

The mighty vessel of captain Gird

Gird had become a captain of his own boat. His crew consisted of an eager young boatman, one eager, young boatman, which is not a very big crew. Then again, his boat was a rowing boat and needed little crew. Especially because his titan did all the moving. So wind nor current slowed the mighty vessel of captain Gird down.

“Captain?”

“Yes, ehm,…”

“Tally, captain.”

“Yes, Tally.”

“Did you bring food and water?”

“Yes, of course!”

“Where is it?”

Gird reached around. “In my bag!”

“What bag?”

“O, damn. The bag that was blown to bits.”

Both men fell silent. Gird pondered. “Ehm, Tally, don’t you have any food?”

“Nope, your titan sank it.”

“Crap!”

Both men fell silent again. Tally’s face lit up.

“Well, anyway. With us going as we go, we’ll hit land in a day or two. Tough, but we can do it.” Gird cheered up. “You’re right, Tally.”

A couple of hours passed and Gird took a nap. He was woken by Tally. “Captain, captain, your titan is sinking.”

Gird looked up and only saw the giant fingers of a huge hand sticking out of the water.

“Well, Tally, it’s just a bit deeper than before. That’s all,” Gird said reassuring and watched the the fingers vanish beneath the waves. “Ehm, a lot deeper,” Tally concluded.

“Crap!”

The mighty vessel of Gird drifted on for a short while and that was that. Gird and Tally stared at each other in horror as the realisation of the magnitude of the problem kicked in. Gird slowly leaned over the side of the boat and gazed into the deep dark blue depth.

“Captain, we have no oars,” Tally said panicked. “Yes, I know. Of course we have no oars. That would be too much to ask.” “I don’t understand what you mean, captain.” “Well, let me tell you. My life has been one disaster after another. So, of course there are no oars.” “But, sir, your life can’t be one disaster. You own a titan.” “Yes, I own a titan. A titan that’s huge and still does not rise above the waves because the sea is too deep. A titan, the gods may know how many miles beneath us scaring away the fish and we here way above it with no food and no water and no way to propel us forward. O, how lucky I am!!” Gird sat back with a beaten look on his face. Tally also looked beaten. “We’re gonna die, are we not?” “Yes, ehm…” “Tally.” “O, right. Yes Tally, we are.”

“I’ve heard dying of thirst is gruesome. Especially at sea. At one point you forget you can’t drink sea water. So you do and that makes it even worst. You die drinking of thirst.” Gird said nothing and looked even more sad than he already did.

“Well, to cheer things up I have two guns. So when the time comes we can take matters into our hands. End it before it gets too hard.”

This did cheer Gird up somewhat. The thought of dying of thirst whilst drinking water was horrifying. So anything better than that was encouraging. He took one of the guns. But Tally's face clouded.

"Didn't you ask your titan to protect you from bullets and stuff?" "Crap!" Gird yelled. He put one of the gun to his head and fired. The bullet just bumped off his temple and making plopping sound vanished in the sea. "Crap!" Tally looked totally shocked and sad and pitiful at the same time. Never had Gird seen so many emotions in one expression as now. He just lost all hope. "O, perhaps you could strangle me and the shoot yourself," Gird mumbled. "O, no, sir, I couldn't. I..." Tally hadn't really finished his sentence, but stopped to gaze in awe as one hand of the titan rose high above the waves. It slapped down before disappearing into the deep again. "Tidal wave!" Tally cried, "hold on!"

The boat nearly tumbled over as the wave mounted to the height of a three story building. The sheer force of the water made Gird fall backwards and Tally forwards as it crashed into the tiny vessel. Luckily this shifted the weight balance suddenly in such a way that they could surf the wave instead of going down under it.

As the worst of the wave dissipated, Tally got upright again. "Well, we did move a lot. So, to say it was pointless is putting it too strong. Still, I think we shouldn't be wanting this kind of moving ever again," Tally concluded. "You're so right," Gird said before getting up again. He immediately fell over again as the boat bumped into another boat, or rather a real ship.

"Ahoy there, captain of this tiny boat!" someone called.

Gird and Tally looked up and saw the man, who had called, grinning. Next to him two dozen sailors were grinning too.

"Have ye come to commandeer me vessel?! Ar ar ar," the man said putting on mean, distorted face. All the sailors laughed and tried to outdo each other in being a pirate. "What?" Gird asked. "Are you a pirate?" "No, of course not!" "Because I'll keelhaul ya if ye are." Gird hoped the titan would not see this as a threat.

"Do you have any food or water to spare?" The look on the man's face changed abruptly. "That's it. Keelhauling it is." The ship shook violently right after the man finished his threat. "Crap," Gird said. The men panicked. The spokesman yelled at Gird and Tally as he hung over the side of the ship.

"What are you doing!?"

"Me?!"

"Captain, something's struck the ship!"

The spokesman appeared to be the captain looked hesitant from the sailors to the ship and then to Gird.

"Push off, Tally, push off," Gird whispered.

"You're not going anywhere," the captain yelled as he drew his gun. The ship was struck again, this time with much more force. The captain nearly dropped his gun. Tally pushed off, but with little more than his hands they didn't get very far.

"Make it stop!" the captain screamed.

"I'm not doing anything!"

"I'm warning you!"

"I can't make it stop."

"Last warning!"

"I..."

The captain fired his gun. The bullet struck Gird right between the eyes. The captain was indeed a very good shot, but that did not make any difference. The bullet bumped off and fell harmlessly into the boat. The captain saw it and his eyes nearly popped out of his head. "You man hag!" the captain yelled. He started to reload. The ship was struck another time. Sailors started to lower the two lifeboats. They wanted to flee. Their captain wanted revenge, revenge ahead of time for the loss of his boat.

