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CONTINUED FROM <sup>BEGINNING</sup> "UNKNOWN PLACE"

PART ONE "IN A LAND FAR AWAY"

EVERYTHING TURNED A FUZZ AND I DRIFTED TO BLACKNESS, AS I DRIFTED OUTTA THE BLACKOUT I JUMPED TO A CROUCHING <sup>POSITION</sup> ~~POSITION~~ READY TO STRIKE LIKE LIGHTNING, THINKING WHAT HAD HAPPENED AND HOW I WAS WHERE ~~WHERE~~ <sup>I AM</sup>, HARDLY AWARE OF WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE, BUT STILL HAD A PICTURE IN MY MINDS EYE OF THE LADIE I SEEN MISS ELIZABETH. AS IM LOOKING AROUND IN A CROUCHING ~~POSITION~~ IT STRIKES ME IM IN A MOURNING MIST IN THE PEARLY LIGHT OF DAWN, WITH A STRANGELY MASSIVE HEADACHE LIKE WHEN I AWOKE BEFORE, THAT MUCH I REMEMBER AND THE LOVELY LADIE MISS ELIZABETH. AS I ADVANCE FOWARD IN MOURNING MIST DAWN THE FOG PARTS TO REVEAL WOODS AND A GIANT MEDIUM SIZED BOAT OR SHIP OF SOME KIND WITH SEAWEEED FRINGED AND FROM LOOKING AT THE VESSEL WHERE THE SEA WEEED FRINGED THE VESSEL OF THE BOAT LOOKED TO BE 100 TO 150 FOOT LONG WITH BROWNISH TAN HULL, A SOUND CAUGHT MY HUNTER'S EAR AS I GLANCED UP AND SEEN A MAN STOOD ON A BOATS EDGE GAZING AND CATCHING GLIMPSE OF ME, ME LOOKING BACK AT HIM, HE SAYS AYE PETIE THOUGHT YOU GOT LOST FIND ~~THE~~ ANYTHING ON YOUR LOOK OUT THERE CAPTAIN, I REPLIED NO, AS HE WAS DROPPING A RAMP FOR A CLIMB BACK ON BOARD, ASKING WHAT WAS THERE TO DISCOVER, <sup>I SAID</sup> A EMPTY AND NO SIGHT OF STRANGERS. THE MAN REPLIED GOOD THEN WE SHOULD CAMP AND REST AS HE HAD BEEN GAZING INTO A SMALL SCOPE OUT AT THE GHOSTLY SEA AND THEN POINTED TO THE RIGHT AS I SAID BEFORE SHE'LL BE A DISASTER STORM BEIT WE SIT LET IT PASS. TELL THEN CAP'D I'LL GET THE BOYS AND SET OUT TO SEE DESTINY FOR THE DAY. FROM MY SURPRISE COUPLE MEN FROM THE SHIP APPEARED REPUEING AYO CAT, I WAVED, AN LOOKED AT EACH MAN WEARING DIFFERENT COLORED DYEED ROBES WITH VALUABLES ATTACHED AND SOME WERE BARE CHESTED <sup>WITH</sup> ~~AND~~ SILK OR KOTTON KILTS



