

S'oshan Festival

28 July 2008
Xieng Khouang

It is that indefinable time between afternoon and evening on the southwest shores of 'The Big Island,' Xieng Khouang. It is the second day of Festival, and there seems no end in sight to the celebrating. The S'oshans (or is it the Mer?) are generous hosts. Perhaps you have just arrived, or perhaps you have been taking your fill of all there is to see and do. There are contests of every kind, ranging from the playful to the martial: there is dancing and singing, dramatic performances, bardic recitals; there is swimming -- perhaps you've tried your skill and daring on those slender wooden boards the islanders use to skim the waves; there are outrigger, dolphin, and tortoise rides; there is shopping in The Splash; and there is enough food at the vendor's stalls to feed an army...

The Splash itself -- Xieng Khouang's marketplace and merchant district -- has overflowed its bounds, crossing right over the magnificent, glittering white Wall to go sprawling up the beaches and down the docks of The Front.

Perhaps you were part of the select group invited to dine with the Mer Princes and the glittering dignitaries of The Pearl of the South Seas... If so, then you are one of the very few mainlanders allowed access to the Illumination Hall within the caverns beneath the city. The rock walls are polished until they gleam, the better to reflect the phosphorescent glow of carefully cultured colonies of lichen that bathe the Hall in thin blue light. Gentle waterfalls interrupt the smooth walls, lending their melody to that of the mysterious, keening Harp of the Sea which, though not visible, is clearly audible and clearly uncanny. Though you will never hear it spoken by the Mer, it is rumored that the Illumination Hall was built as a substitute banquet chamber when Aloryn Thar, the Coral Palace, could not be completed in time for the Festival. Aloryn Thar itself is strictly off limits to all visitors. It is not a safe place...

And speaking of dignitaries -- Illumination Hall or not, the upper ranking Hydromancers, save perhaps one or two, seem to be conspicuously absent. There are rumors about that, too.

The Islanders could not have asked for more spectacular weather. The temperature is balmy, the winds off the Elbonian are cool and refreshing. Come, sink your toes into the warm sands, feel the rhythm of the islands, lose your heart to the song of the sea...

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NARRATOR: ::The festival is in mid-swing! There is the expected singing and dancing. Food. Laughter. All good things. And down at the water's edge, a huge Half-lo is calling for the participants in the Surf Show!::

NARRATOR: ::It's the Islanders who think it'll be a show, because this particular event has been designated as Mainlander Only!:: Test your Balance! Ride the waves!

CWT Sasha: ::Sasha laughs:: I love it!

Havoc Sadani: ::Havoc pauses at yet another food-filled table, unable to decide if he should eat more now or later....::

Nisi Brenshca: ::Nisi, her hair up in a ponytail, wore little but a long shirt, tied at the waist, making a rather short dress of it.::

Jiti Man: ::The gray half-lo teen curses under his breath and drags his board away from the shore.....: Shoulda told me earlier....

NARRATOR: ::A pair of brown-skinned children run through the crowd, doing cartwheels and tumbles and possibly lifting things they ought not.::

Nisi Brenshca: Come on Connor. I've been practicing all afternoon! ::She tugged him towards the sea.::

CWT Sasha: ::She dodges the little ones and looks for music.::

Samuel Lindow: ::Silver stretched out on the ground, watching youngsters playing in the water, enjoying the nice *dry* land with a nice *wet* drink.::

NARRATOR: Here, den! ::laughs the Big Man, waving at Jiti Man:: Maybe dese folks is needin' some inspiration!

Connor A McGill: ::Connor shoved the blond curls back from his forehead. He looked happy and relaxed, as if he belonged here. The sun and surf was agreeing with him.::

Angelique Matteo: ::Makwi. She took another sip and...yes, she liked it.::

Jiti Man: @::makes the long trek back along the street...hands the board over to a large green half-lo:: Take it. Contest is for the landlovers...

Connor A McGill: ::He let her tug him, grinning:: I know. I've been watching.

Jiti Man: @ [Pudgy] Sorry about that chum.

CWT Sasha: Hello, Silver! Are you playing this eve, or relaxing?

NARRATOR: Everybody got a board? ::he calls out.:: We got extras right here! ::and sure enough, there's a whole line of boards standing up in the sand behind him.::

Jiti Man: @[Pudgy] But you can keep the stick if you want. My treat.

Samuel Lindow: ::He opened his eyes to glance at Sasha.:: Relaxing is much preferable.

Nisi Brenshca: Hi Sasha! You came! ::waving to her friend as she drags Connor past, carrying her board.::

Samuel Lindow: ::he smiled up at her and sipped his cider.::

Cait McGill: I'm game! ::She ran to grab a board.::

Jiti Man: @Thanks Roe. Guess I better watch the dogpaddlers drown...:hands him the board and waves.::

Jiti Man: @[Pudgy]::shakes his head and waves him off.::

Havoc Sadani: ::He nudged Angel's elbow and pointed at the assembling contest.:: You goin' t'try it?

Connor A McGill: ::He spies his sister, as he's dragged toward the water.:: Hey,

Cait!

Nisi Brenshca: ::She gave Connor a kiss, then left him to head into the water.::

Jiti Man: ::is back::

Connor A McGill: ::He kissed Nisi back and plopped down on the beach out of the way of the surfers::

Angelique Matteo: I don't exactly know how. Do you? ::She nudged him back. Careful of her drink ,of course.::

Nisi Brenshca: ::She always was more at home in the water than on land.::
Hey Havoc!

NARRATOR: Into the water with ya! ::he waves, grinning gleefully. Can't wait to see this!::

Cait McGill: ::Cait had her hair tucked up under a scarf and was wearing what might be best be called a sarong, the sky is falling, Cait's in a dress::

Havoc Sadani: Hey, Nisi! ::He waved a food-on-a-stick delicacy:: I tried it when I was here b'fore ::to Angel.::

Nisi Brenshca: Just like you. Rather eat than surf!

Cait McGill: ::she waved back to Connor before heading into the water::

Nisi Brenshca: Sasha! Come on in! ::She paddled out to sea.::

CWT Sasha: Hey Nisi! ::She waves back, tho Nisi and Connor are long lost in the crowd::

Samuel Lindow: ::he lay back and enjoyed the noise around him::

Angelique Matteo: You enter, then. ::She nodded.:: You might have a better shot. ::she drank another sip.:: Is it free, to enter?

Connor A McGill: ::He had swapped his walking stick for a piece of driftwood, and barely seemed to notice his limp::

Havoc Sadani: Ay-ya, it's free. You enter. ::Nudge.::

Angelique Matteo: I'm going to kill myself. ::She didn't seem troubled by this possibility. Maybe it was the Makwi.::

Nisi Brenshca: All right Cait! ::waving::

Connor A McGill: ::He found himself somewhere near Silver and offered the elf a winning smile::

Havoc Sadani: I think there's prizes. ::He squinted as he looked around.:: They been givin' prizes for everythin'.

Jiti Man: ::snatches a board.:: Let's do this, ay?

CWT Sasha: Where'd you get the drink? I need to go find one

Samuel Lindow: ::He nodded back at Connor and sipped his cider::

NARRATOR: C'mon, you an' you! ::He waved and pointed at some of the watchers.:: Not afraid a few girls are goin' to beat you, are ya?

Cait McGill: ::She waved back to Nisi.::

jinxkj1 has joined this chat.

Samuel Lindow: Over that way, there are several stands with a wide variety. ::he

waved his hand behind him::

Nisi Brenshca: The men are wimps! ::laughing to Cait::

Angelique Matteo: Do they have um...boards? One I can borrow?

Connor A McGill: ::He took a sip of his drink, which was some sort of tropical concoction and found it pleasing to his tastebuds::

Jiti Man: ::he hit the water rough with a splash...water pasted black and silver hair to his lean slate form as he paddled out::

Havoc Sadani: ::He tossed the stick into a fire and wiped his hands on his pants, then pointed:: See there? Boards. C'mon.

CWT Sasha: Be right back! ::She heads for the bar for Limon Blanc::

Cait McGill: ::She chuckled:: I think one of them just hit the water!

