

REAVERS ON THE SEAS OF FATE - SESSION SUMMARY 02/07/2016

TODAY'S EPISODE: CROSSING THE LINE

Our heroes have sailed into the Shackles on their way further south. The pirates were searching for the *Terrorkin*, a pre-Eye of Abendego Chelaxian war machine. They located it on a string of small islands called the Devil's Arches. They penetrated the abandoned, secret Chelaxian base and its many traps and defenders, only to be betrayed by Mase and the *Terrorkin's* design... it only obeys those with Chelaxian blood and naval ranks. The terrorkin is ordered to bury itself forever. Our heroes launch a desperate night mission to damage a rival pirate vessel, the *Omen*, then escape in the darkness. Our heroes are:

PCs:

- ♣ 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).

NPCs:

- ♣ Samaritha, a serpentfolk wizard in the guise of a pretty half-elf and Serpent's wife.
- ♣ 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.
- ♣ Plus a crew of professional pirates, escaped slaves, and adventure seekers.

Into the Darkness; Escaping the Omen

The *Teeth of Araska* escapes into the pre-dawn darkness, leaving the anchored *Omen* and its broken rudder behind. The pirates put on more sails upon clearing the Devil's Arches island chain and dawn. The next destination is Rickety's Squibs, 100 miles south, where the ship will receive a make-over that will result in a new outline and ship's name.

The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd mates are assigned shifts to watch the various damaged hull sections to ensure that they do not get worse, including a heavily damaged fore section. The ship's carpenter, Tanned Hank, and crew members attempt repairs while under way but make little progress. Pumping crew shifts are assigned. The officers decide to tough it out. One of the ship's two longboats is also 'jacked up' thanks to multiple hits from 10-pounder grape shot.

Tasty Mike (formerly Little Mike) asks Sindawe, "With Mase gone you'll need another 1st mate, right?"

Sindawe says, "Yup. Give me ten minutes."

Ten minutes later Tasty Mike is promoted to 1st mate and Big Mike is promoted to 2nd mate. Sindawe gives a short speech about their dedicated service, bravery, and repeated good decisions. Klangdin is also promoted to 3rd mate.

Tasty Mike's first order received as 1st mate is to double the lookouts. The captain wants to avoid unwanted naval actions. This is essential because the ship must pass the mouth of Jeopardy Bay where they pirated last week, the Dahak islands (red dragons and dragon cults), Shenchu Bay, Motaku Island (lots of pirates), and other dangerous waters. Speed and lookouts are essential.

Day 1 – Passing the Dabak Islands

Kutaamo and Dario are on lookout. Kutaamo spots "several flying somethings". The officers use spyglasses to spot purplish draconic fliers with bifurcated tails.

Samaritha staggers out onto deck with her fake pregnant belly prosthetic (worn to disguise the fact she laid her serpentfolk-egg some time ago and is waiting for it to hatch). She analyzes the available information but doesn't know much anything about such creatures.

The creatures continue closing, so the pirates prepare for combat. Murder guns are loaded with shot. Wogan and Samaritha cast *protection from energy* (fire, 20pts) and *fly* on Serpent and Sindawe, who take off for the fliers who begin to power dive from a height of 1000'.

As the two sets of fliers close, everyone realizes that the fliers are some breed of wyverns! Sindawe and Serpent imbibe a delay poison potion and an anti-toxin, respectively. The wyverns breathe cones of poisonous fire – the monk evades both while Serpent is merely brushed by both.

At a height of 280' the flying pirates realize that the purple, double-tailed wyverns are 18' long, 2.5 tons (size Large). They dive past the flying pirates in favor of the ship. Sindawe and Serpent opt to grapple one as it passes them; they slam into the creature and gain purchase, pinwheeling down with it through the sky.

A tail stinger from the grappled and diving wyvern strikes Serpent; he shrugs off the venom. Wogan *calls lightning* upon the ungrappled wyvern, who twists harshly to avoid the first bolts. Samaritha casts *lightning bolt* and hits to no effect– it seems that the wyvern is immune to electricity.

Wogan orders, “Spaghetti and murder gunners! Shoot at that twirling wyvern (the one without pirates clinging to it).”

Luca Caletti screams back, “My name is Caletti! Not spaghetti!” He shoots.

One murder gun hits while another misfires and sets its gunner on fire. Such are the perils of gunpowder weapons these days.

More pirates load and aim crossbows.

