

## Reavers on the Seas of Fate - Session Summary 07/25/2010

The heroes have gotten back to Magnimar with the headless serpent idol they retrieved from the ancient ruins of Viperwall and are about to take off on the *Wandering Dagger* with Thalios Dondrel, son of Mordekai, and Captain Clap. 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)

And don't forget our brave supporting cast:

- *Samaritha*, the book-readin' half-elf Cyphermage who's sweet on Serpent (NPC)
- *Hatshepsut*, high priestess of a lost civilization who doesn't savvy the Common (NPC)
- *Thalios Dondrel*, son of Mordekai, pirate of some experience we rescued from a ghost ship (NPC)
- *Captain Clap*, captain of the pirate ship *Wandering Dagger* (NPC)

### *The Ship Is Leaving!*

We find ourselves traveling along the docks heading to Pier 136 with *Thalios Dondrel*, *Samaritha Beldusk*, and *Hatshepsut*. We are heading for the *Wandering Dagger*, although the *Dagger* has put a nameplate over its normal name that says "Blue Water."

As we approach, we hear Thalios Dondrel say, "Ah, crap!" There is a batch of armored guys heading down the pier towards the ship. The leader of the armored group is obviously a Hellknight; he wears ornate red full plate with a black right arm. The others are likely Hellknight trainees, called armigers.

Tommy pulls Thalios into an alley, whispering, "What's going on here?"

Thalios rejoins, "I hate to break it to you, but we're really *pirates*. I'm sure the Hellknights are here to bust some heads and take the ship."

"Are the rest of the crew on board?"

Thalios shrugs, "I suppose they are. Better be."

Wogan sees the *Dagger's* sail going up and comments, "If we don't get on the boat now we're going to get left here!"

Tommy nods grimly. "We're going to have to fight our way through."

### **Packed with Action! And Comedy!**

From aboard the *Dagger*, *Captain Clap* shouts some orders. Two cannons pop out of the ship's starboard gun ports and fire on the docks, shredding two of the armigers in a hail of grapeshot. Several pirates slash the boarding lines holding the *Dagger* to the docks. Thalios whips out his rapier and pistol and runs forward, yelling, "Let's git em!"

In addition to the Hellknights, we see a group of guardsmen boarding a Magnimarian navy vessel at the end of the next pier over, yelling. The Hellknight group is running down the far pier towards the *Wandering Dagger*. Wogan throws a *fog cloud* onto the deck of the navy ship, obscuring most of the crew, and the rest of the group runs forward.

As the armigers shoot down a couple pirates, *Captain Clap* sets the *Dagger* under sail and it starts to pull away from the dock. It will pass by the next pier that has the navy ship and a small fishing boat moored to it; rather than run through the Hellknights and cannon fire, the party charges down the closer pier to head off the *Dagger*.

Thalios runs for the navy ship; he looks rather silly because he is still partly disguised as Little Lord Fauntleroy. Sindawe runs with him, calling back to Hatshepsut, "Shat-fursuit, follow me!" Sindawe throws an alchemist's fire into the fog cloud, hoping to hit a city guardsman.

The *Wandering Dagger* is not as agile as it needs to be, and it crashes into a fishing vessel parked at the dock, which heaves up out of the water as its stern splinters. One of the crewmen on the *Dagger* fires the swivel gun at the Hellknight and armigers. He mows down three armigers. The guardsmen on the navy ship start getting to its swivel guns and prepare to fire on the *Dagger*.

Thalios shoots his pistol and misses, leaving three guardsmen to charge him with halberds. Although he tries to avoid their weapons, a guard cleaves him through the ribs

and he falls with a sucking chest wound. Hatshepsut and Sindawe join Thalios and begin using their martial arts to take down the guards. Hatshepsut cobra strikes and slams one and the guard falls into the water with a splash.

To avoid the guards, Tommy leaps onto a fishing vessel. Wogan follows Tommy onto the fishing boat, and Serpent soon follows. The fishing boat, however, has a vicious dog on board. Serpent quickly silences the dog with his staff.

The Hellknight begins attacking the *Wandering Dagger*. His adamantine halberd cuts a swivel gun in half like a hot knife through butter, continuing to cleave through a pirate, and knocks the plaque bearing the false name off the *Dagger*. One of the armigers tries to board, but ends up clinging precariously to the rail as the ship picks up speed.

