

## REAVERS ON THE SEAS OF FATE - SESSION SUMMARY 12/16/2012

### TODAY'S EPISODE: A DISH BEST SERVED COLD

Our heroes are sailing the captured *Black Bunyip* and their own *Teeth of Araska* home to Riddleport. Their route is eastward across the Steaming Sea from the Azlanti Islands to the Varisian coast going well south of the Ulfen coast. Our heroes are:

- ♣ Captain Sindawe H'kilata Narr of the *Teeth of Araska*, the fist-punchin' Mwangi monk (Chris).
- ♣ Bosun Ref "Serpent" Jorensen, the staff-bashin' Ulfen druid/ranger and his snake Saluthra (Paul).
- ♣ Samaritha, the wand-blastin' serpentfolk wizard in the guise of a pretty half-elf, and now Serpent's wife!
- ♣ Hatshepsut, monk and high priestess of a lost civilization who doesn't savvy much Common and her cobra Naja.
- ♣ Captain Wogan of the *Black Bunyip*, the pistol-packin' celibate cleric of Gozreh (Patrick).
- ♣ Bosun Tommy Blacktoes, the staff-slingin' sneaky halfling rogue.
- ♣ Lavender Lil, a buxom tiefling ex-prostitute, and Tommy's girlfriend.
- ♣ With them are the pirates of the *Teeth of Araska*, about 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.
  - ♣ JJ, an aquatic homunculus, whose master may be dead.
  - ♣ Recruits from the Andoran Colony, rebel faction (not Nuru'gal):
    - ♣ Lefty (Narbus Smeet), self-inflicted amputee. He's escaping his mother (sorceress Elder Adara Smeet) and guilt (forced spying for other faction).
    - ♣ Claxton, he's tried "rebel" now he'll try "sailor".
    - ♣ Tegan, skilled house wife, and recently married to Stoke.
- ♣ Also are the recently captured 20 or so pirates of the *Black Bunyip*, whose captive captain Morgan Baumann languishes thumbless in the brig of the *Araska*.

## *THE FISHERMAN'S WIFE*

Days earlier the *Teeth of Araska* and *Black Bunyip* battled a giant squid commanded by the hated Fish Wife, a supernatural bride of the oceans who seeks out unlucky sailors to be her husband. The fight was terrifying and terrible - the *Black Bunyip* took heavy damage and lost three crewmen to the horrific giant. The *Teeth of Araska* was much luckier; it lost a single crewman.

The days since then were spent repairing the worst of the damage and redistributing crew, mainly to keep the *Bunyip* slightly above the twenty souls required to sail it. Promotions are also handed out as sailors take on new duties:

- The *Teeth of Araska* sends the *Black Bunyip* crewmen Tiberiu, Hovax, and Prand.
- Tegan, Stoke's new wife, is made Cook's Assistant aboard the *Teeth of Araska*. The quality of the meals improves dramatically.
- Tommy Black Toes is promoted to Master Gunner aboard the *Black Bunyip*.
- Peg-Leg Pete replaces Tommy Black Toes as Bosun. Pete held that role under the *Black Bunyip's* previous captain.
- Big Mike and Little Mike are made 1st and 2nd mates aboard the *Teeth of Araska*. Little Mike stewards quietly convinced he got 2nd mate only because his name is "Little" Mike.
- Serpent is made Bosun aboard the *Teeth of Araska*.

## *A LADY OF THE EVENING*

The ships have been sailing for about a week since the new crew assignments. Their habit is to sail during the day, keeping each other in sight, and then dropping sea anchor for the night. The night watches are heavily staffed and charged with watching for foul weather, keeping the other vessel in sight (or sound), and of course guarding against skullduggery.

This evening Stoke, Gareb, Dero, and Jospser are on watch aboard the *Teeth of Araska*. Serpent is also on deck asleep. His wife, Samaritha, threw him out of their cabin because he called her "Saluthra" while they laid together. Saluthra is the name of Serpent's pet snake. The fog from the Steaming Sea surrounds the ships, reducing visibility to maybe forty feet at best.

Tanned Hank begins pacing the starboard rail, muttering to himself.

Gareb asks, "What's wrong, Hank? Do you see something?"

