

## REAVERS ON THE SEAS OF FATE - SESSION SUMMARY 08/26/2012

### TODAY'S EPISODE: TOWER OF THE VAMPIRE QUEEN

Our heroes are on an Azlanti island upon which dwells the Andoran Sun Temple Colony. They are there to hunt down Captain Baumann and capture her ship the *Black Bunyip*. But before they can do that they must defeat an ancient Azlanti Flying Death-Ray Lens that threatens shipping and denizens off and on the island. To that end they are exploring the Zuran temple-labs beneath the Sun Temple Colony hoping to find clues to said lens and the locals' Sun God, Nuu'rugal.

Our heroes are:

- ♣ Captain Sindawe H'kilata Narr, the fist-punchin' Mwangi monk (Chris).
- ♣ First Mate Ref "Serpent" Jorensen, the staff-bashin' Ulfen druid/ranger and his snake Saluthra (Paul).
- ♣ Gunnery Mate Wogan, the pistol-packin' celibate cleric of Gozreh (Patrick).
- ♣ Hatshepsut, monk and high priestess of a lost civilization who doesn't savvy much Common and her cobra Naja.
- ♣ Samaritha, the wand-blastin' serpentfolk wizard in the guise of a pretty half-elf, and now Serpent's wife!
- ♣ Bosun Tommy Blacktoes, the staff-slingin' sneaky halfling rogue (was Kevin, now an NPC).
- ♣ Lavender Lil, a buxom tiefling ex-prostitute, and Tommy's girlfriend.
- ♣ With them are the pirates of the *Teeth of Araska*, some 20+ souls consisting of:
  - ♣ Survivors from the ship's previous pirate crew
  - ♣ Ex-slaves escaped from their Chelish owner (Martino Marcellano) and recruited from their castaway island home
  - ♣ Various other recruits, some willing, some not.
  - ♣ Daphne, a female sorcerer kidnapped from the coastal town Hollobrae and dominated by Samaritha into compliance and friendly spell casting.
  - ♣ JJ, an aquatic homunculus, whose master may be dead.
- ♣ Current temporary allies:
  - ♣ Xiola Chelman, a sorceress belonging to the Andoran colony's Sun Temple faction. She asked her priest too many questions and is now on the run from his White Robes.

- ▲ Narbus Smeet, aka Lefty, one-handed son of Elder Adara Smeet, member of the Andoran colony's purist faction, and turncoat/spy for the Sun Temple faction.

## *TREASURE TIME*

Serpent, Wogan, and Sindawe, Xiola, and Lefty have just destroyed Saengket, the undead high priest, and some of his mummy minions. Saengket is also the ancient enemy of Saeng Ki, the high-priestess vampire of Zura, who pointed the pirates his way.

Serpent asks Saeng Ki, "We've killed your enemy. So, where is all of the treasure you promised?"

Saeng Ki smiles and replies, "It is in the catacombs beneath the Saengket's chambers. It is there for the taking."

The pirates are disappointed but not surprised; the implication is that they can have that treasure any time they're ready to defeat another bevy of traps and monsters. They turn their attention to looting. The mummies have nothing but flesh and bandages. Saengket's dusty corpse yields (treasure): +1 Frost Mace, light steel shield, divine scroll (Wind Wall), divine scroll (Divine Power), a golden circlet (600gp), and four gold rings set with onyx stones (80gp apiece). They *spider climb* back to Saengket's "throne room", where the loot is disappointing: a gilded throne and a collection of writings by Saengket. The throne might be valuable to a collector, but is very large and heavy. It is coated with a thin veneer of gold; a bored pirate might scrape it clean and come away with a decent bit of drinking money. The writings are Saengket's musings on various religious subjects (i.e. "How to worship properly or worship the way I worship").

Wogan uses spells and his *Cure Light Wounds* wand to heal the injured. He and Serpent both use *Lesser Restorations* to remove poison damage from Lefty and Xiola.

Saeng Ki waits until they are finished, then says, "Are you ready for your reward?"

Serpent replies, "Yes, if it is treasure."

Saeng Ki smiles, "Oh, it is treasure. Enlightenment is a treasure."

Serpent sternly replies, "Death is not enlightenment."

Wogan interjects, "You can't have our blood. There's a moat of blood outside; go nuts."

Saenghi shakes her head, "No, that's mass produced. Not to my tastes."

This conversation continues for a short time. Saeng Ki is interested in feeding from the more attractive pirates. The pirates are having none of that. Demands for their promised reward are answered with innuendo (extra creepy coming from a vampire) and no information.

