

## REAVERS ON THE SEAS OF FATE - SESSION SUMMARY 03/23/2014

### TODAY'S EPISODE: A NARROW ESCAPE

The pirates are in the Nidalese swamps where they just captured a froghemoth for the infamous necromancer, Thartane. They are now heading back to Nisroch, a Nidalese coastal city, to rejoin their ship, *The Teeth of Araska*. They just have to travel back through the Atteran Ranch, Karpad Valley, and then down the Usk River.

Our heroes are:

- ♣ Captain Sindawe H'kilata Narr of the *Teeth of Araska*, the fist-punchin' Mwangi monk (Chris).
- ♣ Quartermaster 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 is also Serpent's wife.
- ♣ Ship's Surgeon Hatshepsut, monk and high priestess of a lost civilization and her cobra Naja.
- ♣ Chief Gunner Wogan, 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 their pirate crew, formed from previous pirate crews, escaped slaves, and recruits both willing and unwilling.

### *THE LONG KISS GOODNIGHT*

Sindawe, Hatshepsut, Wogan, Samaritha, Serpent and Rucia head back through the Atteran Ranches, retracing their previous path.

They stop at a loot hole they left just west of Karpod.

The loot hole contains:

- +1 *heavy mace* \* 2
- +1 *mitbral chain mail* \* 2
- an *amulet of natural armor* +2. It has a Kuthite theme.
- a *bat of disguise*. It is made from fey skin leather, potentially from Boutique Zeleve.
- a *ring of protection* +2
- a *headband of mental prowess* +2. The band is barbed wire.
- a *cloak of resistance* +3
- 1,167.6 gp in various coins
- a 20gp zircon gemstone from the tiefling's hidden pocket.

The trip back is uncomfortable thanks to the Nidalese winter, while while in its last stages is still bitter. The last day is slightly better with temperatures just above freezing.

## *NISROCH*

The boat docks on the north side of the Usk river. The group is not cleared to enter through the Death Gate (west), so they cross a bridge to enter thru the Lepers' Gate (southwest). Captain Sindawe and crew rely on intimidation to avoid close inspection of their possessions, stolen goods, and Desna worshipper. The party does pay about 10 gp a head for various taxes (e.g. bridge access), fines, and bribes.

They enter the city to find it just as clean, grey, and joyless as when they departed. The silence is broken by the occasional falling icicles.

The *Teeth of Araska* and the *Wandering Dagger* are docked on the south side of the Usk River in the city's harbor, having returned from preying on the sea lanes off the coast of Cheliox to the south. They head directly to the Acting Captain Mase Venjum greets them as they board. Soon the crew catches them up on the latest noises:

- Captain Mase Venjum – his voyage took a fat spice merchant. Then several days later ran from a Chelixian cutter.
- Master Gunner Stoke – took a masterwork, engraved pistol.
- Big Mike – ate almost an entire pudding taken from the fat spice merchant.
- Bel – deafened by cannon fire.
- Piro – gained SR II, or possibly had it all along, after failing to succumb to a Chelixian spell caster.
- Kahina – accused of having unnatural intercourse with JJ the sea homunculus.
- Karomander – ability drained by the same Chelixian spell caster.
- Lefty – accidental death, clocked in the head and drowned. His body is the cold locker.
- Taunya – studied closely with Stoke and is now considered a master gunner.
- Clubbreaker Cordell – got someone pregnant.
- Kitty The Cantankerous – got pregnant.
- Nemo – had a three-way.
- “Sexy Beast” Sapier – increased his gunner skill.
- Tiberiu – now considered the ship's good luck charm after having two swivel guns pointed at him misfire during the fight with the Chelixian cutter.
- Hovax Littlehands – recruited a native Nisrochian onto the crew. She is a heavily scarred Nidalese woman.

- Cannonball Jack – found a hidden stash of wine aboard the merchantman; larger shares for all.
- George Peters – betrayed the ship, maybe, and was slain.
- Thalios Dondrel, son of Mordekai – accused of thievery.

The *Teeth of Araska* took a fat spice merchantman, then several days later ran from a Chexilian naval cutter. Running from the cutter was a near thing thanks to George Peters who purposefully (probably) cut a line and collapsed a sail.

The squad left at Nisroch to sell ship's loot also had some adventures:

- Dum Dum – found a treasure map in a bottle, but refuses to show it to anyone.
- Tommy Blacktoes – sold the ship's loot for a higher price (75% rather than the usual 50%) and got some ranks in Profession 'Torturer'.
- Lavender Lil – she and Tommy both joined a Nisrochian, semi-legal, sex club and have heavily enjoyed the experience. She also bought a wallaby pet in the Witch Market; the creature is all the way from Sarusan... Most of the crew thinks it a cute, though unnatural creature.

The sale of the ship's loot works out to 393gp per share. Serpent, as the ship's quartermaster, works out these figures and distributes them to crew. Sale of loot acquired during the officer's trip inland comes to 4,797gp per share.