Hank replies, "Don't you see her? She's so beautiful! And she knows my name!"

The pirates gather at the rail to spy Hank's woman, but see only fog and water.

Jospser asks, "Where is she?"

Dero demands, "How big are her breasts?"

Gareb, looking worried, adds, "I don't think there's any woman out there."

Hank says, "I'm coming!" and dives overboard into the icy water. He begins swimming away from the ship and into the fog.

Gareb blows his Fog Horn for a long moment to awaken the crew. It echoes loudly and floods the deck with more fog. Then he yells, "I'm coming, Hank!" and dives overboard.

Tanned Hank is determined to meet his lady; he swims strongly thru the cold water. Gareb keeps pace thanks to his Ring of Swimming.

Serpent responds first. "What is going on?" Josper fills him in while pointing frantically at the water. Serpent waves them off, assumes Serpent Form, and dives after the swimmers (now some distance into the thick fog). He begins closing the distance quickly due to the swim speed granted by Serpent Form, even in the rolling sea.

Sindawe arrives on deck in time to see Serpent dive overboard. He does not spot Dero sneaking off - the *Black Bunyip* pirate is convinced that he and Josper will be blamed for the disappearance of the Araska sailors.

Sindawe is told by Josper, "They went overboard!" Sindawe rings the alarm bell, then organizes the crew into launching a boat.

A crewman singles "trouble" to Wogan's vessel by shooting a murder gun off in a direction that he KNOWS the *Black Bunyip* shouldn't be. Over on the *Bunyip*, the sounds of a fog horn and gunfire from within the mist are highly alarming.

Serpent passes Gareb, whose teeth are chattering (5pts of nonlethal cold damage). He catches up to Tanned Hank and attempts to drag him back to ship. Something beneath the surface pulls at Hank (7pts of claw damage to his leg). Serpent holds tight, keeping him above the surface. Then Gareb gives a yell of pain (10pts) that terminates abruptly as he is dragged beneath the surface.

Serpent let's go of Hank and dives under toward Gareb. The water is inky dark, yet he is able to see something pulling Gareb to the depths. He pulls his cold-iron butterfly knife and pursues. He stabs the creature (8pts) which lets go of Gareb, who pulls strongly for the surface. Claws slide harmlessly across Serpent's armor as Tanned Hank swims past, going deeper towards the beautiful woman calling to him. Serpent rages and plunges his knife into his assailant again and again.

Tanned Hank swims up to the melee with a pleasant, peaceful look on his face. The creature, still hidden by the dark water tries to swim away with Tanned Hank, but Serpent pulls him away. He swims the uncooperative sailor to the surface.

Back on the *Teeth of Araska* the ship's boat has been lowered. Aboard the *Black Bunyip*, Wogan orders more lights and loading of the murder guns.

The ship's boat pulls in Gareb, then Tanned Hank. Sindawe beats the still struggling Hank unconscious. A fatigued Serpent is also pulled aboard. Gareb and Hank are covered in claw

wounds. Serpent examines the wounds and declares, "It was Sea Horses! They can take the shape of beautiful women." Several pirates nod in agreement - Sea Horses need love too.

The boat returns to the ship and the swimmers are hauled onto the deck. Then Sindawe takes the boat over to the well lit *Black Bunyip* to fill them in.

JJ the sea homunculus offers to swim after the beautiful woman.

Wogan says, "But it's dark."

JJ points at himself and replies, "Homunculus! I can see in the dark!"

Sevgi indignantly says, "What?!?" Crewmen chuckle.

JJ is sent to the *Teeth of Araska* to order "more lights". JJ spooks the *Araska* crew as he claws his way up the hull, nearly causing a friendly fire incident.

Tanned Hank is kept tied up throughout the night and the next day. Natulcien the elf eventually reports to Sindawe, "I think he is himself now. He's cursing and asking questions." Hank is untied and returned to duty where he is teased mercilessly about his true love, the sea horse.

## *AMBUSH IN THE NORTHERN SEAS*

Cold, cold weather. Icicles form on the shrouds. The vessels sail through several squalls that are separated by much more numerous minor storms that last several hours each.

