

## REAVERS ON THE SEAS OF FATE - SESSION SUMMARY 09/07/2014

### TODAY'S EPISODE: DERROS AND DERANGEMENTS

The pirate ship *Teeth of Araska* is at Deepmar Island to make repairs and recruit crew from the local penal colony. As hoped there is no Chelaxian naval presence. In fact, no one seems to be home; the prison appears to have been very recently abandoned. The main crew is busy repairing the ship and cracking a bank vault-like building at the penal colony. A smaller team of pirates have pushed inland to investigate the mine sites, hoping to find open veins of wealth and maybe the fate of the penal colony.

Our heroes are:

- ♣ Captain Sindawe H'kilata Narr of the *Teeth of Araska*, the fist-punchin' Mwangi monk (Chris).
- ♣ Chief Gunner Wogan, the pistol-packin' celibate cleric of Gozreh (Patrick).
- ♣ Quartermaster Ref "Serpent" Jorensen, the staff-bashin' Ulfen druid/ranger and his snake Saluthra (Paul).
- ♣ Mitabu "Keel Breaker," a Mwangi rogue (Ed).
- ♣ Zoamai "Elf Burner," a half-elf sorceress who burned down the Elven embassy in Korvosa (Ashley).
- ♣ Samaritha, Serpent's wife and a serpentfolk wizard in the guise of a pretty half-elf.
- ♣ Ship's Surgeon Hatshepsut, monk and high priestess of a lost civilization and her cobra Naja.
- ♣ Bosun Tommy Blacktoes, the staff-slingin' sneaky halfling rogue.
- ♣ Lavender Lil, a buxom tiefling ex-prostitute, and Tommy's girlfriend.
- ♣ With them is a pirate crew of professional pirates, escaped slaves, and adventure seekers.

### *PRISONER PITS*

Sindawe, Wogan, Mitabu, Zoamai, Rucia, and Serpent make up the away team investigating the inland mines. At dig site Caina they found a tribe of derroses and some human prisoners.

The human prisoners are from the penal colony. They reside in a series of prison pits in one large cavern. All are covered blue fungus, which the pirates believe robs the victim of intellect... they hoot but are unable to communicate.

Rucia asks Wogan, "Shouldn't we do something for them?"

Wogan seems less concerned, "Yeah. I guess."

Rucia adds, "Perhaps some food and water?"

Wogan agrees. Food and water are lowered to the six prisoners. Then the pirates continue investigate the derro tunnels.

### *SOMETHING SWEET*

They travel down another nondescript tunnel some hundreds of feet, when Mitabu and Wogan smell something sweet in the air. Mitabu also hears voices.

Mitabu offers quietly, "I can sneak up on them."

Sindawe agrees, "Yes. Here's a *hat of disguise* – use it to look like a derro. Do you speak aklo?"

Mitabu takes the hat and says, "No, I don't speak aklo."

Sindawe teaches Mitabu a simple aklo phrase, "I'm looking for escaped slaves."

Mitabu practices, then sneaks forward disguised as the world's tallest derro. He sneaks into the next cave to find a dozen derro roasting sweet smelling mushrooms. They are dining on the mushrooms, drinking a fungus based juice, and enjoying quiet conversation. Mitabu backs away, lays a simple trap in the tunnel, then reports back.

The pirates double back and investigate another tunnel. The tunnel ends in a large cavern with a large drop off spanned by a rope bridge that ends at another tunnel. Mitabu can see the bottom but can't see any detail finer than "blob of blackness".

Mitabu crosses first to scout ahead in his derro disguise. Midway across he activates the trap that collapses the bridge into the black pudding below. He grabs onto the ropes and avoids an acidic demise below, then uses his slippers of spider climbing to climb out. The black pudding tries to climb out but cannot find purchase upon the slick walls.

Sindawe congratulates Mitabu, "Good job on not dying."

The pirates retreat from that cave and investigate a side tunnel that leads to a maze. There are many dead ends or tunnels that narrow so much that travel is not possible. Eventually the group arrives at a cave containing a pond. The pond separates the cave in the middle. There are two other exits, including a natural tunnel seventy feet up. The room seems to be a dumping ground, probably by the derros and possibly a natural effect of the tunnel high overhead.

Wogan casts *detect magic* and wonders about the dry ground. Just as he is homing on something magical, numerous purple mushrooms spit crystals at him. The crystals burn him like acid (28pts), but he is immune to the disease they carry thanks to a *periapt of proof against disease*.