From their position on the fishing vessel, Tommy and Wogan offer ranged support against the guards on the dock. Tommy slings a stone off the back of a guard's head and Wogan shoots a guard with his pistol. Samaritha burns a guard down in his tracks with a *scorching ray*. Serpent springs back onto the dock behind the last guard and slams him in the helmet, knocking him out. With the guards dispatched we realize that we can't get the fishing boat underway quickly enough to catch up, and all run to board the navy vessel, hoping to leapfrog from there onto the *Wandering Dagger*.

The Hellknight is still hewing massive chunks out of the *Wandering Dagger* with his adamantine weapon as it slowly moves away from its berth. We notice that this fracas is drawing more guards, running in this direction from the nearby city streets. Sindawe throws alchemists's fire on a swivel gun and sets it off, firing it randomly. It hits the armiger that has climbed onto the *Dagger* and blows him off the side.

Wogan gives Thalios the kiss of life and wakes him. Hatshepsut charges and leaps onto the naval vessel, jacking a burning sailor into unconsciousness. Serpent also leaps onto the boat, slamming a guard and denting in his breastplate. Samaritha runs for the boarding plank.

The Hellknight opens a *chelish crux*, a kind of extradimensional space in which time does not progress, and pulls a burning grenade out! He intends to use it on the *Dagger*, but Samaritha casts *pyrotechnics* on the grenade, causing a big cloud of smoke to billow out, blinding the Hellknight.

The *Wandering Dagger* has been frantically trying to turn to port, but there's just not enough room to maneuver. It slams into the rear end of the naval vessel, causing both vessels to list crazily. Two sailors and two guards fall down, as do most of the pirates. Wogan's *fog cloud* dissipates and Thalios runs onto the naval ship, yelling, "Arr, take the ship!"

"Hold it right there, scum!" yells a guard coming up the dock. The naval ship fires a swivel-gun on Captain Clap, injuring him and killing the pirate next to him.

On the navy vessel, one of the guards staggers to his feet and Serpent slams him in the head, knocking him back down and out. Hatshepsut flurries blows at a sailor and comes down with an elbow on his head, knocking him out. Sindawe leaps onto the ship and slams another guard. Wogan is bringing up the rear and is still on the pier by the fishing boat; he hands a lit bomb to the guard coming up the dock and flees. Serpent hits another guard with his staff, knocking him into the water. One of the guards hacks into Serpent with a halberd, but it's only a flesh wound. The dock guards pursue Wogan and Samaritha, minorly wounding Wogan in the foot. The sailors on the navy vessel all flee or hide. Hatshepsut gets one guard with a shoulder nerve strike and takes him out. Serpent double-strikes the last guard and kills him.

The *Wandering Dagger* manages to untangle from the naval ship and starts to pull away. Thalios tries to swing between the ships but the rope he grabs is not attached to anything, and Thalios goes spinning down; his leg catches in the rigging and he swings wildly upside down. The guards run up to surround Sindawe and order him to halt. Sindawe says, "I only halt in the name of love!" He runs from the guards and knocks aside the gangplank up to the ship after he crosses it. Wogan runs to leap the gap to the *Dagger*, but has an accident. He slips near the railing and slams himself in the head with a belaying pin. Samaritha casts *levitation* on herself, runs, jumps, and glides gracefully over to the *Dagger's* deck. Serpent grabs Wogan heroically in his arms and jumps the gap to the pirate ship. Even carrying the 200+ lb cleric, he makes the leap and lands on his feet.

Thalios gets untangled from the rigging, but the *Dagger* is too far out to swing to any more. Samaritha casts *animate rope* on Thalios's rope and causes it to attach to both the *Wandering Dagger* and the rigging of the navy ship, allowing him to slide down the

rope using his belt like a zip line. Sindawe also runs towards the mast and clammers quickly into the rigging. He runs along the rope like a tightrope and makes it onto the *Wandering Dagger* just in time.

As we sail away, Captain Clap orders Thalios to raise the *Wandering Dagger's* pirate flag! The wolf's head flaps defiantly in the wind as the ship pours on every bit of speed it has out of Magnimar's harbor.



### **The Aftermath**

Sindawe congratulates Serpent, “Congratulations, Serpent Dog-Killer.” Serpent begins to laugh. Apparently this detail becomes part of the legend of the *Wandering Dagger*. When the old-timers in the taverns tell the story of how the *Wandering Dagger* escaped from Hellknight justice by shooting up Magnimar's port and executing a daring escape under the guns of a navy ship, they always end the story with, “And they even killed the dog!”

