

## Reflections: The "Forward Momentum!" edition

Written by Ailinea

Tuesday, 09 March 2010 12:39 -

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Again, I apologize for not keeping up with posting to the front page and the guild Twitter. I really need to keep my netbook nearby for tweets, and keep a list of things we've accomplished (or post more often) so I can remember everything that we've been doing instead of trying to catalogue them from memory at the end of the week.

First of all, we've gone back to 10-man progression. Sacrificing our Strict 10-man standing was a mistake, but we'll get back to 25's in the near future. Long story short, twisting yourself into a pretzel (bending over backward a million times over) doesn't do much good when some people just hold onto negative attitudes until they explode. It takes everyone involved to work together, and unfortunately we had some people who were investing more energy in being angry over "not having something" than in helping us work with them to earn it. But we've weathered worse "drama bombs" and it's just part of the growth cycle. The guild's been around for over six years...we've learned how to channel those "explosions" into forward movement.

Team 2 was struggling, it's true. But Ktok has taken the reins (temporarily--he's looking for the right person for the job to train as their raid leader) and shown them that there was nothing wrong with the team itself. In the days after the peak of the loldrama, they were able to prove to everyone that they were perfectly capable of success! They downed Sarth3D and all of the Lower Spire in ICC with only a few wipes that were typical of learning new fights. This past week they were able to do it again, and faster...to the point they were looking for new challenges. The challenge they picked? They took out 5 of the Ulduar hard modes in one night! FL+4, [Stokin' the Furnace], [Heartbreaker], [Disarmed], and [Crazy Cat Lady] fell to their newfound enthusiasm! We really think that they have Rusted Protodrakes in their future. And with a few more gear upgrades from running Lower Spire and getting frost badges, they will soon start clearing the Upper Spire too!

Everyone is incredibly proud of Team 2. It's amazing how injecting a little bit of positive attitude can help folks reach their potential...and I have a feeling we'll be seeing more achievements spam guild chat on Team 2 raid nights!

Team 1's moving along as well. Over the past few weeks, we took out raid nights from working on ICC to finish up our Rusted Protodrakes. Team 1 had enough setbacks of its own since Ulduar launched, and we'd always wanted to finish that achievement because those mounts are just beautiful. So we finally buckled down and took it out! Firefighter gave us the most trouble...it's fun, but it's not a "gear fight" and relies a lot on RNG, execution, and reaction. If one person zigs when they should have zagged, it's a wipe. Better yet, we were taking people in there who had never seen the fight before or only saw it a few times, so they were learning it, and the rest of us hadn't seen it in ages so we were all very rusty. We spent a night wiping on it as we were getting used to the phases, and then the next night we went in and one-shotted it like pros! [I Love the Smell of Saronite in the Morning] was a 2-shot. Like Firefighter, [One Light in the Darkness] had a steep learning curve. Two people had never seen the fight and the rest of the team only saw it a few times and downed Yogg once before we went to ToC. We had two nights of wipefests, making progression as we re-learned the fight, and when the kill finally came, it was picture-perfect. I wish someone had FRAPS running!

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Our attention has been turned back to ICC now, and we're aiming for Arthas and then hard modes. The Plague and Blood Quarters are both down, and this week we're focusing on learning the Frost Quarter. Real life is merely a set back!

Again, I need to go through my screenshots folder to post our boss kills.

To everyone who's stuck it out and trusted us, thank you. We're all in this together.

And if you're not feeling the warm-fuzzies I'm sending your way, then maybe this will help: