

## REAVERS ON THE SEAS OF FATE - SESSION SUMMARY 09/23/2012

### TODAY'S EPISODE: CIVIL WAR

Our heroes are on a tropical 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 (AFDRL) that protects the colonists by burning foreigners and their ships as well as rebels and monsters. Our heroes are working with Andoran rebels and Xiola (representing the Andoran cultist Fertile Families) to seize the control of the AFDRL from the Touched cultists. The alliance is tenuous because the rebels hate the cultists, the cultists hate the rebels, no one really trusts the pirates, and everyone is afraid of betrayal once the AFDRL is up for grabs. If the alliance succeeds, the rebels and surviving cultists get to live in peace and use the AFDRL to keep marauding Mordant Spire Elves and monsters at bay. And the pirates get a trade monopoly with both groups (who frequently dig up exotic Azlanti goods) and safe passage from the AFDRL.

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's asked her priest too many questions and is now on the run from his White Robes.
  - ♣ Narbus Smeet, aka Lefty, son of Elder Adara Smeet, member of the Andoran colony's purist faction, and turncoat/spy for the Sun Temple faction.

## *WHAT? OH, THAT'S ALL WRONG*

It turns out that the Outcasts (colony rebels) will supply troops for operation "grab the *Flame of Guidance*". The number of main colony combatants is adjusted downward for several reasons: some were promoted out of the Fertile Family ranks (poor combatants and close ties to their families), guard duty, and the thirty priests were also counted amongst the 150 god-touched.

There are three possible avenues of attack against the colony: directly to their village from the part of the outcast village abutting the second island - but that route would be immediately noticed and is always heavily trapped with Azlanti devices. The second route is across the chasm along the most watched rope bridges and through the Azlanti hauntings. The third is through the the Watchers' territory. This last one seems the least awful because the greatest danger is The Watchers who tend to lure people to their death rather than being full of militia or ghosts.

However, Xiola still has to bring the Fertile Families on board. And someone remembers the mad hermit; he might be able to help. A group is assembled to escort diplomats to both factions.

Meanwhile, the other pirates are given orders to prepare for battle in two days. The spell-casters research spells likely to help against fire spells and fire creatures. Volunteers are sought to pilot the elf skimmer - JJ, Kahina, Jaren the Jinx, and Olhas.

## *MUULENAAR THE MAD HERMIT*

The diplomat party with Lefty as guide arrives in the hermit's territory and then spends a long while searching for him. The hermit does not respond to his shouted name. Eventually, they find the hermit's golem standing alone in a small field. The hermit is camouflaged nearby. Wogan opens the negotiation by yelling into the woods, "How do you feel about your brother? We want to overthrow him."

Sensaro (the mad hermit) demands, "What is in it for Sensaro? What about their fire powers and the burning?"

Wogan replies, "We have fire protection spells. And you can have your brother's brain juices."

Sensaro wants his brother's brain juices but also requires further details about what is expected of him. He is given vague details about the attack and his part would be to help fight fire creatures with his golem. Sensaro agrees.

Arrangements are made to link up Sensaro and his golem on the second island at the building of 'tentacled statesmen', at 4 AM the morning of the attack.

## *ON TO THE FERTILE FAMILIES*

The group goes through Watcher territory and avoids at least one wandering monster thanks to Survival checks. They work their way to up to the colony until Xiola announces, "We are only a few minutes away. We should approach invisibly now." The main group holes up in the Azlanti newspaper building, "The Tentacled Statesman", while Xiola and Sindawe continue on invisibly.

They end up at the house of a single, middle-aged, woman named Emena. The conversation is held in the root cellar. Xiola tells Emena about Olibrax's attempt on her life, then about improving the lives of the Fertile Families by seizing the *Flame of Guidance*. Emena is intrigued but not convinced. She does agree to bring other Family members over to her house that night for further discussion.

Also, that night the escort outside the village hides from a patrol of god-touched priests on a recruiting drive. They hide successfully.

The night negotiation with the Fertile Family goes a little better. A promise is extracted from the larger group - they will not fight their oppressors but they will withdraw from the field of battle which will demoralize the god-touched (and leave them as the only opponents to the pirates and outcast cultists).

Xiola and Sindawe sneak back out that night, join their escort, and journey back to the outcast village.

### *OUTCAST VILLAGE*

The outcasts have pulled out a large and varied assortment of Azlanti weapons. Several weapons are anti-fire capable; they have jars of liquid that screw into the breach of fire-arm looking weapons that generate cold. The outcasts are ready for war.

The pirates are gathered and filled in on the plan: minus the skiff crew, several will accompany the pirate officers, and the rest will be part of the attack to draw the cultist military out (and away from Olibrax). Wogan gives them an extra rum ration - they cheer.

## *BATTLE DAY*

The outcasts and pirates set out early morning for the Tentacled Statesman. The commandos continue on at the rope bridge, leaving the larger group to cross slowly.

Wogan, Serpent, Samaritha, Saluthra, Daphne, Xiola, and Sindawe sneak into the village using *Invisibility* (courtesy of Xiola and Daphne). Wogan covers everyone with a *Resist* or *Protection from Energy (Fire)*. One of the Fertile Families hides the commandos in their root cellar.

At dawn the attack begins with a cannon shot. The 'army' waits in hiding while the skiff moves out onto the water. White-robed priests congregate in the town square and people bring out weapons. Olibrax screams out, "Kill the foreigners!" The lens moves toward the skiff, burning a trail through the jungle. It catches up a short time later, burning the sail first, then concentrating on the ship itself. The crew leaps off in time to avoid death though Jaren gets burned nicely before he hits the water.

The 'army' of pirates and outcasts appears outside the village a short time later. Olibrax orders his troops, God-touched and Fertile Family, to attack them and then summons the lens back to help. This leaves Olibrax at the ziggurat altar with four guards and two priests. The commandos attack.

Wogan casts *Silence* at the ziggurat while the others run the long distance over. Daphne and Samaritha fly closer; Daphne begins *Summon Monster* while Samaritha hits Olibrax with *Magic Missile*. Xiola hits Olibrax with *Magic Missile* too. Olibrax moves out of the *Silence* and casts a spell on himself; he grows larger. Another cultist casts *Obscuring Mist* upon Olibrax and several cultists near him.

The cultists turn to meet the attackers. Wogan's short musket blows up in his hand. Saluthra attacks a cultist, bites, grabs, and crushes him - a burning blob shots out the top of his head

from the crushing pressure. Serpent kills another cultist with a single staff blow. This also produces another burning blob on the altar. Xiola moves closer. Daphne summons an ice mephit which breathes ice on the burning blob duo - they take damage (3pts) and are sickened! Daphne screams, "They can be sickened!"

Sindawe runs into the mist after Olibrax. Olibrax steps back from him and calls down a *Flame Strike*; Sindawe ducks under the altar to avoid the flames. Wogan checks the sky, notes the lens is halfway back, and decides to shoot a burning blob. A cultist catches Saluthra and the ice mephit in a *Burning Hands* (very little damage thanks to resist/protection spells). A sickened blob shoots a *Searing Light* at Saluthra (14pts). Saluthra returns the favor by grabbing and squeezing it. Serpent hammers the other burning blob. Sindawe is unable to hit the very well armored Olibrax.

The battle continues with very little progress as both sides slowly damage each other. The burning blobs suck up tons of damage, the cultists leave the *Silence* and put up more *Obscuring Mists*. And Olibrax realizes that he can't be hit by Sindawe so he concentrates on spells. As the Lens grows nearer, Wogan casts *Lunar Veil* from the *Rain Tiger* and an unnatural eclipse crosses the sky.

Olibrax' screams summon a creature from inside the church. It looks like an emaciated child with charred flesh in a nimbus of light. Xiola names it, "A Shining Child!" It points at Wogan who burns; luckily the damage is absorbed by Wogan's *Protection from Energy*. Wogan hides himself and Xiola with another *Obscuring Mist*. And finally Saluthra kills the burning blob she has been squeezing; it blows up delivering more fire damage (4pts). But Xiola kills another cultist who releases an even more potent burning blob. Samaritha continues to fly over the battle field dispersing *Obscuring Mist* with an *Alter Winds* spell. The ice mephit breathes again and destroys the last of the first two burning blobs.

