

REAVERS ON THE SEAS OF FATE - SESSION SUMMARY 03/04/2018

TODAY'S EPISODE: WERESHARK CONSPIRACY

Our heroes and their vessel sailed into Port Shaw and were almost immediately swept up in a wereshark conspiracy of murder, infections, and shark cults. 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).

Marsh Side Visit

The pirates have met Shaman Milliauka on the edge of Port Shaw near a marsh. The shaman's people lead them along a path into the marsh for a private meeting and out of sight of the nearby plantations. They arrive at an old warehouse and factory set up near a pond where taro (non-tasty starch) grows wild, where they enter a native hut. The entire setup appears to be purposely hidden. Shaman Milliauka tells them the tale of the Tulita people, which is the name of the tribes native to Port Shaw and the surrounding areas. Dolphin, Whale and Turtle have been driven from the nearby waters by the coming of the white man... there was plenty to eat, worshiped the old gods properly, maintained their totems, and lived in peace. And all of that stopped after the white man came. And that bleakness has allowed Dagobas (evil shark god of hunger) to make a comeback after having been exiled thousands of years ago by Dolphin, Whale, and Turtle.

This ends in a plea/demand to fight Dagobas' evil plot by unifying the tribes to fight that threat and the white men. To that end he has a blood descendant of the Ali'i, the kings from the good old days. And that person will unify and lead the Tulita and restore the old ways.

Shaman Milliauka leaves to retrieve the Ali'i, leaving the pirates to discuss what all this means to them. Milliauka returns wearing a Pele' mask, gives them a lineage speech, and pulls in a young Mwangi man who

is well muscled, healthy, and covered in tattoos. That man is Mokoli Ali'i. He promises to save everyone by returning to the old ways and fighting Dagobas.

Serpent and Wogan ask practical questions about the were-sharks: fighting them, powers and their infection. They are told that remove curse removes the infection/hunger. The were-shark are vulnerable to silver. Some of Dagobas followers are blessed with shark forms; any that change shape are much stronger than a shark and are not limited to nocturnal transformations. The gator men are descendants of Dagobas followers from olden times, but that doesn't mean all gator men are worshipers of Dagobas.

Two doses of the "cure Dagobas infection" poultice are handed over to Wogan upon finding out the pirates will go to the fishing village to take care of business. But the poultice is only effective on those infected two days or less.

Ochiba, Sindawe's brother, is also revealed to be in town but keeps to himself.

The Fishing Village

The pirates return to Port Shaw's docks in search of the drunken tour captain, Donovan Montgomery, who has promised to take them to the fishing village, Toe's Reach, where Harok McFarrows hails from. 1st mate Jinky greets and brings them on board. They sail.

Captain Montgomery has Wogan pour rum for all but Jinky. They drink while the captain does the tour guide bit for the trip. They arrive at their destination by hitting a sand bar; the pirates climb over the rail and wade through the surf... and the dark and the rain.

On the beach they find fish drying racks, a path to three cottages just past the dunes. One has a busted out door and proves to be a site of horrific carnage. Blood and bones litter the floor and walls. From that door way a trail of dried blood leads to another cottage, then back to the surf. That next cottage is mostly empty and not a permanent residence like the first cottage. There is no carnage just some drops of blood.

Serpent thinks someone drug a smaller person into this cottage and chased whoever was asleep here out. Some boot prints are also found, probably from the Port Shaw dragoons.

They return to the first cottage and search it thoroughly. Again they find dragoon boots from McFarrows' arrest for murder and a makeshift guest sleeping area. The last cottage is searched; it is lived in with more of a bachelor makeup to its furnishings. They find a man hiding under the bed, curled up in a fetal position. He is pulled out, bleeding from rock scrapes. They intimidate him until he starts talking: some sort of shark man started busting up the place, Harok went to rescue his wife, while the cousin (this man) hid. They ask about Harok's missing daughter. "The shark guy took her off."

The man remains evasive with his answers, so Sindawe orders him to drink Wogan's rum. "I think he's working with Brimmer, a man who fishes from shore. The man shark gave the girl to Brimmer and told him to keep her until the basking. My cousin fished the shark man (when he looked normal) out of the sea and nursed him back to health. Brimmer grew up in a cabin a half mile from here..." the same direction that Serpent found tracks leading away to.

They tuck the man back under the bed and head out for the other cabin. En route they see a light in the sky heading toward them. The light gets closer and closer. The pirates extinguish their own lights. They see flapping wings and torches, then it passes overhead. Torches fall from it, some closely to the pirates. Shrieking grows louder. They head in land and hide to watch the torch landing area. The flapping and shrieking eventually departs.

