

Ep 5 - A Life Before The Mast
Episode Five
of
THE TALES OF SAGE AND SAVANT

written by
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ACT I

FADE IN: OPENING MUSIC

NARRATOR

Greetings and welcome to the audio-aetheric transmission The Tales of Sage and Savant, a Twinstar production. This broadcast is brought to you on the first of each month from the Twinstar Studios in sunny Southern California. Our tale stars Chip Michael as Professor Erasmus Savant, Eddie Louise as Doctor Petronella Sage, and myself Justin -Bremer as your humble narrator. This month's program is sponsored by DRESS LIKE A PIRATE.COM, and features the music of GURDY BIRD. And now, without further ado, we bring you The Tales of Sage & Savant!

THEME SONG

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

When last we saw our time traveling theorists they were embroiled in a New York City gang war and swept away by the excitement of the newsboy strike in 1899. As we have all become accustomed: that ended badly.

DR SAGE

It wasn't that bad.

NARRATOR

Your pardon?

DR SAGE

It wasn't bad it was just... uncertain. Uncertainty is not bad for science, it is just a sign that you have not yet fully tested your theories.

PROF SAVANT

I suppose I see your point, but what is good for science is not necessarily good for me.

NARRATOR

Speaking of what is good for a body, the Doctor is most concerned for what is good for their bodies whilst they are away. She has created a large rack of bottles suspended over each platform. The bottles contain enough fluids and liquid energy to keep them healthy for a week. Corkscrewing copper tubing, designed to automatically feed into the intravenous lines for herself and the professor, springs wildly from the nest of bottles.

DR SAGE

Were you able to effectively position your own waste removal tubes, or do you need my help to get them in place?

PROF SAVANT

No, no, I think everything is in order.

DR SAGE

I am simply attempting to spare you the indignity of the mess you awoke to the last time.

PROF SAVANT

{sarcastically} Oh there is no indignity in travelling through time and space with you my dear.

DR SAGE

{totally missing the sarcasm} Well, be that as it may, your comfort is important to me.

NARRATOR

There is one other change in the laboratory. A meter-thick roll of paper is now positioned to the left of the platforms and is feeding into the recording device for the C.R.A.P. helmets. Combined with the new tubing, the overhanging water bottles and the platforms themselves, the laboratory is once again stuffed to the bursting point.

Edison Device Engage

DR SAGE

Laboratory of Doctor Petronella Sage, King's College, 31 August, 1893, 4:56pm. I have adjusted the pitch of the Chladne device to G above Middle C and preliminary testing reliably creates a definitive curved nodal line in the upper left quadrant that varies less than 0.02 degrees from one attempt to the next. I anticipate that it is this trajectory that will cause us to finally break the century barrier and venture further into the past than has yet been possible. I have decided to continue the use of the C.R.A.P. helmets, even though the data collected thus far has been entirely flat from the moment of our departure until the point of our arrival back in our own bodies. This data may have some bearing on how the return is enacted. If there is a spike of electrical activity before the return point that in any way mimics that at the initiation of travel, it may prove key to understanding the mechanism of disengagement, and may lead to the discovery of a manner to end the explorations other than by sudden and violent death. This should also allow me to ascertain if the time we are aware of in other bodies matches with the passage of time here, and if not, what are the variances.

End Edison Recording

DR SAGE (CONT'D)

Are you ready Professor?

PROF SAVANT

Ever ready to follow you into the void dear Petra.

Electrical build-up

NARRATOR

As you might have noticed astute listener, we have joined our pair of explorers a little late into the process. This is because the time jumps have become routine. Sage and Savant have leapt into the void twice more since last we met. As you may have surmised, the excitement we once felt for the great unknown has been tempered by the fact they have yet to travel farther than eighty five years into the past.

Water pouring out and increased electrical activity as per previous episodes.

DR SAGE

{loudly} I do believe I have cracked the directional thrust this time Erasmus, if my calculations of the nodal patterns are correct, we should finally crack the century barrier.