Wogan runs away from the mushrooms, hooting and hollering. The purple mushrooms continue shooting crystals. The pirates run for it. Mitabu is unlucky enough to be hit three times.

The crystals quickly grow into tiny purple mushrooms, then into small mushrooms. Wogan feeds a *cure disease* potion to Mitabu. The mushrooms drop off Mitabu's flesh. Wogan then uses Gozreh's blessing to heal the wounded.

Serpent borrows Wogan's *periapt of proof against disease*, then charges back into the cave to retrieve the magic item. Wogan pulls a rat out of his beast coffer and throws it after Serpent, hoping to draw the mushrooms fire. This works a little bit.

Serpent spots the item he thinks Wogan described, scoops it up and examines it with detect magic. The purple mushrooms pepper Serpent with acid crystals (for a total of 38pts). The item is a battered metal flask.

Serpent examines the item while Wogan heals him. He thinks it might be a *flask of endless water*. Wogan is disgusted by the waste of magic - "It only makes water!"

### *MITABU'S TRAP*

The pirates pass the tunnel where Mitabu set his trap; they hear the derro arguing.

Sindawe whispers loudly, "Time to kill the derro." He charges down the tunnel followed by the others.

The pirates round a bend to see one derro with a bloodied leg strangling another derro. More derro cluster about the pair. Then there is a bright flash as Zoamai's maximized fireball strikes the derro cluster. Smoke and burning derro fills the tunnel.

Serpent and Sindawe charge into the smoke to find two wounded derro crawling away. They handily dispatch the pair. The rest of the derro are dead.

Serpent emerges from the smoke and says to Zoamai, "I need to get a rod like that for my wife." Sindawe and Wogan chortle amongst themselves like adolescent boys.

The pirates investigate the derro kitchen cave. Zoamai determines that the derro were eating shrieker mushrooms. Sindawe dares Wogan to drink from the stone decanters, which contain a fermented mash of mosses. Wogan refuses.

The meal is resting on wooden tables. Fur rugs are abundant. The pirates roll the furs up for later looting.

Loot: fur rugs (heavy).

## *LIGHTNING AND FIRE*

A giant ant charges out of a second tunnel into the kitchen cave. It moves so quickly that most of the pirates are surprised, even poor Serpent, who it bites. Serpent then crushes the giant ant's head with repeated blows from his staff.

The pirate rush down the tunnel that the ant came out of. They find a switch back tunnel with rising steps. Mitabu is in the lead; he easily spots a glowing humanoid shape.

Sindawe stabs the shape, which disappears. It is replaced by a fireball (22pts). Many pirates are burned, but they rush onward into a cave.

In the cave, chemical and rot smells fill the air. A trio of prisoners are pinned to pillars by neck restraints (one is a shriveled blue husk, one wears a blue fungus helmet, and the last is mutated looking man). Alchemical gear and ingredients litter table tops and shelves. An examination table with straps and medical equipment stands in the middle of the room. Fur rugs and a suit of human skin (hanging on a wall) adorn the room.

Wogan casts *invisibility purge* to reveal an irritated derro wizard... or alchemist? Ok, a deranged looking derro. The derro pulls a chain, releasing one of the prisoners from its neck

restraint. The derro shouts something in aklo and points at Serpent. The prisoner is armored and carries a long sword. Rucia braves the melee to deliver a *cure light wounds* to Serpent.

Sindawe rushes the derro who steps away and screams in aklo, "I am Gravik the Cruel. Hold!" Sindawe does not succumb. Zoamai moves to avoid blasting Sindawe, then unleashes a *scorching ray*. Sindawe lands a single punch on Gravik, stunning the derro.

Zoamai burns the derro with a *scorching ray*. Wogan heals wounded pirates with a burst of positive energy. Meanwhile, the examination table creeps up on him and straps him down! Mechanical arms wave syringes about. Mitabu dodges thru the arms and cuts Wogan free of the straps (successful disable device check). Wogan rolls free from the table, then casts *dispel magic* on Gravik, slowing the derro greatly. The examination table cuts Mitabu with scalpel wielding arms, then injects him several more times (38pts)... but the poisons do not affect him thanks to his *peript of proof against poison*.

Serpent and the longsword prisoner slam into each other on the cave floor. The prisoner cuts him once (17pts). Serpent rages and hits twice with his staff, then bites the man (46pts and a critical hit that confuses the man). The prisoner responds by cutting Serpent again (27pts).