Angelique Matteo: ::She followed, downing the rest of her drink along the way. Fruity tasting, how strong could it be? It didn't taste strong...::

Jiti Man: ::he was clearly anything but a mainlander, but was very much in a "go flood yourself" state of mind::

Nisi Brenshca: Don't they know they're supposed to stay on top of the water to surf? ::giggling::

Havoc Sadani: ::Giving Angel a grin, he trotted down to the boards and picked himself out one. Ditching his shirt, he rolled his pants up -- again -- and headed out into the water::

NARRATOR: Is everyone ready, den??? ::The Big Man hollered::

Connor A McGill: ::He stretched his legs out in the sand and leaned back to soak up the rays::

Angelique Matteo: ::When her drink was gone, she set the mug down in the sand and bent to tie her linen skirt up a little higher:: Wait, wait, I'm coming...just a ::she grabbed a board, any board, waded in...::

CWT Sasha: ::She turns around to watch the fun:: This'll be good

Jiti Man: ::the board slipped through his legs and bouyed him up to a seated position::

Connor A McGill: ::It looked like they were having fun, and he frowned just a little with a pang of envy::

NARRATOR: Aaaaa'right den! See you all try to stay out of the other, and go catch a wave!

Samuel Lindow: ::Silver had chosen his wardrobe so as to make people notice him. He was dressed in silver silk from head...almost to toe. His long golden hair reflecting the light practically turned his head into a ball of flame::

Cait McGill: ::She called to Nisi:: A silver says HAvoc falls off his board!

CWT Sasha: ::She heads back toward Connor and Silver::

Havoc Sadani: Oh, you hush! ::he waved his fist and went back to paddling::

Jiti Man: ::turtles under a hard wave and bobs back up::

Nisi Brenshca: Double if he can't find his board after!

Cait McGill: ::She flashed a grin at Havoc then nods to Nisi:: You're on!!

Connor A McGill: ::He waved to Nisi and Cait from the beach, even though he

knows they're too busy to wave back::

Angelique Matteo: ::With little idea of what to do, she settled for watching the others and trying to imitate them. Her linen blouse and skirt were soon soaked through::

NARRATOR: ((I have Nisi, Cait, Jiti, Havoc, Angel...? We'll go in that order. First roll of dice counts as is. The remainder will go according to the scoreboard.))

onlinehost: Jiti Man rolled 1 10-sided die: 1

onlinehost: Nisi Brenshca rolled 1 10-sided die: 6

onlinehost: Cait McGill rolled 1 10-sided die: 7

Kirke Lucor has joined this chat.

onlinehost: Havoc Sadani rolled 1 10-sided die: 1

onlinehost: Angelique Matteo rolled 1 10-sided die: 4

Havoc Sadani: ::Of course he fell right off, spluttering and squawking::

Jiti Man: ::tries to stand and the board goes slipping out from right under his feet::

CWT Sasha: ::She laughs:: There they go!

Jiti Man: ::blubbelblubbelglub::

Nisi Brenshca: ::She managed to stay up, and nearly fell off again when she noticed Havoc::

Cait McGill: ::She'd gotten up on the board, but was a little shakey::

NARRATOR: And dey's off! ::he laughed and pointed:: Some of dem really off!

Angelique Matteo: ::There was a lot of flailing and improper language from Angel...::

Jiti Man: ::coughs:: ::should have gone back for the other board::

Connor A McGill: ::He wasn't surprised to see Nisi and his sister stay on the board::

NARRATOR: ::Nisi and Cait had both made it up well!::

Angelique Matteo: Stupid flooding...

Samuel Lindow: ::he opened his eyes and found Sasha back, then they rested on the surfers, amusement flickered across his face as he watched the contestants::

Havoc Sadani: Go on, Angel! ::splutter struggle:: Make me proud!

NARRATOR: ((Next Roll!))

Connor A McGill: ::He was thinking about how nice it was here and idly wondered what it would be like to live here::

onlinehost: Jiti Man rolled 1 10-sided die: 1

Jiti Man: ::...::

onlinehost: Nisi Brenshca rolled 1 10-sided die: 6

onlinehost: Cait McGill rolled 1 10-sided die: 3

onlinehost: Angelique Matteo rolled 1 10-sided die: 1

onlinehost: Havoc Sadani rolled 1 10-sided die: 9

Jiti Man: ((ignore this::

onlinehost: Jiti Man rolled 1 10-sided die: 5

Havoc Sadani: Yeeeeehaaaa!!! ::he hooted::

Jiti Man: ::can't even find his board:: Floodin' A!

Angelique Matteo: Bloody uncooperative board, you... ::and under the waves she went::

Cait McGill: Whooa...::teetering on the board:: Almost like riding a wild horse!

Connor A McGill: Looks like fun. ::mostly to himself::

CWT Sasha: ::Almost spills her wine, laughing::

Nisi Brenshca: ::She just laughed::

Connor A McGill: ::He wasn't quite the fish Nisi was in water, but he could hold his own::

Samuel Lindow: ::he chuckles and sets his own drink on the ground so he wouldn't splash it everywhere::

NARRATOR: ((Cait and Havoc are doing grand at 10! Nisi managed to stay on her board with 9. Angel about lost it at 6 and Jiti is in the water!))

Nisi Brenshca: You have a wild board there Cait! ::calling to her::

Jiti Man: ::gets smacked by a wave::

Connor A McGill: ::He was determined to try it later on, when no one was around to watch::

NARRATOR: ((ROLL!))

onlinehost: Jiti Man rolled 1 10-sided die: 6

Cait McGill: Needs reins! ::She laughed::

onlinehost: Cait McGill rolled 1 10-sided die: 3

onlinehost: Nisi Brenshca rolled 1 10-sided die: 2

onlinehost: Havoc Sadani rolled 1 10-sided die: 10

onlinehost: Angelique Matteo rolled 1 10-sided die: 6

CWT Sasha: Who's the guy who can't get up on his board.... or just got on his board?

Connor A McGill: I dunno. Never saw him before.

Samuel Lindow: He's amusing at least.

Connor A McGill: At least, he's out there.

Jiti Man: ::the humiliation has to be rough on his morale::

Cait McGill: ::She start slipping around on the board::

Jiti Man: ::the boy pulls the hair out of his eyes::

Connor A McGill: ::he glanced back at Sasha and Silver:: Why aren't you two out there?

Samuel Lindow: ::he smiled mischiviously....would it be cheating to send a sudden gust of air at one of the surfers? A STRONG gust?::

Nisi Brenshca: ::Nisi was laughing so hard she was failing miserably::

Connor A McGill: ::he smirked at Silver and nodded:: Yes.

CWT Sasha: Me? I'm not that co-ordinated!

Connor A McGill: ::whoops, scratch that::

Jiti Man: ::it would be cheating...why's everyone so mean?::

Jiti Man: ::hehe::

Samuel Lindow: I prefer the air.

Connor A McGill: ::He arched a brow at Silver, curiously::

Samuel Lindow: Sasha? Would it be cheating if one of the surfers uh...*accidentally* were swept of their boards by a sudden gust of wind?

Jiti Man: ::is on the board maybe? Do we roll again?::

Connor A McGill: ::Now he smirks at Silver, but doesn't reply as the question was aimed at Sasha::

CWT Sasha: Silver! Shame on you!

Connor A McGill: So long as it's not Nisi or Cait.

CWT Sasha: ::she was laughing though:: They're having enough problems!

Samuel Lindow: ::He smiled, the nearest thing to a grin he had ever made. He broke out laughing:: True.

CWT Sasha: Silver, have you met Connor? ::indicates the man on the other side of her::

Connor A McGill: Havoc seems to be doing all right.

NARRATOR: ((One moment please. Technical difficulties!))

Samuel Lindow: I believe I have seen you around the Crosswinds Tavern. ::it was particaly a question::

Connor A McGill: ::He looked over at the elf again:: Nice to meet you.

Samuel Lindow: ::he offered his hand to the young human:: Silver.

Connor A McGill: ::He reached over to take Silver's hand and give it a shake:: Connor.