Olibrax casts *Fire Shield* on himself while dodging an *Icicle*. A cultist hits several of the commandos with *Burning Hands* but is unhappy to see their *Resist Fire* spells absorb the damage. Serpent and Sindawe flank Olibrax and pound on him (26pts). Daphne casts Glitterdust on the Shining Child but it cannot be blinded; Samaritha tries a *Daze Monster* to no effect. A burning blob continues grappling Xiola in preparation to possess her. The Shining Child stuns Daphne with its uber rainbow pattern powers. Wogan tries *Dispel Magic* on Olibrax but the spell is immediately countered.

Samaritha casts *Blur* upon herself. Saluthra attacks and squeezes the last burning blob. Olibrax hits Serpent with a morningstar laden with *Smite* (15pts plus 5d6 negative energy). The Shining Child tries a *blinding light* spell that doesn't work thanks to the *Lunar Veil* Wogan cast earlier; all of its light spells are reduced by two levels. It instead hits Samaritha with *Searing Light* (45pts). Two cultist remain in combat with Daphne's ice mephit and water elemental; neither side is doing well. No one questions why these creatures aren't deployed against the burning blob or the Shining Child; their just happy to neutralize the two priests. Serpent lands a good blow on Olibrax who is sporting several wounds now.

Xiola, Daphne, and Samaritha continue throwing spells on the Shining Child, which takes some damage and shakes off a *Hold Monster*. Olibrax defensively casts *Cure Critical Wounds* upon himself; he looks much better. Shining Child shouts, "Pathet Lao!!!" and misses Daphne with a *Searing Light*. Saluthra squeezes the burning blob again; it looks bad. Serpent hits Olibrax hard (17pts).

The lady wizard/sorceresses continue plink away at the Shining Child, except Daphne who is still stunned. Olibrax casts *Fireball* at his feet which damages Sindawe (28), Wogan (○), and Serpent (○). The Shining Child hits Samaritha hard with a *Searing Light* (28pts). Wogan *Calls*

*Lightning* down upon Olibraxx. The ice mephit is killed, allowing its cultist to attack Xiola from behind.

Salutha finally kills the third burning blob. Sindawe finally trips Olibrax and kicks him repeatedly in the ribs (23pts). Samaritha lands next to Wogan, "I need healing!" Wogan replies, "Not much left." She shoots Olibrax with a Ray of Enfeeblement (4pts Str). Daphne becomes unstunned but is still confused; she babbles incoherently, "Lower taxes, more military, grind the poor into hamburger." Olibrax casts *Unboly Blight* from his prone position. Several commandos are injured: Wogan (7pts), Serpent (7), and Sindawe (0) but none of them take secondary effects because they're not good. Samaritha, however, is good and is knocked unconscious (-16pts) and is barely holding onto life.

Wogan drags Samaritha out of the *Unboly Blight* and casts *Cure Light Wounds* (12pts) on her. A burning blob (number 4) attacks Saluthra. Cultist priests throw and swing without effect. The Shining Child hurts Daphne again with a vicious *Searing Light* (36pts). Serpent uses the last of his rage to hit the prone Olibrax (21pts) - his staff pierces Olibrax' eye and mixes his brain inside the shell. And then another burning blob crawls out. Sindawe snatches up his headgear, a weird orrery around a candle looking deal, and runs it over to Xiola. Xiola dons the headgear and directs the Lens over the Shining Child. Daphne cuts herself in her confusion.

The latest burning blob attacks Serpent (8pts). The Shining Child hits Xiola with a *Searing Light* which does no damage; the *Flame of Guidance* protects her.

Wogan heals Samaritha awake. She screams at him, "Is the baby alright?"

Serpent slams a burning blob (13pts). Sindawe grabs a priest and wrestles him over and throws him down a well, reasoning the water or the depth might defeat the burning blob that will emerge.



Daphne cuts herself again. The Shining Child fascinates Xiola with a spell and chuckles... until Wogan drops the *Lunar Veil* allowing the Lens that is already positioned above the Child to burn it to a crisp (50% fire, 50% plasma damage).

The battle sort of winds down just as a large group of the cultist force returns from battling the outcasts and pirates.

Xiola leaps up on the altar and screams at them, "A new rule! A new way of life! And Olibrax is dead!" They hesitate. Fertile Family members circle around their leader as the God-Touched telepathically consult each other.

CLIFFHANGER

So did the entire pirate crew get murdered? Find out next time!