

From the Deep

Where's the wisdom of reincarnation when you never die?

Tis but one of the questions I've pondered for my many years confined. Neither absence of air the crush o' water tortures my soul, no. Only the questions.

They were my own kin and crew that sent me to this forgotten depth, with naught but the Leviathan and the Kraken for company. Unseen company, o' course. I ne'er see those colossal interlopers, but I hear them, so I do. They roam about beyond the edge of my sight, makin' their squeals and hollow chirps out in that darkness. If they would but stray a little nearer, lash out with tentacle or tooth, I'd be free of these shackles and ascend.

I thought per'aps salvation might be found in the teeth of a shark for a time, but even the leaping white sharks of Dyer refused to do more than nip at the beginning, and a nip just will not do. It must be the head, or the heart, to fell my foul countenance. Now even the sharks stay beyond my sight, like the other monsters of this cursed place. Tis the curse that keeps them at bay, and me alive.

If I could but shuffle from this mortal coil I'd awake in my homeland, back where the sea was the only respite against the hot wind from the savannah and the ivory trade lined my pockets.

Back before that traitorous codpiece rallied my crew in mutiny.  
Back even before I brought that Edward Teach onto my ship.

I'd find them. Not just Teach, but all of them. All those heartless brigands what called themselves loyal. Those traitorous, yeasty sycophants who dared send the likes of me to the floor of the sea with chains 'bout my hands and feet. I'd find them, and I'd pay them in kind.

Oh, aye. Full in kind. There's none that betrays the Blackbeard and sings of it at port without recompense.

Sing of it I'm sure they do, then they return to my lovely Anne's Revenge and pilfer more for their rum money. But they don't know her as I do. They didn't know the Anne what gave her the name. The maiden taken from me for she were white as snow but my own skin darker 'en coal. Took me from the slavers, she did, gave me hearth and home and more.

And what should I do but embrace my anima curse when they took her from me? Embracing this endless circle of life that I might harry their waters and rob their goods to see them starve. Oh, aye. This curse I'd gladly bear to have Anne's revenge laid true. Until I consigned that Edward Teach.

He's a silver-tongued devil, he is. Convinced the nobility he was the true Blackbeard, and why not? With skin pale as milk they saw an equal, nevermind it was my hand on the helm and my

voice of command in their waiting ears. Until the night they came to my door with cutlasses to hand.

I slew four before they grabbed me and held me to my own deck. The few men loyal to me were savaged and tossed o'er the side already, and there was no aid to be had. Immortal I may be, and fearless of the sea, but I have no endless strength to fight forty so armed against me. Teach smiled and showed his rotted teeth as he took my hat and set me over the side with the cannon to sink me to this cursed blackness.

He smiles still, until I get free. Then he'll smile no more.

The seas are changing. I can tell by the sounds above and the taste of the water. There's a foul tang to the water as if lamp oil were spilled and spread along the current. The faint light above is brightened hither and yon by the flashes of battle, but these are no cannon bursts, no. Tis larger and the echoes of them reach me, even down here.

Then came the sound of metal in the deep. Like a smith's hammer on his anvil, echoing. How much time has passed, I cannot say, but the seas are changing. I hear the sounds more often now, and there's times I see the shadow of monstrosity on the edge of my sight.

They grow larger even than the Leviathans and churn the water with their passage. Are they the metal of man or creatures

of the Christian God's vengeance seeking me out? It matters not,  
so long as they free me from this prison.

My time will come again, and their judgment shall come  
after.

Until then I wait.

I ponder me questions and wait.

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