CWT Sasha: Silver, this is Connor. Connor, this is Silver

Connor A McGill: ::grins up at Sasha; We're way ahead of you. ::He reached back into the water and splashed Sasha::

Connor A McGill: ::Or reached forward or wherever the heck the water was::

Samuel Lindow: ::he ducked so he wouldn't get wet::

Connor A McGill: ::It was a small splash::

Havoc Sadani: ::Havoc was having a grand time, though he expected to fall off again any second::

CWT Sasha: ::Ack!:: Whew! You missed my drink!

Connor A McGill: ::he laughed:: It's just water. Can you swim?

Cait McGill: ::Unlike with horses, Cait was not likely to be doing tricks on a surfboard any time soon::

Connor A McGill: ::He eyed Sasha mischievously and considered tossing her into the water::

NARRATOR: ((Sorry for the confusion! We're having a change of scoring plans, going with straight point count, you're all more or less at the Easy Mount Level, one more round!))

Samuel Lindow: I can do better than that. ::he smiled sweetly and air above the

water began swirling, picking up water with it::

CWT Sasha: Me? Of course

Connor A McGill: ::He frowned over at Silver:: Showoff

CWT Sasha: Silver! Stop that!

NARRATOR: ((Current score: Nisi 14, Cait 13, Jiti 8, Havoc 20, Angel 11))

NARRATOR: ((ROLL!))

onlinehost: Nisi Brenshca rolled 1 10-sided die: 7

onlinehost: Cait McGill rolled 1 10-sided die: 6

NARRATOR: ((Straight point count = whatever you've rolled thus far))

Samuel Lindow: ::The air died down and *most* of the water returned to the sea...a few drops flew towards Sasha::

onlinehost: Havoc Sadani rolled 1 10-sided die: 7

onlinehost: Masked Brawler rolled 1 10-sided die: 3

onlinehost: Angelique Matteo rolled 1 10-sided die: 6

Samuel Lindow: ::he couldn't resist::

Jiti Man: ::yeah, that was me...3 points::

Jiti Man: ::wobbles about a little under the sudden gust::

Connor A McGill: I can do better than that.

Angelique Matteo: ::Was she surfing? She wasn't sure...::

CWT Sasha: ::She laughs and ducks::

Connor A McGill: ::He pushed himself up from the sand and handed Silver his glass, leaving the driftwood cane on the sand:: Hold this.

Samuel Lindow: ::he looks carefully at connor, prepared to block any huge amounts of water if they came at him...he was not very fond of being dunked::

Havoc Sadani: ::Havoc glided in... and flailed his arms wildly:: Whooooaaaa!!!

NARRATOR: And we have a winner!! ::The Big Man laughed::

Jiti Man: ::sliiiiiides to shore::

Nisi Brenshca: ::She managed to land on her feet, if clumsily as she reached the shore::

Connor A McGill: ::With a big grin on his face, he went over to Sasha and scooped her up in his arms and carried her toward the water::

CWT Sasha: ::she shrieked:: CONNOR!

Angelique Matteo: ::She did make it to shore, bedraggled and wet, but she made it::

NARRATOR: ((In order of place: Havoc 27, Nisi 21, Cait 19, Angel 17, and our 'special' Half-lo entry at an amazing 11!))

Samuel Lindow: ::the laughter started up again::

CWT Sasha: Put me down!

Connor A McGill: Time to get wet!

Samuel Lindow: You said you could swim.

Connor A McGill: Say please.

CWT Sasha: No ! NonononoNONONoonono!

Connor A McGill: That's not please.

CWT Sasha: PLEASE no!

Connor A McGill: ::and into the water he went, carrying Sasha::

Jiti Man: ::throws the borrowed board down and stomps off:: ::growls:: Stupid trainin' boards. Like ridin' a damned pontoon.

Connor A McGill: ::limping a little but not noticing it much::

Cait McGill: ::she took the scarf off of head and shook out her soaking hair. Her sarong was plastered to her skin::

Havoc Sadani: ::Laughing, he grabbed up his board and turned to see where the others were.:: Tha' was nang!

CWT Sasha: ACK! *glub*

Nisi Brenshca: ::She laughed and clapped Havoc on the back.:: Great job!

Jiti Man: ::wanders off to complain about how they dragged a half-lo kid in with a rigged board just to make the mainlanders feel good::

Connor A McGill: ::A wave came up over them, but he tossed her in, though the water was not deep here::

Havoc Sadani: Thanks! ::Grinning, he kissed her cheek and went to help Angel:: Who won? I was too busy tryin' t'stay up t'see!

Angelique Matteo: I think I'll take another Makwi.. ::stopping to wring out her skirt.:: And... I don't know! I was under water for some of it.

CWT Sasha: ::She managed to grab a gulp of air just in time::

Cait McGill: ::She returned the board to where she'd gotten it then wrung out her hair::

Connor A McGill: ::He ducked under the water and pulled her back out::

Havoc Sadani: Oh, no ::he laughed.:: Want to give it another go?

Nisi Brenshca: ::She glanced over at Connor, then turned to Cait:: You were great.

Samuel Lindow: ::he couldn't resist, a strong gust of wind went spinning in Connor's direction::

CWT Sasha: ::and comes up sputtering and laughing::Connor McGill!

Cait McGill: Thanks, so were you. ::She smiled to Nisi::

Angelique Matteo: No! ::she laughed.:: You go ahead. I think you did better than I did.

CWT Sasha: ::she ducks back under to let the water push her hair out of her face::

Connor A McGill: ::he laughed, eyes sparkling with mischief:: Yes?

NARRATOR: Step up for your prizes! You there with the red hair! ::he pointed at Cait and held his hand out for his official aid to give him a trinket.::

CWT Sasha: ::She aims a splash at him and grins up at him:: Well done

Nisi Brenshca: You got a prize! ::She pushed Cait forward::

CWT Sasha: Dog-gone it.

Connor A McGill: ::The gust of wind knocked him off balance, along with a wave, and he went under::

CWT Sasha: ::Laughing harder now, she works to get to her feet::

Samuel Lindow: ::he smiled when his plan carried through::

Connor A McGill: ::He was back up on his feet fairly quickly, sputtering::

Samuel Lindow: Now your even.

Connor A McGill: ::He glanced back at the beach and yelled back at Silver::
You'll get yours!

NARRATOR: Third place! You are now the proud owner of 'Tears of Ninidia' - a few drops of water taken from the sacred pools found on the islands of Pa'ahana and Gangdoh. The tiny bottle is tied up with magical rune beads and guarantees fertility.

Cait McGill: ::She went over to claim her prize::

Samuel Lindow: Was that a threat?

jinxkj1: ::strolls closer to the surfers to see if she was right about knowing some of the entrants::

Connor A McGill: ::He grabbed Sasha's hand to help her back to the beach::
No, it's a promise. ::with a grin at Silver::

NARRATOR: ::He gave Cait her prize, a huge hug, and then waved at blond Nisi::
You, dere, Missy!

CWT Sasha: :: She follows him out of the water::

Cait McGill: ::She looked a little green around the gills at that pronouncement, but she hid it quickly:: Thank you.

Nisi Brenshca: ::Surprised, since she thought she did lousy, she headed over to NARRATOR::

Connor A McGill: ::They were as soaking wet as the surfers now::

CWT Sasha: Well, I am certainly cooler!

Connor A McGill: You should go swimming with Nisi and me sometime.

NARRATOR: You get the second place. Very nice! ::Beaming, he gave her a beautifully carved and painted Ori Hiake (Spirit Mask) and one bottle of Oceanusian Red Wine::

Cait McGill: ::Ack, she was squished by a large islander::

Connor A McGill: ::He applauded the winners and the losers and went over to give Nisi a big hug::

Ashoken xx: @::striding through the streets of Xieng Khouang, she recognized little of the town, so long it had been.

Nisi Brenshca: ::She grinned:: Thanks.

Masked Brawler: ::listens to the prizes, a head tilt the only visible expression he has made at the sound::

NARRATOR: ::Another hug for another pretty girl. It was a rough job::

CWT Sasha: I wouldn't want to intrude on you two

jinxkj1: Doesn't look like anyone drowned. ::said behind Angelique::

Connor A McGill: ::He heard Sasha and laughed:: Don't be silly. The more the merrier.