AND FLOPPY KNIT CAPS COVERING THERE WAVY CURLED HAIR. AS I FILLED MY LUNGS WITH THE SMELL OF SEA WITH THE SCENT OF LAND AND TREES AND FLOWERS I STARED AT THE CREW AND NOTICED THEY KNEW THERE PLACES WELL AND STARTED OUT OILING THE MACHINERY FOR OUR NEXT SAIL, I NOTICED THE RIGGING WAS NEAT ~~AND~~ <sup>AND</sup> VERY ACCESSIBLE ~~ROOM~~. WHILE ANCHOR DROPPED AND THE CREW UNLOADING OUR NITES STAY CARGO, THE MAN I SEEN BEFORE WAS TALKING TO ANOTHER SHIPMATE AND I OVER HEARD HIM SAY A NAME "PUFFS", I TOOK THAT TO BE HIS NAME, AS I WATCHED AND THE SKIES LIGHTENED UP I NOTICED PUFFS WAS A MUSCULAR MAN, A FACE AS WEATHERED AS OLD LEATHER I SEEN WITH PROMINENT CHEEK BONES. AS THE MEN PARTED I TOLD PUFFS IF HE HAD ORGANIZED A SCOUTING PARTY TO STAY ABOARD AND GO ASHORE HE SMILED AND SAID HE DID AND ~~AND~~ <sup>SAID</sup> I CAP HAVE NOT LOST NO FAITH IN WHAT TO DO AND NEITHER SHOULD YOU IN A CAP'S ASSISTANT. I SAID GOOD NOW WE GO AND CAMP. AS WE HIT LAND PUFFS ORDERED MEN TO SET OUT AND SCOUT, I NOTICED THE MEN PROBABLY AFTER WEEKS ON DECK WALKED WITH A ROCKING BUT QUICKLY RECOVERED, THE MEN SEARCHED THE AREA AND CAME BACK SATISFIED IT WAS DESERTED ONLY COUPLE WORKN OUT LEANTOS, EACH MAN SET FIRES AND SET OUT HUNTING FOR FOOD WITH BOWS AND SPEARS IN HAND. THE DAY WAS SPENT WITH ME SOAKING UP KNOWLEDGE OF THE PEOPLE AND OUR VOYAGE AND ASKED VERY LITTLE QUESTIONS NOT TO DRAW ATTENTION TO MY LOST OF KNOWLEDGE OR WHY I WAS HERE AND HOW I WAS HERE, EVEN THAT WAS A MYSTERY TO ME AND I SAT LOIT AND REMEMBERING ELIZABETH THINKING WILL I SEE HER AGAIN, AND HOW, AND THE NEED TO, BUT FOR NOW I FOCUSED ON THE MATTER AT HAND



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THINKING IF I'LL END UP IN ANOTHER STRANGE PLACE AND  
WHY I'VE ENDING UP IN THESE PLACES AND WHATS THE MEANING, AS  
I STOOD UP AND WALKED TO A HILL OF ROCKS PROBING MY FINGERS  
TO BARELY VISIBLE LEVERAGE TO CLIMB I SET UP THE SIDE OF  
THE HILL ABOUT A DOZEN FEET ABOVE GROUND I TURNED AND SAT  
IN A HOLLOW ROCK AND THOUGHT LOOKING OUT TO SEA SEEING THE  
NIGHTMAREISH STORM WHIPPING OUT THE SEA IN WAVES AND WATCHED  
THE MEN SETTING OUT NEXT TO THE FIRE) EATING, TALKING AND  
SOME SLEEPING. I STILL SAT WONDERING WHAT TO DO SO I  
CLIMBED DOWN THE HILL THE OPPOSITE SIDE I WENT UP. AFTER  
DESCENDING THE HILL OF ROCKS I CALLED PUFFS CAUSE I NOTICED A  
TUNNEL. IN ONE OF THE FIRES I STARTED A TORCH AND ME AND  
PUFFS WALKED TO AND THROUGH THE OPENING IT EXTENDED A GOOD  
20 FEET BEFORE OPENING TO A CHAMBER, I LIT SEVERAL OF THOSE  
OIL LAMPS I SEEN IN PYRAMIDS THAT WERE HANGIN ON THE  
WALLS, WHILE THE LAMPS THREW OFF A BLAZING LIGHT IT WAS A  
NICE SMOOTH WALLED CHAMBER IN THIS TUNNEL WITH DIFFERENT  
TUNNELS TO THE LEFT AND RIGHT IN THE CENTER WHERE ME  
AND PUFFS WERE STANDING NEXT TO CIRCULAR PILLAR SECTION THAT  
OF HARD SMOOTH ROCK STOOD 4 FEET HIGH 5 FEET IN DIAMETER  
NEXT TO THE PILLAR OF STONE WAS A CRATE I POINTED TO IT  
AND PUFFS LOOKED IN THE DIRECTION OFF WHERE I POINTED  
AND SAID WELL LOOKIE THERE PETIE O CAP WE WALKED TO  
THE CRATE NOTICING IT WAS A CHEST OF SOME KIND, WE LOOKED  
AT EACH OTHER IN AWE WONDERING WHAT LIE INSIDE WITH  
A GLEAM FROM THE LIGHT BOTH OURS I COULD IMAGINE ALL  
EYES WITH A TWINKLE LIKE WE CAME UPON SOME LOST  
TREASURE, I BROKE THE SILENCE AND TOLD PUFFS WELL NOW



