

REAVERS ON THE SEAS OF FATE - SESSION SUMMARY 02/10/2012

TODAY'S EPISODE: THE WICKED AND THE MAIMED

Our heroes are on Argavist Island to visit the Shrine of the Arm-Ripper for its little known regenerative properties. The landing party includes every sailor who is short a body part or two. They discovered that White Estrid's Ulfen fleet is anchored at the island waiting for 'raiding season'. And the shrine has been overrun by mysterious 'large-jawed' humanoids. And Mythra, *Witch of the Darkpines*, and her werewolf children want the shrine back... Or rather they want the pirates to take the shrine back for them. We hate them all. 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)
 - ♣ 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, the sorceress Elder Adara Smeet, and guilt over being a traitor.
 - ♣ Claxton, he's tried "rebel" now he'll try "sailor".
 - ♣ Tegan, skilled house wife, and recently married to Stoke.

▲ 20 or so pirates captured along with the *Black Bunyip*. Their ex-captain, Morgan Baumann, languishes without her thumbs in the *Araska's* brig.

WELCOME TO ARM-RIPPER SHRINE - WE HATE VISITORS

Serpent, Wogan, Sindawe, Saluthra, Lefty (expert 2), Mase Venjum (no thumbs, aristocrat 2/warrior 2), Orgon One-Ear (fighter 2), Bel the Eunuch (warrior 2), and Peg-Leg Pete (rogue 1/warrior 2) prepare to brave the Shrine of the Arm-Ripper. They stand before a large hillock bulging from the ground. A simple stone doorway leads into the earth.

Sindawe sighs. He bears a curse of ill-luck, gained by his secret murder of noted pirate Jaren the Jinx. Every fight since then has carried calamities a'plenty, and he is sure this place will have more than its fair share.

A crow calls down from a high perch, "Hey, look at me!"

Serpent recalls, "Oh yeah. Tommy shot at a talking crow the last time we were here. It disappeared after declaring, 'You'll regret that!' Later it demanded that we kill a dwarf for it."

Wogan says, "Yes, I think I remember that. It wanted us to kill the dwarf, who was somewhere inside the shrine, because the dwarf killed him."

Sindawe recalls, "Is that the same bird that followed us around after we left the island? It seemed to screw things up for us."

Serpent shrugs, "Birds."

Wogan asks, "Hey, crow. What's inside?"

"Death! And freaks!"

Wogan asks again, "No really, what's inside?"

The bird curses at him. The group tires of the conversation and moves on.

The pirates enter the cave and head down the main tunnel. They stop to deploy *sunrods* and light spells. There are webs everywhere, some as thick as a man's forearm. The pirates move cautiously. A short distance in they are ambushed in a wide corridor.

HATEFREAKS AND ALIEN SPIDERS!

A pair of creatures with bizarre, distended vertical mouths and doglike back-bent legs rush out of a side passage swinging ranseurs and shrieking in rage. Wogan screams out, "Those aren't axes! Stupid women!" Ranseurs bite deeply into Wogan and Mase. A giant spider (with an Alien style mouth within its mouth) emerges from a high cave shelf. It sprays webs on Lefty who screams like a little girl, "It burns! And I'm slowed!"

Sindawe trips Wogan's attacker and throws it down in front of Saluthra. Serpent clubs it repeatedly with his two-handed staff (36pts) only pausing to allow Saluthra to bite it (17pts).

The second of the wrathspawn (or "hatefreaks," as the group thinks of them) swings at Mase again, botches, and loses his concentration. Bel and Pete roll up on the creature's flanks and hit it repeatedly with spear and scimitar. Lefty wriggles out of his shirt and rolls clear of his web blanket, demonstrating his first useful skill - Escape Artist. The wounded Mase, lacking thumbs, backs away from the wrathspawn. Orgon steps into Mase's place and slashes the creature twice.

Freed from combatants, Wogan casts *spiritual weapon* from a scroll; a force trident stabs the giant spider on its high shelf. The spider leaps down onto Lefty. It lands poorly, snapping off a leg, yet it manages to hit Lefty with two claws. Sindawe hits it with a running kick (14pts and successful stunning fist). Sindawe's ill luck also causes the spider to blind itself temporarily (botch on the Fort save).

The wrathspawn beset by pirates swings its ranseur high over head and into Orgon (20pts) but misses Pete with the cleave. The pirates inflict minor wounds it. Mase calls out, "There's more coming!" He backs away again but the wrathspawn follows him.

