

Legends of Steel Session Summary 06/07/2009

Attendance

Chris (Singh) greets all with sausages and wings. *Bruce* (Baba Ali) is slightly confused by this, but he did remember to bring along some strawberries.

Ernest (Manoj) enjoys the food, but then asks *Chuck*, “Could you verify that this game *Legends of Steel* actually exists? Because the guys at Dragon’s Lair have never heard about it.”

Chuck explains that the game is real, but it can only be obtained through mysterious ritual and terrible sacrifice. He hands over a bound edition, “Here! I’ve got a copy!” *Ernest* accepts it with some trepidation. He decides that he’s not going to ask what kind of leather it is bound with. The book seems to explore his fingers as he touches it.

Paul (Oka and Kura) watches the handoff with concern. He’s remembering *Ernest*’s earlier discussion of how James Bond’s most useful tool in *Goldfinger* was his swinging cod. He wonders just how far the group can go, and whether or not he’ll be able to get off in time.

Chris bursts out, “Are you implying we’re no more mature than we were in high school?” Nobody answers him.

<i>Character</i>	<i>Player</i>	<i>Concept and Notes</i>
Oka	Paul	Tarzan-like native, accompanied by his panther Kura
Singh	Chris	Thuggee assassin
Manoj	Ernest	Sikh warrior
Kaitamo	Tim	Mongol archer
Max Harkness	Matt	Escaped pleasure slave, along with his love slave Yanto
Baba Ali	Bruce	The bumbling Sufi monk

What River Is This Anyway?

Manoj, Singh, Oka and *Baba Ali* crawl their way out of the river. *Manoj* reflects, “We did a really excellent job of infiltrating *Jobert’s* pirate gang there, boys. I think we may need to swim our way upriver and try something else.”

Singh offers some comments on the others’ preferred entertainment viewing habits. *Manoj* answers, “Are you the sort of person who is surprised when people come to your door and *don’t* offer you sex?” *Singh* refrains from response, but *Baba Ali* practically falls over laughing. *Oka* finds himself unable to look away from the crazy mystic’s belly as it wobbles around like jell-o. He feels it simply isn’t healthy for anyone to be that rotund.

Just as the characters are thinking about packing it in and heading back to civilization their pirate-gang contact *Jonah* shows up to hand out four knives and warn them of pirate gang activities. He explains that half of the pirates have headed back to civilization in a caravan to sell off their loot. The other half has boarded their canoes and is headed down the river to attack a pair of barges loaded down with alcohol, tobacco and slave girls.

Manoj listens to the description of the barges and offers what everyone is thinking: “Sweet!”

The characters debate for a while, then decide to track the pirate raiding party and attack them once they have attacked the barges. This helps solve the problem of how to persuade the barge crew that the characters *aren’t* pirates.

The next problem is how to track the pirates. *Oka* provides the answer when he offers, “Guys, you realize that I actually know how to track, right?”

The others don’t say anything, except for *Singh*, who asks *Baba Ali*, “So, are you rotund all the way around like Buddha, or do you follow the Indian model where you’re skinny all over except for a two-foot protruding belly?”

