

REAVERS ON THE SEAS OF FATE - SESSION SUMMARY 02/18/2018

TODAY'S EPISODE: PORT SHAW

Our piratey heroes and their vessel the *Chainbreaker* entered the Wendo World in service to Mama Watanna, and their reward was an immediate return to the Prime Material plane just outside Port Shaw, whence they have been traveling for some time in order to execute a bounty and/or revenge on Elias Tammerhawk, serpent man, and the Stormdaughter, a wicked piratess.

Our 8th level heroes are:

- ▲ Captain Sindawe of the *Chainbreaker*, the fist-punchin' Mwangi monk (Chris).
- ▲ Chief Gunner Wogan, the pistol-packin' celibate cleric of Gozreh (Patrick).
- ▲ Quartermaster Serpent, the staff-bashin' Ulfen druid/ranger and his snake Saluthra (Paul).

PORT SHAW

The pirates take in the view as a tropical heat washes over them. The waters are the calm and blue of a bay. In the distance is a town, behind that is a mountain with might cliffs. Gulls cry out. They sail for the piers and the town becomes clearer. It is a walled place with plantations on the edges. A large fort sits upon a nearby hill. Native war canoes, fishing boats, merchant vessels, whaling barges, a five masted war ship, and more are in the bay or moored at the piers.

Sindawe issues orders to get the ship docked, which is at one of the "thrown together recently" docks near the 24-gun frigate. They pay two silver for directions to the Chapterhouse of Gozreh, then head to the wharf master's building. That place is long and well made and full of people coming and going. Wharf Master Creely charges them 40 gp for the week, based on their vessel's three masts and draft. He relates to them that Beacon Island needs a new light house keeper; the last one disappeared or just walked off the job. The pirates

offer to clean up the problem killing light house keepers and are promised a princely 300gp... if it's monsters and there's proof. They collect a letter from him saying they have permission to investigate.

Inquiries about maps gets them some leads, plus Barrison Hargrove, some local leader, is a cartographer enthusiast and is going to have a party to show off his collection.

They gather up their crew and travel through the Tide District, where the crew buy some cigars, scrimshaw, snacks, and what not. Along the way the crowd parts to let a squad of bluecoated soldiers called "Dragoons." They arrive at the chapter house of Gozreh; it is in some disrepair.

They are greeted by a young, handsome priest of Gozreh, "Welcome to the church of Gozreh. I am called Zalen."

Wogan replies, "We are here for Gozreh's blessings." The pair talk shop and about how Wogan got his curses. The young priest removes one of Wogan's curses. They also find out that the young priest is the latest in a series of replacement priests. The pirates donate some loot and overpay for some services.

The Run Aground Tavern in the Tide District is mentioned as a good place to collect rumors and drink. So they go there. It is a small ram shackle building run by an old dwarf, Falgor Finney. The patrons already present perk up when Sindawe buys the first round. Rumors, lies, and local information is exchanged. Rumors are gathered:

- Fishermen Faro murdered his wife for the love of another woman.
- Zalen's father, Solomon Trafalgar, was a local hero who went out to battle a kraken and died doing it. The other Wave Riders are dead, retired, or working locally.
- One patron takes umbrage with Zalen for healing natives.
- Barrison Hargrove has found a map belonging to an infamous pirate king. He's putting together one of the local warships with dragoons to recover the treasure.
- One bar patron is a disgraced dragoon. Additional drinks loosen his tongue about Gregory Bonedeuce, the head of the dragoons who drummed him out of the service. He hates him.

- Shark men killed a whole village!
- The docks at night are not safe – crazy busy, animal smuggling, and drugs.
- Commandant Bonedeuce fiddles at the Broken Skull from time to time.

SALES AND SHARKS

Serpent leads a much smaller group of pirates to sell the ship's plunder. He waves around a Fiend Binder's Guide announcing, "I can't give this thing away." Sindawe takes it and notes that several pages contain shark monster pictures.

Serpent sells four plunder points plus odds and ends easily enough for tidy profit. But in the process a small group of dragoons shows up to stare him into keeping the peace. Sindawe uses their presence as an opportunity to ask about dragoon leaders who might be interested in buying magic armor; he gets Sgt. Darenar as a "collector of that magic stuff". Marlow Koby, Ervin Mase, Hi'it Richmond, and Debrocktin Kindle are the dragoons. They head down to the docks to find the Sgt.

Even in the afternoon the docks are busy with commerce; fish mongers plague their path. An old Bonuwat man standing on a crate lectures to no one in particular that "you have committed crimes against the old ways and everyone will be punished". The pirates spot Sgt Darenar's patrol walk up to the old man and threaten him, "Shut up and leave."

Sgt. Darenar threatens the man with an adamantine hammer. Sindawe recognizes the old Bonuwat's clothing as "shaman". That old man focuses on the sergenat, pulls a knife, and announces, "Oh you have been touched. I'll take care of that for you."