Eventually, the pirates decide to rest up in Saengket's throne room; the days many fights have left them sorely depleted. Everyone is assigned sleeping positions in front of the throne within line of sight of everyone else. Saeng Ki settles upon the throne and lapses into eerie stillness; the pirates move their camp to the corner furthest from the throne and the two entrances.

The pirates cook supper and talk.

Serpent looks at Saeng Ki and says, "Us being back here reminds of the helper sprites that wait behind Father Christmas while he sits upon his throne and asks each child, 'How bad were you this year?' The helper sprites drag off the worst children."

Sindawe chuckles, "In my home land Father Christmas is black. He has eight white helpers. They stuff bad children into sack and beat them without mercy. Truly bad children are kidnapped."

Wogan asks Lefty, "Do your people have a Father Christmas?"

Lefty answers, "Yes. He is a herald of Abadar and each year he delivers scrolls with new laws. The next morning the children run thru the streets screaming, 'Yay! The new zoning ordinances are here!'"

Dinner is finished. Wogan and Xiola take the first watch. Sindawe and Serpent will take the second.

During their watch Xiola asks Wogan what they are going to do next. It is clear she is worried for her own and her people's safety. Wogan is somewhat reassuring.

Xiola: "What will you do after you get your treasure?"

Wogan: "Leave this dungeon."

Xiola, unperturbed: "Well, after that then."

Wogan: "Defeat the lens. Leave the island."

Xiola: "How will you do that? The priests are very powerful. And our god is in the temple."

Wogan: "I guess we will talk to the priests."

Xiola seems satisfied with this explanation. Everyone but Xiola understands that there are air quotes around the word "talk".

Serpent and Sindawe take the second watch. After several hours Saeng Ki stands up from the throne and approaches the pair. Sindawe moves closer to Wogan and Xiola, ready to wake them at a moment's notice.

Saeng Ki again demands, "Give me the pretty one. If you do I will reward you." This is her fourth attempt on this subject. The pirates firmly reply, "No."

She asks Sindawe, "Do you want your treasure? If so, come with me."

Sindawe replies, "You seem way too interested in separating me from my friends. Why don't you bring the treasure here?"

After a great deal of back and forth Saeng Ki admits that she cannot bring the treasure to Sindawe because the magics there prevent her from touching it. Sindawe does not believe her.

## *NO ONE TRUSTS STRIPPERS LET ALONE STRIPPER VAMPIRES*

The next morning Saeng Ki approaches the pirates after they have completed prayers, spells, and breakfast. Again, she asks for a 'snack'. When the pirates say no, she switches tack to saying, "It is time for your reward. Who will accompany me to their reward?"

Her every word drips with dark promises of exsanguination and enslavement. Even Lefty is suspicious.

Sindawe announces, "You have done nothing to win our trust. You have lied to us. Win your own release from the Sun Temple's lens (the Azlanti Flying Death-Ray Lens is powered by the Sun which is extra bad for vampires). We are leaving now."

Saeng Ki attempts unsuccessfully to mesmerize Sindawe then says, "Shall we descend Sindawe? For your reward? Your father was man enough to seize what he wanted. Are you?"

Sindawe, pretending to be mesmerized, steps to Saeng Ki and unleashes a Flurry of Blows (12pts); she agilely avoids most of his blows but one cracks her across the jaw. The single blow seems to shock her; no one hits the **HIGH PRIESTESS!** She steps back and casts *Darkness*. Serpent charges forward and hits her with his staff (18pts). Wogan dispels the *Darkness*. Xiola shoots the vampire with *Magic Missile* as soon as the light returns.

Saeng Ki's tiger pounces upon Serpent; its fangs elongate to sabretooth tiger size. He is horribly bitten and clawed (53pts); he is also grappled by the tiger. He manages to resist the energy drain.

Wogan yells, "Vampire tiger!"

Saeng Ki giggles insanely, "Yes!"

Sindawe attacks the tiger (28pts), but is unhappy to find its flesh resistant to punching.

Saeng Ki whips out a jagged chain, which locks into a solid twin-bladed weapon. She demands, "Sindawe! Call off your dogs! My tiger has your serpent." Then she steps back with her weapon at the ready.

Wogan reaches beneath the tiger to heal Serpent (21pts). The tiger's blood-red eye follows him and it growls softly, with its jaws wrapped all the way around Serpent's head. Xiola casts *Invisibility*. Lefty tries to shrink away.