Nisi Brenshca: ::She hugged NARRATOR, then side-stepped Connor, and

moved away.::

Angelique Matteo: I survived. ::She turned to Jinx, a smile on her face. Her long hair was dripping with water.::

Havoc Sadani: ::Grinning and oblivious, he gave Angel a kiss and went to put their boards away.::

Ashoken xx: @::and though she went through an internal check list, her gaze, ice blue and cold on such a warm day, shifted and was always moving.::

Connor A McGill: ::He frowned at Nisi:: What?

CWT Sasha: The surfers had fun. Who won? I was a bit distracted.

jinxkj1: ::turns her glance towards the water to give the kissers a little privacy.::

Ashoken xx: @::She walked like someone who's way should be gotten out of and it was that more than the tabard she wore that marked her as from Malcoven that made them move.::

Nisi Brenshca: I'm glad you had fun dunking Sasha during the contest. Too bad you missed it. I have to go return my board.

NARRATOR: An' you, sir! ::He bellowed at Havoc, even though he was a scant half-dozen feet away.:: First prize is yours!

Connor A McGill: I didn't miss anything.

Cait McGill: ::She watched to see who won.::

Angelique Matteo: Well look at that. ::She said to Jinx.:: I think Havoc won!

Connor A McGill: Oh, pardon me for having fun.

jinxkj1: I think you may be right. Congrats, Havoc.

Havoc Sadani: Me? ::He stopped and stared stupidly.::

Connor A McGill: ::He turned on a heel and went to retrieve his driftwood cane and drink from Silver.::

Nisi Brenshca: I'm glad you had fun.

Masked Brawler: @::he drifted, mask bearing a broad blood-streaked crescent on the left cheek, and found his way to grilled squid stall.::

Ashoken xx: @::that or two soldiers that flanked her - living. The day was too bright for her undead to do more than guard the pavilion she called home.::

Nisi Brenshca: ::She headed off to talk to the man who she borrowed the board from.::

Connor A McGill: ::mumbling to himself, he retrieved his drink and cane.:: Thanks.

NARRATOR: First place is grand! ::He clapped Havoc on the shoulder and turned him to see an islander trotting up with one mahuka (surfboard) of breadfruit wood, hand carved and stained by Kiue Oto, the finest board craftsman in the islands!::

Samuel Lindow: No problem. ::he smiled, his eyes once more closed...he hadn't let down his guard yet though.::

Jiti Man: ::if he was still here, he would be pissed.::

Connor A McGill: ::He tossed back the drink, his good mood soured.:: Sorry, Sasha.

NARRATOR: An' along with dat, you get One bottle each of Makwi and Mango White Wine, and a 'punui' necklace from Akheri, constructed of alternating bamboo 'spike' beads and coconut shell beads. (A delectable way to stay in fashion! Distributed both locally and abroad by Prince of Pau! Trading, Inc.)

Ashoken xx: @::The loud sounds, the pretty people, the bright colors were meant to entice, to snare, to capture. How fitting.::

Connor A McGill: I can never seem to do anything right.

CWT Sasha: ::she looks at him, confused::

Angelique Matteo: ::She imagined Havoc paddling around on the board in the creek near their home.:::

Jiti Man: ::but one could say of the irony of winning a new board using a borrowed board while your friend holds the board he made for you that it would be...unpleasant, to say the least....::

CWT Sasha: Huh?

Jiti Man: ::But Jiti was busy bitching and moaning elsewhere and could not appreciate it::

Havoc Sadani: All tha'? ::He scrambled to take his winnings and keep the board from falling over.::

Connor A McGill: Nothing.

CWT Sasha: I get the feeling I missed something

Connor A McGill: No, I did, apparently.

Cait McGill: What, he doesn't get the hug, too? ::She yelled over and grinned:: Thanks, by the way.

jinxkj1: ::claps and whistles for Havoc::

Angelique Matteo: Are you here to compete, Jinx? Or just enjoying?

NARRATOR: Congratulations, Mister Gull! You must have some Islander blood in you! ::And Havoc got a big hug, too.::

Havoc Sadani: Awwwwkk!!!

Samuel Lindow: ::he kept his eyes closed and stayed out of this::

jinxkj1: I just came to see what your islands were like. ::grins::
Comparing them to home.

Connor A McGill: ::He handed off his empty glass to a passing vendor, waving away a refill:: I think maybe I'll head on home.

Havoc Sadani: ::Grinning like a fool, he toted his loot over to Angel.:: Lookie here!

Angelique Matteo: And how do they compare? ::She clapped for Havoc.:: Ooh, very nice. May I have the Makwi?

jinxkj1: Very different. Very different.

Samuel Lindow: ::he reached for his mug of cider by his side...it wasn't there, he opened his eyes. Someone had stolen it when he wasn't paying attention. Annoyance flaired up::

Havoc Sadani: Only cuz you're cute, an' only if y'share.

Angelique Matteo: Of course I'll share. ::Sure she would. She might. A little.::

Connor A McGill: ::He shoved the wet hair back from his forehead, his shirt plastered to his chest::

CWT Sasha: I'm going shopping. See if I can find something to take to the girls ::She gets up and wanders over to the vendors' stalls::

Cait McGill: ::Cait drifted off into the crowd::

Connor A McGill: ::He sighed, he could take a hint::

Angelique Matteo: Havoc, Jinx came to watch the show. ::gesturing to her friend::

Connor A McGill: ::he glanced over the crowd, looking for Nisi, but not moving from that spot::

Samuel Lindow: ::he pretended to be asleep on the sand::

Havoc Sadani: How are ya, Jinx? ::He grinned at her, too.He was having a wonderful time. Maybe he'd move here.::

jinxkj1: ::waves a hand Havocward:: And I'm trying to pick the Mer from the not so Mer.

Nisi Brenshca: ::She wasn't in sight, which she wouldn't have been if she'd gone to return the surf board.::

Connor A McGill: ::He lifted a hand to shield his eyes and get a better view::

She's mad at me. ::He mumbled to no one::

CWT Sasha has left this chat.

NARRATOR: ::The Big Man lifted his hands to cup his mouth again.:: Anybody here up for another round wit the swords??

Angelique Matteo: Where's your guy, Jinx? ::She was eyeing Havoc's prizes. The ones he won, that is.::

Havoc Sadani: ::He was just born with some of 'em. Lucky that way.::

jinxkj1: Cris? Sleeping. ::grins wide:: I treated him to a massage and other spa treatments. Relaxed him right in to nappy land.

Masked Brawler: ::raises his sheathed weapon to the sky for NARRATOR to see::

Angelique Matteo: Sleeping right through the sword fighting, hm? ::She laughed.::

Nisi Brenshca: ::She headed back to the beach, wearing her pants now, though her shirt was still wet.::

Ashoken xx: ::She timed it perfectly. She arrived just as the Big Man asked for swords participants. She raised her hand, but her weapon remained at her side.::

jinxkj1: ::nods:: And the surfing which he'll be annoyed about, I'm sure.

NARRATOR: One? Where's all your brave parts, eh? Who's gonna show this fellow their game?

Connor A McGill: ::He glanced toward the sword contest, but he didn't dare enter::

Kirke Lucor: ::all day he'd been taking in the sights and he too arrived just in time to test his... mettle. he raised his hand as well, a sheathed blade by his side.::

Connor A McGill: ::his mouth formed a grim line:: Got a sword, Silver?

jinxkj1: He's been learning to wave ride when he visits my home.

Angelique Matteo: You entering this too, Dhami? ::Giving him a sideways look::

Nisi Brenshca: Any restrictions on types of swords? ::calling out to the man.::

NARRATOR: Ah, der! ::He pointed at Ashoken:: And der! Dat's de way! ::He pointed at Lucor.::

Connor A McGill: ::he hadn't brought one.::

Angelique Matteo: Has he? I could use lessons. My technique is...flawed.

Samuel Lindow: I do not use a sword. ::yet. His eyes remained closed as he basked.::

Ashoken xx: ::She had almost thought it was a slight but then she was acknowledged and she turned to the two guardsmen.::

Connor A McGill: ::He jerked his head toward Nisi.::

Masked Brawler: ::the brawler threw back his cloak, revealing a second sword at his waist.::

Havoc Sadani: Me? Sword fight? ::He looked at her like she'd suddenly sprouted scales or something.::

jinxkj1: Well, you'd have to suffer a trip to Okannah.