NARRATOR

The doctor has calibrated the pitch to produce a nodal line that she believes will send them backwards by one hundred and sixty years. If successful, it will be the first step towards pinpointing a moment in time and navigating to it. Let us see if she has succeeded.

Time travel instigation sounds as in previous episodes

TIMEY-WIMEY MUSIC

SCENE II

Sounds of sea battle in distance, water on hull of ship, snapping sails, cannons, swords, etc

NARRATOR

Upon awakening, which I should mention dear listeners, is coming with less and less disorientation as they become used to the displacement felt upon uniting one's consciousness with a foreign corporeal entity, our adventurers notice two things. Firstly: they are not on terra-firma - the wooden floor underneath their prone forms pitches and rolls in a most alarming manner. And secondly, of far greater interest to the doctor at this time, is the fact that she has jumped into a masculine form.

DR SAGE

Erm, Erasmus? There is something wrong. I have a rather funny feeling low in my stomach.

PROF SAVANT

Petra? That is you? Oh my! This is new.

DR SAGE

What? What is new?

PROF SAVANT

Take a moment for self examination my dear.

DR SAGE

Oh. I appear to be a man. A man in a rather excited state. It is most uncomfortable.

Sounds of battle overhead

NARRATOR

Minor issues of discomfort aside, our heroes have landed in the middle of a pirate battle aboard a merchantman currently losing to the determined hoard of freemen with a hunger for booty.

DR SAGE

Is that a battle I hear overhead?

PROF SAVANT

It seems so.

DR SAGE

And this body chose this moment to do... this?

PROF SAVANT

Some men become tumescent during the passion of battle. And judging by the sounds, and the wounds we are both sporting, I would assume that we are casualties of the same.

DR SAGE

Battle or no, how do you put up with this beastly thing?

PROF SAVANT

It is not always so uncomfortable, let me assure you. Perhaps you just need to shift it a bit?

DR SAGE

Shift it?

PROF SAVANT

Move it to a more comfortable position. Like a 90 degree lever. Slide it along until it is more comfortable.

DR SAGE

I do not really want to touch it.

PROF SAVANT

I am sure those hands have touched that particular lever many times.

DR SAGE

Not helping. Any idea of where we are?

PROF SAVANT

{talking fast, very excited} In the hull of a ship to all indications. I believe that door might be the powder hold. You were set to guard it perhaps? These men at our feet appear to be quite dead, and though one is dressed in homespun and motley as myself, the other is wearing better quality broad cloth, such as you have on.

(MORE)

PROF SAVANT (CONT'D)

So I assume that I and my counterpart there are likely pirates and we were unsuccessful in liberating the powder before succumbing to death. Yourself and your fellow were likely defending against the onslaught. I assume we were stabbed to death to avoid using shot in these confines - which is prudent for men who do not wish to be blown to smithereens.

DR SAGE

Right. I need to bandage our wounds to prevent desanguination. Let me see if I can find anything. Uh. This body is cumbersome. How do you men move about as normal with such protuberances?

Ripping cloth

NARRATOR

As the doctor tears bandages from the clothing of the vanquished, Professor Savant surveys the cargo stacked in boxes and barrels all around them.

DR SAGE

Here, remove your shirt and stand still whilst I bandage you.

PROF SAVANT

Judging by the stamps on the cargo, I think we must be on a ship bringing sugar and tea from the Caribbean. See this stamp? Is it for La Mouchere, who ceased trading in 1872. And this one bears the crest of the Earl of Doncaster who was in the shipping business from 1682 until 1742. The lines of the ship are wrong for the seventeenth century. See how the knees curve just there under the upper deck? That was a Canadian innovation in the early 18th century. I speculate we are on a ship in either the East Indies or the Atlantic ocean in roughly the 1720s.

DR SAGE

So, the 1720s. You are a pirate, I am not. Now, you bandage me and maybe we can determine which of us is to be the prisoner of the other.

PROF SAVANT

Oh my, that is quite a vivid tattoo you have there.

DR SAGE

{Peering downwards at own chest}
Hmm! It goes well with your earrings actually.