Zoamai and Mitabu team against the surgery table, blasting it with magic missiles and a sneak attack. The surgery table cuts and stabs Mitabu repeatedly, which would kill him except the player (Ed) chooses to spend a fate point to be merely staggered. Rucia heals him with a positive energy burst. Mitabu tumbles past a derro sized suit of human skin armor on the wall to flank Gravik with Sindawe. Gravik hits Sindawe with a *lightning bolt*, who laughs it off thanks to his *ring of electricity resistance major*. Wogan rushes over to heal Mitabu.

Wogan delivers a maximized *cure critical wounds* to the horribly wounded Serpent, who bashes the confused prisoner (19pts) out. The blue fungus helmeted prisoner rips free of the pillar. The helmet falls to the floor, revealing a female half-orc with liberal fungus growths. She vomits blue fluid onto Serpent, who manages to not be nauseated.

Wogan dubs her, "Fungal Pirate!"

Serpent notices Rucia is alone with the surgery table, so he rushes it. His staff bashes it mightily. Zoamai continues to help by shooting it with *magic missiles*. The table attacks Serpent with scalpels and syringes (32pts and two poison saves). Rucia uses *a bit of luck* on Serpent. Zoamai delivers a second burst of *magic missiles*. The surgery table appears to be *jacked up*. Serpent goes berzerk on it (25pts). Mitabu joins in; he and Zoamai's attack blast it apart. They cheer!

Left unattended, the blue fungus half-orc charges Wogan and punches him once (11pts). Sindawe trips Gravik, then pummels him mercilessly (32pts). Gravik responds with another *bold person* that Sindawe brushes aside. The fungal pirate stomps on the downed Gravik. Sindawe punches the deranged fungal pirate (36pts). Serpent joins in on the fun, attacking the woman with his staff and bite. She counter attacks with a punch (10pts on Sindawe) and a bite (16pts on Serpent). Sindawe continues pummeling her with a non-lethal flurry of blows. The half-orc manages one last bite attempt before succumbing to her wounds.

Rucia heals the wounded, including the dying armored man and the half-orc woman.

## *THEY HOLE UP*

Wogan examines the wounded. The armored man is identified as the penal colony's captain, Ashferth. He is heavily wounded from fighting Serpent and is covered in blue fungus. Wogan thinks cure magic and some restorations will bring the man back.

The half-orc is worse off. Her eyes have been replaced by fungus. Wogan believes she will need more expensive magics to merely save her life.

Mitabu finds a secret door leading to Gravik's bed chamber, where he recovers personally effects, notes on scrolls, and a chest.

### Loot:

- Gravik's body yields: masterwork injection spear, +1 aklys, ring of protection +2, a key, two empty scroll cases, two potions of cure serious wounds, and numerous containers of weird substances, including six blue whinnis and 4 blue fungus.
- Gravik's bed chamber:
  - black spider silk banner with red lantern in the middle,
  - three doses of anti-venom
  - stoppered green bottle with a glass bead in the bottom – *a camp fire bead* (once per day).
  - a white cloth pouch containing *grey ioun stones* with *continuous flame* cast upon them (i.e. floating light sources)
  - *wand of lightning bolts* (27 charges)
  - bowler *hat of disguise*
  - *ring of feather falling*



- a small wooden box with *bandages of rapid recovery*
- a pouch of gems (765gp), several pouches of coins (225gp),
- scrolls: twelve covered with “all work and no play makes Gravig a dull boy”
- arcane scrolls: ant haul (CL3), burning gazes (2), enlarge person (2), greater restoration, scorching ray (CL 4), speak with dead.
- pillow stuffed with human body hair.
- Captain Ashferth: Breastplate +1, masterwork light steel shield, +1 longsword, masterwork short sword, a ring of protection +2, and a ring of keys.
- Three alchemist kits worth of equipment.
- Potions: 1) troll blood, cytelsh, and blight burn granules, 2) troll blood and cytelsh, 3) poison, 4) concentrated cytelsh with elemental essence, 5) concentrated cytelsh with granules from several more substances, 6) cytelsh with powdered ogre gland.
- Fur rugs – worthless thanks to sloppy alchemy work.
- Claimed:
  - Zoamai claims: *potion of cure serious wounds, ring of protection +2, bowler hat of disguise, wand of lightning bolts (27 charges).*
  - Mitabu claims: *potion of cure serious wounds, ring of protection +2, ring of feather fall*

## *Epilogue*

More derro dungeon crawling, next time!