Samuel Lindow: ::he had taken up wearing a long knife at his belt, again, but that was the only weapon he carried.::

Ashoken xx: ::She stripped herself of the tabard and insignias that marked her station within the Malcoven Guard.::

Kirke Lucor: ::he didn't look at the others, his dark bangs dangling in his eyes.::

Havoc Sadani: Here, Jinx'll fight. Wontcha, Jinx? ::He gave her a little push toward the fellow yelling for fighters.::

Connor A McGill: ::He recognized the "professionals" in the crowd and muttered.:: Not much of a contest.

jinxkj1: ::stumbles forward then steps back quick.:: I don't think so.

Angelique Matteo: ::Her eyes had fixed on Ashoken.::

jinxkj1: Do you see a sword? ::dressed in relatively little.::

Havoc Sadani: Aw, c'mon. I'll bet you can zip in an' out b'tween 'em without even tryin'.

Masked Brawler: ::a flick and spin of his wrist tangled the cloak and a snap sent it flying to the side...beneath, a buccaneer's jacket and a breastplate of cured leather, every inch of skin bound in wraps and clothing.::

Kirke Lucor: ::nothing much marked him - but for a single thin, white scar from cheek to chin on the right side of his face.::

Nisi Brenshca: ::She moved to the sword fighting area. She had her rapier with her.::

Cait McGill: ((I need to know who is pairing off with who before the show gets on the road. Thanks))

Connor A McGill: ::he narrowed his eyes at Nisi and made his way toward her.:: What do you think you're doing?

Samuel Lindow: ::His ears picked up Connor leaving, and he jumped up to go find another drink and possibly something to eat.::

Ashoken xx: ::She wore brigandine, one sword at her hip, a long dagger somewhere. She

rolled her shoulders as she looked over the competition.::

Nisi Brenshca: :She glanced around and sort of smiled at Connor:: Entering the contest. You aren't?

Havoc Sadani: Oh, hey, ::He would have elbowed Angel, but he was juggling prizes.:: Looks like Nisi's gonna have a go!

Ashoken xx: ::And more importantly, who was watching.::

Connor A McGill: Are you out of your mind?

jinxkj1: Yeah, I probably could but I'm not going to. ::oh yea, like she was going to mess with Ash..not::

Nisi Brenshca: No.

Masked Brawler: ::he could care less about the competition, it seemed, as his eyes were on his own hands, flexing and unflexing::

Connor A McGill: ::He gestured toward the crowd:: Do these people look like they're playing a game?

Angelique Matteo: I hope she's careful. ::softly. She knew of Ashoken's reputation.::

Connor A McGill: I didn't bring a sword. Besides, you know I can't...

Ashoken xx: ::Yes, her reputation did not include tournaments. Strange.::

Nisi Brenshca: If you say so.

Connor A McGill: Lend me yours then.

Havoc Sadani: Here, hold this ::He thrust the two bottles at Angel.::

Angelique Matteo: All right. ::She took the bottles, hardly looking at them. She was still staring.::

Nisi Brenshca: Kinda hard since I'm using it.

Cait McGill: *(Malia)* ::A slender woman with long black hair moved out of the crowd:: Extra blades are available. ::She gestured to a wooden rack:: Who is matched with who, please?

Connor A McGill: ::He overheard Malia:: Fine... I'm matched with her. ::gesturing to Nisi::

Nisi Brenshca: ::She looked at the group.:: No. I'll fight him. ::Pointing to Kirke::

Havoc Sadani: ::He fastened the necklace around Angel's neck.:: Maybe we shouldn't watch. I don't wanna have t'tell Da -- ::Speaking of which, where was he? He looked around. The man was here somewhere...::

Connor A McGill: ::He eyed Kirke.::

Masked Brawler: ::it was not so much that he was avoiding eye contact, as he seemed unaware of the concept. Of course, he was wearing a mask, so that was an obstacle::

Connor A McGill: Are you afraid I might beat you?

Nisi Brenshca: You know full well you wouldn't fight fairly with me.

Ashoken xx: ::She simply waited to see who she would be paired up with.::

Connor A McGill: Wouldn't I?

Angelique Matteo: Shouldn't watch? Why not?

Nisi Brenshca: No. Because you don't even trust I can fight.

Ashoken xx: ::She schooled her face to a blank mask. Who needed party favors to hide their true face?::

Kirke Lucor: ::He nodded to Nisi and to the black haired woman:: I accept.

Ashoken xx: ::She folded her arms and waited.::

Connor A McGill: It's not you I don't trust.

Cait McGill: *(Malia)* ::She looked to Nisi and Kirke:: You're up. Six points to win or five rounds, whichever comes first.

Kirke Lucor: ::one corner of his mouth twitched::

Havoc Sadani: B'cause I don't want to tell Da tha' Nisi got herself killed or ... y'know. Somethin'.

Samuel Lindow: @::Silver cruized the streets between the stalls holding fine drinks and dainties. He stopped in front of one selling pastries with chocolate dribbled all over it. He set money on the counter and chose one he like the look of::

Masked Brawler: ::Party favors MAKE the party::

Nisi Brenshca: ::She saluted her opponent.::

Cait McGill: *((Rules were posted, but here's a quick review: Both players roll for each round:*

1-3 clean hit (2 points)

4-5 hit but opponent gets a chance to parry (1 point earned if the opponent fails))

Cait McGill: ((6-9 clean miss

10 Critical failure - can't even hold the blade and misses next turn))

Cait McGill: ((Parry succeeds 1-5 (1 point) misses 6-10))

jinxkj1: It's just a contest not a battle in the pit.

Kirke Lucor: ::he followed suit after drawing his blade and finding his footing::

Angelique Matteo: They aren't fighting to the death...are they? ::Her green eyes widened.::

Connor A McGill: ::He tossed the driftwood aside and hobbled over to fetch a sword, carefully picking one out::

Cait McGill: *((Nisi and Kirke roll, please))*

onlinehost: Kirke Lucor rolled 1 10-sided die: 8

onlinehost: Nisi Brenshca rolled 1 10-sided die: 8

Samuel Lindow: @::he bit into it and continued his walk, searching for a stand with drinks::

Connor A McGill: ::mumbling under his breath, turning then to watch Nisi and Kirke::

Havoc Sadani: Well ::he let her keep the bottles and tucked his board unde his arm, trying not to smack people with it:: Tha'd make it real... interestin'.

Nisi Brenshca: ::Swish swish. She was cautiously watching his technique::

Cait McGill: *(Malia) ::shook her head:: Nice show*

Angelique Matteo: ::She handed the Makwi bottle to Jinx:: Would you be a darling and pull the cork for me? Please please?

Ashoken xx: ::it seemed she was not going first and that was fine. She stepped closer to the ... gods, a circle. Her eyes narrowed as she watched::

Cait McGill: *((Round 1 0-0 Roll please.))*

Kirke Lucor: ::Siengen steel... he shook his head just a little::

onlinehost: Nisi Brenshca rolled 1 10-sided die: 10

onlinehost: Kirke Lucor rolled 1 10-sided die: 4

Connor A McGill: ::He turned toward the blades again and picked one out, testing the feel of it in his hand::

Havoc Sadani: You goin' t'get too tipsy t'go home? ::Wouldn't that be a shame!?::

Kirke Lucor: ::his nostrils flared as he moved foward::

Cait McGill: *((Nisi roll for a parry, please))*

Angelique Matteo: We don't have to go home tonight, do we?

Samuel Lindow: @::After selecting an interesting drink--some fruit concoction suposedly--he made his way back to watch the games::

Connor A McGill: ::He hadn't used a blade since before... the thought trailed off, as he turned back to the fighting::

Nisi Brenshca: ::She swore under her breath as she tried to block his swing::

onlinehost: Nisi Brenshca rolled 1 10-sided die: 6

Connor A McGill: ::He made his way into the circle, watching, his good mood faded, his expression serious::

Kirke Lucor: ::he kept his eyes on her every move::

Cait McGill: *(Malia) ::she winced and shook her head:: ((Round 2 1-0, Nisi misses next turn. Kirke, roll, please))*

onlinehost: Kirke Lucor rolled 1 10-sided die: 4

Connor A McGill: ::He tried not to look too concerned, though he was::

Nisi Brenshca: ::She couldn't recover fast enough, again merely trying to block his swing::

Cait McGill: *((Nisi, roll for the parry, please?))*

onlinehost: Nisi Brenshca rolled 1 10-sided die: 3

Havoc Sadani: Well.. ::He peered at the Makwi bottle, then back at Angel and smiled. He had a nice, bright smile in his coppery features:: Nah.

jinxkj1: You can probably get some good coin for those bottles back in Dreven.