Wogan's force trident stabs the spider again while he stabs a nearby wrathspawn. Lefty stabs the spider. The stunned spider bleeds out its hind leg, while Sindawe kills it with a series of punches - he cracks its jaws open and snatches out the second mouth.

Serpent crushes the prone wrathspawn's head with multiple staff blows (30pts). Saluthra slithers quickly over to the second wrathspawn and bites it (20pts).

The bad guy reinforcements are four wrathspawn following a field gun being pulled by a pair of giant spiders. The spiders halt and spit webs at Bel (misses) and Pete (fumbles, slipping on a pool of blood). Two wrathspawn guard with ranseurs while the other two point the gun. Wogan casts *sleet storm* on the gun crew, which cuts their field of vision, extinguishes flames, and makes the ground slippery. The pirate crewmen take cover from the cannon behind a large pillar. Serpent runs over to them and heals Pete.

The spiders come skittering out of the sleet. One fumbles its charge against Saluthra and becomes flat footed. The other charges Bel but its inner jaw fails against his chainmail. Sindawe and Bel punch and stab the spider (16pts and 7pts). The other pirates decide that the field gun is hopefully inoperable due to the *sleet storm* and rush the flat-footed spider (18 and 7pts). Wogan channels a healing burst (15pts), excluding the spiders. Serpent ends the flat-footed spider, spraying ichor and organs everywhere.

The second spider claws and bites Bel, hitting despite his excellent chainmail (11pts). Bel shrugs off the poison and pushes it back. Sindawe punches the creature to death.

The wrathspawn gun crew rushes raging out of the sleet. They're incredibly fast and close the distance immediately to attack Saluthra, Pete, and Serpent (twice for 30pts).

The pirate crew screams, "Screw the command staff!" while surrounding the wrathspawn attacking Pete. The creature hits Orgon (17pts) as it is stabbed and slashed (18pts). Then it cleaves Bel (19pts and bleeding out) and Orgon (18pts and killed?). Sindawe turns from the dead pirate and pummels the wrathspawn (31pts). Pete sneaks attacks (6pts). Left fumbles his attack and slashes his own leg (7pts). Wogan casts *stabilize* on Orgon.

Wogan shoots (13pts) a wrathspawn attacking Serpent while screaming, "It's OK that I am firing a gun. They were going to fire a cannon."

Serpent pummels the same wrathspawn (31pts). Saluthra bites and coils around her attacker (48pts); the creature screams, "PAIN!!!" and bites back (fumbles and is FRUSTRATED!). The two standing wrathspawn swing ranseurs and bite at Serpent but his armor turns their blows. Serpent hammers his staff into the wounded wrathspawn's mouth then pivots the staff body against his second attacker; the wrathspawn's head pops off showering the area in enraged blood. Saluthra crushes her victim to death.

The wrathspawn fighting Lefty, Pete, and Sindawe cleaves again, clipping Pete (16pts). Sindawe breaks the creature's knees, dropping it to kneeling, then opens its skull with his last blow. The still slowed Lefty stabilizes Bel, demonstrating his second useful skill - Heal. Wogan uses a healing burst (18pts), excluding the enemy wounded. Wogan spends the next few rounds casting heal spells on the bloody pirates.

Serpent turns on the last wrathspawn and hits it with three powerful blows (49pts). The creature returns the favor with ranseur and bite, but its rage fails it! Sindawe rushes the creature and

jacks it once (13pts). Serpent kills it with a staff blow to the head, declaring, "I told you the head is its weak spot!"

Sindawe replies, "You say that about everything."

WHAT DO WRATHSPAWN OWN?

The sleet storm ends, revealing the captured cannon - a 4 pounder, emplaced on a jury-rigged spider sled. Serpent happily declares, "Free gun!"

Wogan pulls out his *cure light wounds* wand and brings the crewmen up to full health, then turns it on Serpent.

Sindawe and the other pirates examine the ransurs, determining they are neither magical or masterwork. But they are of an usual design, possibly antiques. Sindawe orders them tied into a bundle for Mase to carry. Mase fumbles around a while trying to lift the huge fascos of ransurs. Then Serpent points out, "That's about 70lbs of weapons." Sindawe replies, "OK. Into the *bag of holding* they go". The wrathspawn and giant spiders have no other belongings.

Wogan examines the cannon, then calls several pirates over to put the gun back into operation. They clean out the wet charge, knock off ice, and so on. After they finish, Mase offers to take charge of the cannon if Lefty and Bel will man it.

Elsewhere, Pete helps heft Orgon up onto the shelf the first spider leapt from.

Serpent calls up, "Be careful. There were cockatrices up there last trip."

Sindawe says, "Look for their eggs!"

