

REAVERS ON THE SEAS OF FATE - SESSION SUMMARY 03/20/2016

TODAY'S EPISODE: RIVER INTO DARKNESS

Our heroes have sailed into the Shackles on their way further south. The *Teeth of Araska* is berthed at Rickety's Squibs for repairs and improvements. Meanwhile our heroes went to Bloodcove where Mitabu has promised a "big score". This involves yet another trip, this time up the Vanji River and through a series of trading stations owned by the Aspis Consortium.

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:

- ♣ Mitabu, a trap-loving Mwangi rogue.

The Big Score

Mitabu, Wogan, Serpent, Saluthra, and Sindawe are on board the Aspis Consortium vessel, *River Queen*, two days up the Vanji River heading toward Nightfall Station. They examine the passing hulk of the Aspis Consortium vessel, *Lady Fortune*.

The river banks are steep and muddy. The river has abundant sand bars that make night travel pointless. Herd animals occasionally grace the shore. To the south is a wall of jungle that varies in distance from in sight to right up against the river bank.

The *River Queen's* crew:

- Captain Kelim Esteban

- First Mate Faruq, a half-orc
- Hurg the dwarf mechanic
- Crewmen Danner, Houghman and Speraggo

The *River Queen* passes through an area where the jungle overgrows the wide span of the Vanji. Green furred monkeys, roughly the height of a 5 year old, leap from the jungle canopy and onto the boat. They howl monkey howls. Serpent notes that they seem to have snakes wrapped about them. He kills one as another throws a black mamba at him. Several monkeys throw snakes at the pirates and various crewmen. Sindawe stomps around the deck, killing several mambas.

Wogan casts *blessing of fervor*, then moves to a defensible position. Serpent kills a pygmy kech, as does his giant constrictor snake, Saluthra. A kech latches onto Saluthra's snout while several more leap upon Wogan who notes, "They're wearing loincloths! And setting up for flanking attacks." Wogan strikes back with his mace.

A second team of pygmy kech overhead dump a basket of snakes (a swarm) onto Mitabu. Mitabu stands there shrieking like a little girl with snake-draped hands upraised and gets bitten... a lot. Then he realizes he has a periapt of protection against poison, and isn't being poisoned by the snakes all over him, biting him... He screams again.

Sindawe trips and throws several kech into the snake swarm. Mitabu climbs out of the swarm via mosquito netting, where he backstabs a kech swinging a black mamba. Wogan bashes away at kech with his mace as the black mamba swarm envelopes kech and pirate alike.

The kech die quickly from venom. The pirates avoid the venom but Sindawe is distracted by the swarm...

Sindawe cries, "I find myself aroused by the snake swarm! Usually this only happens when Mama Watanna is visiting me!"

Wogan announces, "The kech have probably wrecked the local ecology by employing this many black mambas! They'll be overrun by birds."

Pirates and kech flee the snakes. Sindawe tumbles clear of the swarm and into a pile of poisoned kech who gamely bite and claw at him. He replies with non-lethal beatings. Serpent kills a kech that dashes by him. Mitabu stabs his kech opponent who is distracted by its black mamba biting his face. Wogan bangs kech to death. Serpent swings his staff in mighty arcs, knocking the swarm of snakes into the river.

The remaining kech, despite poisoned wounds, fight on. Mitabu finishes off his adversary. Wogan shoots another off Sindawe's back as pummels another unconscious.

Wogan heals the wounded pirates and crew while Sindawe ties up two unconscious kech. He finds that their fur is camo-colored.

The kech scream obscenities at Sindawe in Polyglot. He intimidates the pair into gathering up stray black mambas and putting them into a basket. He follows them around holding their leashes. An hour later they have collected 16 snakes. Sindawe tosses the kech one at a time at the jungle canopy where they shriek loudly and throw poop at the departing river boat.

River Travel, post-Kech attack

Serpent milks the basket of snakes and gives the venom over to Mitabu who cheerfully coats three daggers with the substance.