Samuel Lindow: ::He returned to the festivities--other than food and drink--and blended in with the crowd--as well as his bright clothes would permit::

Havoc Sadani: No, no. We want t'drink our winnin's.

Kirke Lucor: ::slipping in, deft, but not quite deft enough::

jinxkj1: ::but she pulls the cork anyway:: But it's only money.

Masked Brawler: ::chews on the squid tentacles slipped beneath his mask::

Cait McGill: ((Round 3 1-1. both roll, please))

Nisi Brenshca: ::She nodded slightly to Kirke as she continued her attack::

onlinehost: Nisi Brenshca rolled 1 10-sided die: 9

onlinehost: Kirke Lucor rolled 1 10-sided die: 6

Havoc Sadani: ::He chortled:: One free drink for you.

Angelique Matteo: Exactly. Only...oh. ::She blinked, watching the fight::

Kirke Lucor: ::dancing::

Cait McGill: (*Malia*) ::She shook her head, at this rate, no one was winning prizes ((Round 4 1 All, last round, roll please.))

Jiti Man: <Roe> ::hands cupped over his mouth:: Hit something!

Kirke Lucor: ::whispering as they move past one another:: Remember me?

onlinehost: Kirke Lucor rolled 1 10-sided die: 10

Jiti Man: ::Jiti chuckles::

onlinehost: Nisi Brenshca rolled 1 10-sided die: 10

Angelique Matteo: They're both pretty good.

Kirke Lucor: ::yea, that's it!::

jinxkj1: Uhhuh. ::holding out the open bottle to her::

Cait McGill: (*Malia*) Score 1-1. Who is next, please?

Nisi Brenshca: ::They were just that fast, able to duck away from the blows::

Jiti Man: <Roe> I meant hit something besides yourself!

Kirke Lucor: ::salute:

Jiti Man: ::Jiti rolls and slaps his knee::

Nisi Brenshca: ::She saluted him, then grinned::

Kirke Lucor: ::And Connor all worried for nothing::

Masked Brawler: ::shakes his head::

Connor A McGill: ::Never for nothing::

Kirke Lucor: ::he smiled back and gave her a polite bow::

Havoc Sadani: ::He was really relieved to see Nis still standing and whistled loudly::

Kirke Lucor: ::then moving out of the way so others can cross blades::

Cait McGill: (*Malia*) ::she gestured to Connor:: Do you have an opponent, sir?

Ashoken xx: ::She recognized Nisi. Didn't really think the girl had it in her::

Connor A McGill: No.

Nisi Brenshca: ::Still chuckling, she moved to Connor::

Connor A McGill: ::He waved the other two on:: Go ahead.

Masked Brawler: ::steps forward. The left blade was somewhat shorter than the

right but both expressed the subtle curve of the meridan blade::

Nisi Brenshca: Got anything to drink? ::She asked Connor::

jinxkj1: I'm confused, who won that round?

Connor A McGill: ::He looked over at Nisi, his pride was hurt::

Masked Brawler: ::he drew them both...set them down gently one beside the other, and then took up the wooden sheaths::

Cait McGill: *(Malia)* ::She gestured to the woman in the Malcoven tabbard:: Do you have an opponent? ::Then to the fellow that stepped up:: You?

Connor A McGill: I'll get you something.

Masked Brawler: ::taps the sheaths together with a *tok*::

Angelique Matteo: I don't think either one. Was it a draw?

Ashoken xx: ::She shook her head at Malia. She had no opponent as of yet::

Nisi Brenshca: You want to borrow my rapier now?

Cait McGill: *(Malia)* ::She looked to Jinx:: It was a draw.

jinxkj1: Ahhh. ::nods::

Havoc Sadani: Don't ask me. I know nothin' about sword fightin' except how to run away from it. ::He reached for that bottle of Makwi::

Connor A McGill: ::he shook his head:: Don't worry about it.

Masked Brawler: ::shrugged his shoulders and nimbly slipped his arms and sheaths through the sleeves, tossing the jacket on top of the swords. Black braids tapped with a swift shake of his head and he stretched languidly::

Nisi Brenshca: I wasn't worrying. I thought you wanted to be in the contest.

Havoc Sadani: Who's *tha'*? ::he asked, using the bottle to point at the showy Brawler::

Cait McGill: *(Malia)* Anyone? ::she looked around::

Connor A McGill: ::He made his way over to the swords to return the blade::

Masked Brawler: ::points his weapon at Malia. Points it at Ashoken then taps the sheaths together again with an impatient *tok* ::

Ashoken xx: ::She cracked her neck and stepped up. Accepted::

Angelique Matteo: I don't know. ::or did she?::

Kirke Lucor: ::he found a spot to sit and watch, inspecting his blade after the match::

Connor A McGill: It doesn't matter.

Cait McGill: *(Malia)* We have a challenge. ::looking between the masked man and the woman::

Angelique Matteo: ::She'd rather forgotten about the Makwi, now that she'd seen Ashoken stepping up::

Connor A McGill: ::He returned the blade, his fingers lingering against the hilt a moment::

Jiti Man: Wait a second, isn't that...?

Connor A McGill: I'm tired.

Ashoken xx: ::The men she'd come with stepped back from the circle and disappeared with her tabard and insignias into the crowd::

Jiti Man: <Roe> What...? ::peers:: No. Maybe?

Havoc Sadani: Huh. ::He handed the bottle to Angel.::

Cait McGill: *(Malia) Begin when you are ready, please ((Ash, Brawler, roll, please))*

onlinehost: Jiti Man rolled 1 10-sided die: 1

jinxkj1: This should prove interesting.

Ashoken xx: ::She unsheathed her sword as she stepped into the circle. Just a plain, ordinary broad sword.::

Nisi Brenshca: Silver! ::She called over to him.::

Samuel Lindow: ::His eyes moved from the latest contestants back to Nisi.::

Ashoken xx: ::She took one step and turned it into a charge.::

onlinehost: Ashoken xx rolled 1 10-sided die: 7

Angelique Matteo: ::She took the bottle. Took a sip, absently.::

Connor A McGill: ::he looked back at the circle, his hand missed the feel of a blade.::

Samuel Lindow: ::He nodded and gave a half smile across the ring.::

Masked Brawler: ::and then he was past her, relaxing, the last move little more than a heartbeat, a twitch that transported him across the ring.::

Kirke Lucor: ::he carefully wiped the blade with a rag pulled from a pocket. The salty air could be brutal to mainlander steel.::

Masked Brawler: ::perhaps along the way he had batted away her weapon, explaining the raised off-hand sheath...but the hard hit was from the right.::

Cait McGill: *(Malia) ::She looked impressed, the masked man had hit his target and the woman had not. ((Round 1 2-0 Brawler))*

Havoc Sadani: ::He gave a little shiver as he watched.:: I think I'll stick with boards.

Masked Brawler: ::he turned slowly, spoke softly: I know you.

Havoc Sadani: ::And then he choked on a laugh, remembering the last 'board.' Well... tree.::

Ashoken xx: ::She grunted from the blow but shook it off, spinning and grinning. Not a pretty thing.:: You look ridiculous.