NARRATOR

The professor reaches up to discover his right ear sports multiple gold hoops rising up along the curve of cartilage. He wears an assortment of talismans, trinkets and pendants tied into strips of clothing, on leather thongs around his neck, and hanging from locks of braided hair.

Stomping footsteps overhead, a hatch throw back

FIRST MATE

Murphy, Jones? Do we have the powder yet?

PROF SAVANT

{bravely, and somewhat excited to play pirate} Argh, that would be an aye, captain!

FIRST MATE

What 'er ye on about Murphy? You know I'm not the Captain. Quit yer lollygaggin! Get those barrels up here!

PROF SAVANT

{still shouting} Aye! Jones is dead sir, but I have a prisoner here from the crew. Shall I bring him up?

FIRST MATE

Aye, get him before the mast. Then get Fillmore to help you load out that powder.

PROF SAVANT

We'd best go above-ships. You stay quiet and let me do the talking. I've always wanted to be a pirate. I think I shall manage the lingo with aplomb.

DR SAGE

Don't call attention to yourself, Erasmus. Pirates are hard men and I don't relish being left alone in their company.

Sound of feet going up a companionway ladder

NARRATOR

Savant delivers Sage to the foremast where the living members of the merchantmen's crew have been gathered under watchful pirate eyes. He gives her a meaningful waggle of the brows and then turns to find the pirate Fillmore.

PROF SAVANT

{bellowing} Fillmore, bear awa' along o' me! We're to shift that powder and quick.

NARRATOR

Savant heads back below-decks to do as ordered whilst Sage attempts to fit in with her erstwhile mates as they wait the pirate's pleasure before the mast.

MAN

Johnstone, we thoughts you was on the way to meet yer maker. Where is Hughes?

DR SAGE

Hughes didn't make it, I'm afraid.

MAN

Lord take his soul. Be you plannin' ta swear the articles?

DR SAGE

I hadn't thought to this point. Will you?

MAN

I heard tell our attacker is John Phillips. Folks say as he kills those that don't. I likes me skin too much to chance that.

DR SAGE

The pirate's life for you then? I shall follow your lead.

Sound: wood knocking wood, grunts, calls watch'er etc!

NARRATOR

Savant has managed to move the powder with alacrity and as the last barrel ascends the gangway his head pops up behind it, black smudges on his nose and cheeks and a frightful grin across his visage.

Footsteps, climbing ladder

MAN

That man, for one, seems to relish the life of a pirate. Perhaps it isn't all bad.

DR SAGE

Perhaps not.

NARRATOR

Are our brave pair headed into uncharted waters and the company of pirates? Will they be able to effectively disguise their differences long enough to learn the ways of life before the mast? Or will the pirates recognize they are being duped and dispatch the scientists forthwith. We'll find out after this brief musical interlude.

MUSICAL GUEST

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Now dear friends we invite you to listen to the musical outpourings of GURDY BIRD and the track HAUL AWAY JOE.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

And now back to our story...

ACT II

INTRO MUSIC

NARRATOR

We join our heroes now as they take to a life of piracy and utmost villainy. The merchant ship has been plundered for all of value, but before the pirates cut the lines lashing the two ships together they gather the members of the merchant crew who are choosing the life of the brotherhood, including the newest of brothers - Dr Sage. Our doctor has managed to work her way to the edge of the group and Professor Savant has pressed up beside her with his piratical shipmates ready to cheer the new recruits.

FIRST MATE

Al'right!! All who would stand as crew of The Revenge, take yer knees here before the mast for the reading of the pirate articles.

Men gathering, thumping of knees on deck etc.

PROF SAVANT

{whispering} Oh my goodness! This is most exciting! I have read accounts of this ritual. This is one of the most remarkable things about Pirates. Of course the governments of Europe and the Americas did their best to keep this practice unknown in the homelands.

DR SAGE

What are you on about?

PROF SAVANT

{still whispering} Pirate articles. Remarkable documents of understanding between shipmates that serve before the mast. They lay out revenue sharing, social responsibilities and the like.

