

Kronosaurus Leviathan

This is a sample story for the Leviathan Story Writing Contest.

<http://WhenHisVoiceIsHeard.wordpress.com/2015/02/01/leviathan-story-writing-contest/>

Introduction

It seems difficult for Kronosaurus to be in a position to kindle a fire, since he is in the water. Due to his paddle like appendages, it is not feasible for him to get far from the water. Though he certainly would tear up the river banks, whenever he did come ashore, as the Bible's description of Leviathan indicates. Maybe they came inland to lay their eggs. There is one kindling scenario that comes to mind. Wooden ships would be vulnerable to attack from such a creature, since it would be reasonable to expect that he could paddle in such a manner to hold his head out of the water, while scorching the timbers.

It seems that there has been a change in the size estimate for the Kronosaurus. There is a huge fossil reconstruction of this creature in the Harvard Museum. At the time, little was known about this animal, so some liberties were taken to guess how many vertebrae were needed. Apparently, this was overestimated. So, the Kronosaurus may not be as big as was first imagined.

However, just as there is great variety in the cat kind, in the horse kind, in the dog kind, etc., there is also a family of such beasts of the deep, called plesiosaurs. They all have paddles for appendages. Some have longer necks, some quite short. They all have spiked teeth. Some of the creatures are large, and some are absolutely monstrous. Included in the plesiosaur family is one reputed to be the largest predatory carnivore ever, somewhat dwarfing the land dwellers, such as T. Rex, Ceratosaurus and Spinosaurus. Predator X featured a head two times the size of a T. Rex skull, with a bite that was estimated to be eleven times more powerful. In this family is also the Styxosaurus, with a very long neck, which would fit the “serpent” description of Leviathan in Isaiah. This would also align with many of the legends of the creatures sighted by sailors at sea. With a longer neck, it is much more feasible to lift the head far above the water.

So, it would be reasonable to piece together our monster from the attributes of this family. We could have a mouth big enough to to chomp a few sailors at once, and his body is the size of an island, held rock steady with his powerful paddle legs, so that his head is lifted significantly above the deck of a mid-sized ship. He is also completely armoured with ossified scales, plus flames and sparks and smoke spewing from his mouth and nostrils.

So, let's take a voyage on the sea in a mid-sized craft, manned with experienced sailors. Their quest is to travel along the eastern coast of the Arabian peninsula, on a southward course, to engage in trade with settlements, as far South as the horn. The cargo, on the outgoing journey, is beetle lights. On the way, they plan to trade some of the beetle lights for gold. In Africa, they plan to trade some of the gold, and the remaining beetle lights, for gem stones.

The weather was not sure to be fair, as they departed. The consolation was that the wind was strong for good sailing. As they boarded ship from the river dock in Ur, the crew had no idea that they would not be going far. They were in good spirits, because this trip had always proved to be quite profitable. The strong ship, named Pleasant Vessel, is 20 metres long. Between the expertise of the crew, and the current of the river, they made good time to the delta. They had no planned shore time for the next few days, since those towns were better served by land routes. The cargo of beetle

lights would be ruined by contact with salt water, so they were packed in water-tight barrels.

As the sun was rising, the third day, one of the crew, the lookout aloft, suddenly fell ill and carefully climbed down. When his ship mates asked him what was the matter, they could see he was completely blanched. The way he attempted to point out to sea, they could tell he was terrified and in shock. The captain took matters into his own hands and climbed up to the top of the mast, to see for himself. He soon realized that he need not be any higher than the deck to see the concern. The monster's head was rising from the surface of the sea, supported by a long neck. Because of the angle of the sunlight, and the clearness of the water, they could see the massive body of this legendary creature. The submerged portion, alone, was almost as big as the ship. His head, which was as big as the ship's cabin, was now prominently above the deck walls, while the captain climbed back down, yelling for the men to take up arms. This proved to be late in coming, since half the men were gone below decks, and the other half had already prepared for battle. In panic, a single shot was fired. That was the beginning of the end. The unharmed beast casually opened his cavernous mouth. A rushing wind could be heard, then the sparks shot forward, from his nostrils, igniting the stream of flammable vapours. Everyone on the deck was now dead. Some of the bodies were in easily accessible reach, so they were harvested as a small meal.

Two of the sailors, though in terror, were watching through the cabin loop holes. They looked at each other in complete ignorance of what to do. Judging from the last attempt to attack the monster, doing nothing seemed like a really good idea, so that is what they continued doing. Apparently, the other crew members thought the same, if you could call such brain activity "thinking." Much of the deck was scorched, and some of the lower, unfurled, sails were still in flames.

The sailors could see the creature's head, as it turned to look around. A thick, protruding ridge shaded his eye. The vertical pupil, splitting the iris, was totally black. Even his eyelids had scales like armour, as did every bit of his skin. His blinking was lazy. Each time he opened his eye, it was like a sunrise, due to the brilliant colours of his large iris. His teeth were too many to count, yet they were quite large, like long daggers that are too thick at the base. The slight inward tilt, of these massive triangles, ensured that any struggles, by captured prey, would only serve to further impale.

This was clearly an air breathing animal, so he was comfortable to stay with the vessel as long as his curiosity endured. After a few minutes, or was it an hour, he apparently got a bit bored, so he set fire to the ship, with another flame throwing exhibition, this time focused on one spot, at the distant wall of the ship's deck. The beast was satisfied, after watching the blaze for a short time, and left.

The structure was too far damaged to hold up to the pressure and began to break up. The survivors held on to the floating barrels until they could get to the shuttle boat, that had stayed afloat when the ship went down. These valuable barrels were their financial means to get home, so the sailors lashed them together, behind the boat, and rowed straight for the shore. Once they got to shore, they hauled the barrels to a secluded spot. Hiking to the nearest town, they traded the valuables for the provisions needed to make the return trip home. They never even looked at another ship for the rest of their lives.