

Part Two: The Asante Kingdom

Chapter 36: Nana Somfo and the *Odwira* Parade

Chapter 37: The Place of the Cannons

Chapter 38: Chiefs and Cannons

Individuals in the order introduced

Yaa, the Asantehene's niece and
daughter of Osei Yaw

Osei Yaw, one of the Asantehene's
brothers

Place name

Place of the Cannons in Kumasi

General vocabulary

assemblage
labyrinth
palanquin

Summary of Chapters 36-38

Nana Anyensu has the leopard cub and plans to return it to the forest near Tanoso. He informs Nana Somfo and asks his help to find the cub's mother once they both have returned to their districts.

Nana Anyensu's delegation takes part in the *Odwira* parade, circling the Place of the Cannons, and standing before the Asantehene to pledge loyalty. Through his *okyeame*, the

king invites Kwaku, Akosua, and Kofi Edu to join a group of children seated near him to watch the parade. They do this and meet a niece of the Asantehene who invites them to the palace. The children see many delegations that the Asantehene welcomes and one whose chief is arrested.

Nana and two elders attend the chiefs' meeting with the Asantehene two days later. Afterwards, Nana, Elder Kofi, Elder Kwadwo, and Kwaku visit the Place of the Cannons. They examine and discuss the cannons on display. They talk of the future and whether reading and writing will become important.

Comprehension questions

1. Why does Nana Anyensu meet with Nana Somfo? What does the meeting accomplish?
2. What is Nana Anyensu's regalia for the *Odwira* parade? Why is it important?
3. Who will walk with Nana in the parade? What role does each group play? Who will be Nana's *okyeame*?
4. What is the meaning of the horse tail switch that Nana will carry?
5. Has the Asantehene learned why some whites on the coast are no longer buying prisoners? If so, what is the reason?
6. The Queen Mother remembered the colorful umbrellas of the *Odwira* celebration. What role do they play?
7. Describe the appearance of the Place of the Cannons as Nana's delegation enters. Who are the spectators?

8. What is the meaning of the dance by the soldiers who are holding skulls?
9. Describe the appearance of Asantehene Osei Bonsu. How does he display the Golden Stool?
10. Describe the appearance of Nana's delegation as it stands before the Asantehene. Does the Asantehene accept Nana's pledge of loyalty? How does the king show his decision?
11. How is the Golden Stool displayed? What does it mean for the kingdom at this time?
12. What is the Asantehene's invitation to Kwaku, Kofi Edu, and Akosua? Does Nana approve? What does the group of children do?
13. What happens to the chief that the Asantehene suspects of disloyalty?
14. Why does Elder Kofi take Kwaku, Kofi Edu, and Akosua to the Asantehene's palace? What do they find there?
15. What is Yaa's pet and where did it come from?
16. At the meeting of the chiefs how does the Asantehene describe the battle at Fort Anomabo? What did he and the governor of the fort do with the prisoners?
17. Why was the governor's treatment of his prisoners surprising?
18. When the Asantehene meets with the chiefs, what does Nana ask him? How does the king respond? Is Nana satisfied?
19. What items do Nana and Elder Kwadwo pick up at the market? What gifts will Nana take home for his family and friends?
20. What is the significance of the name 'Place of the Cannons'?
21. Describe the cannons. Where did they come from? Who brought them to Kumasi? Why? Why are they important?
22. In the Place of the Cannons Nana, Elder Kwadwo, and Elder Kofi talk about the future with Kwaku. What questions does Kwaku ask? How does Nana respond? Is Kwaku satisfied with the response?
23. What do Nana and Elder Kwadwo think about the future of reading and writing for the Akan?
24. Does Kwaku want to learn to read and write? What is Nana's advice for him?