Sindawe and Serpent cling and pummel their wyvern (56pts). It veers off to deal with its unwanted passengers – deploying its wings for a sudden stop. Serpent is shaken off.

The wyvern's mate strafes the deck with another breath weapon; pirates dive out of the way and mostly avoid the fiery breath. Wogan shoots it with his pistol (8pts) as it passes. Crossbows fire, their twanging covered by the murder guns' fire – 18pts.

Sindawe continues to cling to his wyvern and punches away (and clings too) his wyvern (14pts), which turns on him and full attacks – he is stung once but the venom does nothing immediately thanks to his delay poison. Serpent flies after them hitting once with his battle axe (14pts); it counters with tooth, claw, and stingers... Serpent is wounded several times and grappled but ignores the venom again. The other wyvern ignores them and snatches up a random pirate crewmen in its mouth – Billy Breadbasket is gnawed to staggered!

A stinger critically hits Sindawe (15pts, 2 bleed, and double secret poisoning). He punches and squeezes hard enough to kill the wyvern. Samaritha's *magic missiles* and more crossbows fire (41pts), dropping the other wyvern and Billy into the ocean. Wogan uses a healing burst as the wyvern and Billy fly by to heal the hapless cook before the impact with the water. Samaritha's *animated ropes* snake out to retrieve Billy Breadbasket from the ocean.

Both wyverns miss the ship in their death falls. The second one dropped is caught up in a net. Mitabu climbs down to join Serpent; the pair attempt to retrieve wyvern poison... they avoid poisoning themselves but retrieve no venom.

Sindawe calls down, "Skin that thing. We can sell it or maybe make a sail!"

Serpent pulls out knives and goes to work on it; he finds the 'flame bladder' which sprays him... luckily his *protection from fire* takes the brunt.

The officers decide to stop for a day to properly harvest the wyvern (two wings and hide) and make repairs. The wyvern chunks are thrown overboard and attract a giant sea serpent that is content to eat only wyvern.

Crossing the Line

Days 2-4 are uneventful. Even the weather is pleasant. The *Teeth of Araska* is just about clear of the Shackles where it will swing south and east.

Wogan notices that the crew is acting strangely. He asks Dum Dum about it.

Dum Dum replies, "Nothing." But when Wogan presses him further, he says "OK. I'll show you. It's in this sack." The curious Wogan peers into the sack. The sack goes over Wogan's and he is beaten unconscious.

That evening Sindawe and Serpent are in the stateroom when there is a knock on the door. Upon opening, they are loudly informed by a Little Lord Fontleroy clad Thalios Dondriel that "All officers and men of your ship are hereby advised that His Oceanic Majesty King Gozreh and his royal retinue will board your ship on the morning watch at eight bells for the purpose of cleansing your ship of all pollywogs as may be present. Be ye in all respects prepared to receive them with full oceanic honours." He turns on his heel and stalks off. The two officers look at each other blankly. Sindawe looks at the charts and realizes that as they head South out of the Shackles they will be passing the Equator and realizes a "crossing the line" ceremony is at hand. "Mind your cornhole, bud!" he advises the bemused Serpent, who isn't even clear on the concept of an equator given his Northman origins.

Wogan wakes woozily the next morning. Several crewmen wearing rope harnesses and fake-shell helmets force rum upon him, a lady's gown, and his gozreh mask. They usher him up on deck, put him in a ship's swing and lower him into the water (just up to his legs)!

The crew gathers at 8 bells to witness Wogan's bath.

Thalios shouts, "Captain Sindawe! King Gozreh requests permission to board and cleanse the ship!" Sindawe agrees.

Thalios announces that Gozreh will visit the ship – four crew men costumed as sea people raise Gozreh (aka Wogan) out of the water. The four carry/drag Wogan to a homemade throne on the quarterdeck where he is seated. A treasure chest containing a bound Lavender Lil in lingerie and a pirate hat is brought out from below decks.

Thalios announces, "Queen Besmara!"

The chest is placed at Wogan's feet where a bemused Lil clings to his legs.

Lefty is presented as Gargle (a water elemental via a wet sheet), Hatshepsut is presented as Salt Beard (she sports a mop beard and trident), and Tommy as the royal baby (complete with diaper). It is clear that most of these participants are not volunteers; most are tied up and slightly beaten. Tommy's eyes glare murderously from above his ball gag pacifier.

