

REAVERS ON THE SEAS OF FATE - SESSION SUMMARY 04/10/2011

The heroes are still on Devil's Elbow, an island infested with tentacle-dogs that infect people with zombie-tongues. Our heroes are:

- *Wogan*, the pistol-packin' celibate cleric of Gozreh (Patrick)
- *Tommy Blacktoes*, the staff-slingin' sneaky halfling rogue (Kevin)
- *Sindawe H'kilata Narr*, the fist-punchin' Mwangi monk (Chris)
- *Ref "Serpent" Jorensen*, the staff-bashin' Ulfen druid/ranger and his snake *Saluthra* (Paul)
- *Hatshepsut*, monk and high priestess of a lost civilization who doesn't savvy much Common and her cobra *Naja* (NPC)

Back at Clegg Zincher's base camp is:

- *Samaritha*, the book-readin' serpentfolk-posing-as-half-elf Cyphermage who's sweet on Serpent (NPC)

Follow the Yellow Brick Road

At the end of last session, we were trying to track down where the mysterious metal plaques on the island are coming from. We found a path that winds down a cliff, and decided to try going down it. Crime lord Clegg Zincher's henchman Akron Erix and his six thugs are coming with us.

The path ends at a spur of rock 20 feet above the sea below. Tommy goes ahead and sneaks down onto the granite outcropping. He sees no way forward. Tommy and Sindawe search the area and find nothing.

Sindawe looks down the cliff and decides there might be an underwater cave entrance, so he has himself lowered on a rope to get a closer look. He finds a small beach and explores around the edge of the cliff but can't get to where the cave would be from where he is. He tries to climb the cliff horizontally, and sees a dark area that indeed seems to be a cave entrance.

As Sindawe explores the small beach below, Serpent takes a look around and finds some gouges in the rock near the outcropping. Investigating further, he finds a narrow fissure that seems to be part of a door that can be opened.

Suddenly we spot one of the tentacle dogs wriggling out of a crack in the cliffside. Sindawe reacts to this by untying himself from the rope and making a swim for the sea cliff. He pulls hard and manages not to be bashed against the rocks.

Tommy slings a stone at the beast and hits it solidly. Serpent gets out his rarely-used longbow and shoots it. His arrow sinks into it strangely easily. The pirate thugs with us also take some bowshots and manage to hurt it.

It finishes extruding itself from the hole and comes skittering down the cliff, clinging to the cliff next to us. It bites at Tommy but Tommy evades. A second tentacle dog begins coming through the hole.

Wogan takes a shot at the one coming out but his bullet pops right through it, leaving it undamaged.

Serpent tries to dislodge the dog from the cliff but gets savagely bitten on the arm for his troubles. Wogan and Tommy hit the dogs with missile weapons but they do no damage. Tommy sneak attacks with his cutlass and manages to hurt it. Serpent tries once again to knock it off the cliff and succeeds. Its claws scrabble at the rock but it gains no purchase and falls into the seawater, disintegrating in short order.

The second tentacle-dog comes down the cliff and attacks, but misses. Serpent pushes this one off as well, getting bitten again but succeeding in the push, killing the second tentacle-dog.

Goonies Never Say Die!

Down below, Sindawe is still swimming. He spots a large black and white shape in the water behind him. He manages to swim through the aquatic passage and comes into a large cave. Wooden platforms cross between various stone outcroppings in the half-flooded cavern, and a waterfall cascades down one wall. The cavern seems to be crawling with pirates. The pirate leader carries a large pistol and a strange wedge-shaped melee weapon. Sindawe believes this to be Screev Ten-Tooth, the captain of the *Three Sheets*,

the ship the serpent man masquerading as Elias Tammerhawk commandeered on his way out of Riddleport.

Sindawe attempts to get across the cavern to the nearest opening he sees leaving the cavern, but one of the pirates spots him and calls out a warning to the others. Captain Ten-Tooth calls out, “Yarr, prepare to repel boarders!” and fires his double-barreled pistol at Sindawe. He misses with his first shot but draws blood with his second. Sindawe takes cover under their wooden catwalks and makes for the tunnel in the cavern wall.

The captain calls, “Arr! Surrender and ye can be part of my crew!”

“What are the terms of this deal?” Sindawe calls while continuing to go for the tunnel.

“Arr. You can be me cabin boy and I promise to not be too rough on ya.”

“No thanks,” calls Sindawe as he side-strokes towards the beach.

Captain Ten-Tooth tries to fire again but his gun jams. Pirates on the beach fire volleys of hand crossbows at him, but the water deflects their shots.

Sindawe leaps into the midst of the pirates and begins beating them, working his way away from the captain. Captain Ten-Tooth fires and misses again.