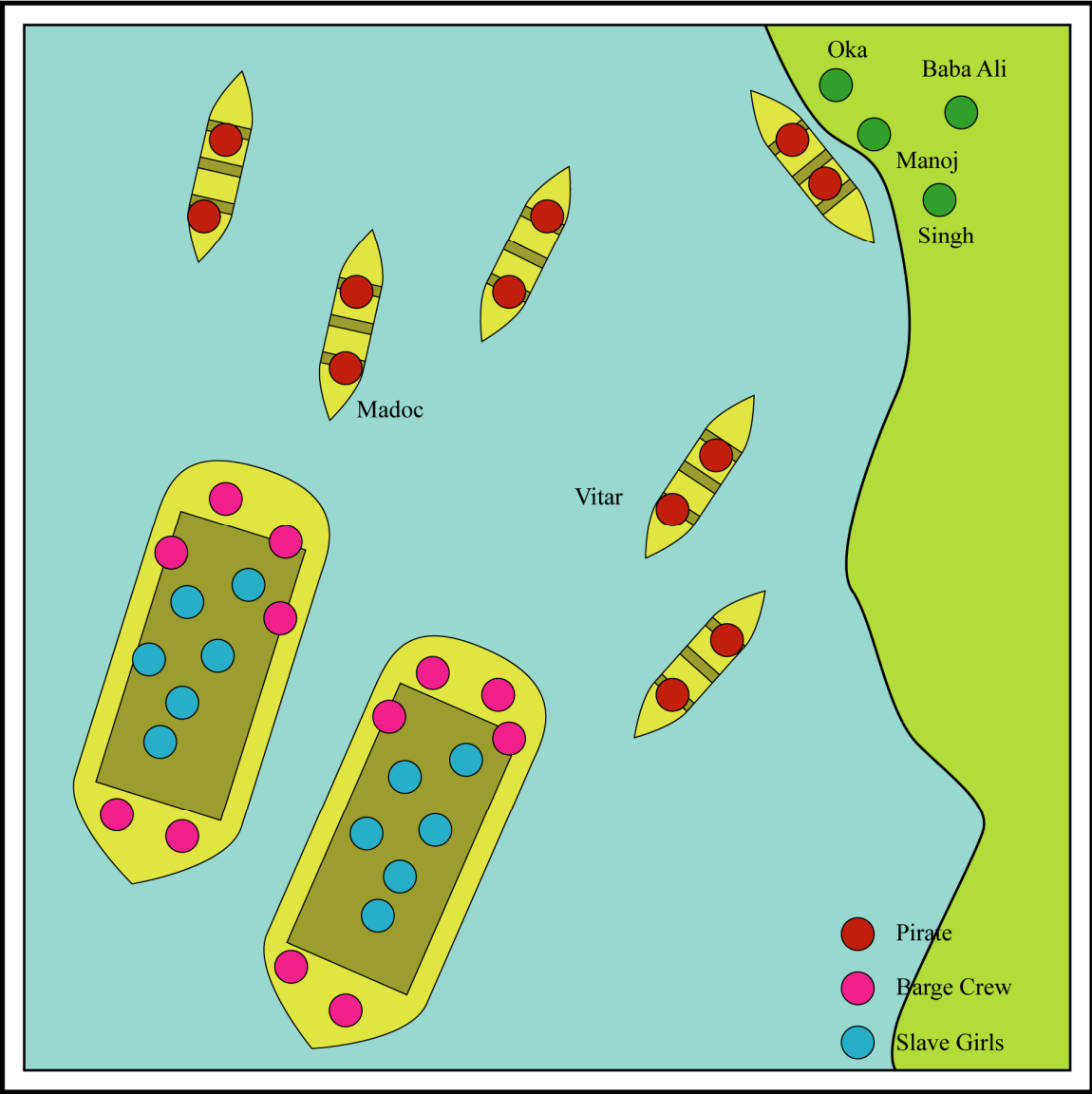
Baba Ali grumbles something about, “More like Buddha, but with lots more hair.”

Oka and *Kura* pay no attention to the civilized morons. It is clear that life in cities has rotted their brains. Besides, there is tracking to be done. It doesn’t take *Oka* long to pick up the pirates’ trail.

None of Us Can Swim. Or Boat!

The characters find a group of a half-dozen pirate canoes launching at two sizable barges. They can see the pirate lieutenant *Madoc* out on one of the canoes, and barge crewmen gathering up weapons to resist the pirate attack.

Pirates, Barges and Savagery!



It is almost too easy for the characters to sneak up on a canoe, kill the pirates on board, and cast off to chase the pirate gang. It is then that the entire group realizes that none of them knows how to use a boat. As the most-savage character, Oka takes the paddles and works diligently to bring the characters up even with the hindmost canoe in the pirate gang.

Manoj observes that Baba Ali has a sling and urges him to use it. The mystic offers, "It will not do much, it isn't much of a weapon." Then he executes a pirate with a sling bullet right through the forehead. Nobody is more surprised than Baba Ali.

