, ensuring you can navigate these ancient halls with confidence.

The Forbidden Legend Quest: An Overview

Before diving into the specific puzzle mechanics, it helps to understand the scope of this quest. The Forbidden Legend questline is one of the lengthier and more rewarding side quests in Skyrim. It begins with the discovery of a book titled "The Legend of the Forbidden Legend" or by looting a piece of the Gauldur Amulet from a random draugr. The quest sends you to three distinct locations: Folgunthur, Saarthal, and Geirmund's Hall. Each location contains a fragment of the amulet, and each location is guarded by a unique claw puzzle that requires a specific combination of symbols.

Why the Puzzles Matter

The claw door puzzles are not random obstacles. They are integral to Nordic culture and lore, designed to test the worthiness of those who seek the treasures of the dead. Each puzzle consists of a circular door marked with three concentric rings of animal symbols. To open the door, you must align the rings in a specific sequence that corresponds to the pattern on the claw held by the draugr or found within the dungeon. Getting the Skyrim Forbidden Legend puzzle solution correct is the only way to proceed deeper into the tomb.

Puzzle One: The Folgunthur Approach

Folgunthur is often the first destination for players following the quest markers. It is a medium-sized Nordic ruin located southeast of Morthal, in the marshes of Hjaalmarch. The entrance is unassuming, but inside, you will face traps, draugr, and a particularly tricky puzzle door.

Finding the Claw

Early in Folgunthur, you will encounter a raised portcullis and a room with a table. On that table lies a large iron

claw. This claw is the key to the puzzle door you will soon encounter. It is essential to loot this item immediately, as the pattern engraved on its underside provides the exact sequence you need. If you are playing on a higher difficulty, be prepared for draugr ambushes in this area.

The Puzzle Door Sequence

The puzzle door in Folgunthur features the familiar three-ring mechanism. The correct answer, derived directly from the iron claw, is as follows:

- Top Ring: Bear
- Middle Ring: Moth
- Bottom Ring: Owl

To input the Skyrim Forbidden Legend puzzle solution for Folgunthur, rotate the rings until the bear symbol is at the top, the moth is directly below it, and the owl is at the very bottom. Once aligned, interact with the door and use the iron claw from your inventory to unlock it. The door will swing open, granting access to the deeper chambers where the first fragment of the Gauldur Amulet awaits.

Combat and Loot Considerations

Beyond the puzzle door, you will face the Draugr Death Overlord, Mikrul Gauldurson. He is a formidable opponent, especially at lower levels. Use fire spells or enchanted weapons to exploit his weakness against fire. The fragment he guards is essential for completing the amulet later.

Puzzle Two: The Saarthal Excavation

Saarthal is a location you might already be familiar with if you have progressed through the College of Winterhold questline. However, for the Forbidden Legend quest, you are returning to a specific area within the ruin that is connected to the Gauldur legend. This area is accessed through the main Saarthal excavation site, often triggered during the "Under Saarthal" quest.

Locating the Correct Chamber

After completing the initial College quests in Saarthal, return to the central chamber where Tolfdir is examining the artifacts. From there, proceed through the previously locked doors deeper into the ruin. You will eventually come across a room with a large stone puzzle door and a nearby pedestal. Unlike Folgunthur, the claw required for this door is not found inside the dungeon itself. Instead, you must have the Diamond Claw in your inventory.

Obtaining the Diamond Claw

The Diamond Claw is typically looted from a dead mage named Jyrik Gauldurson, who is encountered during the "Under Saarthal" quest. If you have already completed that quest, you should have the claw in your inventory. If you sold it, you can retrieve it from the merchant you sold it to, or use a console command on PC. The pattern on the Diamond Claw is the key to the puzzle.

The Puzzle Door Sequence

Once you have the Diamond Claw, approach the puzzle door in Saarthal. Examine the claw closely in your inventory menu to see the correct order. The solution for this door is:

- Top Ring: Whale
- Middle Ring: Snake
- Bottom Ring: Whale

Rotate the rings to match this pattern. The whale symbol is the one resembling a large fish, while the snake symbol is a coiled serpent. After aligning the rings, use the Diamond Claw to unlock the door. This is a critical step in the Skyrim Forbidden Legend puzzle solution chain, as it grants you access to the second fragment of

the amulet, guarded by the draugr Jyrik Gauldurson (if you did not face him earlier).