Wogan attempts a *bold person* spell on the old man. Sindawe and Serpent try to talk the shaman, Milliauka, down; he puts down his knife muttering "the kiss of darkness is bad". And continues with "the big man is cursed with Dajobas' curse. It will go badly for him."

Sgt Darenar thanks them for their help as his men arrest Milliauka. The pirates ask a few questions, then switch mode to selling him their magic armor. He examines the armor, agrees that it is impressive, and strips to the waist to try the armor. While doing this the pirates notice he has a recent shark bite wound. He agrees to buy it over time using the stuff he finds pearl diving, including the 1000gp he has now. The pirates counter with 1000 gp now, 500 gp later, and custody of the Shaman Milliauka. "Sure, why not!" he says.

He takes them to Fort Stormshield to retrieve the Shaman Milliauka. They exit the city, climb a nearby plateau, and enter the fortress... a re-purposed elf trading building. After traveling a long winding path up. The walls are twenty foot high, twelve foot thick volcanic stone. It has cannon atop its walls.

Inside is a firing range with straw dummies, docks for the dragoon vessels, and various buildings for barracks, brig, dining, etc... They catch up with dragoon squad and arrested Shaman Milliauka at the brig. Wogan also spots a sluice gate for dumping waste; it has a single guard, drunk on duty.

Darenar leads them into the brig. One cell already contains a filth covered, gibbering man. Darenar orders the Shaman Milliauka turned loose. The conversation turns to sharks and cults as Sindawe asks about the sergeant's shark bite. This causes the prisoner to start barking nonsense about shark men. The guards beat him quiet.

Sindawe and Wogan ask to talk to the prisoner and warn the sergeant to come see them if he feels bad or the wound turns. Wogan calms the prisoner. The prisoner, Harok McFarrows, tells them his story:

I found him in the surf. Took him back to the hut and bound his wounds. But they kept bleeding. I returned to the beach to retrieve my nets under the full moon. I heard screams. I ran back. Sberyl was dead; torn open by the huge maw of a black eyed, fin wearing man. He knocked me out.

This story drives the man to frenzy again until Sindawe pins him through the bars. Serpent tries touching him with silver and notices no ill effect. Wogan examines him for bites and finds none. They revive him and ask questions about his missing daughter Jessica... where would she go hide. She might have gone to the cousin's house, Realgin... their village is Toes Reach which is several hours south of here.

The guards warn that gator men might be a problem down that way.

They leave the fortress with the Shaman Milliauka who tells them about the Chosen of Dajobas who have been kissed to be the black shark. “A mixture of the herbs I have plus a remove curse can remove the kiss. I am the high Shaman Milliauka of our people. The wendo have sent me here to show the city people the error of their ways. But I have heard whispers of Dagoba’s return.”

He and Sindawe share Bonuwat stories. He wants to introduce Sindawe to another man and his stories... later this evening. Sindawe agrees in order to obtain more poultices.

The goods sold are split up: 2350 gp goes to the ship’s kitty for future expenses (e.g. 500gp/week for ship’s stores), crew 67 gp, the Bone Collector’s hoard shares 1203 gp, and so forth.

POULTICES AND TOES’ REACH

Serpent gives his wife Samaritha (a serpentfolk posing as a half-elf, lest you forget) 1000gp to buy housing in the city. She agrees to set up housing for herself, Hatshepsut, and the children... to hide their rapid growth from the crew.

Wogan orders JJ to get hull wood from the other ships in the harbor. Prand asks Captain Sindawe for more detail on ship’s orders while he’s away. He tells him, “avoid any decisions that will come back on us later. Make the crew regret crossing you.”

As they leave their vessel they encounter one of the patrons from the Run Aground Tavern. He offers to sell them a copy of Garr Bloodbane’s pirate treasure map for 100 gp; it is a copy of the one possessed by the dragoons. Sindawe, not trusting the man, counters with “20 gp and a share of the treasure recovered.” To his surprise the man agrees. And then offers, “Gear is said to whistle this tune”, “Jesus loves me... I know its true...” Wogan has him repeat it.

They find out from the wharf master some leads on boat rentals. A pair of stevedores lose control of a whale oil barrel that rolls away, bursts open, sets the wharf master’s office and the wharf master on fire. Sindawe grabs him; they dive off the wharf to extinguish the flames. Serpent and Wogan fight the fire on the

pier with spells, skills, and magic items. The stevedores turn out to be sloop's captain and one of his crew. The wharf master thanks the pirates for the rescue and vows red tape revenge against the sloop captain for his drunken behavior. The drunken captain offers to help them in return for preventing the fire.

Sindawe and the others walk out of the city for the outer district, passing a few plantations, a moldy old warehouse become a Barret's Barnacle Tavern. A buxom yet toothless woman hands several patrons their asses as they pass.

They arrive at the outskirts of Port Shaw and look around. "Where to now?" is on their lips until a pair of Bonuwat emerge from the tree line. They carry spears and wear native garb. Sindawe greets them. The Shaman Milliauka comes out from the tree line dressed in his full regalia and says, "Some of us still keep to the old ways. Come with me to meet him."