Captain Clap growls, “That's just what we needed, more stowaways!” and stomps below decks. Sindawe is rather hurt and asks the crew what's wrong with the captain's vagina. Thalios explains that Captain Clap hates the Hellknights, they killed his whole family. The Hellknight on the dock was from the Order of the Nail, who often hunt pirates.

Once on the high seas, the pirates have a sea funeral for the dead crewmembers. We talk to the captain about getting back to Riddleport. The captain knows we are persona non grata in Riddleport, and doesn't really want to take us there. Sindawe offers

that we will leave the ship and take a rowboat into the city. Wogan begins telling the story of how we want to free Riddleport from the snake cult. The Captain couldn't care less about a snake cult. He tells us the city is going to be celebrating a ceremony to rededicate the Riddleport Light. We tell him that we need to get to the lighthouse to stop the cult.

The captain tells us that Riddleport militia are bivouacked all around the Light, and that getting into it the normal way would be impossible, but there is a secret way into the lighthouse. The notorious pirate *Black Dog* supposedly knew the location of secret sea caves that get in under the lighthouse. Black Dog was killed by a rival pirate called the Shark Lord, but he had a son, *Jaren the Jinx*. Jaren might know where the caves are, the captain believes he retired to Palin's Cove and opened an inn.

Palin's Cove is an industrial town known in druid circles for despoiling nature. We convince Captain Clap to take a detour to Palin's Cove so we can look up Jaren the Jinx. He agrees, but no one is really happy about it. Jaren is considered bad luck by most everyone – after Black Dog was poisoned by the Shark Lord's mistress and eventually killed, Jaren got cursed and served on a number of ships afterwards and was party to a large number of undesirable events until no one would have him any more. Thalios Dondrel describes him as “a dumb asshole,” and offers that same explanation to queries like “Why is he in Palin's Cove” and “Why is he running an inn?”

### *Palin's Cove*

The voyage is uneventful except for us seeing a dire shark fighting a giant squid. Or mating. We can't tell.

We get into Palin's cove three days later. There are a lot of workhouses here and the water of the cove is thick with industrial runoff. Wogan thinks that the cove needs some active wildlife to eat the scum. We see an orca in the cove. The Dagger drops us off ashore a bit out of town, and we walk into town as if we're local travelers.

We find the inn. It is called the Laughing Badger, and bears a sign of a jolly humanoid badger laughing and holding a mug of beer. “I told you he was an asshole,” comments Thalios Dondrel. It is a large tavern with a stone floor. There is a stage that has

been draped in velvet. Wogan marches to the bar and cries plaintively, “Rum! Your strongest rum!”

Thalios says to the bartender, “Hey buddy, we're old friends of Jaren. Where is he?”

The bartender nods, “I'll get him.” In a cautionary tone, he adds, “No trouble in here.”

Jaren the Jinx appears. He comes over to Thalios and says, “Thalios Dondrel - I remember you. What brings you to the Laughing Badger, the finest tavern in Palin's Cove?”

Thalios almost chokes. He has a hard time concealing his disgust for the retired pirate. “These are friends of mine. I have some questions about stuff from the old days.”

Jaren shakes his head. “I've gone legit now. I have an inn, a normal girlfriend. I don't need any trouble.” He waves at a comely maid who's serving drinks to some tables near the bar.

“Well, you better tell these boys what they want to know.”

Serpent adds, “There will be a lot less trouble if you just talk to us.”

Jaren is stubborn. “We got the local deputy in here. Don't think about starting any trouble.”

“Look,” says Wogan, “We just want to know some things about your daddy.”

Wogan's conciliatory tone carries more weight with Jaren. “Well, maybe, but I can't talk now. We're getting ready. Nelphin the Magniphicent is coming in.”

Sindawe asks, “He's a stage magician?”

“Yeah, a gnome, they're the best. It's a big show, I've had it in the works for a while. The least I can do for an old buddy is put you up for the night, then I'll talk to you when I'm less busy.”

Once Jaren walks away, Sindawe asks Thalios, “What happened, did he sleep with a woman you wanted?”

Thalios answers, “No, he's just an asshole. And he's cursed. I know he's missing an arm, but this going legit business is stupid.”