The barge crews have realized their peril and start fighting back. The characters note that they are quite effective, killing two of the pirates. The characters also note that the barge crews are not distinguishing between them and the pirates: a few arrows splash into the water near their canoe.

Manoj yells out to the barges, "We're here to help you! We're the Anti-Pirate Ninja Squad!"

One of the barge crewmen yells back, "You're APNiS? I don't think so! Those guys are so quiet, you can't even hear them fart!"

Oka tries to get Madoc's attention by taunting him, "Madoc! You shineful smuck! You were raised by humans and you only mate when your females are in heat!" Madoc either doesn't hear the insults, or doesn't understand them. He leaps onto the trailing barge and chops his way through two hapless barge crew.

Even though the other characters don't understand Oka's insults, they galvanize Baba Ali into action. He executes a second pirate with his sling. Their empty canoe drifts aimlessly down the river.

Oka tries to insult the pirate leader again. "Madoc! We were sent here by your grandmother! She wants her panties back!" Singh shudders, but Madoc remains unmoved.

The characters watch as the barge crews cut down yet another pirate and cast his body into the river. Singh comments, "These pirates are pretty ballsy to be attacking barges with more guards than they have. They're getting their asses handed to them." His words are prophetic: he watches as one pirate survivor casts his canoe off the barge and paddles away.

Oka watches the barge crew mock the fleeing pirates. "These guys totally did not need our help."

Singh hopefully suggests, "Maybe they'll let us loot the dead pirates!"

Manoj has a different plan, "Now seems like a good time to go upriver and loot the pirate camp."

The Tide Turns

The characters are about to leave when they realize that the pirate lieutenant Madoc and his crazy axeman Vitar have managed to board one of the barges and slaughter most of the guards. One of the survivors sends an arrow spinning at Manoj. The Sikh screams back, “Stop shooting at us! We’re on your side!”

The characters finally manage to pull their canoe up to the barge. Madoc wheels and slams his halberd into Oka’s head. Oka staggers. Baba Ali fires a sling bullet into the cat Kura by accident, generating a bowel-quivering yowl in response.

Singh forces the canoe around, allowing Manoj to disembark. Vitar chops his way through a surviving guard to engage him. Baba Ali drills Madoc with another sling bullet, leaving him gasping for breath. Oka follows with a spear jab that draws even more blood. And then Manoj goes into a frenzy, slashing Madoc through the gut and shaking Vitar. The stricken Madoc falls to the deck of the barge. Vitar has little chance to do more than gasp before Manoj advances upon him, slashing open his throat and running him through.

Singh comments, “You know, this is the best decision we’ve ever made, teaming up with the slavers who turn out to be the best fighters in the world.” In the background, Kura claws the last pirate down.

The Aftermath

Singh commences searching the pirates, looking for his statue of Kali. He stops when Manoj points out that they’re about to get overrun by a barge full of lethal guards. After convincing the guards that the characters are friendly, he turns back to the search. He is very relieved to find the statue.

Baba Ali realizes that Madoc is still alive but fading, and the characters would like to interrogate him. He performs first aid to save both him and Vitar. Then Manoj swiftly extracts all sorts of information about the pirate base from him. There are about thirty more pirates at the camp. He also learns that Manoj wants to be the leader of the pirate gang.

Manoj tells Madoc, “We are going to send you down the river with these guys so you can stand trial.”

Madoc threatens him, “I will hunt you down to the last of my breath! There will be no place on Earth where you can find safety! My vengeance will be... <urk>!” Then Singh strangles him.

Baba Ali protests, “Hey! I just spent a lot of effort fixing him up!”

Singh answers, “And you did good work.” He strains to tighten the garrote further. “You should rest now.” He braces his knee against Madoc’s spine. “Just let me do my job.”

Baba Ali decides to not press the issue.

Our Just Rewards

The bargemen offer the characters some liquor and tobacco. Manoj manages to talk them up into giving over one of their slave girls as well. Thence follows a certain amount of debate over her probable skills and how the various characters might take advantage of them. In the midst of the debate, Singh yells, “Hey Madoc! What does an untrustworthy hooker sound like?” Madoc’s body lies motionless on the deck. The other characters laugh like syphilitic hyenas.