Orgon replies, "I'll eat their eggs."

Sindawe, "Don't eat their eggs. That would be bad for your insides."

"What about spider eggs?" asks Serpent.

Sindawe shrugs, "Yeah, those might be OK to eat."

Orgon inquires, "What about beholder eggs?"

Sindawe replies, "Oh, they don't have eggs. They carry their young around in their mouths after the male sprays the female with fertilizer."

Lefty says, "I thought they reproduced through fission."

Serpent looks at Lefty in horror, "Fishing?!? What a terrible way to reproduce."

Lefty starts to explain, then decides lecturing a bunch of pirates about fission using his high school education isn't the smart move. He replies, "Yeah. I guess it is."

Sindawe and Serpent climb up after Orgon, then pull Wogan and Pete up. The shelf is wide and long and opens onto a man-made passage in the back. They search around while Orgon and Pete move further in.

They find an egg shaped stone with a toad sitting atop it. Serpent fumbles his Knowledge: Nature and declares it, "Just an ordinary rock. And an ordinary toad." The pirates realize that the toad if moved off the rock will just hop back to it. After lengthy experimentation, they decide that's some sort of "bad mojo".

Pete yells out. The officers look up from the frog and stone to find Pete nowhere nearby. They run down the passage and into a side room to find Pete at the bottom of a pit (6pts and strained leg) with Orgon standing nearby. They help Pete out of the pit. Wogan performs some first aid while Sindawe searches the pit.

RUST MONSTERS, OWLBEARS, AND SPIDERS OH MY!

The explorers return to the cannon, gather the pirates there, then head deeper into the complex. They follow a route the officers believe will lead most quickly to the shrine, but they are stopped by a pair of doorways barricaded with rubble. Wogan determines that one is weakly barricaded but no one wants to batter it down. The pirates follow the wall south, hoping for another path. They pass an alcove, which contains a secret door. Further south in the wall is a ruined doorway. They crowd into the alcove as Sindawe fiddles with the secret door. He looks over his shoulder and sees many pirate faces, plus some weird bug faces with feathery antennae, all watching him intently.

Then the rust monsters attack them from the rear! Several of the officers shout warnings. The creatures are caught in multiple light sources and stunned into inaction, allowing the pirates to escape through the secret door.

On the other side of the secret door is the owlbear warren. The officers killed the last of the owlbears on their last trip, so no one is very worried. The pirates find torn and bloody clothes here and there, despite the blanket of fog covering the floors. The officers lead their crew deeper into the complex.

Lefty, in the second to last rank, turns to look behind him and screams, "Spiders!" Behind the spiders are the two pirates, Mase and Orgon, that were bringing up the rear. They are webbed tightly and slowed by poison. The spiders hit Pete and Lefty with webs (Lefty shakes off the slowing poison) as a melee begins.

Wogan shoots one spider (13pts) just before Sindawe and Serpent smash into it (8pts and 15pts). Saluthra follows Serpent; she is slowed by the webs. Bel slashes at the webs holding Lefty, allowing the young man to squirm free. The slowed Mase pulls himself free, while Pete and Orgon

struggle futilely. The spiders attack Sindawe and Serpent (4pts and 5pts), before the wounded one is killed by Sindawe. Wogan switches targets to the fresh spider as Serpent pummels it (12pts) then fumbles and hits himself hard enough to stun (Sindawe's curse strikes again).

The crewmen work to free Pete and Orgon. The remaining spider moves back and webs Serpent, entangling him. Serpent shrugs off the slow poison. Wogan holes it with a gunshot (12pts). Saluthra coils about it, fumbles, and blinds herself in heavy webbing. Sindawe kills the creature with a flurry of blows.

A new pair of giant spiders attack from the other direction, webbing Mase and narrowly missing Lefty. Wogan hits them with a blast from his Terror Mace – but the creatures lack the mental capacity to feel fear. In another universe, SS Commander Doogie Howser screams, "It is not afraid! It is not afraid!"

Serpent turns in his webbing and pushes slowly toward the new spiders. Lefty pulls his short sword. Orgon pulls himself free. The spiders rush Wogan. Sindawe moves quickly to Wogan's side and stuns one (14pts). Wogan steps clear to unload his blunderbuss into the same spider (19pts). Serpent continues staggering toward the fight, trailing webs. Lefty charges the wounded spider and stabs it through the eye. Orgon moves up slowly, still drooling from the poison.