(MORE)

PROF SAVANT (CONT'D)

It is a little known fact that going on the account could be far more lucrative for a sailor than remaining in her majesty's employ, and only a little more deadly. Sailors' lives are dangerous, hard and short, but when one is a pirate that same life comes with revenue sharing and more rum.

FIRST MATE

Shut yer gobs! Attend now the reading of the articles of the REVENGE and her crew.

I. Every Man Shall obey civil Command; the Captain shall have one full Share and a half of all Prizes; the Master, Carpenter, Boatswain and Gunner shall have one Share and quarter.

II. If any Man shall offer to run away, or keep any Secret from the Company, he shall be maroon'd with one Bottle of Powder, one Bottle of Water, one small Arm, and Shot.

III. If any Man shall steal any Thing in the Company, or game, to the Value of a Piece of Eight, he shall be maroon'd or shot.

IV. If any time we shall meet another Mariner that Man shall sign his Articles without the Consent of our Company, shall suffer such Punishment as the Captain and Company shall think fit.

V. That Man that shall strike another whilst these Articles are in force, shall receive Moses's Law (that is, 40 Stripes lacking one) on the bare Back.

VI. That Man that shall snap his Arms, or smoke Tobacco in the Hold, without a Cap to his Pipe, or carry a Candle lighted without a Lanthorn, shall suffer the same Punishment as in the former Article.

VII. That Man shall not keep his Arms clean, fit for an Engagement, or neglect his Business, shall be cut off from his Share, and suffer such other Punishment as the Captain and the Company shall think fit.

(MORE)

FIRST MATE (CONT'D)

VIII. If any Man shall lose a Joint in time of an Engagement, shall have 400 Pieces of Eight ; if a Limb, 800.

IX. If at any time you meet with a prudent Woman, that Man that offers to meddle with her, without her Consent, shall suffer present Death.

Do you swear an oath this day to uphold these articles? To support your brethern before the mast? From this day onward?

MISC

{Hearty shouts} Aye!

FIRST MATE

Then come forward and make your mark!

PROF SAVANT

{Whispering} Do you see? Fair sharing of profits, condemnation of rape, healthcare for those injured in service. These Pirates are not nearly as barbaric as crown and country wish us to think.

DR SAGE

Then I shall make my mark and join you, my piratical brother. I cannot resist your enthusiasm.

Sounds of a ship sailing, water on the hull, etc - music for time passing.

NARRATOR

As the days pass in the rhythm of shipboard life our pair of explorers adapt and even flourish, reveling in the emergence of new skills. One of the most surprising is the ability Doctor Sage has demonstrated in capturing and holding the attentions of the villainous crew. She entertains them with stories of electricity, and horseless carriages. They think she is mad of course.

DR SAGE

And so, alternating current is the way we solve the problem of transmitting across distances, though the system is less stable than direct current.

FIRST MATE

Yer havin' us on, Johnstone! There is no such thing as E-Leck_trick-City.

DR SAGE

Oh I can assure you, there very much is. It is currently invisible but it is there all the time. Ha, ha, ha. Get it? Currently?!?!

CREW

{Various 'get on with ye's and Pah!s, and Har, Hars}

PROF SAVANT

{Sounding much more piratical}
Don't ye worry none there Johnstone. This lot just ain't got yer finely tuned sense of humor is all.

CREW

{good-natured derision} Wait? There was humor? Speaking of tunes, let's have us one!

Music starts up (penny whistles and bodrahn or such like) as S&S move away it fades to background.

NARRATOR

It was very hard work being a sailor, but through the grace of providence, the professor was made boatswain and the doctor a gunner and so the work was something they could easily manage in bodies already hardened to the labor. But four days have passed, and there is no real death in sight. Doctor Sage has begun to worry about their natural bodies back in the lab at Kings College.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Though dehydration is no longer a concern, she worries that someone from the college might enter her lab to find them be-suited in Faraday armor and appearing for all intents and purposes, dead. She is actually enjoying the piratical life, but she is ready to go home.

DR SAGE

Murphy, a word?