## *THE WANDERING DAGGER*

The ship's officers visit the allied ship, *The Wandering Dagger*, under Captain Clap. Captain Clap lead both ships on their latest voyage. He was happy with the results.

Serpent says, "I bet a lot of locals would be happy to sign on with a pirate ship."

Captain Clap says, "Probably. But local law prevents them from leaving. Any luck on your mission?"

"Yup, we had a good old time at my sister's place, said Wogan.

Sindawe pulls out a jar of baby food and starts eating. He notes Wogan's stink eye and replies, "Hey, Serpent stole breast milk."

"Are you ready to take it to the Chelaxian shipping?" asks Clap.

Sindawe declares, "Absolutely. And we need to get out of here before the Ulfen pirate fleet shows up. And we also have to hunt down the Serpent Man Known as Elias Tammerhawk. He escaped Riddleport on the *Three Sheets*. That ship was abandoned, but then he was spotted on the *Crimson Shark*, captained by the Stormdaughter, at Port Shaw near the Shackles."

It is agreed that the *Wandering Dagger* and *Teeth of Araska* will leave the day after tomorrow. Captain Sindawe gifts a masterwork hand crossbow (with 12 silver bolts) to Clap.

Captain Clap, "Ah, you're fine lads. I'm glad I didn't kill ye."

As they leave, a pirate calls to them from the shadows. It is Thalios Dondrel, son of Mordekai.

"What's up, Thalios? Why the secrecy?"

"I had a run in with a jealous crewman."

"What was he jealous of?"

"Me! But he claims I stole a jeweled ring off the spice merchant."

Captain Sindawe offers to hire him if Captain Clap would release him to the *Araska*.

The pirates spend the night aboard their ship. Sleep comes hard as the spires of Nisroch were designed to produce tortured screams and moans.

It is chill and foggy the next morning. Thalios joins Sindawe, Serpent, and Wogan on their trip to the Witch Market to meet Tommy Blacktoes and his portion of the crew, who are selling loot.

Tommy asks, "How did things go? Did you solve the plague?"

Wogan replies, "Yup. It was a magical plague by that shadow demon we fought before."

Sindawe pulls out another jar of baby food and a tiny spoon.

Something bumps into the main tent pole, causing the tent to shake. Wogan whips out a pistol, then just as quickly puts it away.

The something is a homunculus. It says, "Thartane sends his greetings. He received the package."

Wogan replies, "Ah, yes, we're glad it was delivered in good shape."

The creature asks them many questions about the froghemoth fight, mostly about its effectiveness and frightfulness. They arrive the conclusion that a ghoul or lacedon froghemoth would be highly effective. And the things are very stealthy in water.

"Does your master send news of shipping?" presses Sindawe.

"Yes, I have notes on ships passing thru the waters around my master's island."

Wogan reviews the notes. Many notes mention only ship size, date and time. He is happy to see very specific notes including merchant/naval and names on some.

The most disturbing entry is the last one: Twenty-six Ulfen longships.

## *THE SECOND SACKING OF NISROCH*

The pirates hear cannon fire from the port. Everyone grabs gear and valuables from the stall and breaks into a run.

Foreign shipping docks are on a finger of land that runs parallel to the shore by about seventy feet of water. The ten pirates have two routes back to their ship: a round about street route back through the city or cross the narrow waterway separating the finger island.

The pirates opt for the water way, when Wogan declares, "I can lower the water and we cross."

They do just that. Wogan lowers the water by calling upon Gozreh. The pirates cross the shallow water by running across the muddy bottom. The cold is strong enough to rob Thalios, Kahina and Dum Dum of their strength (hypothermia). They reach the far side.

A heavy fog sits on the water. A dragon head emerges from the fog bank. It is followed by an Ulfen longship. The Ulfen row quietly; they are clearly heading for the Spires side of the city, where the rich Nidalese live.

The pirate vessels have not cast off yet, but are making ready... the *Wandering Dagger* is a bit ahead.

The pirates race down the docks to their ship. A woman in black leather trailed by *silent enforcers* (mute, chained toughs) step out from a guard post to intercept the pirates.

"By orders of the archdiocese you must help defend the city!"

Sindawe orders the others ahead, then walks slowly with the Nidalese woman, humoring her. He asks, "What magic do you have? Can any of you sail? What are our orders?"

"Don't worry about that. We won't be sailing anywhere. Defend the city; keep them from landing. Sink them!"

Mase Venjum is ordering the crew about. They are working quietly to get the ship under way.

Little Mike says, "Four of those longships have passed us already."

Wogan watches the preparations, notes the lines being cast off. He yells out, "Captain! Now!"

Sindawe hears Wogan and runs for it using all of his monk speed. He leaves the woman far behind but not the *silent enforcers*. They too have a monk's superior speed.

Wogan counts fourteen silent enforcers. Serpent notes an Ulfen raider veer toward them. He orders cannon loaded and lines cut, realizing the orders are too late... The Ulfen vessel will reach them in seconds. Crewmen scream and rush to load cannon.

