

The End of Reason – Journal #7



Once the Tree was saved, Drek'Thar and the crew of the Black Joke searched the bowels of the mountain for the fabled Captain Leon. Beyond the hall of Baphomet they found him, perched on a hill of bones. The captain stood at the neck of an enormous chamber, a dozen harpoons at his feet. It was a suicide approach, but due to the wit of Thallan, a well-placed mist and half a dozen dancing darkness orbs allowed Drek'thar and Ragnos to impale the wretch upon their blades.

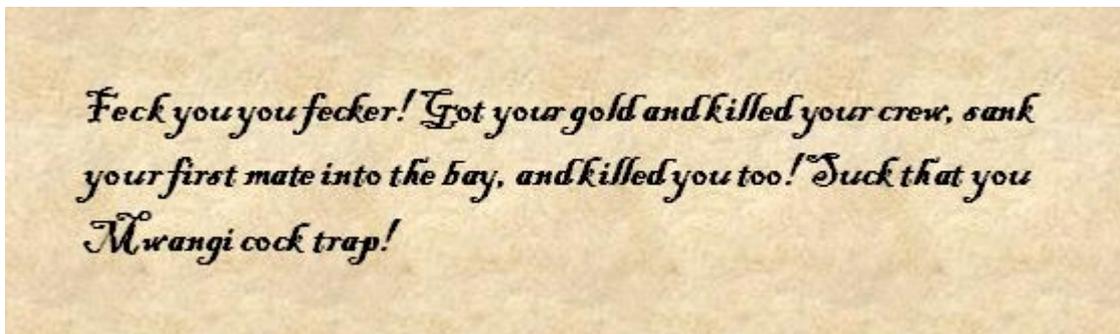
The trip home was one of anticipation. But nothing prepared them for what they found there. The town was too empty, smoke rose from the houses. Captain Merrill's ship the Red Jack was gone. At the boatshed they found the body of Rosie...poor Rosie, and the impaled body of Hannibal the jovoc.

Hannibal told them all they needed to know. Hake had betrayed them all, killed Rosie and some of their crew. Killed Jimmy too...tossed him into the bay with a hundred pounds of chain around his neck.



Ragnos pulled Jimmy's body out. Cold as a fish probably drowned since dawn. Impossibly, just as they were about to pronounce him dead, he breathed and spat the sea water from his lungs. A bloody thing if ever you saw.

A note in the captain's chamber read:



Captain Merrill and his men all dead, ship stolen by Hake and Jack...Conch too, if it can be believed. But one of the captain's men told you a secret...the Red Jack can't sail without its captain, not well at the very least. A few turns of the screw, hidden panels and the like, and the rudder moves slowly and the sails don't unfurl. Slow and hard to manoeuvre, the Red Jack will be easy to catch.