

16/05/2023



Chapter = 2

"We're Not Afraid to Die
If we can All be Together"

• A Dream Journey:-

→ A long standing dream of the author to duplicate the round the world made 200 years earlier by Captain James Cook

• Author and his wife spend 16 years of all their leisure time in improving their sea fishing skills in British waters

• Way-walker a professionally built boat 23 meter 30 ton wooden ^{hulled} built beauty

• Test it in the roughest of waters for months

Set sail in July 1976 with his son, wife and his daughter

* First leg of the Journey

Pass peacefully the west coast of Africa to Capetown

• Took on board two crewman:- American Larry Vigil and Swiss Herb Saigler

- Set sail for the Southern Indian ocean the world's roughest sea

* January 2 preparing for the worst

- Waves became huge
- They had seen enormous waves rolling towards them.
- Slow down the boat, ~~to~~ drop the storm jib lash the heavy mooring rope in a loop across the stern
- Double-lashed everything, went through life-raft drill, attached lifelines, donned oilskins and life jackets

* Disaster and its result

- At about 6 p.m. the wind drop sky became dark
- Author saw a big wave twice the height of other wave
- Tremendous explosion shook the deck and water broke over the ship
- Captain injured head smashed into the wheel flew over boat and stern below the waves

- Prepared himself for approaching death.
- Suddenly author's head popped out of water.
- Captain grabbed the guard rail and sailed through the air into wave walker boom.
- Badly injured with left hip ~~strapped~~ ^{cracked}, teeth broken and mouth filled with blood.
- * Crew members show off unparalleled strength
 - Crew man started pumping out water.
 - Captain half ~~swam~~ swam half crawled to the children's cabin to ask their well being.
 - Settled to make necessary repairs to stretch canvas and secure waterproof hatch covers across gaping holes.

* Other problems arose

- Electric pump short circuit
- Captain use other electric pump kept under chartroom floor got
- Got no replies from mayday calls.

January 3

Conditions under control but critical

- Boat main rib frames nearly broken
- Wave walker would not hold together long enough to reach Australia

* Only hope left of the Captain

- To reach either of the two small islands a few hundred kms of east. one of them Amsterdam a french scientific base.

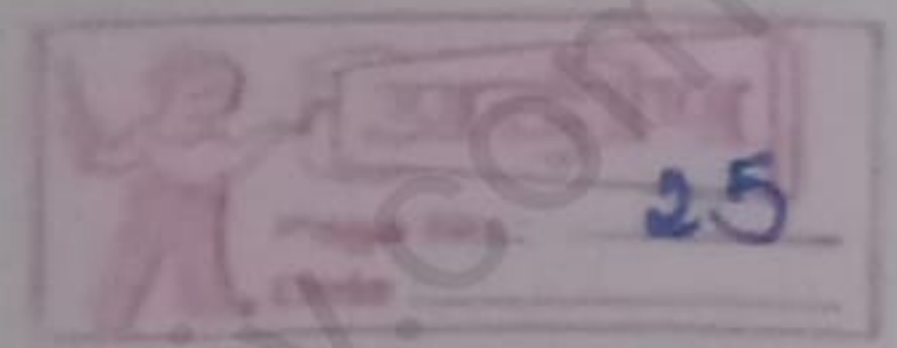
Crucial days January 4 and 5

- After 36 hours of continuous pumping there was only a few cms of water left.
- Black clouds built up again at 4 pm
- Went back to 40 nodes sea getting higher.
- On January 5 situation became desperate.

Show off extra courage

- Captain son showed extra courage by saying we're not afraid to die if we all can be together

New Determination and courage revived in the captain to fight the sea



* Safe at last

- January 6 saw wave walker right out of the storm and the wind eased.
- In the chat room worked on wind speed changes of course, drift and current in order to calculate their position.
- Main compass lost the spare one not corrected for magnetic variations.
- Depending on his calculation, asked Larry to steer a course of 185 degrees at 2 pm.
- Expected to see the island at about 5 pm.
- Dozed off woke up at 6 pm disheartened that he had missed the island.
- His son and his daughter appeared and hugged him and calling him the best daddy and the best captain.
- Courage a keen presence of mind and above all the presence of the family brought them out of their situation.

Question / Answer

Ques - List the steps taken by the captain
(i) to protect the ship when rough weather began

Ans - The navigator dropped the storm jib and lashed everything heavy.

(ii) to check the flooding of the water in the ship

Ans - Larry and Herb pumped the handpumps to drain out the water. The navigator used waterproof hatch covers across the gaping holes.

Ques - Describe the mental conditions of the voyagers on 4 and 5 January

Ans - On January 4 they were in a fighting mood with the disaster. They did not set any sail on the main mast. They ate their first meal in almost 2 days which was corn beef and cracker biscuit.

Ques - Describe the shifts in the narration of the events as indicated in the three sections of the text. Give a subtitle to each section.

Ans - In the first section the narration of the events is relaxed and full of confidence. In the second shift it becomes grim and with

a fighting spirit in the face of a disaster become strong. In the last section the shift becomes relaxed with utter joy and relief.

Ques- What difference did you notice between the reaction of the adults and the children when faced with danger?

Ans- The children did not show any sign of defeat in the phase of the disaster. Sue had a bump on her forehead and her eyes became narrow-slit yet they wrote a card. John said that they are not afraid to die, if they could be all together. The adults reacted with a fighting spirit.

Ques- How does this story suggest that optimism help to endure "the direst stress".

Ans- The narrator and his group faced the worst ever disaster in the form of a killer wave. They seemed to be die as nothing could save them except their fighting spirit and optimism. At last they were out of the disaster due to their optimism and fighting spirit.

Ques - Why do you think people undertake such adventurous expeditions in spite of the risks involved?

Ans - People undertake such adventurous expenditure due to two reasons:-

1. They have liking for adventures.
2. They want to do something to get fame, name and reputation.

Srath
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