NARRATOR

She pulls the professor away from a group of his mates, off to the focasc'l away from the impromptu that has broken out amidships. Yes, we have all learned a few nautical terms along this journey, and if you want a new word to become part of your vocabulary, you must use it. Make of that what you will.

DR SAGE

Erasmus, I am beginning to worry that we have tarried too long in this time. We need to find a way to die horribly sooner rather than later.

PROF SAVANT

Bur Petra, life is most congenial out on the high seas! There is much to admire in the pirate way of life. Take the articles for example...

DR SAGE

Yes, yes. The are a nascent democracy, they are one of the most egalitarian societies on earth, etc., etc. You have been singing this song since the first night when you saw the captives...

PROF SAVANT

Recruits...

DR SAGE

...recruits from the Elizabetta swear their oaths to the articles.

(MORE)

DR SAGE (CONT'D)

Yes, revenue is shared as well as risk, but do not forget you are born into this glorious democracy of yours on a tide of blood.

PROF SAVANT

All democracies are born in blood, such as that about to be shed by the American colonies who are fermenting rebellion at this very time for example.

DR SAGE

Be that as it may, should we neglect our true bodies until they die of it, our consciousnesses might stay with these bodies in this piratical life you so admire, but so too, they might not. I for one, am not ready to test that hypothesis. Besides that, I am most anxious to leave behind this troublesome male body with it's smells, itches, farts and urges.

PROF SAVANT

You do have a point. I am finding your masculine body an inconvenience myself for an entirely different reason.

DR SAGE

I beg your pardon?

PROF SAVANT

I said I find having you in a male body a bloody terrible state of affairs.

DR SAGE

No, the other thing.

PROF SAVANT

You have a point?

DR SAGE

Yes! You have acknowledged my point! I shall treasure this day!

PROF SAVANT

{changing the subject} So how shall we engineer a return home. Up to now all of our deaths have been accidental or at least unplanned.

(MORE)

PROF SAVANT (CONT'D)

If we suicide, will we still return home?

DR SAGE

Another hypothesis I do not wish to test until we have more data. It is entirely possible that we must die suddenly or even violently on this end in order to enact the transmigration.

PROF SAVANT

So we need a violent death. Well we happen to be in violent company, that's for sure. What are the chances of us starting a brawl that could lead to our deaths?

DR SAGE

I think we would have no trouble starting the brawl, but I doubt the Captain or First Mate would allow it to proceed as far as death. Our sword arms are too valuable when taking a prize.

PROF SAVANT

Perhaps we could start a rivalry among members of the crew to increase our chances of being killed in our sleep?

DR SAGE

Perhaps that would get one of us, but the other might end up stuck here. There must be another way. Sleep on it, and let me know if any ideas have come to you by morning.

Music fades completely

NARRATOR

In the event, planning how to die takes a back seat to duty the next morning as a prize is sighted and they are in a chase to run her down across fair seas. Excitement thrums in the lines as the ship strains forward, all canvas unfurled. On board the pirate vessel all is hushed and expectant as the pirates sharpen their cutlasses and prime their pistols.

Ship noises

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Through this, Sage and Savant hope that it will not be noticed that Murphy and Jonstone have shaky hands and sloppy technique. Although they have died numerous times, and though they must, for the sake of their own bodies die now, some part of them fears the battle to come. It is one thing to know a thing intellectually, quite another to embrace it bodily.

Comands, cannons rolling out and various ship sounds.

CAPTAIN PHILLIPS

Hoist the Colors! Make ready the starboard cannon! Move lively now, lads! Let's blow her a kiss!

FIRST MATE

On the roll-up mates, give them a gun, one gun!

Cannon firing. Spy glass opening

FIRST MATE (CONT'D)

Topsail being furled Cap'n; she's moving to strike. She'll not fight.

CAPTAIN PHILLIPS

Still the guns! Musketeers to the prow!

FIRST MATE

Look to yer priming boys! If any man so much as twitches at you as we come in for the dance, slash 'em down!

Running feet.