Sindawe makes it to the ship just ahead of the silent enforcers. He fails to notice the Ulfen vessel and kicks the gang plank down behind him. This stops only two of the *silent enforcers*; the rest easily leap the gap and climb aboard. They line up to await the Ulfen warriors.

Wogan throws a *fireball* (from the *Rain Tiger*) at the Ulfen longship, washing flames over the warriors on deck.

The Ulfen raider rams the Teeth of Araska amidships. One squad of Ulfen fires arrows into the pirates; several concentrate fire on Wogan. Ulfen warriors rush aboard. Samaritha emerges from belowdecks, where she was ensuring her eggs were safely stowed. She throws a *fireball* at the Ulfen vessel. (Given the abstractions of the ship to ship combat rules, hitting groups of combatants with fireball or cannon is less effective than one would expect. Very, very few Ulfen are killed by the two *fireballs*).



A howling Ulfen chieftain leaps aboard followed by most of his warriors. He kills a crewmen with one swipe of a greatsword.

Wogan pulls out a *feather token*; he directs the high winds to push the Ulfen vessel back. Samaritha hits the Ulfen archers with a *fireball*. The archers scream in pain, then run for the oars to counter the winds; they manage to keep the ships together.

The *silent enforcers* attack everybody. One squad wades into crew and another into the Ulfen. Several of them drink potions which create a zone of *silence* around them. Sindawe and Serpent grimly kill even grimmer *silent enforcers*. One falls to a skull smashing below that robs him of eight Int. Serpent kills another just as messily with his orichalcum staff.

An Ulfen warrior chops through a sail line, collapsing the sail. The chieftain attacks Hatshepsut, nearly killing her; she jumps overboard to escape. Both are muted by a nearby *silence* zone. Samaritha climbs into the rigging to escape the *silence* zones. The *Teeth of Araska* crew hold their own against silent enforcers and Ulfen. One squad finishes cutting the lines. Several more continue loading the cannon.

Wogan spends a *fate point* - Out of the mist looms the Wandering Dagger. Huge puffs of smoke explode silently from its side. Grapeshot rakes the Ulfen ship and its warriors waiting to board the *Teeth of Araska*. Shivers and blood spray across the deck.

The Ulfen chieftain rushes Wogan but is blown back by Wogan's fan and pistol (15pts). Serpent crashes into the Ulfen chieftain (28pts). Samaritha casts *slow* on the chieftain and several more other Ulfen. The slowed chieftain slashes Serpent (for 34pts). A *silent enforcer* strikes Serpent from behind (13pts). Wogan touches Serpent with a maximized *cure serious* wounds (31pts). The revitalized Serpent strikes the chieftain repeatedly (50pts). The chieftain squirts arterial blood as he

swings his greatsword into Serpent (22pts). His grin ends when a volley of *magic missiles* crashes into him, courtesy of Samaritha. Thus is born the legend of Serpent “I Let My Woman Finish My Fights!”

The three sides continue murdering each other. The pirate Samuel is cut down by Ulfen axes. The *silent enforcers* injure more combatants and drop Big Mike. The pirates kill a *silent enforcer* and an Ulfen and wound several more. The Ulfen crew struggle to control their ship and just get to the dock.

Five Ulfen and seven *silent enforcers* remain; they press on. They attack each other and the pirates. Wogan channels positive energy to heal himself, many allies and two of the enemies.

A snake like monster slither-flies overhead – a linnorm! Snow and ice tumble from its flanks. It flies into the Spire section of Nisroch. One of Nisroch’s basalt tower splits. From the wreckage emerges an ebony dragon with eyes leaking fire. The dragons scream at each other. Everyone runs away from that city block.

Samaritha kills a *silent enforcer* attacking Serpent with *magic missiles*. Two more attack Serpent and Sindawe, who drop their attackers. The Ulfen also attack Serpent and Sindawe. A *silent enforcer* kills an Ulfen with a Full Nelson.

Wogan moves away from the melee to heal crewmen wounded at the initial ship boarding – he uses *channel positive energy*. He saves Big Mike, but Zita is dead.

Serpent kills the last Ulfen with a critical hit (Stay Down). Samaritha casts *major image* to disguise the ship as an Ulfen longship loaded down with prisoners. The last *silent enforcer* jumps overboard and swims away. A half-dozen pirates plus Wogan’s *magic missile* volley kill the man.

Wogan continues healing with channel positive energy, while the crew sails the ship. They and the Wandering Dagger head away from Nisroch; the sounds of battle and shrieks of the dragons engaged in deadly combat echo through the fog behind them.

Once they reach minimum safe distance, the dead enemies are looted:

- Ulfen chieftain - +1 *human bane great sword*, +2 *belt of giant strength*, *potion of cure light wounds*
- Ulfen warriors (6) – masterwork studded leather (6) and assorted masterwork weapons (6),  
180 gp
- Silent Enforcers – *potion of barkskin*, *potion of cure light wounds*, *potion of silence*, *bracers of armor*  
+2