Sindawe steps back and replies, "Fine. We stand down. You win."

Saeng Ki happily purrs, "But what is my reward for your poor behavior? Give me a little taste. It won't hurt."

Sindawe replies, "Just kill us, you dumb whore. You want servants, a meal, and the end to the sun-powered lens? You can't have all three. What do you want? I promise you we will not defeat the lens if you take one sip from us. I need all of these people to win that fight."

Saeng Ki says, "Oh, Sindawe... I was just having some fun. It doesn't hurt to ask or tease. You are too sensitive."

Sindawe yells, "What do you want?"

Saenghi seems surprised, "I thought I was clear. I want the pretty one."

Sindawe replies, "Then you don't to want escape this place? You want the sun-powered lens hovering over your head forever?"

Saeng Ki descends the stairs, "Come with me, Sindawe. You shall have your reward."

Sindawe rolls his eyes and follows, but not before saying to his friends, "If you kill the tiger while we're away I will not be upset."

Wogan and Xiola declare, "We'll get right on that!" and add under their breath, "Like that will happen."

Serpent, from beneath the tiger, replies, "I'm going to lie here and wait it out."

The tiger growls as if to indicate, "I can understand your words, blood sack."

## *The Crypts*

*Everburning Torches* light the interred temple servants. Their sarcophagi are carved to resemble the occupant, which implies that each one is a vampire snarling in his full glory. Saeng Ki walks over to one sarcophagus, passes her hand around the lid, and speaks words that sound vaguely like "K" and "into". She indicates that the magical traps and wards have been defeated.

Sindawe pushes the lid off to reveal a richly dressed corpse, clutching at a wooden stake piercing its heart. Sindawe's breath catches at the wealth. Saeng Ki points out the ordinary finery: a silver mask with emerald eyes (2400gp), a signet ring (400gp), silver pendant (800gp), and an empty gold amphora (600gp). She then identifies the magic upon the corpse:

- ♣ *Rain Tiger* - is a pendant with a giant emerald. It is essentially a *Ring of Spell Storing*. Divine spells only, 10 levels maximum. It currently holds Lunar Veil, which is useful against creatures of the light or at least their enchantments.
- ♣ +2 *Headband of Vast Intelligence* with +8 Knowledge: Religion
- ♣ A thin wand of *Levitate* (12)

Saeng Ki asks Sindawe, "Now do you trust me?"

Sindawe replies, "When have I lied to you?"

Saeng Ki, "You said I could feed on you earlier but now you won't."

Sindawe admits defeat, because he is arguing with a woman... and a stripper. He swallows his pride and declares, "Please. Forgive me for the awful things I have said to you this day. I know you have worked hard to overlook such things and my distrust. You deserve better. I look forward to working with you to end the lens."

Saeng Ki smiles fangily. "I knew you could be gracious and well-spoken if you wanted to, Sindawe. Destroy the lens for me and the rest is yours."

The pair return to the throne room.

Saeng Ki yells, "Bangar! Release him!" The tiger does so; it returns to her side and begins cleaning its paws. Saeng Ki seems jealous of his blood intake. Serpent staggers to his feet.

Sindawe fills his friends in on their reward and that the deal is still on. Serpent takes the headband. Wogan takes *Rain Tiger*. Xiola takes the wand. Lefty is given one of the non-magical onxy/gold rings. (This brings Lefty's equipment up to a breastplate, light crossbow, 9 +1 bolts, a masterwork short sword, and the ring (8ogp)).

The pirates nod to Saeng Ki, then leave quickly. They use *Spider Climb* from a wand to quickly and safely bypass the temple-labs many dangers (e.g. blood moat, poison dart room, pit trap room). Wogan uses Positive Energy Burst to push aside the shadow curtains. The pirates re-trace their route in and thereby successfully avoid additional encounters.

They arrive at the room where the statuary captures Zura defeating the Sun God with lust. Wogan reminds them that the *Chime of Opening* is almost exhausted. Sindawe orders them to spread out and look for the secret door controls.

It is Serpent, leveraging his newly acquired Religion skill, that finds the control. Pouring blood into Zura's mouth will open the secret door. Sindawe sighs and starts to draw a dagger across his arm, but Wogan stops him, "I have a bottle of the moat blood. Let me."

The pirates are surprised to find the blood still liquid. Serpent declares, "It must contain nitrates!" Sindawe asks, "What sort of night traits? Moonlight?" Wogan pours the blood into Zura's mouth. Her thighs open as does the secret door.