Cait McGill: *(Malia) The gentleman leads by two points. Continue, please. ((Roll again, please))*

Ashoken xx: ::wince, underhand slice.::

onlinehost: Ashoken xx rolled 1 10-sided die: 10

Masked Brawler: Half is presentation. Less is anticipation.

onlinehost: Masked Brawler rolled 1 10-sided die: 5

Connor A McGill: ::He turned then to look out at the sea, closing his eyes and letting the sea breeze move over him.::

Ashoken xx: ::She pulled it. So obvious to anyone who knew anything about her.::

Masked Brawler: ::he batted the weapon aside with both sheaths and swung hard around, slower but wanting more of a response.::

Samuel Lindow: ::He slipped out of the ring and walked away from the fight, picking a spot to sit down.::

Cait McGill: *(Malia) ::her brows raised:: ((Ash, roll to parry, please))*

onlinehost: Ashoken xx rolled 1 10-sided die: 8

Ashoken xx: ::And got hit again. More wincing. You'd think she was deliberately walking into the blade.::

Masked Brawler: ::smack:: I knew he threw that fight. ::disappointment perhaps in his voice?::

Ashoken xx: ::As they drew close and before they pulled away.:: This is not a real dance.

Masked Brawler: ::and he was fluid again, shifting his weight and dancing around her...now it was a dance:: Happy?

Connor A McGill: ::He wasn't sure if Nisi had followed or not, the last he'd heard she'd been calling to Silver.::

Cait McGill: *(Malia) Round 2, still the gentleman's lead by three ((10 is a critical, Brawler please roll))*

Ashoken xx: ::She kicked out her foot at an ankle attached to a dancing foot.::

onlinehost: Ashoken xx rolled 1 10-sided die: 6

Masked Brawler: ::almost mocking...he brought his weapons together hard.::

onlinehost: Masked Brawler rolled 1 10-sided die: 7

Masked Brawler: ::trips and stumbles.::

Nisi Brenshca: ::She was watching the contest, waiting for her drink... still.::

Connor A McGill: ::He hobbled over to where he'd left his makeshift cane and bent over to pick it up, then started off down the beach, alone.::

Ashoken xx: ::Blade sails over the Brawler's head.::

jinxkj1: Oh, Cris is going to be sorry he missed this.

Edail Archiras has joined this chat.

Edail Archiras: ::sighs:: Faster.

Cait McGill: *(Malia) Round 3, no change in the score. 3-0, the gentleman's lead. ((Roll for round 4, please))*

onlinehost: Masked Brawler rolled 1 10-sided die: 9

onlinehost: Ashoken xx rolled 1 10-sided die: 4

Angelique Matteo: I bet... ::softly, all caught up in what she was watching.::

onlinehost: Masked Brawler rolled 1 10-sided die: 2

Masked Brawler: ::my parry, right?::

Cait McGill: *(Malia) The gentleman succeeds in blocking the lady's attack. ((yes))*

Havoc Sadani: They're better'n there lettin' on ::He murmured, swiping back the bottle for another drink.::

Connor A McGill has left this chat.

Kirke Lucor: ::he made a soft noise in the back of his throat.::

Angelique Matteo: I know she is.

Edail Archiras: ::wanders off.::

Cait McGill: *(Malia) Round 4 4-0, still the gentleman's lead. ((Roll for 5, please))*

Masked Brawler: ::parries, then, and hits with the base of the sheath...and all that.::

Masked Brawler: ::then...::

onlinehost: Masked Brawler rolled 1 10-sided die: 6

Masked Brawler: ::swings wide, missing his mark completely::

jinxkj1: Then they're just having some fun.

NARRATOR: ::Atop the increasingly famous Wall, two figures flanked by a trio of bulking Half-lo guards appeared to watch the fighting::

Nisi Brenshca: ::The contest was enjoyable. Two amazing fighters::

Cait McGill: ((Ash?))

Samuel Lindow: ::The noise of the crowd drew him back to the ring to see what was happening::

Havoc Sadani: ::He case a glance aside at the spectacularly dressed silver fellow, Samuel:: Ooo, pretty...

Ashoken xx: ::Such a poor poor showing for the Captain...who wore nothing of her rank. She whispered, running past the Brawler, aiming to simply tap his shoulder::

onlinehost: Ashoken xx rolled 1 10-sided die: 3

Ashoken xx: ::tap!::

Nisi Brenshca: ::Nice tap!::

Masked Brawler: ::blinks at the hit, not seeing that one coming::

Havoc Sadani: ::Was that what they called tap dancing?::

Ashoken xx: ::and she flat out sprints past him to the far wall::

Samuel Lindow: ::The elf stepped up beside Nisi and watched what was happening::

Cait McGill: *(Malia) Round 5, the lady connects. The score is 4-2, the gentleman takes the match.*

NARRATOR: ::One of them turned aside to ask something of one of the guard. The man nodded and disappeared down the other side::

Masked Brawler: Hrm.

Nisi Brenshca: Hi Silver. ::She grinned at him:: Great match, wasn't it?

Ashoken xx: ::and up a knotted rope, one of several tied for a previous climbing competition::

Havoc Sadani: Yay? ::he asked, applauding for the fighter left standing there::

Samuel Lindow: I did not see all of it.

Masked Brawler: ::places his sheaths together and watches...confused::

Ashoken xx: ::upupupup, chanting to herself. Sword dropped in the dust below::

Angelique Matteo: What...? ::She had lost sight of Ashoken:: Where did she go?

jinxkj1: ::watching the climb:: Interesting technique, that.

NARRATOR: ::One of the guards gave a startled shout and pushed himself forward::

Samuel Lindow: What's happening?

Kirke Lucor: ::he watched her climb - that was more impressive than all their dancing around had been:: Huh.

NARRATOR: ::Behind him, the Devvol twins backed hastily out of the way::

Ashoken xx: ::upupup...reaching for the guard's ankle as she neared the top::

Cait McGill: (Malia) Anyone ...:She looked over toward the fracas::

Samuel Lindow: ::he watched Ash::

NARRATOR: ::The guard aimed a meaty fist at Ashoken's head::

Angelique Matteo: I think...I think I'm going to find a privy. ::since the sword fighting seemed to have come to a stop for the moment::

Nisi Brenshca: I was going to ask you the same thing.

Masked Brawler: ...Odd timing.

jinxkj1: I think I'll help you find one. ::this could only mean trouble or a very bad joke::

Havoc Sadani: I think tha's a real good idea. B'cause I don't think tha's part of the partyin' ... ::he pointed with the bottle and started backing up::

Masked Brawler: ::he ran for the edge of the ring and sheathed the weapons SHEATH-FIRST, running toward the climbing rope after her::

Ashoken xx: ::She used the ankle to pull herself up, taking the blow and using the momentum to pull the guard off the wall::

Masked Brawler: ::snatched the blood-red crescent off the edge of his mask revealing a scarred constellation of a smaller crescent and many more...STARS::

Angelique Matteo: Aye, come on. ::She slipped through the crowds::

NARRATOR: ::Guard #2 was right there, aiming a kick at the woman::

Masked Brawler: ::he flicked the crescent like a dart at the second guard with his best aim::

NARRATOR: ::Guard #1 flailed and yelled and went flying::

jinxkj1: ::going right along with Angel and Havoc:: Gonna land us all in the goal.

Ashoken xx: ::She took the kick in the ribs, rolling across the lip of the wall::

NARRATOR: ::The Devvol twins, not at their best out of the water, turned to make their escape::

Nisi Brenshca: This doesn't look good. ::She turned to find Connor and couldn't::

Havoc Sadani: ::Board and all, whacking his way through the crowd, going against the flow, ay-ya...::

Edail Archiras: ::raises his foot into the first guard's face as he hits the ground and casually moves for the shadows::

jinxkj1: ::really was good with the bobbing and weaving through the crowd::

Masked Brawler: ::leaps and scales the rope after Ashoken:: Flooding fast....

NARRATOR: ::The crowd was of two minds -- some wanting to get away, and others wanting to see what was going on::

Ashoken xx: ::and onto her feet. She didn't question where that other guard went::

Cait McGill: (Malia) ::she backed away from the fuss, she was not getting blamed for it::

Ashoken xx: Stay out of my way. ::runrunrun for the Princes::

NARRATOR: ::Guard #1, screaming and swearing, reached for the Brawler::

Ashoken xx: ::Pulling from her belt something dark that easily fit in the palm of her hand.::

NARRATOR: ::Guard #2 drew his sword, a huge thing lined with shark's teeth, and swung it at the woman.::

Masked Brawler: ::snagged by Guard #1, finding an unfortunate great amount of resistance at his ankle:: Help...?