Sindawe becomes a whirling flurry of fists, taking down man after man. Unfortunately he takes numerous shots, stabs, and bruises in the process. Captain Ten-tooth fires off a special flare round that blinds Sindawe. He calls out, “Arr! Get the swivel gun ready!”

Sindawe doesn't give up; he fights on blindly while the pirates train the swivel gun on him. One last blow and he falls unconscious at the mercy of the pirates.

It's Got A Beat, And I Can Dance To It

Back up on the cliff, Serpent begs Wogan for some healing, and Wogan checks him for tentacle-dog infection, but he seems to be uninfected. After a bit of waiting in vain for Sindawe to reemerge from the water, Tommy and Serpent manage to jimmy open the door in the side of the cliff, setting off a magical glyph. Tommy and Serpent dodge out of the way of the magic blast, which hits Wogan full in the face.

Inside, we find a damp cave. There is a strange black rock here which appears different from the rest of the cavern. There are several dead bodies lying around the

cavern. We move in, readying weapons for the inevitable attack of the dead men. Wogan casts a light spell on Akron Erix's head, to his surprise. Tommy pokes one of the corpses, and it seems very light. He flips it over, and the corpse is dressed in pirate gear of recent provenance but seems to have died of extreme old age.

As Wogan examines the body and determines that the body was probably killed by a banshee, we hear a feminine voice call, "At last you have returned, my love!" We draw our weapons and get ready for combat. Wogan summons a spiritual trident.

The voice calls, "You are not my Yaris!" A beautiful song begins to fill the cavern. Most of the characters and all the thugs are enthralled by the sound and begin to shuffle forward mindlessly.

Wogan manages to keep hold of his mind and sees the creature come around the corner. It is a huge ghostly floating apparition that appears as a giant hawk with a beautiful woman's head and long, flowing hair. He thinks it is a siren's ghost! Wogan throws a *silence* spell to stop her song.

Although the song is silenced, the effects linger on, and we continue to shuffle forward. Wogan's spiritual weapon strikes her. In the meantime, Hatshepsut grabs the enthralled Serpent in a sleeper hold and pulls him out of the cavern.

The siren grasps Akron Erix in her talons and pulls him out of the cavern down a side tunnel. Akron Erix is enchanted and does not resist.

Tommy comes to his senses and realizes that he knows who this monster is. It is Virashi, the famed siren of Devil's Elbow! She

Tommy calls out, "Virashi! Yaris is with us! Outside! Release that man!"

The siren phases out of the wall next to Tommy. "Do you know of my Yaris?"

"Alas, I do."

"Where is he?"

"Your love unfortunately lies dead at the bottom of the lighthouse. He died but I have his last gift to you." He pulls out the gem he recovered from the corpse at the lighthouse.

She says, "That is not Yaris's!"

Wogan and the rest of the group are still within the silence spell. He sees Tommy conversing with the siren and offering her treasure, and comes to the obvious conclusion

that he must be charmed. Wogan's spiritual trident goes whizzing past the siren. She turns and plunges a talon into the nearest pirate and ages him to death in an instant. Tommy sighs and backstabs the ghostly siren. The rest of the thugs, seeing their comrade's hideous death and having lost their leader, flee out of the cavern and abandon the fight. Wogan fires one last shot and retreats as well.

Hatshepsut lets Serpent go and he charges back into the cavern to help Tommy, smacking the siren with his magical quarterstaff. Hatshepsut also runs in and hits it. Tommy sneak attacks the siren again. The siren tries to get Serpent but he dodges, and the three of them continue to pound on Virashi's ghost.

The ghost flies backwards and the characters pursue, accompanied now by Wogan as well.

The siren wails and Wogan loses control of his bladder and begins to run. Tommy has been charmed by the ghost and he tries to persuade Hatshepsut to stop attacking by grabbing at her breasts. She responds by performing a stunning serpent strike on Tommy. Serpent does not listen to Tommy and attacks Virashi again, but her next song manages to charm Serpent as well.

Wogan, cowering outside the cave, heals himself. Serpent drops out of rage and tries to guard the siren from Hatshepsut. Hatshepsut and Serpent trade blows but do not manage to damage each other. Hatshepsut manages to hit the ghostly siren twice however. The siren screeches a lullaby and Hatshepsut falls asleep.

Tommy bows to the siren, "What is your bidding, mistress?" Serpent wonders why he's grovelling.

The siren says, "Bring back my beloved and I will return your friends to you."

Tommy and Serpent depart the siren's cavern with a new mission. The secret door closes behind them.