The pirates wait a bit longer then continue and eventually arrive at a cabin with lights on. The place proves to be in poor repair and the approach is littered with carcasses. The pirates remain quiet but well lighted on the approach. They spot someone inside watching. Sindawe walks them up to the cabin and attacks a weak wall section rather than risking a trapped door. The trio walk inside to find a nine year old girl sitting atop a poor man's bed. A half-man, half-shark lunges out of the dark at them. Wogan fires a silver bullet past Sindawe; the were-shark staggers back then lunges again while bragging, "His chosen will wash Port Shaw in blood and gore! Agghhh!" Sindawe trips the were-shark to land between him and Serpent, then the pair pounds

on the monster. Wogan shoots the monster once, then again with another still holstered gun. The were-shark is heavily wounded, prone, exhausted, and sickened. The were-shark claws and bites from its prone position until it is beaten unconscious... the massive form shifts into that of a tiny, ugly man.

The girl sits passively thru this process; Wogan examines her then covers her with his cloak. The ugly man is tied up and silver coins shoved into his wounds. They revive him but he proves to be uninformative beyond bragging about how much eating Dagobas and his followers are going to do. They knock him out again. They search the cabin and find nothing beyond garbage and graffiti.

They haul the girl and their prisoner back to the beach. About half way back Brimmer wakes up because the pirates didn't beat him enough. Brimmer bursts the ropes and charges until Wogan shoots him down. Serpent lops his head off for later.

They do not encounter the flying duck and its chipmunk pilots.

The pirates return to Toes Reach, retrieve Relgin McFarrows from under his bed, and wade out to the slope with him and Jessica.

Falsely Accused

They sail back to Port Shaw and directly to the docks at the dragoon's fortress. Jinky shares with the pirates that Old Crow knows something about shark men. Sindawe and Wogan get directions to Old Crow. Relgin acts twitchy and Jessica stares.

The slope docks at the dragoon's fortress, Stormshield, later that day. They are greeted by beetle browed dragoons at the docks, who summon Sgt Darenar. Darenar listens patiently to Relgin's story and that of the pirates about the shark men. He orders his men to take the Relgin and Jessica into the fort.

Sindawe and Wogan take the opportunity to convince Sgt Darenar that he was bitten by a shark man. They go to his office after the talk, where Wogan examines the wound, then applies the poultice and a *remove*

curse. He finishes up with *a cure light wounds* so that it obvious that the wound is healed. The sergeant assures them that he will put the fort inquisitor (Salem Ven) on the case of the shark men.

The sleepy pirates sail back to the city's docks on the slope, then disembark in search of Old Crow. The new rumors are:

- The new high priest is offering a reward for missing persons.
- Archibald is the missing priest. Another guy, Jalamar, went missing a month ago.
- My cousin found Garr Bloodbane's gold... for real!
- Complaints about protection money going up to a full silver piece.
- Fisherman named McFarrows murdered his wife for the love of another woman.
- That elder guy is a dragonsmoke user.
- 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 Bonaduce, the head of the dragoons who drummed him out of the service.
- Shark men killed a whole village
- The docks at night are not safe – crazy busy, animal smuggling, and drugs.
- Commandant Bonaduce fiddles at the Broken Skull

A dozen mostly older sailors sit around an old salt sitting on a barnacle encrusted slope. One of them says “Our ship was rammed at night by a night black shark. It rammed us until the captain was knocked overboard!” The others jeer him.

The old man interrupts with “There be a black shark!” He enters the ring of men and throws off his cloak to reveal an iron hook where his right forearm should be and a pair of peg legs. The crowd departs quickly under the glare of his one good eye.

Wogan and Sindawe ask him Old Crow questions; it takes a bit to convince the man to talk. He tells how a tiger shark took his arm when he was young. Bale sharks took his legs years later when his ship went under. A black shark means dark times. He believes there have been more shark attacks lately; some are fatal, some just severed limbs. The sharks got their god back... ask the shamans about the shark god. Old Crow walks away.

The pirates go to Zalen’s church of Gozreh to hand off Jessica McFarrows for care. He accepts that burden. They ask about his missing predecessors and reveals that the last priest did disappear leaving all of his belongings behind.

They convince him to talk about that further. He takes them to private chambers in the chapter house for further discussion. He explains, “I think high priest Archibald Noeliss ran afoul of some organized group operating here in Port Shaw. It involves highly placed individuals, so I advise caution when looking into the matter.” He knows no specifics of that or shark gods.

GOALS WHILE IN THE RAZOR COAST

- Grand Papa Black Skull (a black root) trade with ex-slaves on Dulcimer Island
- Capture or kill Elias Tammerhawk or the Serpentfolk that impersonated him
- Seek the shark cult, led by the Stormdaughter, that done killed Black Dog the Pirate and made him a ghost, and make her pay.