

Part Three: The Coast

Chapter 48: Castle and Cannons

Chapter 49: Elmina to Kumasi

Chapter 50: The New Year

Individuals in the order introduced

Ahanta chief in Elmina town

Ahanta guards in Elmina Castle

Dutch officials in Elmina Castle

General vocabulary

palanquin

ramparts

Dutch word introduced

Guedenmidtage ... Good afternoon

Summary of Chapters 48-50

The soldiers who rescued Kwame, Baako, and Atore take them to a rest house where the messengers' group joins them. The Okyeame thanks the ancestors in three clans who have watched over the group. The messengers deliver their message to the governor of Elmina castle and he dictates a reply.

The Tanoso group tours Elmina Castle. On leaving, they see the prisoners that the slave traders will sell at the castle and greet them. There is no response.

Kwame and Baako talk of their future and their thoughts about the slave trade. The messengers' group has a swift trip to Kumasi and the Asantehene receives them well.

When everyone in Nana's delegation has returned to Tanoso, they gather to talk of their trip. They boys describe what they want to do in the future. Nana says that he will adopt Baako. The town celebrates its *Odwira* festival to welcome the new year.

Comprehension questions

1. How do Kwame and Baako show their emotions after the soldiers rescue them?
2. When do the messengers arrive in Elmina? Why did the Okyeame pour a libation?
3. What message does the Ahanta chief of Elmina town give the messengers?
4. How does the governor of Elmina Castle decide what to do with the rebels? What is his decision?
5. On their tour of Elmina Castle, the Okyeame, Elder Kwasi, Kwame, Baako, and Atore see its cannons. What are their impressions of the cannons and the way that whites fight with them?
6. What languages have the boys heard since leaving Tanoso? Is the number a source of concern or interest? Why?
7. How do the Okyeame, Atore, and the boys react when they meet the slave traders and their prisoners outside of the castle?
8. What is the likely fate of these prisoners?
9. The Okyeame praises the boys for their behavior while they were prisoners. How does he do this? What behavior does he feel showed wisdom?

10. How do the Okyeame and Elder Kwasi use the example of a broom to describe the behavior of Kwame, Baako, and Atore? Do the boys agree with the analogy?
11. What is the messengers' plan for their return trip to Kumasi? How long did the trip from Kumasi to Elmina take? How long should the return trip take? Will the group be safe from further attack by rebels?
12. What would Kwame and Baako like to see happen with the slave trade?
13. What does Kwame think now about being a trader when he grows up? Can he be a trader without owning *nnonko*?
14. What is Baako thinking about his future?
15. What would the boys like to do if they return to the coast?
16. What sights and sounds of the forest do Kwame and Baako welcome on the return trip to Kumasi. What new sound do they hear?
17. How does the Asantehene show his concern for the Okyeame, Elder Kwasi, Kwame, and Baako when they return to Kumasi?
18. What opportunity do Kwame and Baako have to attend an Arabic class in Kumasi?
19. The boys are interested in being apprentices in Kumasi. What do they want to learn? Who will help them?
20. How do Kwame, Baako, and Kwaku greet each other when they are together again in Tanoso?
21. How do Atore and Apure thank Nana when their family is reunited? Who will they work for? What is the likely future for the family.
22. What memories do Kwame, Baako, and Kwaku share about their trip at the gathering of family members and close friends? Why does Nana ask them to do this?
23. What praise does Nana offer the boys?
24. Why does Nana decide to adopt Baako? How do the boys react when they hear Nana's decision and later?
25. How are Nana's gifts for his family and friends received?
26. How do Kwame, Baako, and Kwaku explain reading and writing to their families and friends? How do they want to use these skills in the future? How will they learn more? How do family members and friends react to the information?
27. The Queen Mother concludes the evening by saying, "My brother is smiling." What does this mean?
28. How does Tanoso celebrate its *Odwira* festival? Why is it important for everyone to take part? What transition is recognized and celebrated?
29. What do you think Kwame, Kwaku, and Baako will do in the future? Why?