The pirates’ gear includes: two bucklers, two shortwords, and 39 silver coins.

Getting to Know You

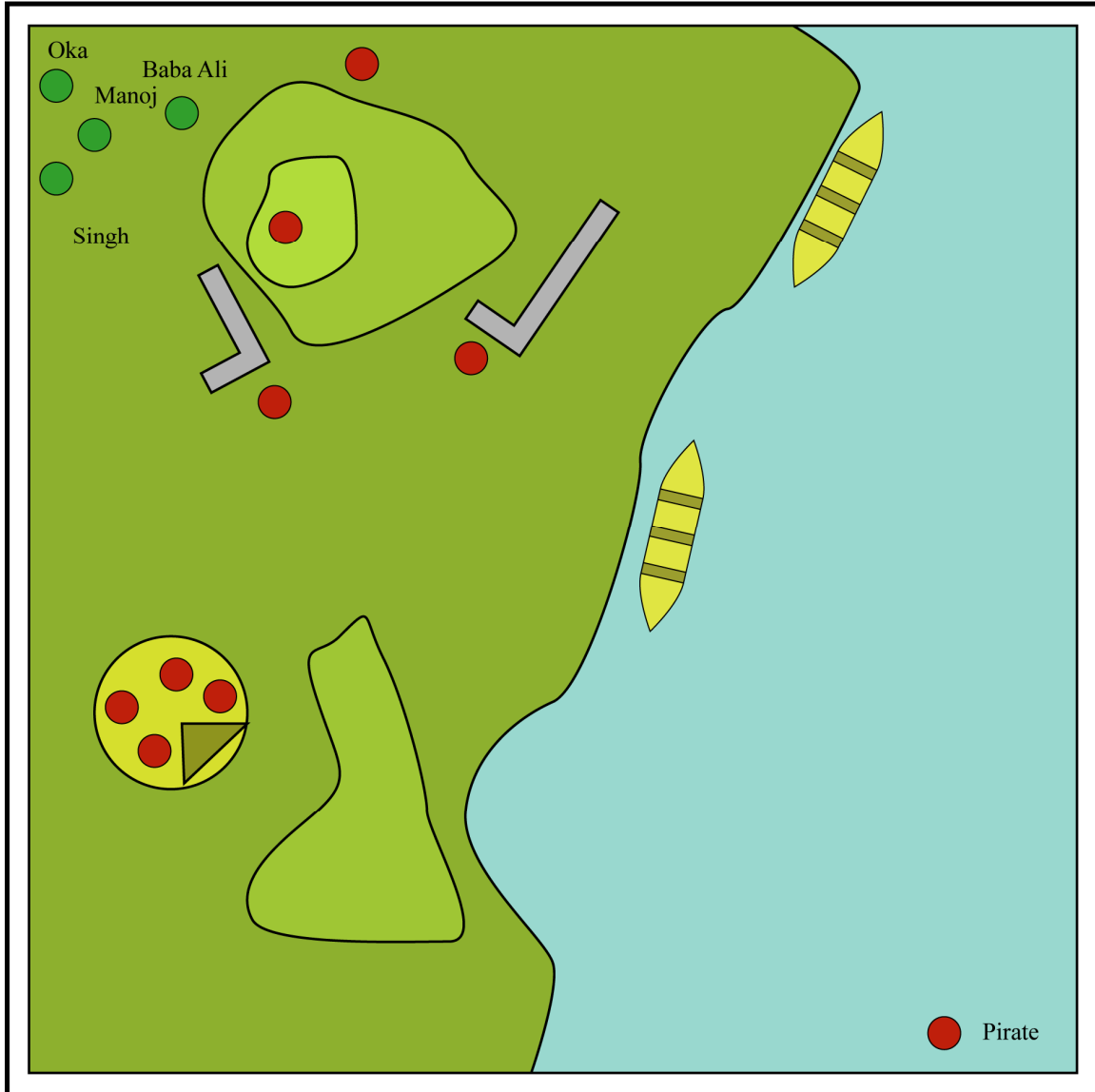
Manoj decides to get to know his new pleasure slave. He learns after a while that her name is *Seneca*, and that she’s not aware that she represents an insult to a proud Native American heritage. Manoj insists that while he and his compatriots are all lusty adventurers they aren’t that enthusiastic about the slavery thing. She offers to watch the canoe for them when they go to attack the pirate camp. She offers to do this several times. Then the characters tell her that she is free, and may go wherever she wants. She explains that she doesn’t have any survival skills and would prefer to go with them, at least for the moment.

