

Part Three: The Coast

Chapter 39: Leaving Kumasi

Chapter 40: The Pra River

Chapter 41: Assin Manso

Chapter 42: Travelers and Rebels

Chapter 43: River Ride

Individuals in the order introduced

Ebo: Leader of the group of five Fante rebels
Asantehene's soldiers

Place names

Assin Manso
Cape Coast Castle
Elmina Castle
Fort Anomabo
Pra River

General vocabulary

epithet
fraught
wail

Summary of Chapters 39-43

The Asantehene's messengers travel fast on their way from Kumasi to Elmina Castle and the Okyeame, Elder Kwasi, Kwame, and Baako struggle to keep up. On its second day, one of the soldiers becomes ill. Elder Kwasi takes his place.

The group is delayed crossing the Pra River. When the crossing takes place, logs being floated downstream threaten the canoes. Kwame falls into the river and is rescued.

The messengers' group overtakes the slave traders in Assin Manso where the Okyeame buys Atore. The Tanoso group decides to continue with the messengers to the coast.

Fante rebels rob the messengers, kidnap Kwame, Baako, and Atore and start a journey to Elmina Castle to sell them as *nnonko*. Drumming alerts the Asantehene's soldiers who look for the kidnappers and their prisoners as they travel on a river to the ocean.

As Nana's group returns to Tanoso, Asare cares for Apure and her children. Kwaku cares for the leopard cub. Nana's group is satisfied with the visit to Kumasi where they traded for items to sell in the Tanoso market.

Comprehension questions

1. After two days of travel what happens with the messengers' group? Why does Elder Kwasi take the place of one of the soldiers?
2. As Nana's delegation leaves Kumasi to return to Tanoso, Kwaku is responsible for the cub. How will he carry it? How will he find food for it?
3. In Nana's delegation, how do Apure and her children travel?
4. As the messengers' group approaches the Pra River, what does Baako remember about the river?
5. How do the messengers plan to cross the Pra River? Why are they delayed?
6. As the first two canoes begin to cross the river, the boatmen see logs with riders coming

towards them. What happens to the canoes?
How can the second canoe avoid a collision?

7. How does the rider on the second log handle the log? What happens to him?

8. Why does Kwame fall out of his canoe? How does he save himself? How does the log rider help him?

9. Is Kwame frightened? What does he learn from this experience?

10. Does the messengers' group gain on the slave traders? Where is the group likely to overtake the traders?

11. What was the condition of Assin Manso when the messengers' group arrived? How do the Okyeame and Elder Kwasi approach the traders?

12. One of the slave traders explains what is going to happen to his prisoners. How does he describe the rest of their trip? What do the prisoners he sells usually do while they wait for a ship to pick them up?

13. What message do the traders ask the Okyeame and Baako to give to their prisoners? How do the prisoners react?

14. What do the Okyeame and Baako learn from the prisoners about their capture?

15. What is the first trading deal that the traders offer to the Okyeame? How does he respond?

16. What bargain do the Okyeame and the traders agree to? What is the price for the prisoner? How does it compare to the prices for prisoners in the Kumasi market?

17. How does Atore react when the Okyeame purchases him?

18. Do the messengers want the Okyeame and his group to stay with them as they continue to the coast? Why or why not? What does the group decide to do? Why?

19. What does Asare tell Apure about the work that she and her husband will do as *nnonko*? How does she react?

20. How does Kwaku care for the leopard cub as Nana's group travels to Tanoso? Is the cub active?

21. Was Nana's group satisfied with its visit to Kumasi? Were the members able to sell and buy items successfully. Give an example of such a transaction.

22. What is the road from Assin Manso to the coast like? How does it compare to the great-roads? Why haven't the Fante built better roads?

23. Who robbed the messengers' group and kidnapped Kwame, Baako, and Atore? Why? How do Kwame and Baako feel as they are taken away? How does Atore help them?

24. How do the soldiers and others learn of this crime? Will Fante people be willing to help capture the kidnappers?

25. How do the rebels and their prisoners travel on the river? How does Atore help them? Where will they stop for the night?