Edail Archiras: ::on cue, Edail launched a rock at Guard #1's forehead.::

NARRATOR: ::The Devvol princes dashed as fast as they could down the Wall, and everyone was hollering and screaming. Below them, chaos broke out.::

Ashoken xx: ::she ducked, a slide that tore up the leather of her bringandine, under the scary blade.::

Ashoken xx: ::What the heck was that? She couldn't look back.
Scramblescrambleuprunrun.::

NARRATOR: ::Guard #1, hanging onto Brawler, yanked hard.::

Samuel Lindow: ::he hadn't the faintest what was going on, so he stayed put and watched.::

Masked Brawler: ::kicking at Guard #1's face, seemingly useless in a grapple.::
Let go of me!

Nisi Brenshca: Come on. ::She spoke to Silver as she made her way to Havoc and Angel.::

Ashoken xx: ::then she launched herself at the Mer, arms wide....flinging away from her and before the fleeing princes a small black spot.::

Samuel Lindow: ::he spun on his heel and followed her.::

Edail Archiras: ::approaches Guard #1 and the Masked Brawler, pushing through the crowd.::

NARRATOR: ::Guard #1, already suffering a broken nose and bleeding face, yelled and let go, then immediately jumped up after Brawler again.::

Edail Archiras: ::tackles Guard #1.::

Ashoken xx: ::That grew and grew and grew. She tackled the pair and they fell into the dark spot.::

Angelique Matteo: ::Angelique, still soaked, had vanished into the crowds.::

Edail Archiras: ::confused:: Where the hell did they go?

NARRATOR: ::Guard #1, assaulted from fore and aft, went down in a staggering tumble, taking whoever was near him down, too.::

jinxkj1: I'm going to go get Cris. ::peels off towards the inn they are staying at.:: Catch you two later!

Masked Brawler: I think we needed an alternate plan.

Havoc Sadani: ::Havoc was kind of obvious... for a while. Then he, too, was gone.::

Edail Archiras: ::wrestling the guard:: What plan?

Masked Brawler: Good point. Who needs a plan? Collect my trophy!::jumps through the portal.::

Angelique Matteo has left this chat.

Cait McGill: ::Cait reappeared from the crowd she'd drifted into and waved to Nisi to follow her.:: Nisi... ::Not hard to spot a blond in a bunch of islanders.::

NARRATOR: ::An unholy scream followed the disappearance of the Princes.::

Masked Brawler: ::the black magical spooky spot that we are calling portal now::

Nisi Brenshca: ::Seeing Cait, she quickly followed her::

Edail Archiras: What!?:yes, this was a surprise...and he gets left behind::

Ashoken xx: ::It was a portal. But where did it lead when it snapped shut?::

Ashoken xx: ::Snap!::

Edail Archiras: ::punching the Guard a lot...just because he's annoyed::

NARRATOR: ::Guard #2 was only too happy to take his temper out on Edail and flew at him from atop the Wall.::

Edail Archiras: ::gets tackled::

Jiti Man: I think that's the Shrike.

Jiti Man: <Roe> So?

Jiti Man: Just saying. Maybe we should help?

Jiti Man: <Roe> No?

NARRATOR: ::The Shrike? Way to stir up the crowd, because they obviously weren't stirred before.::

Cait McGill: ::she was trying to lead Nisi on the shortest path to the portal most people had come through from Dreven:: Who's still here that needs to get out??

Ashoken xx: ::Back home, tacked to the doors of the Nekropolis was Ashoken d'Allessair's resignation from the Malcoven guard.::

Edail Archiras: ::whoops::

Ashoken xx: ::In Xieng Khouang, the pavilion where she camped had been torn down and undead retinue mysteriously vanished.::

Edail Archiras: ::trampled and batted around more by a stampede of panic than any guard could manage, he drags himself into the chaos::

Kirke Lucor: ::this was a fascinating place. About as safe as the Arborian forests. Kirke too slipped off into the crowd::

Nisi Brenshca: Silver? ::She turned to see if he followed::

NARRATOR: ::It was one guard. Things weren't in his favor. There were, however, plenty more guards spilling out the gates and over the Wall.::

Jiti Man: ::gets a bright idea...which is rare indeed...he points off into the distance:: It's the Shrike! And the Sea Wolf! They've taken the Princes! ::impassioned, desperate, overacting:: They've *kidnapped* the princes! Won't somebody help them!!! ::starts flailing his arm in some random general direction:: Hurry before they get away!

Cait McGill: ::She, too, looked to see if Silver was following::Go, get home to Peri. I'll look for him.

NARRATOR: ::Sure enough, a goodly chunk of the arriving cavalry ran off in pursuit of the phantom Prince-nappers. The others were sort of stuck in a major brawl at the bottom of the Wall.::

Cait McGill: Run before they get the idea to close the portal. :: murmured to Nisi::

Edail Archiras: ::snatches the Masked Brawler's jacket and hood and slips them on, looking conspicuously inconspicuous as he tries to escape::

Jiti Man: <Roe>This is bad.

Jiti Man: I'm going with him.

Jiti Man: <Roe> This is very, very bad.

Samuel Lindow: ::Silver turned a corner and nearly ran into Nisi::

Kirke Lucor: ::getting back home as fast as he could before they did indeed decide to close the toll free portal was his very idea as well::

Jiti Man: Bye, Roe. Hold my board for me.

Jiti Man: <Roe>This is not good at all...floodin' abyss....

Nisi Brenshca: Got him. Come on. Let's go.

Jiti Man: ::grabs Edail's arm at the edge of the crowd::

Samuel Lindow: ::he waited for them to go through:: Bye.

Cait McGill: Go.. ::She disappeared into the crowd again::

Edail Archiras: ::spins to punch the kid, but his finger relax before they reach full extension:: Jiti?

Jiti Man: The portal.

Edail Archiras: Right::and so they evanesce::

Jiti Man: <Roe> Gods damn it.... ::sighs and follows the scrambling crowd::

NARRATOR: ::From the opposite direction, a pair of Selevanti rose to the sky in a great flap of wings and noise. They appeared to be carrying something....::

Jiti Man: <Roe>::watches the Selevanti::

Nisi Brenshca: Go Silver. ::She, on the other hand, wasn't about to leave Connor or Havoc and Angel::

Samuel Lindow: Are you coming?

Nisi Brenshca: I have to find Connor and my family. ::She also turned and made her way through the crowd::

Kirke Lucor has left this chat.

Samuel Lindow: ::he sighed and the portal began to glow and swirl. he stepped through and vanished from Oceanuus::

Samuel Lindow has left this chat.

NARRATOR: ::Another troop of guards ran out the gates, this one more orderly. In the water, dozens of Mer heads were appearing. If folks were going to take their ships, they'd better weigh anchor now!::

Cait McGill: Nisi.. .go... they said they were leaving. ::called back over the crowd:: Run.

Nisi Brenshca: ::Nisi had run, away from the portal, hunting for Connor::

NARRATOR: ::It wouldn't be long at all until access to the Portal was completely removed and whoever was left, well. They were going to be in for an interesting ride::

Jiti Man: <Roe>::should have left...oh well, too late...schlemazl that he is::

Nisi Brenshca has left this chat.

Havoc Sadani has left this chat.

NARRATOR: ((And that, my charming fellerboobles, is a wrap! Happy Festival!))

* ~ * ~ *

PRIZES (surfing):

1st:

- One mahuka (surfboard) of breadfruit wood, hand carved and stained by Kiue Oto, the finest board craftsman in the islands!
- One bottle each of Makwi and Mango White Wine
- A 'punui' necklace from Akheri, constructed of alternating bamboo 'spike' beads and coconut shell beads. *(A delectable way to stay in fashion! Distributed both locally and abroad by Prince of Pau! Trading, Inc.)*

2nd -

- A beautifully carved and painted Ori Hiake (Spirit Mask)
- One bottle of Oceanuusian Red Wine

3rd -

- 'Tears of Ninidia' - a few drops of water taken from the sacred pools found on the islands of Pa'ahana and Gangdoh. The tiny bottle is tied up with magical rune beads and guarantees fertility.

While there were some fine prizes for the sword fights, the event was never concluded...