Today there is a low lying mist on the horizon which neatly outlines an iceberg, the first iceberg of the voyage. Both captains, communicating by signal lamp, decide to give it a wide berth until Sindawe spots the top of a ship's mast bobbing behind it.

Battle stations! The two pirate vessels clear for action. Cannon are loaded. The *Black Bunyip* aims around the port side of the berg against heavy northwesterly winds, while the *Teeth of Araska* goes starboard. They will converge on their prey! This plan falls apart when they realize there are two enemy vessels. And then the *Teeth of Araska* bursts into flames.

## THE HUNTERS HUNTED

A large blue dragon appears 500' overhead, breaking its *invisibility* by shooting a *fireball* at the *Teeth of Araska*. It explodes amidships before anyone is even aware of the threat. Orgon and Little Mike collapse from their wounds.

The enemy vessels raise their sails - they are Mordant Spire elf skimmers! The pirates realize that the dragon is no doubt Daphne the sorceress, their former captive, and that she must have led them into an elven trap.

Serpent begs a *fly* from Samaritha, then takes off after the dragon. Hatshepsut lines up for the next *fly* spell, while casting *bull's strength* on herself. A few seconds later Hatshepsut is flying after the dragon too.

Wogan decides to rejoin the *Teeth of Araska* but is forced to drop sails to make the sharp turn against the wind and waves. He also shoots the blue dragon with a Fireball (28pts) from his Rain Tiger emerald (similar to a Ring of Spell Storing, it can hold 10 spell levels). He deals it a glancing blow. Tommy helps maintain order aboard the ship.

Sindawe continues yelling out orders and sailing for the elf skimmers. Mantlets are dropped into place to ward off their arrows. Gareb takes several *cure light wounds* potions from Sindawe to stabilize the fallen crewmen.

Samaritha hits Daphne with her *fireball*, but it does no apparent damage. Daphne *fireballs* the *Black Bunyip*, dropping Delmer and Tiberiu. Wogan uses Channeling to save their lives, then tries a *silence* spell on Daphne to no effect. Samaritha tries a *major image*: a male blue dragon appears behind Daphne bellowing in draconic, "What a fine female specimen! Let's practice some Selective Channeling!" Daphne, who doesn't speak Draconic, is both surprised and frightened! ("It has two tails?!? Why is one of them barbed?")

The elf skimmers swing wide to better wrest the "weather gage" from the *Teeth of Araska* and *Black Bunyip*. The elf captains do so handily thanks to their hundreds of years of sailing experience. Elves with bows and long masks line the starboard side. Sindawe's attempt to scry on their vessel via Crystal Ball fails.

The vessels dance the dance of maneuver. The pirates decide on medium range (400' for cannon) while the elves want to be closer for their bows and short range spells. One of the two skimmers closes with the *Teeth of Araska*, while the second is kept at long range. Arrows rain down on the *Teeth of Araska*, mostly against the mantlets, but a single arrow hits Samaritha (8pts). A *flaming sphere* appears on the *Araska's* deck (10pts to a deck section). The *Teeth of Araska's* first cannon shot misses; Stoke curses loudly and moves to the next cannon. Sindawe orders the non-combatants to extinguish the fire; the *flaming sphere* is too large to combat with buckets!

Daphne continues to flee, while casting *comprehend languages* upon herself to better communicate with her amorous pursuer. Hatshepsut and Serpent continue the slow ascent toward Daphne. Daphne tries reasoning with the illusion and when that fails she turns *invisible*.

## FROM THE FRYING PAN INTO THE FIRE

Both skimmers close to short range with the *Teeth of Araska*. Wogan and Sindawe spot two more skimmer sails to the south approaching their ships - a pincer movement! Sindawe marvels at the handsome trap laid by Daphne and the elves. Wogan casts *wind wall* on board the *Teeth of Araska* to protect it from the arrow storm, which it does! It also causes some excitement aboard the *Teeth of Araska*. The *flaming sphere* moves about, burning the deck. A second elven wizard *blinds* Sindawe, who shouts curses and puts Gareb in charge of sailing the vessel. A second cannon fires and misses.

