

"File UNDER: GOD PROTECTS FOOLS AND DRUNKS" BY PAT/SALTY

THE ABOVE SAYING IS OLD AND GOES
A LONG WAY BACK ("GOD PROTECTS
FOOLS AND DRUNKARDS").

IS IT TRUE? WHO KNOWS?

BUT I NOW CITE AN HISTORICAL EXAMPLE
WHICH HAPPENED DURING THE ACTUAL
SINKING OF ~~THE TITANIC~~ THE
TITANIC BACK IN APRIL OF 1912;
SENSE YOU ARE ALL FAMILIAR WITH
THE TITANIC STORY ALREADY, I WILL
CUT RIGHT TO THE CHASE;


THERE WAS A MIDDLEAGED FELLOW
ON IT - WHO MAY HAVE BEEN FROM
LIVERPOOL - WHO MAY WELL HAVE
BEEN A DRUNK BEFORE HE EVER
GOT ON THE SHIP, BUT WHO DEFINATELY
WAS DRINKING ~~BEFORE~~ HEAVILY DURING
THE ^{INCIDENT} ~~DISASTER~~ - MANY PEOPLE ON
BOARD - BOTH PASSENGERS AND CREW
MEMBERS WHO SURVIVED - KNEW OF
AND SAW THIS MAN, AND HIS ACTIONS
ON THE NIGHT OF THE SINKING;
BECAUSE HE WAS SO OBVIOUSLY DRUNK.
LIKE, SLURRED SPEECH STUMBLING DRUNK.



(2)

AND, WHILE MAYHEM AND PANIC BROKE OUT ALL AROUND him - EVERYWHERE! - OUR DRUNKEN FREEND ALONE MANAGED TO KEEP A LEVEL - IF INTOXICATED - HEAD. (he ENDED up AS ONE OF THE VERY FEW ADULT MALE PASSENGERS TO SURVIVE THE WHOLE THING, BY THE WAY) WHILE OTHERS RAN AROUND IN A (SOBER) PANIC LIKE CHICKENS RUNNING AROUND WITH THEIR HEADS CUT OFF, HE STAGGERED CALMLY INTO ONE OF THE SHIP'S EMPTY BARS - AND EMERGED WITH A BIG BOTTLE OF BRANDY (FREE OF CHARGE, OBVIOUSLY) WHICH HE FREELY OFFERED ANYONE TO HAVE A GOOD STIFF DRINK FROM - HE HAD NO TAKERS, ONLY THE USUAL PUT DOWNS "HOW COULD YOU! DRINKING AT A TIME LIKE THIS!", ETC. ETC. SO OUR DRUNK FREEND PROCEEDED TO RE FORTIFY HIMSELF BY DRINKING OPENLY AND STRAIGHT FROM THE BOTTLE. (OFFICER LIGHTOWER, A SUPER UPRIGHT AND RESPONSIBLE SURVIVING CREW MEMBER, WITNESSED THIS PERSONALLY AND TESTIFIED TO IT ALL AFTERWARDS.)

JID OUR DRUNKEN FREEND



(3)

THINK THAT BY GETTING DRUNK - OR
EVEN MORE DRUNK - THAT he'd HAVE
A BETTER CHANCE OF SURVIVING?

NOBODY KNOWS,

WAS he TRYING TO DROWN OUT his
FEARS - OF DYING AT SEA, OF DROWNING -
WITH ALCOHOL?

NOBODY KNOWS.

SOME people MIGHT SPECULATE THAT
THE GUY MAY HAVE HAD AN ALCOHOLIC
GUARDIAN ANGEL WATCHING OVER him
URGING him ON (ONE WITH A FONDNESS
FOR BRANDY) - WHO KNOWS?

WHATEVER IT WAS, IT WORKED.

IN THAT he SURVIVED WHILE MOST
OTHERS PERISHED (~~AND OUR DRUNKEN~~

~~EBREAN~~ ~~LENDER~~ ~~UP~~ ~~AS~~ ~~ONE~~ ~~OF~~ ~~THE~~
~~VERY~~ ~~VERY~~ ~~VERY~~ ~~VERY~~ ~~VERY~~ ~~VERY~~ ~~VERY~~ ~~VERY~~
~~ONE~~ - ADD THAT ~~THE~~ ~~PASSENGER~~ ~~OPERATION~~

~~DEBILITY~~ did GET

he ~~WAS~~ ~~NOT~~ ~~GETTING~~ A LIFEJACKET LIKE
EVERYONE ELSE - OR MOST EVERYONE
ELSE GOT - OR, his ALCOHOLIC TUNNEL
VISION MANAGED TO SPOT A LIFEJACKET
SOME (SOBER) PANICKED PERSON LOST
OR DISCARDED ON THE DECK - →