Puzzle Three: The Geirmund's Hall Vault

Geirmund's Hall is the final location you must visit to complete the amulet. It is located on an island in Lake Geir, just south of Ivarstead. This dungeon is arguably the most dangerous, as it contains numerous traps, high-level draugr, and a final boss that can be devastating if you are unprepared.

Navigating to the Puzzle

As you descend into Geirmund's Hall, you will encounter several rooms with pressure plates and swinging blades. Proceed with caution. Eventually, you will reach a large chamber with a stone table. On that table lies the Ivory Claw. As with the other dungeons, this claw is your ticket through the upcoming puzzle door. The door itself is located just beyond the table, in a niche that leads to the final burial chamber.

Reading the Ivory Claw

The Ivory Claw has a distinct pattern. To find the correct Skyrim Forbidden Legend puzzle solution for this dungeon, open your inventory and inspect the claw. The sequence, read from the palm to the fingers, is as follows:

- Top Ring: Wolf
- Middle Ring: Moth
- Bottom Ring: Dragonfly

It is crucial to note that the dragonfly symbol is often confused with the moth symbol. The dragonfly has a longer, thinner body and four distinct wings. The moth symbol is rounder. Take a moment to ensure you have the correct symbol on the bottom ring.

Inputting the Combination

Stand directly in front of the door and rotate the rings to match the claw's pattern. Set the top ring to Wolf, the middle to Moth, and the bottom to Dragonfly. Once the symbols are aligned, activate the door and use the Ivory Claw from your inventory. The door will open, revealing the final chamber where Sigdis Gauldurson, the third brother, awaits.

Defeating Sigdis Gauldurson

Sigdis is a particularly annoying boss because he creates multiple copies of himself. The real Sigdis glows with a faint magical aura. Focus your attacks on the glowing figure while using cover to avoid the volleys of arrows from the copies. Once he is defeated, you can claim the final amulet fragment.

Reassembling the Gauldur Amulet

After collecting all three fragments from Folgunthur, Saarthal, and Geirmund's Hall, you must combine them. To do this, you must return to the Gauldur Cave, which is located near the exit of Folgunthur. Inside the cave, you will find a tomb. Place all three fragments onto the pedestal. The spirit of Archmage Gauldur will appear, thank you for freeing him from his cursed existence, and bless you with the fully restored Gauldur Amulet.

Why the Gauldur Amulet is Worth It

The completed Gauldur Amulet is one of the best necklaces in the base game. It grants a generous boost to Magicka, Health, and Stamina. This makes it incredibly valuable for hybrid characters who rely on both combat and magic. Completing this quest is a rite of passage for many Skyrim players, and understanding the Skyrim Forbidden Legend puzzle solution is essential for earning this reward.

Common Mistakes and Troubleshooting Tips

Even with a guide, players often make small errors that prevent the puzzle door from opening. Here are some common pitfalls and how to avoid them:

- Using the Wrong Claw: Each door requires a specific claw. Ensure you are using the correct one for the dungeon you are in. The Iron Claw is for Folgunthur, the Diamond Claw is for Saarthal, and the Ivory Claw is for Geirmund's Hall.
- Incorrect Ring Alignment: Double-check the symbols. It is easy to misread the claw or rotate the ring one click too far. The symbols must align precisely in a vertical line from top to bottom.
- Not Inspecting the Claw: You cannot guess the combination. Always open your inventory and rotate the claw model to see the pattern clearly.
- Skipping the Claw: If you rush through a dungeon and miss the claw, you will have to backtrack. The claws are always found on tables or pedestals near the puzzle door.

Final Thoughts on the Forbidden Legend Quest

The Forbidden Legend quest is a masterclass in Skyrim's dungeon design. It encourages exploration, rewards attention to detail, and tells a compelling story of betrayal and power. The puzzles are fair but require patience. By memorizing the Skyrim Forbidden Legend puzzle solution for each location, you remove the guesswork and can focus on enjoying the atmosphere and combat.

Whether you are a stealth archer, a sword-and-board warrior, or a powerful mage, this quest offers a satisfying challenge that fits perfectly into the rich tapestry of Skyrim's history. Take your time, read the claw patterns carefully, and respect the ancient Nordic traditions. The reward is not just a powerful amulet, but the satisfaction of having solved one of Skyrim's most intricate riddles.

Now that you are armed with this knowledge, venture forth, Dragonborn. The halls of the dead await, and your legend is waiting to be written.

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