The rest of crew that have not crossed the equator (poly-wogs) are also hazed:

- Some are shaved with dull razors and scissors
- Some are fed bad food and sea food from the galley
- Some are forced to walk the plank... and into a sail that catches them in the water
- Some are hung from the rigging in nets and pelted with rotten food.
- And other activities as the imagination of pirates dictates
- Lil is prodded to chair dance for Wogan several times while he holds the royal baby.

- Serpent is given the sea doppelganger test – he is stripped and checked for mis-sized organs, he is beaten with wet fish, and given the greed test (Serpent takes a purse of money over being beaten longer with the fish).
- Samaritha is given a break due to her (allegedly pregnant) condition – she is merely given apples to throw at her husband, Serpent, who is hung by a leg from the rigging.
- Throwing anyone and everyone overboard.
- Lil is also encouraged to breast feed the royal baby... both parties consider it for a brief moment.

The crew who have crossed before thoroughly enjoy the activities, plus the rum stores have been raided. Samuel and one of the aasimar sisters hook-up. Thalios uses his commanding voice to prevent the activities from getting out of hand. The festivities go on all day, till the drunken crew runs out of steam, and then with some ceremony the *Teeth of Araska* is declared “clean” and allowed by King Gozreh, Queen Besmara, and the royal court to cross the equator.

Rickety's Squibs

The next morning the *Teeth of Araska* sails east along the jungle coast.

Days 2-4 are uneventful. Even the weather is pleasant. The *Teeth of Araska* is just about clear of the Shackles where it will swing south and east.

With Thalios' guidance they find the town of *Rickety's Squibs* in an estuary. The watch tower and buildings are covered by jungle. The docks appear to be retractable.

Rickety Hake and a crew of six walk out on the dock.

Rickety demands, “What is you want?”

The officers tick off: change the ship's outline, rename to *Chain Breaker*, repairs, make our wyvern parts into a sail, and whatever else you can do!

The bill of services ends up being:

Re-squibbing – 2000 gp – Change the ship's outline, rename to Chain Breaker, and the Lavender Lil figure head is left in place but a slave collar with broken chain is added.

Smuggler compartments – 5 @ 500gp per – reduces the tonnage and takes up 5' by 5'.

The results would be a total ship capacity of 50 tons unconcealed (down from 75) and 10 tons hidden. 2500 gp total.

Purple Wyvern sail – 1000gp - It will be fire-proof main mast.

Fire-proofing – 500gp per deck section (12) – 6000 gp total

Fire-proofing sails – 1000gp per canvas, but special for silk (500gp per) – 1000 gp

Silk sails – 1000gp per - you can get it in purple and it will give you a plus-1 bonus to opposed sailing checks. 2000 gp

Repairs – 20gp per hit point – $98 * 20 = 2000gp$. (“We round up around here.”)

Ship's boat replacement – 500gp

Total cost is 17000gp. Squibs takes the spare 3*4lb cannons for 3000gp of the payment. Serpent finds 10,000 gp in loot. Squibs demands that at least half of the payment must be in cash. Also, the men will be paying to stay there at the Squibs – sleeping in the bunk house is free as is access to the Tap House, but drinks and food cost. Serpent puts in 1500gp cash, Wogan and Serpent put in 2836gp each, plus 7172gp in loot.

The ship is put in dry dock. The crew is given the option to stay on at Rickety's Squibs for relaxation and beer. Or they can pay for a pinnace ride to Bloodcove.

Mitabu says, "Captain. A friend and I have been working on a score for a long time; we could never pull it off ourselves but if we go to Bloodcove and head upriver to Nantambu to talk to my friend I think you'll find it worthwhile."

The Loot from Terrorkin Adventure

- Travel papers and a map of the Devil's Arches interior obtained at *Mezdrubal* from Long Beard and his navigator Fonzo.
- The rest is sold.

Ship's stats

- Stores: example – food, water. 500gp/week. The ship has 3.
- Supplies: example – wood, rope, canvas. 500gp/unit. The ship has 3.
- Repairs: 10gp/hp if crew is doing the work. Just repaired 670gp at Drenchport.
- Ship's Kitty: 850gp (furniture), 50gp (broken dishes contest).

Agenda for the trip south and eventual return to Riddleport:

- Ship disguise – South of the Shackles the ToA will get converted at Rickety Squibs
- Head to Razor Coast
- Locate and capture Elias Tammerhawk to collect a bounty in Riddleport
- Closure on Tommy Black Toes pirate ghost quest.