

Part Two: The Asante Kingdom

Chapter 25: To Kumasi

Chapter 26: The Long Trip

Chapter 27: Exploring Kumasi

Chapter 28: The Asantehene's Palace

Chapter 29: The Foreigners' Zone

Chapter 30: Arabic and Talismans

Individuals in the order introduced

Elder Kwadwo, Nana's cousin who lives in Kumasi

Madam Adjowa, Elder Kwadwo's wife

Kofi Edu, Son of Madam Adjowa and Elder Kwadwo

Akosua, Daughter of Madam Adjowa and Elder Kwadwo

Amir, Hausa trader who owns a horse

Abdul, Hausa trader and imam

Arabic word introduced

Salaam ...greeting in Arabic, translated as 'Peace'

General vocabulary:

admonish

Arabic

bit (mouthpiece for a horse)

blacksmith

brass caster

bridle (headgear for a horse)

cinch

finial

foreigner

goldsmith

imam

muzzle

ostentatious

pace

phalanx

prod

regalia

reins

saddle

scholar

stirrup

talisman

Quran

zone

Place Names

Gao

Nsuben River

Timbuktu

Ethnic groups

Hausa, an ethnic group living primarily in northern Nigeria whose members traveled widely as traders

Moor, Arabic speaking scholars resident in trading cities south of the Sahara Desert

Animal introduced

Baboon

Summary of Chapters 25-30

These chapters begin with the trip of Nana's delegation from Tanoso to Kumasi.

On their first full day in Kumasi, Nana takes Kwame, Kwaku, Baako, Kofi Edu, and Akosua into the city to explore the downtown and the foreigners' sector.

In this sector Nana's group talks to Amir about his horse and each rides the horse while Amir is walking it.

Nana meets Abdul, an imam who makes talismans. Nana asks Abdul to talk to the group about writing and books. Abdul writes everyone's name and phrases in Arabic and helps the group read what he has written. Nana buys three talismans from Abdul.

Comprehension questions

1. What are Kwame, Kwaku, and Baako carrying in head loads as they leave Tanoso?
2. What items are in Nana's regalia being taken to Kumasi? Why are they important?
3. How long will the trip to Kumasi take? Why does Akua caution her brother?
4. Describe the travelers' shelter in the first town where Nana and his delegation stay.
5. How does Nana greet the chief in this town?
6. How do members of Nana's delegation entertain themselves on the first night of their trip?
7. What does Nana learn about a gift for the Asantehene that his neighbor is taking to Kumasi?
8. What happens when Nana's delegation encounters baboons?
9. Who are Nana's hosts in Kumasi? Who are the children who welcome Kwame, Kwaku, and Baako? What household chores are the children responsible for?
10. What are the city sights and sounds for Kwame during his first day and night in Kumasi? Does he like them?
11. Does the Asantehene return to Kumasi for the *Odwira* festival?
12. On their walk in Kumasi with Nana, what do Kwame, Kwaku, and Baako learn about the king's messengers?
13. What do the main street of Kumasi and the Asantehene's palace look like?
14. How does Nana describe the meeting that the chiefs will have with the Asantehene?
15. What is the appearance of the foreigners' sector in Kumasi? Where are the foreigners from? Why do they come to Kumasi?
16. What does Amir teach Nana's group about horses? How does the group treat Doki? Why don't Akans have horses?
17. How were Akan armies able to defeat the armies of the savannah people who have horses?
18. What greeting do Amir and Abdul teach Nana? Can you write the greeting in Arabic?
19. What form of writing does Nana's group learn about? Why do they want Abdul to write their names?
20. What does Abdul tell the group about Arabic letters and writing? How does the Asantehene make use of Arabic writing?
21. Who are the Moors? Why do they come to Kumasi? Where are the cities of Gao and Timbuktu? Why are they famous?

22. What is the Quran?

23. What is Abdul's job as an imam?

24. What is a talisman? How is it made? Why does Nana want to buy some? What is Abdul's price for a talisman? How many does Nana buy? What will he do with them?