CAPTAIN PHILLIPS

Stand by with grapples at the larboard!

FIRST MATE

Hands, grapnels at the ready! Prepare to board.

Grappling hooks sinking in, ships coming together.

FIRST MATE (CONT'D)

Guns in all. Close and bar the ports!

CAPTAIN PHILLIPS

Boarders with me, across the wales sharp!

SOUND: Battle calls

NARRATOR

And so, with no battle at all, and little bloodshed to speak of, Captain Phillips took the prize and our heroes remain in their piratical bodies. Later that evening they meet in the fo'csl to discuss their options.

PROF SAVANT

... and it was quite blood poundingly exciting to rush over the rails as part of the boarding party. It is too bad you were stuck below with the other gunners. I felt most dashing as I swung across the canyon.

DR SAGE

I'm sure you looked the part as well, with your beads and trinkets and wild ropes of hair. It is like something out of a penny dreadful - the dashing, but ruthless pirate off to take a young girl's virtue!

PROF SAVANT

{getting worked up} I am offended. For the first part, I would never! And for the second, our articles forbid it. And for the third I WOULD NEVER assault a young lady, nor anyone of the feminine gender. When a lady wants my attentions, she will have to let me know they are desired and welcomed in no uncertain terms!

DR SAGE

{Chastened} I know Erasmus. I did not mean to question your honor - it is just that you look so piratical just now, and it is obvious that the life agrees with you. It shall be a shame to take you away from it.

PROF SAVANT

{somewhat mollified} The life that agrees with me, dear Petra, is the life of adventure by your side. But speaking of getting away - have you come up with any more brilliant plan than self-destruction?

DR SAGE

Not exactly...

PROF SAVANT

How not exact?

DR SAGE

Do you know that angry ginger from the new recruits today? Harradine?

PROF SAVANT

The one who looked as if he were sucking on a persimmon during the swearing of articles? Yes. What of him?

DR SAGE

I overheard him speaking to one of his fellows in the companionway outside the mess. They are not pleased to be turned pirate, and only swore the articles to avoid death.

PROF SAVANT

Not sure what that might have to do with us.

DR SAGE

It they are planning a mutiny, perhaps we can get athwart it and put ourselves in a position to die.

PROF SAVANT

Ah, that is quite ingenious. I might suggest that one of us cozy up to the mutineers, and the other stand aside the Cap'n so's we'll know our course beyond all peradventure.

DR SAGE

Pardon?

PROF SAVANT

So we'll know what we're about. We'll have the measure of the wind, so to speak. I shall happily cast my lot with the mutineers.

DR SAGE

I think it makes more sense for me. Harradine is assigned below-decks like me, and in your position as Bo'sun, you might be taken for a stooge. Besides, it will be easier for you to stay close the the Captain who certainly doesn't want a lowly gunner clouding up his command deck.

NARRATOR

And with that the pair part ways with an eye to subterfuge. We shall leave them to their machinations as we take a short break for a message from our sponsor.

MUSIC OUT END ACT.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

And now for a word from our sponsor:

SPONSOR AD

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Yes ladies and gentlemen, you heard it here DRESS LIKE A PIRATE.COM for 15 years the only "by Pirates, for Pirates" American Privateer run site. There are many copycats, but only one original - DressLikeAPirate.com. And now back to our show.

ACT III

Music, open scene, ship noises etc.

NARRATOR

It has been another two days, dear listeners and death has yet to present itself to our piratical pair. Savant attempted to warn the Captain of the threads of mutiny weaving below-decks, but the man had no time for speculation and supposition. Sage has ingratiated herself to the mutineers, but they seem to be waiting for some unspoken signal to spring their attack. So the seas glide by, the wind fair and the weather gauge favorable and the doctor grows impatient with the waiting.

PROF SAVANT

Is't possible yer suspected mutiny is naught more than a freebooter with a fat maw?

DR SAGE

Is it possible the talk of mutiny is just talk? Possibly, but I surely must find a way to get us home before your language deteriorates any further.

PROF SAVANT

An' what be wrong with me parlance the now?