Wogan thinks back - “He had a missing arm?” Apparently he has a good prosthesis.

Thalios looks at Jaren's girlfriend and comments, "That is a nice piece of ass."

Sindawe warns him, "You shouldn't sleep with her until after we get the information."

The deputy Jaren pointed out turns out to be a female halfling, and Tommy goes to talk to her.

Tommy greets her, "Hey, how's it going?"

She answers, "Good. I'm *Junebell*. Welcome to Palin's Cove. I haven't seen you around here."

Tommy answers, "I heard about the magic show and had to come see."

Through further conversation he learns she's the local deputy and daggers champion. She invites him to play a friendly game and Tommy agrees.

She smiles at him, "You know my nickname is Daggers."

"Nice to meet you, mine is Tommy Spats."

Tommy makes a good showing, but "Daggers" Junebell ultimately beats him. He slinks away, his pride somewhat hurt, not to mention some concern at the level of skill in the local law enforcement.

## **Under the Table**

On the bar, there's a clear glass jar half full of gold coins. "Do we have to drink something vile to get that?" says Sindawe.

The bouncer, *Baedden*, says, "That's right. If you can drink a whole jar of Grandma's Secret Recipe you get all the money."

Serpent, Sindawe, Wogan and Thalios all immediately decide to compete to get the money and pony up a gold piece each. They are each given a Mason jar full of a clear liquid that tastes startlingly like turpentine. Wogan cheats by fortifying himself with a *neutralize poison* spell. It doesn't seem to help as much as you'd think. Each jar has a dozen swallows of the vile liquor. "I recommend sipping this stuff, boys," says Baedden. All four men immediately start slamming the jars. Thalios and Sindawe wash out only a bit into their jars and stagger away from the bar vomiting, suffering from extreme INT

damage. Wogan and Serpent don't stop! They glug, glug, glug, and about three-quarters of the way through their drinks, fall unconscious into an alcohol-poisoned coma.

The rest of the bar patrons sit there in mute amazement, having just seen four grown men try to kill themselves in under a minute.

Sindawe rents a room and he and Thalios drag the unconscious fellows up to it, stripping them naked, posing them in compromising positions, and writing pornographic comments on them with a grease pencil.

By last call Thalios has drunk himself pretty insensible too from sipping on the rest of his Grandma's Secret Recipe, and Sindawe drags Thalios up to complete the daisy chain.

### **All Is Not Well**

Later, Tommy and Sindawe sneak into the back of the tavern to talk to Jaren but hear fighting from inside the staff quarters. They discover that Baedden is fighting five foes: two warriors, a skeleton, a robed woman, and a nasty barbarian. All of them are wearing red cloaks.

Tommy assumes the robed woman is a necromancer and moves to backstab her. He sneak attacks her viciously, plunging his halfling long sword into her buttocks and drawing a gratifying shriek. Sindawe follows with a stunning blow to the necromancer's head. The skeleton lunges with a battleaxe but misses. The cultists also have axes and attack but Sindawe dodges. The big guy brings a crushing blow down on the bouncer with a greataxe, and Baedden is dead. Tommy sneak attacks the necromancer again and brings her down. Sindawe shatters the skeleton's ribcage but it continues fighting without a ribcage. The big guy lunges for Tommy and gives him a deep and bloody wound. Tommy cries out in pain. Tommy sticks the big barbarian once and steps back. Sindawe hits one of the cultists once and knocks him out. Sindawe shatters the skeleton and Tommy and Sindawe finish off another cultist. The last cultist grazes Tommy. Sindawe dodges a greataxe. Tommy cuts the cultist, and Sindawe breaks his spine. Tommy pokes the barbarian and Sindawe punches him twice for massive pummeling. The barbarian is unable to hit Sindawe, and Tommy moves around behind to give the barbarian a

“shocker” with his sword. The barbarian is sickened and staggered, and Sindawe easily KO's him. The barbarian is bleeding out. Sindawe tries to save him for interrogation but the barbarian dies.

Tommy and Sindawe move to check out the rooms around Baedden's room. Tommy hears screams from the basement. Tommy sneaks down while Sindawe runs upstairs to get Serpent and Wogan. In the basement, Tommy spies undead lurching around. They each wear a scarab beetle symbol.