As Mistress Commands

The thugs try to convince us to come back to Clegg Zincher's camp but we dismiss them and head off to the lighthouse. Last time we were there Wogan had sensed some kind of supernatural presence, but he figured it would only manifest at night. It is almost night now, so we figure that Yaris or some spirit thereof might be there now.

As we head off, Samaritha comes running down the trail toward us, calling out “Serpent!”

Wogan goes to greet her before she can come talk to the charmed people. Wogan tells her that Serpent and Tommy have been charmed and asks her if she has anything to break charm. She does not.

She comes to join us (giving Chris a character to play while Sindawe is out of it). The group decides we have little choice other than to go along with the siren’s commands – two of our number are charmed, and we do want to get Hatsehsut and maybe Akron Erix back.

As we head to the lighthouse, we run across a nightbelly boa slithering down the trail. It is the same snake that Serpent had spoken to before, and Serpent talks with it again. It is fleeing from the unnatural presence in the lighthouse. Serpent leaves Saluthra behind and the characters continue to the lighthouse.

Bubbling darkness coming from inside the tower.

Tommy yells out, “Yaris! Virashi has sent us to speak to you.”

Something emerges from the side of the lighthouse. A huge, black, wraithlike presence stares at us with black eyes. “You slew my loooove...” it moans and rushes us.

Serpent yells, “Tommy, keep talking to it! Virashi sent us, she wants you to come back to her!”

The wraith senses a cleric and grabs for Wogan, but misses as he frantically backpedals.

Tommy calls, “Yaris, stop. We did not slay your loved one. She sent us to you to bring you to her.”

Samaritha tries to help, “Your lover is alive! Making people do what she wants with her bird wings.”

“You lie,” it moans, “you murdered her!”

“No,” Serpent adds, “She is waiting for you in the sea cave!”

The figure pauses for a moment. “No, I went to the cave. You killed her.”

The wraith's angst causes it to pause. We keep talking to it. Although we are a charisma-poor group, our concerted efforts eventually convince the wraith to listen. “I

saw her killed, it was horrible...” Suddenly, we all get a mental flash from Yaris's point of view. We see Virashi's body hanging from a spit over a fire in the middle of Witchlight.

We lead Yaris the giant dread wraith down the path to the sea caves. About halfway he begins to lose focus. “The priest killed her. The priest...” The wraith starts to go after Wogan. Wogan manages to talk the wraith down again.

On the way down the slick path in the dark, Samaritha slips and almost falls, But Serpent catches her nimbly. “I knew you still loved me!” she says.

“Give me some sugar, baby,” quips Serpent.

“Not until you get over that bird lady,” says Samaritha.

“Oh, you'll see her soon,” answers Serpent. “She's radiant, like a goddess!” Samaritha frowns cutely.

We reopen the secret door and head into the cave. “We've brought back your love!” announces Tommy. We hear a soft tune from up ahead.

We continue on into the siren's lair. The lair is equipped with old moldering tapestries and animal pelts. Akron and Hatshepsut sit in the lair entranced by the siren, who is softly singing.

The wraith, which has shrunk just enough to fit in the cavern, catches sight of his love. The siren turns to see the wraith and smiles radiantly at us. “You have saved my beloved's soul!” She addresses Yaris and implores him to not be bound to this world by his rage and anger anymore, and she will not be bound to it by grief.

To us, she says, “Thank you, my friends!” She goes to Yaris and they disappear in a flash of bright light. We feel humbled and magically blessed. The charm passes away.

“That awful bird creature!” Serpent proclaims, “It must have controlled my mind or something!” He smiles winningly at Samaritha, who is not substantially placated.

The Gate

We find no treasure in the ghost's lair, but find some gold and trinkets on the pirates she had killed. We find a door made of the strange red-gold metal, which seems to be braced from the other side. Tommy uses the chime of opening to remove the brace from the door and pushes it open.

Beyond the door is an intersection that goes left or right. Samaritha studies the door and determines that she believes the metal is orichalcum, and the black rock is probably orichalcum ore. She doesn't know the exact properties but believes it is protective in nature.

Serpent looks at the ground here and sees many tentacle-dog prints. We head to the left into another cavern room. The sound of waves crashing against the cliffs comes through the fissure in the wall here. This appears to be the room that the two tentacle-dogs came from.

Akron Erix says, "Behind us!" We look back down the cave. Four tentacle-dogs are coming silently up on us.

We run forward to the attack, hitting the two lead dogs with fists, hammer, and staff. Tommy squirts seawater at one from his waterskin and hurts it. Its eyes change to a gold color. One of the dogs bites Akron.