Serpent smiles at Sindawe, "If you had a vast intellect like I do, you would understand 'nitrates'."



The pirates flee the temple-labs. Lefty yells back, "Goodbye pretty lady. Thank you for not killing us." The secret door closes.

The pirates return to the room of silvery pools (where the brain-waves of long dead Azlanti scientists reside). They decide to camp there. The pirates introduce Lefty to rum as they drink in celebration. They watch as false dawn lights the sky. Serpent and Wogan begin their daily prayers; both of them remove their pants as is required by Gozreh. Lefty takes the first watch.

### *Next Step*

Xiola asks Sindawe, "What's next?"

Wogan and Serpent, having finished their morning prayers, join the conversation.

A long conversation is had. The outcome: The pirates will go sneak into the Sun Temple village at night to assassinate the priest Olibrax in his own home. Xiola warns them that there will be patrols around the village and most likely acolytes attending to Olibrax himself; she has never been to his home. She expects the entire village to come to Olibrax's rescue, so the pirates will use a rope and spider climb to escape to a nearby building.

And what does all of this achieve? The pirates hope that kill Olibrax will pull the high priest Iocebus out of his monster infested temple lair on the third island to investigate... and hopefully put him in the pirate's crosshairs.

Xiola guides the group to an abandoned building near her village. The group camps the day there; each member taking a watch.

During his watch Lefty whispers to Sindawe, "Hey. There's someone coming."

Sindawe moves up next to Lefty, "Which direction?" When Lefty turns away to point Sindawe puts him in a sleeper hold. The eyeball in Lefty's side opens wide; his body goes rigid as if

under alien control. Lefty tries to blast Sindawe with *Searing Light* while Sindawe slowly strangles him unconscious. The others are alerted to the struggle by the bursts of searing light. Just after Lefty goes limp a blob of burning plasma emerges from his mouth. Sindawe drags Lefty clear.

The plasma wants a new host and attacks Xiola, the closest person, with pseudopods; it burns and grabs her. And constricts her. Xiola falls unconscious and near dead; it cannot merge with her now.

Serpent beats on the creature with his staff. Wogan blasts it with his *Icicle* spell, then switches to his new Frost Mace. Sindawe beats on the creature with his cold-iron knuckles, burning himself horribly (17pts). The creature grabs Wogan, burns him, and then inserts itself into his mouth and down his throat. Wogan is not yet under its control; he tries *Remove Disease...* it does not work.

And it doesn't end there. The ooze burns Wogan (1pt) from the inside; Wogan fights off the nauseated effect. The creature demands telepathically, "Give in to me; allow Nuurungal to guide you." Sindawe tries to choke Wogan unconscious. Wogan expels the creature seconds later, his throat seared with its heat. Serpent beats on it with his staff. Sindawe picks up the frost mace and strikes at it too. The creature has a pathetic AC which is more than made up for with an abundance of hit points and lots of attacks. Wogan hits it with another *Icicle Burst*, freezing it solid much like a campfire toasted marshmallow. Serpent smashes that for good measure.

Serpent heals Xiola back to consciousness and gives her a *Lesser Restoration*. "Well, that was bracing!" he says.

And then the Gibbering Moulder Bipeds that Lefty had been trying to warn Sindawe about slither into the room. Sindawe yells, "Go up!" and starts climbing the building's interior. Serpent charges the closest one and hits it hard (13pts). The GMB's gibbering unnerves (and Confuses) all of the pirates. They finish oozing into the room.

Xiola picks up a rock and hits a GMB. Wogan pistol whips another GMB. Sindawe babbles. Sindawe gets a grip on himself then beats on a GMB. Wogan spends his and the group's last Fate Point to save all of them - Wogan spots a horrible crack in the wall behind the GMB's. He shoots it with his blunderbuss causing the wall to collapse and crush the GMB's with great force. The dust coated pirates quickly gather their gear and move 400' east into another building.

### *CLIFF-HANGER - YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD IS DANGEROUS*

Sindawe asks Xiola, "You never mentioned that horrible monsters like that lurk around your village. What the hell?"

Xiola replies, "Our village's palisade and ditch keep them away."

The pirates appear unconvinced, so Xiola continues, "Well, we also have spellcasters that chase them away with spells such as *Water Hammer*. And those touched by Nuurugal often have extra influence over creatures of fire." They grumble at the unfairness of it all.