DR SAGE

Nothing is wrong, exactly. I would just prefer to have my own professor back. This rough corsair is a bit much for my taste.

PROF SAVANT

{gradually leaving the pirate talk as he struggles to regain his own voice} Well, I'll back you on that course. I am most ready to lay my eyes on your true form. This one is a bit muscle-y for my taste. And so's ya know, ahem, I can still talk with my own declension, it just is easier to speak in the vernacular familiar to this body.

DR SAGE

Why is it that you are affected by your host body's lingo and I am not. I sound like a child at masquerade when I attempt to talk like a pirate.

PROF SAVANT

It may have something to do with our areas of study? I spend my academic life attempting to understand an artifact from the point of view of its culture. In this instance, the longer I spend among the brethren, the easier it is to assimilate their ways, down to the last arrgghh.

DR SAGE

Well, no matter the case, I believe we are running out of time. Either the mutiny occurs soon, or we will have to risk death in another manner. This is the longest we have remained out of our own bodies and we've sailed into uncharted waters.

NARRATOR

The doctor has a point. Would that my own humble skills as narrator would allow me to peek in on the laboratory and inform you of what transpires there, but alas, I am tied to our heroes and must wait, along with you, to find out the state of the vacated vessels. I can, however, spare you the tedium of a long afternoon swabbing decks and such and bring you to the point where the last light of the setting sun spears across the gleaming quarter deck, where the gentle luffing of the sails in the evening breeze calls the crew to rest, where the seeds of mutiny are finally sprouting and where, at last, the discontented Harradine shows his true level of villainy and attacks his sworn Captain.

Whispering, bare feet on deck.

HARRADINE

{under-voiced} Johnstone, Oaks, you see to the sailing master. Campbell, Jameson, take out the First Mate. The Captain is mine. If any get in your way, offer them the chance to join our noble cause. If they refuse, then damn thar eyes!

NARRATOR

The attack is on. Sage sneaks as silently as possible across the deck, a knife in her teeth and a prayer on her lips. Savant has joined the Captain at the taffrail for a pipe and a discussion on the finer points of a pirate's honor.

CAPTAIN PHILLIPS

It is not about creating a form of government, but rather of a covenant of men. One of mutual respect and of value for one's contributions.

PROF SAVANT

Well, yes, but if we were to establish a beachhead somewhere, Nausau, say, could we not create a brotherhood of men that governs itself in a far superior manner to any yet known?

CAPTAIN PHILLIPS

You are an idealist I see, Murphy. You join Atkins in that. Unfortunately, it is the very ephemeral nature of our company that makes it function. Introduce land, the presence of women, the pedestrian nature of life ashore and the greed of man will reassert itself. This is the great problem of Her Majesty's navy - though the ships are a-sea, they are ruled by men whose hearts are shore bound. Our company on the other hand is truly of the sea, and as such we must rely on each other above all to survive and flourish.

NARRATOR

The Captain seems of good character, I am beginning to worry that the plan of standing with separate sides in this coming conflict will prove to be disastrous. Just as the conspirators are drawing closer to the Captain and the Bo'sun, our own friend Savant, the Sailing Master Richard Atkins steps out of the companionway and sees the mutineers.

RICHARD ATKINS

OY! What are ye men about?

Fighting, stabbing etc

NARRATOR

Oaks falls on Atkins and the doctor pretends support. Within seconds Oaks has stabbed the sailing master to a bloody end. The need for stealth is past now, and Harradine calls his co-conspirators to action.

HARRADINE

At 'em boys, point n edge! Cut the bastards down!

Cries of battle - running feet - etc.

CREW

The Cap'n under attack! Defend the Cap'n! Mutiny! To arms, to arms!

NARRATOR

The Captain draws his cutlass and at his side Savant does the same. The mutineers rush the pair and they fall in a hail of bullets and slashing swords. Seeing Savant fall under the onslaught, Sage fights the urge to run to his defense and instead, turns into the onrushing tide of sailors come to defend their Captain. As a cutlass plunges into her chest she hears Harradine proclaim his victory.