Samaritha casts an illusionary magical wall in front of the dogs. One of them breaks through but the other three are stopped by the wall. We bash the one that gets through and Wogan finishes it off with a skin of seawater. Samaritha summons a great deal of illusionary seawater which causes two of the remaining dogs to back off. The third dog charges through the illusions and bites Hatshepsut. Samaritha uses a spell to enlarge Hatshepsut and Hatshepsut finishes off the second dog with giant-sized fists. Serpent uses the break to enchant his staff with shillelagh.

Samaritha tells everyone to form a line and then creates a hole in her illusionary wall to let one of the dogs through. We quickly bludgeon it to death, and the last dog runs off.

We continue to the north. We continue to a cavern with walls of beaten orichalcum. There is a magical gate here made of orichalcum and marked with the same summoning runes as on the Cyphergate. Through the gate we can see a shadowy world.

"Well, I guess we know where the tentacle-dogs came from," remarks Wogan.

It looks like the gate used to be sealed but has been broken open. There is another door here which has been barred with a makeshift barricade made of scraps of orichalcum.

The cypher symbols on our bodies begin to burn. Tommy decides to go up and try touching his cypher symbol to the keystone of the gate. As he touches it, his mark burns him and Tommy hears a ringing noise like a tuning fork. Samaritha touches her mark to it and also gets burned and hears a noise. Wogan, Serpent, and Hatshepsut follow suit.

As we each touch the keystone, the shadow world beyond the gate seems to become clearer. It's like looking into a dark animal warren or insect nest. Serpent and Tommy spot a tentacle-dog coming out of a hole in the warren and clambering over the ceiling.

We study the gate some more and Samaritha comes to the conclusion that the gate may be sealable if we can get the eleven orichalcum plates that represent each of the cypher runes. We seem to be more attuned to the gate now somehow.

Goonies II: The Pirates' Last Stand

We go to study the barricade. Through the barricade we see some pirates with a grounded landing boat manning a swivel gun. We make the rash decision that we will tear through the barricade and charge the swivel gun.

Wogan casts a *fog cloud* to cover us while we break the barricade. It takes only a short time to break through. As we charge forward, the swivel gun manages to spray Akron Erix and Wogan with shot. Wogan throws a positive energy burst for some healing, but it is a rather weak burst.

Serpent, Akron, and Hatshepsut focus on the swivel gun pirates, taking out one and weakening another so that Samaritha's TK fist finishes him off. Captain Screev Ten-Tooth fires his flare gun at Serpent, blinding him. Serpent stumbles forward and orders Saluthra to attack. She crushes a pirate to death.

Samaritha begins to sway in a serpent-like fashion and her eyes go swirly. She dominates one of the pirates with her serpentfolk powers. She mentally orders the pirate to attack his captain and he does so, sneak attacking Captain Ten-Tooth.

Akron and Hatshepsut run up to engage the pirates. Akron takes one out, but not before he manages to shoot Serpent with a hand crossbow. Captain Ten-Tooth pistol whips the dominated pirate and takes him out. Then the captain runs for it.

At this point three tentacle-dogs break out of the mist behind us, right on Wogan and Tommy. Wogan screams and tries to get away, but one of the tentacle-dogs trips him.

Akron, Serpent, Hatshepsut, and Saluthra swarm forward and quickly take out all the remaining pirates except the fleeing captain. Samaritha hits the captain in the back with a *scorching ray*.

The captain runs up onto the gangway toward where we now see Sindawe lashed unconscious to a spar. He aims his gun at a keg of gunpowder which is close to where Samaritha and Serpent are standing. The flare round he shoots light up the quick burning fuses attached to the keg. Serpent grabs the keg and hurls it out into the water. The keg explodes but only Serpent is close enough to get hurt by it, and he manages to dodge back from the worst of the blast.

Wogan manages to get away from the dogs and runs after Captain Ten-Tooth. The three tentacle-dogs rush the nearest target, which happens to be Hatshepsut.

The captain puts his pistol to Sindawe's head. "Arr, put down yer weapons or the Mwangi gets it!" Wogan does not pause, but unhesitatingly pulls his pistol and shoots Captain Ten-Tooth's pistol out of his hand. Since his pistol was loaded with poison rounds, there is now a black stinking cloud directly in front of Wogan. The rest of us all run and dive into the water to get away from the tentacle-dogs.

Captain Ten-Tooth draws his weird-looking weapon, a Taldan scizore, and moves to cut off Sindawe's head. "Arr, ye are too late," he cries. Just then, an orca leaps from the dark waters below, destroying a large portion of the walkway and grabbing the captain in its maw. The massive dolphin drags the hapless captain under the water and we don't get to see his final fate. We tread water as the tentacle-dogs pace on the shore.

It's Not Over Yet!

A giant black demonic shape boils out from the mouth of the tunnel mouth to the gate room amidst a cloud of shadows. "What now!" we wonder...