Wogan maneuvers the *Black Bunyip* closer to the two new skimmers, hitting one with his broadside (28pts and 44pts). The cannon balls rip into the vessel, breaking one section and showering elves with wooden splinters (7pts and 11pts). The *Teeth of Araska* fires and misses again. The *flaming sphere* rolls onto another deck section (18pts). The bucket brigade extinguishes the fire behind it but is powerless to stop it from continuing to ravage the ship. The elf caster knocks Gareb out with a *sleep* spell. The *Teeth of Araska* lurches out of control; the blind Sindawe demands that the unconscious pirate tell him what is happening.

Wogan casts *control water* to open a whirlpool beneath one of the new approaching elf skimmers, locking it into a fight against the elements. Sindawe orders Samaritha to take the wheel, which she does but the vessel continues heeling wildly. Hatshepsut descends to the *Teeth of Araska* at a rate of 240', allowing her to return to the vessel in one round vs. the 6 rounds it took to obtain that height. She starts yelling out the situation.

Serpent also descends, planning to attack an elf skimmer all by himself. His plan is dashed when Daphne the dragon appears behind him to breathe lightning (34pts), leaving him at four hit points. He turns and charges, is forced to spend his sole Infamy Point to avoid a botch, and critically hits her, knocking her out with a broad swipe from his orichalcum staff. The unconscious Daphne/blue dragon spirals downward.

Wogan maneuvers past the *Teeth of Araska*. The *flaming sphere* moves to another deck section (12pts) as the fire brigade puts out its last fire. That sphere dies out, only to be replaced by another (10pts). The other elf caster hits the *Teeth of Araska* with *glitterdust*, blinding three crewmen. Hatshepsut lands and brings the wheel under control. A long range shot from the *Teeth of Araska* misses. An elven *sleep* spell knocks out two *Black Bunyip* crewmen. Though no one's dead yet, both ships are running woefully short of able bodied crew.

Wogan orders a starboard broadside against the remaining chase skimmer, hitting twice (34pts and 31pts), showering elf sailors with splinters (7 and 8pts). The *Teeth of Araska* hits with a

single gun (23pts). Wogan calls lightning down on an elf mage (9pts) and the deck he's standing on. Hatshepsut flies over to the chase vessel and Channels negative energy (8pts). Sindawe orders Samaritha to ram the closest elf skimmer... she asks, "Really?" "YES!" demands the enraged pirate captain.

Serpent plunges after the spiraling blue dragon, hitting her again and again. Daphne hits the water hard (2d6 non-lethal and 4d6 lethal), probably killing her. He descends to beat her some more... her dragon head caves in. Finally, Daphne reverts to human form and the *Dragon Staff* slips from her grasp. Serpent swims after it, grabs it, and feels eldritch power flow thru him. HE NOW HAS A BITE ATTACK! And natural armor.

### PREPARE TO REPEL BOARDERS!

Samaritha shrieks, "RAMMING SPEED!" and spins the wheel wildly. The *Teeth of Araska* successfully rams the elf skimmer in a massive, crushing collision. The smaller skimmer takes 37pts, the *Teeth of Araska* takes 18pts. More than half of the crew of both vessels fall down from the impact. Wogan continues hitting a heavily wounded elf skimmer with *call lightning*, concentrating on its cannonball-smashed aft section. Hatshepsut drops to the rammed elf vessel's deck, leaping past the prone archers, and punches their wizard (7pts, plus 2 bleed, and stunned). A *Teeth of Araska* murder gun tears up the vessel's rigging. Samaritha shoots the same elf wizard with a *scorching ray* (7pts).

The elf first mate comes out of the cabin and hits Hatshepsut several times with a pair of short swords (9pts and 6pts). The elf captain shouts out commands and is able to untangle his vessel from the *Teeth of Araska*. An elf wizard on another vessel rolls his *flaming sphere* onto a new deck section aboard the *Teeth of Araska* (8pts). Wogan orders murder guns to rake the untangling vessel - elves fall dead.