USE THAT SPEAR AND LETS A LOOKE IN HERE CHEST  
SHALL WE NOW. PUFFS CRACKED THE CHEST'S LID ON THE  
FIRST TRIE I LEANED INTO THE LID LIFTING IT AND PULLED  
BACK IN SURPRISE ON THE SHINE OF GOLD AND PEARLS AND DIAMONDS  
IN THE CHEST AND LOOKED AT PUFFS REACTIONS AND HE WAS  
SMILELING AYE CAPTAIN THE BOYS ON THE SHIP HAD LITTLE  
DOUBT ABOUT YOUR CAPTAINING A SHIP BUT YOU SHOWED YOUR  
FEARLESS, SAILED DAY AND NIGHT DOIN WHAT MOST SHIPS FAIL  
TO DO BUT WHEN I SAW YOU NOW I KNEW YOU WERENT BORN  
OF ANY SEA SAILINGS, BUT YOUR JUDGEMENT OF SEAMANSHIP ~~WERE~~  
IN BOUTS OF BAD WEATHER QUICKLY AND RESPECTFULLY THE MEN  
GAINED TO TRUST YOU AND YOU GAINED THERE RESPECT NOW CAPTAIN  
THEY'LL SHALL NEVER WANTO TO SAIL ANOTHER CAPTAIN ONLY WITH  
YOU ON A BOAT'S VESSEL LIKE ONE YOU GOT BUILT FOR LONG  
RANGE OPEN SEAS WITH VESSELS STRAIGHT LONG AND BUILT FROM  
TOUGH WOOD AND HULL THICK AND STRONG WITH SAIL SQUARE  
QUILTED FOR STRENGTH IN WINDS IN EFFICENT TOUGH SEAS. THEY  
TRUST YOUR GUIDE AND RESPECT YOUR DECISIONS. ME AT A LOSS FOR  
WORDS NOT KNOWING THIS LOOKED AT PUFFS AND SAID WITH A  
STARE AT THE CHEST OF TREASURE FINALLY SAID WELL I GUESS  
EACH MAN HAS EARNED A SHARES PROFIT FOR THERE DUTY NOW  
INCLUDING YOU PUFFS FLICKING A COIN OF GOLD IN HIS DIRECTION  
CATCHING IT HE SAID OUR WORK HERE IS DOWN DONE CAPT. LETS  
GET SOME BOYS AND CARRY THIS TO SAFETY AND, PUFFS DIRECTED  
SOME MEN TO THE CHAMBERS AND CARRIED THE CHEST TO THE RAMP  
OF THE SHIP WHILE I SAT AND THOUGHT OF WHAT PUFFS  
HAD SAID AND WITHOUT THINKING YELLED TO THE MEN THAT

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THEY PREPARE A FINE MEAL, PASS AROUND SOME DRINKS AND GET A GOOD NITE'S SLEEP MEN, TOMMORON WE SET SAIL. ALL THE MEN YELLED AND CHEERED WHILE I SMILED LAYING GAZEING IN THE SKY COUNTING THE STARS FORMING A FACE OF THE ONE I SAW LAST, ELIZABETH. WHILE I DRIFTED OFF TO SLEEP WONDERING WHAT THE NEXT DAY WILL BRING AND I WAS SLEEPING.....

TO BE CONTINUED.

PETER L. ORTEGA