Captain Kelim Esteban orders the engine restarted and the journey is continued until nightfall when the boat is anchored for safety reasons. Hurg cooks snake stew for dinner. The

crew and pirates exchange war stories about water travel. Rum drinking afterwards is interrupted by several bouts of playful “dead snake in your cup.”

The next morning the weather is hot and humid as the boat continues up river. A giant crocodile suns itself on the shore; it watches the boat pass. Biting insects feast on the crew’s flesh. A hippopotamus herd puts in an appearance later that morning.

Crewman Danner cries out, “Boat ahead.”

Captain Esteban slows the boat as the drifting vessel approaches. He orders, “Grapple that thing!”

It is a flat bottom boat belonging to Whitebridge station. A single bloody backpack lies on boat’s bottom. Several thistle tip arrows jut from the pack.

Several crewmen curse, “Ekujae elves. Their arrows are coated in a plant sap that keeps wounds bleeding.”

Captain Esteban maneuvers to the river’s center then orders the anchor dropped. “We’ll have double watches tonight.”

The night passes without incident. Wogan uses *blood biography* on the backpack:

- The blood belongs to Alec Bowel
- He is an employee at Whitebridge Station
- He was shot yesterday morning while escaping an Ekujae elf attack in the punt

The boat’s single murder gun, located on the prow, is loaded. The pirates ask, “What is the drill for elf arrow attacks?”

They are happy to hear Esteban’s reply, “Well, I steer away from that shore. The river is wide enough they can’t get us from both sides.”



Whitebridge Station

Whitebridge Station rises out of the river's lazy haze. It is a 200' long fortified wooden bridge across the river with numerous wooden structures. Several cannon point down river. The station is quiet; no one is visible from the boat. The two dozen Aspis mercenaries, a few dozen local laborers, another two – three dozen merchants and craftsman are dead or fled.

The boat is docked at the main pier. Serpent orders his snake, Saluthra, to swim about... she is too stupid to recognize mines but is smart enough to eat any lurking elves. She finds nothing, so the pirates volunteer to go ashore and investigate. Elves, gorilla gods, or undead are the best guesses for what's going on. Bets are exchanged. The boat crew are alarmed at all the wager options.

The main pier has a water tower adjacent, then stairs up to a caravan reception area. A sheaf of black flies on old meat is disturbed by their passage. Each end of the bridge is blocked by a gate that stands open. The pirates enter the fort.

Wogan calls out, "Anyone there?" Several thistle arrows arc out from archers hiding behind the nearby gatehouse and garrison buildings. Mitabu is struck (7pts).

The elves shoot again as they withdraw further onto the bridge. Serpent charges after them and leaps over a knee high vine. Sindawe follows close behind. They close with the archers. Wogan and Mitabu run after them then fire muskets at a third archer.

The elf archers run, closely pursued by the pirates. They lure the pirates close to the store front where a girallon leaps upon Serpent who beats it with his staff (4opts) then a rage fueled bite (8pts). Mitabu flanks the girallon who lasts another round before succumbing to additional hits from the enraged pirate.

The fleeing elves turn and rapid fire arrows at Sindawe who trips one then beats him to death. The remaining pair drop their bows, pull spears and attack the monk.

More elven archers rise from roof tops behind the pirates and start sniping at the cleric and rogue. Wogan drops an *obscuring mist* spell upon their position. Serpent, Mitabu, and Sindawe rush their position --- Serpent climbs after them, Mitabu runs into the building, and Sindawe climbs to a nearby rooftop and leaps onto their roof.

Mitabu gets shot with an arrow upon entry of the building. Wogan hears a loud splash, rushes to the railing and shoots an elf diving off the bridge. Sindawe spots the pair swimming with the current and staying below the surface as much as possible. Saluthra kills one of the two.

Conclusion

The crew prepares to search Whitebridge Station.