The Tale of the Shipwrecked Sailor

Once there was a young official to the king. He was feeling very sad for his mission had failed.

Upon returning home, the young official met an old sailor and told him of his problems.

After listening to the young man, the old sailor told him not to be sad but to rejoice that all his men and ships had returned safe.

But the young man could not see past his own failures, so the old sailor sat him down and told his own story...
When I was a young man, I set sail on a very large ship headed to the King's mines with 120 of Egypt's best crew who had harts stouter than lions.
While at sea, a large swell, the biggest of its kind, lay waste to our ship and all the crew members except for me.
I was swept away by the wave, only to be deposited upon a strange island.

Here I spent 3 days alone with only my own heart for company.

After regaining my strength, I sought food and shelter.
The strange island was a garden of fruits
and fine vegetables with sycamore figs.
Fish and fowl were found aplenty and I
took more than my arms could carry.

To show my respect for this good fortune,
I cut a fire drill and made a fire to burn an
offering to the gods.

All of a sudden a thundering noise
sounded in the distance. Fearing another
swell I sought shelter.
The noise continued, splintering trees and causing the ground to tremble! Then out came a huge snake!

When he reached me, he opened his mouth and spoke, “Who brought you to this island? If you delay in telling me I shall turn you into ashes!”

Trembling and unsure of what to say, I responded, “I am before you without knowing myself!”
The snake just looked at me. Suddenly he picked me up with his mouth and carried me to his home where he safely deposited me back on earth.

Once safely on the ground, the snake asked me again

“Who brought you, who brought you, fellow, water?”
Having gained my courage, I answered with my arms bent before him,

"I had set out to the mines on a mission of the king in a large ship with many skilled sailors. Looked they to the sky, looked they at land, their hearts were stouter than lions. They could foretell a storm before it came, and tempest before it struck. There was not a fool among them. A storm came up while we were at sea, before we could reach land. As we sailed it made a swell, and in it a giant wave. The mast it struck, then the ship died. Of those in it not one remained except myself who is here with you and I was brought to this island by the wave of this sea."
The Snake responded to my tale,  
"Don't be afraid now you have come to me. It is  
god who has let you live and brought you to this  
isle of the Ka. There is nothing that is not in  
it; it is full of good things. You shall pass month  
upon month for 4 months then a ship will come  
from home with sailors you know.  

You shall go home with them and live and die in  
your won home.  

How happy is he who tells what he has tasted,  
when the calamity has past."
"I shall tell you something similar that happened on this island. I was here with my brothers and there were children with them.

Then a star fell, and they went up in flames through it. It so happened that I was not with them and survived alone.

I could have died for their sake when I found them gone. If you are brave and control your heart, you shall embrace your children, you shall kiss your partner, you shall see your home. It is better than everything else."
So thankful and joyous was I, I touched the ground in front of the snake and promised gifts of ibi and hknw oils, laudanum, hsyt-spice, and the incense of the temples of which pleases all the gods. The snake just laughed and said

“You are not rich in myrrh and all kinds of incense, But I am the lord of Punt, and my myrrh is my very own. That hknw-oil abounds on this island. Moreover, when you leave this island it will become water and we shall never meet again.”
Then the ship the snake foretold came with people I knew. Before leaving, I visited the snake one last time. When I told him about the ship he asked one thing of me, “In health to your home that you may see your children again! Make me a good name in your town that is what I ask of you.” I gave him thanks and then he gave me myrrh, hknw-oil, perfume, eye-paint, giraffe tails, elephant tusks, and many other precious things.
Once home, I presented the snake’s gifts and praised his name to our king who honoured his name and gave me land and riches so my family may live well.