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AND - AFTER 15 OR 20 MINUTES OF DRUNKENLY TRYING - FINALLY MANAGED TO GET ~~it~~ ^{it} ON HIM^{SELF} - ALL THE WHILE CLUTCHING THE BIG BOTTLE OF SHIPBOARD BRANDY HE HAD "LIBERATED" FROM THE EMPTY BAR. MANY WITNESSES OBSERVED AND SAW AND COMMENTED LATER ON THIS MAN'S ACTIONS, TOO (MY OWN THEORY IS THAT PEOPLE IN A TRAUMATIC SITUATION WILL OFTEN FOCUS - FOR RELIEF - ON SOMEONE OR SOMETHING SUCH AS THIS OPENLY DRUNKEN MAN - IN FACT, ITS NOT EVEN A THEORY; ITS A FAIRLY WELL DOCUMENTED FACT)

(- IRONY ALERT: IF MORE TITANIC PASSENGERS HAD FOLLOWED THIS MAN'S DRUNKEN EXAMPLE MORE OF THEM WOULD ~~WILL~~ HAVE SURVIVED -)

he STAYED CALM WHILE They PANICKED,
he GOT DRUNK WHILE They STAYED SOBER.
he - BEING IN HIS ALCOHOL ALTERED PERCEPTUAL STATE - MANAGED TO STAY ON HIS FEET SLOWLY WALKING UP THE TILTED DECK WHILE They WERE FALLING & SLIP SLIDING AWAY →

(5)

ALL AROUND him (people in the nearby lifeboats saw this clearly), BUT I - PAT/SALTY - GET AHEAD OF MYSELF; BEFORE THE TITANIC ROSE UP INTO THE AIR - BEFORE OUR INTOXICATED ~~WALKER~~ FRIEND STARTED his LONG SLOW RADICALLY SLANTED "WALK" (if it could be called a walk) up the TILTED DECK - BEFORE THAT HAPPENED AT THE END - DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE HAD SPENT his INTOXICATED TIME DOING? WHEN NOT GUZZLING FROM his BOTTLE? WHAT ALL OF THEM SHOULD HAVE BEEN DOING; THROWING EVERY DECKCHAIR AND DECKCHAIR ~~CHAIR~~ MATTRESS he could GET his HANDS ON DOWN INTO THE WATER! THATS WHAT! (WHO SAYS DRUNKS AREN'T SMART?) MANY TITANIC SURVIVERS IN THE LIFEBOATS SAW THIS AND REMEMBERED THIS BECAUSE - IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THE MAYHEM - THEY THOUGHT IT WAS "UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR" (IT WAS - UNFORTUNATELY!) his INTOXICATED - his highly INTOXICATED STATE - obviously - TO ME, AT ANY RATE -

→

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ALLOWED him TO Keep ON his Feet
AND Get him TO The FAR END OF
The SINKING Ship - AHEAD OF The
ADVANCING WATER (The ICE COLD
LIFE THREATENING WATER) EVEN AS
perfectly ~~sober~~^{sober} people ALL AROUND
him LOST Their BALLANCE AND FELL
DOWN INTO The ICE COLD WATER!
BUT, FINALLY, EVEN OUR DRUNKEN
FRIEND AND Those CLINGING TO The
PART OF The Ship STILL ABOVE WATER
COULD NOT PUT OFF The HORRIBLE
INEVITABLE ANY LONGER;
SO he hoisted up his TRUSTY BOTTLE,
DRAINED IT TILL IT WAS EMPTY, AND,
PERHAPS REALISING THAT his EMPTY
BOTTLE WAS THE FINAL AND ULTIMATE
"LAST CALL FOR ALCHOHOL" he WOULD
EVER EXPERIENCE, PEACEFULLY LOWERED
himSELF INTO The ICE COLD WATER
AND CALMLY - IF DRUNKENLY - SWAM
SLOWLY AWAY FROM The FAST SINKING
Ship. The NEXT REPORTED SIGHTING
OF THIS MAN WAS AFTER The Ship
HAD DISAPPEARED, AND IT WAS REPORTED
by OUR EVER DEPENDABLE OFFICER Lightower.

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(7)

OFFICER LIGHTOWER AND A HANDFULL OF OTHER CREW MEMBERS ~~TOO~~ FOUND THEMSELVES IN A MOST DIFFICULT SITUATION; IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN - AT NIGHT - TRYING TO STAY UPRIGHT ON TOP OF AN UPTURNED LIFEBOAT THEY HAD SOMEHOW MANAGED TO CUT LOOSE FROM THE DECK JUST AS THE SHIP WAS SINKING; TO SAY THAT OFFICER LIGHTOWER AND HIS FELLOW GENTLEMEN SUDDENLY FOUND THEMSELVES UP THE PROVERBIAL "SHIT CREEK WITHOUT A PADDLE" WOULD BE - UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES - AN UNDERSTATEMENT. THEY WERE TOTALLY SCREWED, IN SALTY SPEAK.