The Pirate Advance Base

The characters infiltrate up to the edges of the pirates’ advance base. It is set amid some ruins on the riverbank. Singh leads the group in, sneaking up behind a sentry

and garroting him. Manoj, Oka and Kura follow along, cutting down additional sentries. Baba Ali is last, armed with his sling and staff.

Pirates, Barges and Savagery!



Pirates start to swarm out of their tents to oppose the characters. Singh is ready for one. He feints against one, then wraps his rumal around the man’s neck and breaks his neck in one smooth, fatal motion. His ally storms in and tries making a wild swing, which works out very poorly for him. Another chops at Oka, shaking him.

Manoj storms into the tent, ready to slaughter anyone inside. He finds himself in a vicious fight for his life against four pirates. “Slumber in Hala’s womb!” He chops to the left and to the right. Blood sprays against the tent walls.

The characters search the area for money. They find 210 silver and a couple of doses of strong opiates. Baba Ali takes the opiates, explaining that they have medicinal uses (specifically, he can use one dose to counter a point of wound penalty on a Healing attempt).

Everything Is Normal Here. Ignore the Dead Bodies

The characters act upon Manoj's suggestion to set up some of the dead pirate bodies a la *Weekend at Bernie's* around the camp and wait for the remaining pirates to show up. This lasts until someone figures out that this is the advance camp for the barge raid, and nobody is going to show up back here at all.

The Pirate Camp

Two of the details Madoc mentioned before he was strangled were that Jobert had set up the pirate camp inside a series of caves, and that he has a crazy woman with a pet panther.

The characters approach the cave. Four guards block their way. Oka tells them that they are all pirates, and tells a story about the characters' earlier deeds as new members of the pirate gang. Oka manages to persuade them to be "friendly and helpful" right until Singh garrotes one of them. The other characters are almost as surprised as the guards, but Manoj swiftly reacts and chops another one down. Kura removes the rest.

Singh and Manoj move into the cavern and quickly find themselves facing a swarm of pirates. They cut bravely and clear the first wave away.

Then the panther moves in. Manoj screams out a warning, "Slarth!" The panther buries Singh's head inside its mouth. Singh avoids horrible injury by the thinnest of margins. Kura leaps upon the panther and tears it to pieces.

In the back of the cave, a great door opens. First emerges the beautiful woman *Puna*, who screams at the characters for killing her pet. She charges the characters, followed by the pirate boss Jobert. Baba Ali slams her with his walking stick, leaving her badly wounded.

Manoj stares down a row of pirates, then screams and flings himself into them. This is Jobert's cue to leap to the attack with rapier and dagger. He stabs Manoj through, leaving the Sikh wounded. Kura and Oka move forward and attack Jobert in return, and

attack that Jobert shakes off. But not for long: between Kura, Oka and Manoj he swiftly falls. The remaining pirates surrender quickly before Singh's thundering demands.

With some question from the other characters, Baba Ali goes to work and bandages the wounds of Jobert, Puna and Puna's cat, using opiates to ensure that Jobert remains loopy even after his wounds are bandaged.

The characters pick up 75 silver pieces from the pirates, a rapier, dagger and chain shirt from Jobert, and a spear and a panther from Puna. The characters know that they have not yet looked through the pirates' hoard.

The End of the Session

The characters box up Jobert and prepare to take him back to civilization. Each character gains three experience points.