Upstairs, Sindawe sees a cluster of six cultists going door to door. They have murdered a traveling merchant and are busy breaking open rooms and killing everyone. Some of them attack Sindawe unsuccessfully, and others take care of witnesses emerging from their rooms. In a room close by, Serpent wakes up from the commotion and finds himself naked in a pile, wedged between Wogan and Thalios Dondrel. Still horrendously intoxicated, Serpent stumbles to a wall and pounds on it, incoherently screaming something that sounds like “NUB UH!”

Tommy runs up to join Sindawe. He runs a cultist through. Serpent stumbles naked and groaning from the room.

Wogan has a horrible dream where he is tied and beaten in a demonic circle. He wakes screaming to find himself naked in a pile with Thalios Dondrel. He stumbles out of the room, also naked and with “I love cock” stenciled on his head. Serpent sees the carnage and staggers back into the room to get his armor on.

While Serpent gets kitted up, Sindawe runs down to the mass of undead and tries to kite them back up the stairs. A strange elf hidden under the stairs grabs his ankles. The elf has teeth filed to points. The horde of zombies surges forward and Sindawe backs up the stairs. Wogan hits the undead with a burst of positive energy and Sindawe punches the lead zombie twice, dropping it. The elf scuttles from under the stairs and hides behind a workbench. Tommy jumps off the stairs and rushes the elf. Sindawe gets his kama and attacks, slashing another zombie down. Tommy feints the elf, setting him up for a sneak attack. Wogan wipes out the rest of the undead with another energy burst and Tommy finishes off the elf.

Serpent joins the party just before they burst into the next room. He is wearing his hide shirt like a giant diaper. In the next room, a makeshift barrier has been built. Wogan

feels malevolent energy coming from the room. Tommy wets a rag with wine and has the somewhat delirious Wogan wipe his forehead off. “Don’t ask questions, just do it!!!”

Five dessicated dread skeletons emerge from the clutter. Tommy slings a stone into one. Serpent lurches forward and hits a skeleton, taking its arm off. It doesn't need it. The skeletons rush past Serpent and go for the other characters. One cuts Wogan. Wogan takes a break from vomiting to use his last positive energy burst. The one Serpent had hurt crumbles away. Behind the barrier, Serpent spies a man in burnished black plate wielding a cruel morningstar. Serpent steps away from the combat and casts *bull's strength*, increasing his strength to a mighty 22. The skeletons scabble at the party but all miss.

The evil cleric casts another spell. Wogan casts a cure spell and grabs a skeleton, destroying it. Serpent kills the skeleton near him. A summoned wolf appears and bites at Sindawe. The cleric comes striding out to attack Serpent, but his morningstar is stopped by Serpent's hide armor. Serpent drunkenly tries to hit the cleric but his staff is deflected by the cleric's plate. One skeleton grazes Sindawe. Wogan casts *bull's strength* as well and moves to enhance Sindawe. Sindawe's enhanced strength allows him to pulverize two skeletons in one round. Serpent lands a mighty blow against the cleric and dents his pauldron. The wolf moves to flank but misses. The cleric pounds Serpent a good one with his morningstar. Tommy has run upstairs and grabbed two jars of Grandma's Secret Recipe. He hurls a pair of Molotov cocktails at the cleric, burning him nicely and also splashing Serpent and Sindawe. Serpent strikes the cleric again, snapping a bone. Wogan bursts an icicle at the burning cleric, freezing him. Sindawe pounds the cleric as well. The cleric calls out to the back room, “You have no hope, you may as well kill yourself now!” then he pulls out a scroll, reads from it, and disappears. Serpent stumbles to the back, trying to find the cleric, and sees a scene of horror. Cambree, Jaren's girlfriend, has been flensed to death. Jaren is beaten and is lying in a magical circle with a dagger next to him, intended for him to take his own life.

## **Let's Make Like A Tree And Get Out Of Here**

We talk to Jaren about the slaughter, but he doesn't know why the cultists were here. Serpent and Wogan stagger around occasionally spewing fluids from one end or the other. Thalios Dondrel is still sound asleep. Jaren looks around at the inn, with his dead girlfriend, staff, and patrons, and with the practiced eye of a pirate, says, "This place is burned. Let's get out of here before the guard gets here. I'm coming with you." We grab our gear and Thalios; Jaren grabs the payroll, the Grandma's Secret Recipe money jar, and a case full of charts and maps. "Let's go."