WHEN WHAT TO THEIR WONDERING EYES SHOULD APPEAR (NO; NOT SOME JOLLY OLD ELF AND EIGHT TINY REINDEER!) BUT - YOU GUESSED IT - OUR DRUNKEN FRIEND! AT FIRST, COMMANDER LIGHTOWER FEARED THAT THE ADVANCING SWIMMER COMING UP TO HIS TEETERING UPTURNED LIFEBOAT WAS ~~THE~~ ANOTHER



(8)

PANICKED, DESPERATE, FREEZING PASSENGER SO DESPERATE THAT HE WOULD - LIKE THE OTHERS - TRY TO GRAB AND CLAW HIMSELF OUT OF THE WATER AND SOMEHOW ONTO HIS TEETERING UPTURNED LIFEBOAT (SENDING THEM ALL TO THEIR DEATHS) BUT NO, IT WAS OUR DRUNKEN FRIEND, TO PANICKED SHOUTS OF "STAY BACK! WE HAVE NO ROOM! YOU'LL FORCE US ALL INTO THE WATER!"

OUR DRUNKEN FRIEND JUST CALMLY - IF IN SLURRED SPEECH - ~~REPLIED~~ ~~REPLIED~~ REPLIED; "DON'T GET SO EXCITED, MATE, I'LL JUST HANG ABOUT AND WAIT MY TURN."

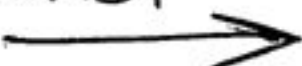
WHICH WAS EXACTLY THE RIGHT THING TO SAY AND DO.

UNLIKE ALL THE OTHERS.

WHO, IN THEIR SOBER PANICKED STATES, SCREAMING FOR HELP AND, LIKE DROWNING MEN, CLUTCHING AT STRAWS OR ANYTHING ELSE, SCARED THE LIVING SHIT OUT OF SO MANY PEOPLE IN THE LIFEBOATS THAT THE SURVIVERS IN THE OTHER LIFEBOATS ACTUALLY ROWED OUT FURTHER AWAY

(9)

FROM THE SCREAMING SURVIVERS
IN THE WATER, RATHER THEN RISK
HAVING THEIR LIFEBOATS - SOME HALF
EMPTY! - OVERWHELMED AND SUNK.
LIGHTTOWER SMALL BAND OF SURVIVERS
ON THAT UPTURNED LIFEBOAT WERE
THE ONLY ONES WHO COULDN'T ROW
FURTHER AWAY DUE TO THE FACT
THAT THEY HAD NO OARS, AND THEY
WERE TRYING TO BALLANCE TOGETHER
IN TANDEM WHILE STANDING UPRIGHT
ON TOP OF THEIR OVERTURNED BOAT.
SO OUR DRUNK FREAND JAST QUIETLY
PADDED ALONGSIDE THE UPTURNED
LIFEBOAT AND DIDN'T TRY TO FORCE
HIS WAY ONTO IT - LUCKY FOR HIM.
BECAUSE, AFTER MOST OF THE NOISE
FROM ~~THE WATER~~ THOSE IN THE WATER
DYING OF HYPOTHERMIA HAD LET UP,
AND AFTER SEEING THAT ONE OF THE
SURVIVERS ON HIS BOAT HAD DIED
FROM THE EXPOSURE AND THERE WAS
NOW - BARELY - ROOM ABOARD FOR
ONE MORE - ~~AND~~. LIGHTTOWER TOOK PITY
ON OUR DRUNKEN GENTELMAN FREAND
AND ALLOWED HIM TO COME ABOARD.



(10)

ACTUALLY, TO CRAWL ABOARD,
WITH HELP FROM LIGHTOWER AND FREAN'S,
ONCE STANDING UP OUT OF THE ICE
COLD WATER ONBOARD LIGHTOWERS
UPTURNED BOAT, OUR INEBRIATED
FRIEND UTTERED THE ~~REMARKS~~ LINE
THAT ~~WAS SAID~~ HAD TO HAVE BEEN
THE ONLY FUNNY THING ANYONE SAID
OR EXPERIENCED THAT HORRIBLE NIGHT;
"THANKS - ^{hiccup} HICCUP - MATE"

LIGHTOWER AND HIS MEN WERE AMUSED -
AND TAKEN ABACK THAT THE GUY HAD
"SOMEHOW" SURVIVED THE WHOLE THING
WHILE BEING IN SUCH AN INTOXICATED
STATE.

WELL, THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN.
RATHER THAN SAYING HE SURVIVED DISPITE
BEING SHIT FACED DRUNK I SAY THAT
HE SURVIVED BECAUSE HE WAS
SHITFACED DRUNK; IT ALLOWED HIM
TO ACT ON PURE INSTINCT; ON STONE
COLD CALM DELIBERATE ACTION INSTEAD
OF BEING SWEEPED ALONG WITH THE MINDLESS
HERD BLINDED BY FEAR. AND THATS THE
ONLY REAL TRUTH. THE LESSON? WHEN
TIMES GET REALLY, REALLY BAD, GET DRUNK !!!

X X X X "RRRRRR" X X X X