Samaritha *fireballs* the farthest elf skimmer, killing four elves. That vessel returns fire with arrows in earnest now that their archers have noticed that the *Araska's wind wall* has expired, but makes no hits. Wogan pops the cork on his Eversmoking Bottle and smoke billows out across the deck, concealing the crew. This protects them from the archers aboard the third skimmer. A *glitterdust* blinds a trio of pirates aboard the *Black Bunyip*. The *Teeth of Araska* and *Black Bunyip* both grapple the rammed skimmer. Aboard that vessel, Hatshepsut combats both the wounded elf wizard and the first mate. The first mate slices her repeatedly (25pts) while all three combatants dodge elven arrows. Samaritha uses her serpentfolk powers to *dominate* the first mate, who pauses in his attacks, turns and runs into the command cabin intent on killing his captain. Hatshepsut picks up

the elf wizard and flies back to the *Teeth of Araska*. Sindawe screams at his crew, "Murder those elves!" Tommy Blacktoes screams, "Stab them all!" as he leads the *Black Bunyip* crew onto the grappled skimmer. He critically hits and kills an elf sailor. Wogan continues using *call lightning* on his least favorite elf skimmer and shatters its aft section – it begins taking on water and the crew bails frantically.

Samaritha casts *slow* on the sinking skimmer, causing crew to miss important timings. The *dominated* elf first mate slices and dices his surprised captain (30pts). They begin a dazzling sword fight inside the wheelhouse. Their crew fire arrows at the boarding pirates, but miss repeatedly thanks to the *Eversmoking Bottle*. Another vessel fires arrows at the *Teeth of Araska* where the *flaming sphere* continues burning deck sections. The entire fore of the ship is in ruins and is in danger of taking on water. Wogan casts *bleed* on his pirates. Tommy murders several elf sailors.

Hatshepsut grabs the unconscious elven wizard and *flies* back to the deck of the *Araska* with him. She casts *cure light wounds* upon her prisoner, then demands, "Restore Sindawe's sight!"

The wizard replies, "If you spare me."

Hatshepsut nods, "Agreed."

Sindawe's sight returns to reveal the kneeling elf wizard and Hatshepsut holding a clawed hand at his neck. He smiles and scoops out the wizard's eyes with his thumbs. He shouts over the screaming elf, "Load my cannon with grape shot!"

Aboard the grappled elf skimmer the captain regretfully kills his dominated first mate. Samaritha feels the man's death and staggers. She begs off due to fatigue and heads below... pausing long enough to *magic missile* a far off elf sailor to death. The elf captain emerges from his command cabin and kills Jospur Foxkiller instantly with a trident through the rib cage. Pirates attack the captain and his last crewmen, cutting the crewmen down.

Skimmer #2 is greatly slowed due to crew losses. The wizard reports he is low on spells. The remaining skimmer's wizard has a similar problem. Both vessels circle the tangled trio of ships (sitting in the smoke) peppering them with ineffectual arrow fire. One wizard spots Wogan through the smoke and fires a *blindness* spell at him as he is cutting boarding lines. Wogan shakes off what he assumes is a "rum flashback".

Wogan continues cutting lines while he keeps his remaining crew loading cannon - two have been reloaded. Hatshepsut joins Tommy in battling the beleaguered elf captain (12pts), who chops them back handsomely. Hovax Littlehands steps in to slice him heavily across the back with a scimitar (34pts). Sindawe joins the fray (12pts). The captain attempts to leap overboard but is killed in midair by Tommy's thrown dagger. With the immediate threat over the pirates begin



looting the skimmer and its crew. Tommy fishes the dead captain out of the water with a gaff hook.

## DISENGAGE AND RETIRE

The relatively undamaged elf skimmer, slowly pursued by the skimmer taking on water, withdraws to cover the skimmer caught in the whirlpool. The pirates loot, reload cannon, and look to Wogan for healing.

Sindawe orders that the blinded elf wizard be returned to his ship, then quietly orders a crewmen to hack off a bit of that ship, which is set adrift with it all fires extinguished. He assumes the elves will recover the skimmer and Wogan can use his *track ship* spell on the hunk of stolen wood to locate the skimmer in the future. The three skimmers look to decline further battle, so the *Araska* and *Bunyip* limp away to resume their course for Hermea. They suffered only one fatality, Jospur Foxkiller, but the *Bunyip* has moderate damage (mostly from the giant squid attack) and the *Araska* has severe fire damage to its forward sections, exacerbated by the ramming maneuver it performed on the elven skimmer. The icy mists close around them as they sail eastward toward Avistan.