The remaining spider lives a charmed round. Sindawe misses with most of his swings. Wogan's next shot misfires, fouling the pistol and shaking him. Serpent, still covered in webs, pushes forward again. Saluthra closes the distance to the last spider. Lefty fumbles a sword swing and opens himself to a backleg from the spider (5pts). The spider claws all of his attackers, but hits only Lefty (4pts). The punching monk hits it several times (23pts). Wogan connects with his Terror Mace (8pts), freezing its black heart solid.

The webbed pirates are peeled out while Wogan heals the wounded. Then Wogan reloads his guns. Lefty seeks out enough rags to replace his missing shirt and torn pants with an Indian style diaper - useful skill #3. The wounded pirates relax until the poison subsides.

Sindawe looks over the spider corpses and complains, "These critters sure are poor. Why can't they be made of diamonds?"

Serpent replies, "Because everyone would hunt them into extinction. Or they would rule the world."

Wogan says, "We haven't cut them open for loot. Or tried to get their poison sacs."

Orgon hears the word 'loot' and demands, "Hey. Someone lend a scimitar."

His fellow crewmen say, "No!"

Orgon turns to Serpent, "Serpent, give me your scimitar."

Serpent replies, "No. It is silver."

Orgon declares, "Well, I guess they're immune to being cut open."

CLOSET OF ACCIDENTAL DEATH

The pirate officers lead from the front again, moving through familiar areas and refusing to open doors or investigate side passages. They arrive at a room full of owlbear skeletons. Further back in the room is a green gas.

Sindawe announces, "We found illusions in other rooms. Maybe that gas isn't real. Or harmful."

Wogan pulls a bat from his *creature box* and throws it into the gas. The bat returns safely.

Sindawe enters the area, noting a slight raise in the temperature but no ill effect. Wogan checks the gas for magic, noting only a slight effect. Sindawe moves deeper and finds a cache of trade goods and ship's equipment roughly the size of a dining room table. Serpent and the other pirates join him. They note various clues that make them think that the goods were placed there recently and probably came from the Riddleport vessel sank by the Ulfen last week. The pirates decide they will cart the stuff out later.

The pirates listen at the secret door (found during the last trip) that is just outside the gas. Serpent notes it has been opened recently. Hearing nothing they open it and move through into a large room with several doors out (north and south). Sindawe opens the southern door to reveal several raneur armed wrathspawn hiding in a closet-sized room waiting to attack. The first one fumbles its attack and critically hits its buddy (54pts) in the back. The wounded wrathspawn makes its massive damage save, but misses all of his attacks on Sindawe.

The wrathspawn go first, attacking Sindawe again. Both miss with everything. Except the wounded one fumbles twice - dropping his weapon which critically hits his buddy (54pts). The pirates laugh their asses off. Sindawe bashes their head together, impaling a fang on his right hand (3pts) in the process. The wrathspawn drop to the floor dead.

Sindawe holds up his hand, "Wogan!"

Wogan pulls the fang out using his healing skill.

Meanwhile, Bel and Orgon slam the door and wedge it shut. Orgon yells over his shoulder, "That's a cursed room. We can't go in!"

Sindawe asks, "Can we at least have the raneurs?"

Bel says, "No! They're cursed too."

THE NORTHERN DOOR

The pirates move through the northern door into a five by five room with a second door swinging slowly shut as if someone just left. The pirates move quickly through into a twelve by twenty room. Again empty. They move through a second door into a long corridor. Again it is empty. Serpent takes the lead to track, but cannot pinpoint where their quarry went. The pirates search the nearby side rooms, opening doors as needed.

The first room has a small shrine to Torag, dwarven god of smiths. The shrine is of no value or interest to the pirates.

The next room has some once-melted wax on the floor, but there are no candles. No one bothers to enter the room.

They move further down the corridor, checking several more rooms, until they arrive at a large open area. The western wall holds a closed, pair of heavy duty doors. To either side are arrow slits. On the eastern side are a number doors. Serpent checks for tracks, determining that the wrathspawn have been moving through the open area but stick to the eastern side.

Sindawe checks the first door on the eastern side and dodges away from a plunging stone. Stone colored ooze splashes out of the shattered block, hitting Sindawe (9 slam, 3 acid) - luckily he avoids the grapple. A fight begins in the narrow doorway. Serpent bashes the ooze with his staff (27pts). Wogan casts magic missile out of his *Rain Tiger Emerald* (an elaborate *ring of spell storing*). Sindawe jumps over it. Serpent continues bludgeoning it (23pts). Finally the ooze stops moving.

Cliff-Hanger

The next room further in is the antechamber to the 'bear' room, where the officers killed a grizzly on their last trip to the island. Several crewmen make sexually suggestive comments while Serpent goes about mending his staff.