A loud cracking sound announced the end of the ship. Waving due to the violent rocking of the ship the captain finished the reloading, eventually. He aimed. A gun went off and the captain's head slammed backwards as he fell over into the fountain that had started in the midst of the ship. Tally also was a good shot.

"Tally, the food, the water, we've got to get it," Gird yelled as he started to move towards to the sinking ship. "No captain, no. You'll drown!" Tally held Gird back as the ship quickly sank into the sea. As it disappeared from view, the two lifeboats appeared. The sailors who managed to get into them were rowing in a blind panic.

"Oars!" Gird and Tally yelled together. The distance between them and the oars was some fifty yards to start with. Already an immeasurable great distance and two scores of panicked sailors increased it by the second.

"No! No! Stop" Gird called. Tally called as well and thought firing his gun could help.

"Stop!" and "Bang!!" and the sailors started to row even faster. "No! No! You stupid boy! You scared them even more. Damn it!" Gird sat down furious about his salvation rowing away from him and then it struck him. "Tally, their killing us! Help!" he screamed. "Help, we're gonna die. They're killing us!"

Nothing happened.

"It's not working. I'm not in imminent danger." "I'm not a boy," Tally said angrily. "What?" "I'm not a boy!" Gird sighed. "No, I know. I'm sorry. I acted out at you while you did your best to help... shoot one of them. They are too far away to reach. Let's tell them we're angry."

Tally aimed his reloaded gun and shot one of the sailors. The man grabbed his shoulder and screamed.

"Yes! You've hit him!"

Gird and Tally looked at each other with some satisfaction. They would still starve or die from thirst, but they did tell the sailors they were angry. A gun fired. The bullet nearly hit Tall. "Get down," he warned, but Gird got up instead.

"Come on!" he yelled, "hit me! Put me out of my misery!"

The sailors fired their guns again and then their lifeboats were launched as these were hit by the titan. The returning to the surface smashed the boats to pieces. The sailors landed between the debris and from where Gird and Tally were it was hard to see what really became of the sailors.

"Do we help them, captain?" "No, Tally, we wait."

The few sailors that survived hitting the water and debris swam for their lives.

"Won't they come to us?"

"No, I don't think so. They think we are responsible."

"But, they'll drown eventually."

"Yes, now stop whining. We wait till we can get the oars if there are any left."

"Aye, captain," Tally said with little spirit.

“See, waiting was worth waiting for. No sailors left, who are wanting to kill us,” Gird said happy. Tally was not impressed. “Now, we can row our way to safety,” Gird continued. Well, ‘we’ was especially Tally, because Gird had no stamina and got blisters really quickly. “Why are you stopping,” Gird asked when Tally let loose of the oars. “I’ve been at it for hours, nearly the whole day. Give me a fucking break,” Tally growled. Gird stood up angry. “I’m still your captain.” Tally looked at him with contempt. “You’re not much of a captain. My previous captain was a fool, but at least he had guts and he did something, tried something. He wouldn’t have waited for the sailors to drown. He would have recruited them. Got them to help rowing.” Tally looked at Gird defiantly.

“Well, that’s your opinion. You haven’t been attacked...” “I have been attacked numerous times!” “... for your possessions. I have and I can’t even use it myself.” Gird looked at Tally with a look as if this explained it all. Tally looked back puzzled. “What’s that got to do with not taking on people to help rowing.” “Well, ehm, I don’t trust anybody.” Tally was still puzzled. “But, I... let’s stop talking. I still got some rowing to do.”

Tally rowed into the night and then stopped for some sleep. The next morning they had drifted so far with the current that they were now floating in a busy shipping route.

“Captain, we’re saved. I see like a dozen sails in the vicinity.” “Well, that’s nice,” Gird grumbled. “Aren’t you happy?” “Well, yes, I’m happy we won’t die from starvation or thirst, but life was much easier with no one trying to kill me.”

Tally ignored the sarcasm and took the oars again. He started rowing in the direction of most of the sails. Soon they were hailed by a war galleon.

“Ahoy there!”

“Ahoy.”

“Can we be of assistance?”

“Ah, great, some friendly folk. Yes, you can. Do you know deep the sea is and where it gets shallow again?” “What an odd question.” “Yes, I know, but it’s important to me.” “well, I guess miles deep, but further on it gets more shallow very quickly.” “Ah, great. How far is that?” “O, just a mile or two.” “Superb. Then I have another thing to ask. Can you take on my sailor?”

The captain of the galleon got a puzzled look. Tally looked back worried. “Because, he’s not doing his captain’s bidding.” Tally paled. “No, no, I was just tired and grumpy.” He looked to and fro from captain to captain. “I did row, did I not. I grumbled and did complain a bit, but I did do as you asked.” The captain of the galleon looked at Gird for confirmation. Gird took a minute to process what just happened. He just wanted to exchange Tally for a new rower, but seemed to have gotten him into a lot of problems.

Gird laughed out loud.

“I got you there, didn’t I, Tally. No captain. I’m sorry. I just wanted to get Tally to pee his pants. If you could spare us some food and water. That would be great. I can compensate you for it.”

The captain was not very amused, but gave them what they wanted and left the tiny loony boat quickly. He didn’t even want anything for the food and water.

A couple of hours later the mighty vessel of Gird was speeding towards shore as the titan rose more and more from the water. The city of Anmar-amar appeared by a miracle to be the nearest port and that city was now preparing for war. War with the mighty vessel of Gird and of course the gargantuan titan propelling it forward.