

Part Two: The Asante Kingdom

Chapter 31: The Kumasi Market: Crafts

Chapter 32: The Kumasi Market: Cattle and Cloth

Chapter 33: The Kumasi Market: Prisoners and Guns

Chapter 34: Buying Prisoners

Chapter 35: Prisoners, the Cub, and a Mission

Individuals introduced

Two of the Asantehene's messengers and their group of two soldiers, two porters, and a drummer

General vocabulary

barrel of a musket
gold leaf
gun powder
labyrinth
lock (on a gun)
long Dane musket
prey
ramrod
stock of a musket

Clan names

Gwegene, Tugfo: clans of the Gurunsi people

Summary of Chapters 31-35

In these chapters Nana and five young people explore the Kumasi market and talk to local craftsmen and women. Akosua and Kofi Edu explain how they work for their aunt and uncle who are a potter and a wood carver.

Nana's group sees Amir and his horse, Doki, handle cattle.

In the prisoners' sector of the market, Asare translates as prisoners tell stories of their capture. One woman realizes that her husband, who has been purchased by slave traders and is being taken to the coast, is in Asare's clan. She wants someone in Nana's group to buy her and her children and look for her husband to buy him and prevent his being sold to whites.

The Okyeame talks of growing up as an *odonko* to elders and the boys before the elders purchase prisoners. The boys witness the purchase and describe their reaction to Nana.

The Asantehene gives the leopard cub that he received from Nana Somfo to Nana Anyensu to return to the forest. Nana Anyensu gains permission to send some of his people with the Asantehene's messengers going to the coast to find the *odonko* that he wants to buy.

The messengers' delegation that now includes the Okyeame, Elder Kwasi, Kwame, and Baako departs Kumasi the day before the *Odwira* festival to try to catch up with the slave traders.

Comprehension questions

1. What does Nana's group eat for lunch in the main market? What does the lunch remind them of?
2. Give examples of the items that Elder Kojo and his workers carve. How is Kofi Edu learning this trade?

3. What types of pottery does Madam Yaa make? How does Akosua help her?
4. How are gold weights used? How do they illustrate proverbs. Give two examples.
5. How does Nana allocate jobs among the young people?
6. How do Amir and Doki handle the cattle in the market? What did Kwaku think of this? Baako?
7. Describe how *kente* cloth is woven and by whom. What kinds of thread are used? Where does the thread come from?
8. Where does the cloth for daily wear come from?
9. Who in Nana's group plans to buy one or more prisoners? What work will they want their new *nnonko* to do?
10. Describe the prisoners' sector of the Kumasi market. What is the price for male and female prisoners? For children?
11. How were some of the prisoners captured? What happened to them afterwards?
12. How does Asare help Nana and the others learn about the prisoners in the market? Is this difficult for him?
13. Why does Asare want to help the prisoner named Apure? What do she and Asare ask Nana to do? What is Nana's response?
14. In the gun sector of the market, what does Nana look for?
15. What is the price for the muskets that Nana bought?
16. Why does the Okyeame describe his background to Nana's group after lunch? What does he want? How does the group respond?
17. What is the name of the Gurunsi clan that the Okyeame belonged to? Who else belongs to this clan? Do they feel a bond among themselves?
18. Kwame asks Nana if the Okyeame broke the law when described his background. What law is Kwame referring to? What is Nana's response?
19. When the boys see the prisoners in the market, what do they think?
20. Why is Kwame glad that Uncle Kwasi and Elder Kwadwo bought prisoners?
21. Why did Nana send the Okyeame and Elder Kofi to the Asantehene's palace? What is the outcome of their visit?
22. Why is the leopard cub returned to Nana? What will he do with it? Who will care for it?
23. Nana wants some of his group to join the Asantehene's messengers on their trip to the coast. Who will go and what are they expected to do? Will they miss the *Odwira* festival? Will they accompany the messengers all of the way to the coast?
24. Why does Nana want to talk to his neighbor, Nana Somfo?