Sword death and then fading speech...

HARRADINE

Brothers, the Captain is dead and
for all o' me, that's the end of
it. I'll not quarrel with the likes
of you, and we can lay aside the
arms and embrace as brothers if
ye'll but agree...

TIMEY-WIMEY MUSIC

SCENE II

NARRATOR

It is a very subdued Sage and
Savant that find themselves back in
the laboratory, weak as kittens and
unfortunately fragrant.

DR SAGE

Oh dear. It seems I did not gauge
the waste receptacle capacity
correctly. I shall have to have a
shower installed here in the
laboratory if we are to continue
taking such long trips away.

PROF SAVANT

That might make these displacements
a little easier to bear, yes. But
Petra, have we really been gone a
week? You do not lecture at this
point, but I do. I cannot afford to
just miss my lectures willy-nilly!

DR SAGE

Yes. I simply must come up with a
better mechanism for ending our
travels than violent and
unpredictable death.

Undoing buckles and typical end lab noise.

DR SAGE (CONT'D)

Here, I had some apples set aside
in the cold-box. Eat this. It will
make you feel better. Have some of
this jerked meat as well.

Biting into apple

NARRATOR

Neither of the pair are much
inclined to speak further.
(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

They clean up as best they can silently, each contemplating the adventures of the past week. Once the professor is dressed, his naturally loquacious personality begins to reassert itself.

PROF SAVANT

{Sigh} I shall have to write about it of course. Pirates are villified by history as the lowest sort - uneducated, unclean. But John Phillips was well read, philosophical and pragmatic. I am not sure I've made the acquaintance of his better.

DR SAGE

Certainly, you must write, else what reason for these travels. Do you see the Chladni pattern? I wonder if it is this strong rightward sweeping line that took us back so successfully. I must find a way to amplify the effect of it.

NARRATOR

Their respective reveries are broken by a pounding at the door.

Heavy knocking

CUNINGHAM

Doctor Sage, I really must insist you answer me. I cannot wait longer for your response. If you do not open this door I shall be forced to get facilities to open it for me. I understand you wish to keep your research under wraps but your secrecy has gone too far.

DR SAGE

{whispering} It's the Provost.

PROF SAVANT

{whispering} You'll have to let him in.

DR SAGE

{calling out} One moment please, Provost.

(MORE)

DR SAGE (CONT'D)

I can certainly let you in, I must power down some equipment however.

Powering down.

DR SAGE (CONT'D)

Quick, Erasmus! The cadaver arm from the cold box!

NARRATOR

The doctor and the professor scramble to reset the lab in the guise of a standard galvanization platform, then Petra boosts the professor out the window. She does her best to pat her hair into place and then opens the door.

Door opening

DR SAGE

Why Provost Cunningham, how nice of you to come by. Please forgive the state of my lab...

CUNINGHAM

Harumph!

NARRATOR

The nosy Provost shoulders his way into the laboratory a harsh and disapproving look on his face. Will this be the end of Petra's funding? Will Sage and Savant never again have a chance to journey though space and time? Tune in next month to find out.

END MUSIC STARTS

END MUSIC PLAY OUT

FADE OUT.

CREDITS:

NARRATOR

The Tales of Sage and Savant is a Twinstar production brought to you on the first of each month from our Southern California studios.

(MORE)

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

Starring Chip Michael as Savant, Eddie Louise as Sage, and Justin Bremer as the narrator. Special guest in this Episode was Craig Smith as the First Mate.

Episode 5 a Life Before the Mast Was written by Eddie Louise. Are you interested in the historical information we included in this episode? Go to our website for the complete bibliography.

Theme music and Audio Enginnering by Chip Michael.

Special music in this episode was HAUL AWAY JOE by GURDY BIRD check her out at GurdyBird.co.UK

Our episode sponsor was DRESS LIKE A PIRATE.COM the perfect place to dress your inner and your outer pirate!

Catch our website at www.sageandsavant.com and like us on Facebook to stay current with all things Sage and Savant.

And remember: Death is no barrier to science!