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The Bronze Bow

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Reading Notes

myrrh blossoms	balm of Gilead; used in perfume and incense
tetrarch	governor of one-fourth of a country in Roman Empire
bar	Aramaic for “son”
synagogue	Jewish place of meeting for worship or religious study
rabbi	master; person trained in Jewish law, ritual, and tradition
scribe	copyist of manuscripts and documents
Zealot	member of a Jewish movement in the 1st century A.D. that fought against Roman rule
legionaries	members of Roman legion, which consisted of 3,000-6,000 infantry and 100-200 cavalry

Vocabulary

Write the meaning of each bold word or phrase.

1. splashed with **burgeoning** thickets of oleander. _____
2. splashed with burgeoning thickets of **oleander**. _____
3. He looked down at his bare **calloused** feet _____
4. his back still raw from the last **flogging**. _____

Expressions for Discussion

1. *“No one is free. So long as the land is cursed by the Romans.”*
2. *“All the mighty ones. Joshua, Gideon, David, all of them fought on the soil of Galilee. No one could stand against them. It will be so again.”*

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following in complete sentences.

1. Why is Daniel “puzzled and uneasy” about the two strangers climbing the mountain? _____

2. How does Daniel know that Joel is not a coward? _____

3. Why would the men in the cave have “hooted” if they could see Daniel washing his hands before a meal? _____

4. How does Joel’s view of the Romans differ from Malthace’s view? _____

5. How is Daniel able to show Joel and Malthace that he is not an ignorant savage or simply a runaway slave? _____

Discussion Questions / Enrichment

1. Where do you think the Jewish ritual of handwashing before a meal originated?
2. Was being a rabbi a full-time occupation?
3. Why do the Jewish people have such animosity towards the Romans?

Reading Notes

galley	a seagoing vessel propelled mainly by oars
litter	a vehicle that is carried, consisting of a bed or couch, covered and curtained, suspended between shafts
blacksmith	one who forges and shapes iron with a hammer and anvil
barley bread	bread made with the grain of barley grass

Vocabulary

Write the meaning of each bold word or phrase.

1. The cause of the **fracas** stood motionless _____
2. Rosh waved a greasy **mutton** bone in his direction. _____
3. It was not the first time he had removed **manacles**. _____
4. After an **interminable** time _____
5. The black eyes ... looked like bits of polished **basalt**. _____

Expressions for Discussion

1. *“What kind of patriots are you? We’ll have no slaves on this mountain. He’s one of us—get that through your heads. I’ll double the watch so you pigeonhearted can sleep. But the man sleeps free.”*
2. *“Rosh is the finest leader you could ask for. He pretends to be careless, but actually he leaves nothing to chance, not the slightest trifle. He has eyes in the back of his head. That’s why he’s been successful, and his band is growing, while other bands break apart or get captured. And he is afraid of nothing on earth, nothing. He laughs at the Romans.”*

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following in complete sentences.

1. Why is Daniel disgusted and disappointed when he sees the man in the caravan with the purple and yellow headdress? _____

2. Why does Daniel “step forward and speak first” when Rosh notices Joel? _____

3. How does Daniel know that Rosh will allow Joel to return to the village even after witnessing the attack on the tradesmen? _____

4. Why are Rosh’s men fearful of the slave? Why does Daniel volunteer to take the slave up the mountain? _____

5. What evidence exists to suggest that Daniel and Samson might become friends?

Discussion Questions / Enrichment

1. What is the only requirement of those who join Rosh’s band? What do you think about it?
2. Rosh’s men debate on whether to call the slave Samson or Goliath. Using knowledge of both stories, why do you think they settled upon Samson? In your opinion, was this a good choice? Why or why not?
3. Research. Samson was considered “too good to waste on the galleys.” What are the “galleys”? What was life like on the galleys for slaves during this time?
4. When Joel leaves the mountain, he and Daniel have a “wordless exchange that was both a farewell and a beginning.” In a one-page paper, provide specific examples that support their relationship as potential friends and/or enemies.

Reading Notes

mezuzah	parchment scroll with the words of the Shema
Shema	Deuteronomy 6:4-9
ketzah	Hebrew for black cummin (an herb)

Vocabulary

Write the meaning of each bold word or phrase.

1. What thoughts went on behind that **impassive** face? _____
2. **Chagrined**, Daniel hastened to find the coolest water _____
3. they reached a small **ford** that crossed a mountain stream. _____
4. a watery stew made of **lentils** _____
5. which had by law to be left for **paupers** to gather. _____
6. filled the room with a **rancid** odor. _____

Expressions for Discussion

1. *“Praised be Thou, O Lord our God, King of the Universe, Who hast sanctified us by Thy commandments and commanded us to kindle the Sabbath light.”*

Discussion Questions / Enrichment

1. What is the significance of the ram’s horn sounded as the first call to the Sabbath?
2. What is the “Sabbath lamp”?
3. Explain the law that said sheaves had to be dropped for paupers to gather.
4. What was the mezuzah?

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following in complete sentences.

1. In the opening paragraph of Chapter 3, explain what Daniel and Samson are doing. _____

2. Although Samson helps Daniel with many of his chores, at times Daniel hates him. What is Daniel's reason for this hatred? _____

3. How did Simon the Zealot know that Daniel was alive and hiding in the mountains? _____

4. Why is Daniel able to finally return to the village? Why is he hesitant to return? _____

5. Simon and Rosh "work for the same end, but don't exactly see eye to eye." What end are they working toward? How are their views different? _____

6. At the end of Chapter 3, we find Daniel back in his grandmother's house and reunited with his sister after five long years. As he gets ready for bed, he "could have wept for homesickness." Look up the word "ironic." Explain why this situation is ironic.

