

Sacred Hunger Study Guide

Sacred Hunger by Barry Unsworth

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Plot Summary

This story takes place in the 18th century at the beginning of the African slave trade and follows the lives of those involved and aboard the slave ship, the *Liverpool Merchant*. She is built by William Kemp in the hopes that she, and the slaves aboard her, will help to erase his large debts. The *Liverpool Merchant* survives many ordeals, but when she blows off course filled with many ill slaves and crew members, mutiny occurs and she is landed in the swamps of southern Florida. Eventually she and her crew and slaves are found by William Kemp's son, Erasmus, but by this time the lives of all involved have been changed forever.

There are two main plots in this story; one plot follows Erasmus Kemp's life and the other follows the life of Erasmus' cousin, Matthew Paris. Erasmus is a determined and serious young man who falls in love with Sarah Wolpert and the idea of wealth. At the same time, he carries hatred for his cousin, Paris, for something Paris had done when they were children. Erasmus' father has the slave ship *Liverpool Merchant* built and purchases slaves in Africa who are later sold in Kingston Market to pay large debts he has incurred, unknown to his family. Most of Erasmus' story in the first book revolves around his feelings for Sarah Wolpert and their developing relationship. Unfortunately for the relationship and Erasmus' fairly peaceful and prosperous life, his father commits suicide and William Kemp's debts are made public knowledge. Erasmus refuses Mr. Wolpert's offer of work, his engagement to Sarah is ended, and he decides to rebuild the Kemp wealth and prestige; he blames the slave ship, and subsequently his cousin, for his father's death.

In Book 2, Erasmus learns of the *Liverpool Merchant*'s location and the possibility of a settlement. He organizes an expedition to find the ship and her crew and cargo. At the end of the book, Erasmus has captured the crew, slaves, and most importantly his cousin. His story ends very bittersweetly; he has accomplished what he set out to do, but he realizes too late that his hatred for his cousin was unfounded and based on emotions and perceptions of himself as a child.

Paris' story begins when he is let out of prison and asked to be the surgeon aboard his uncle's ship, the *Liverpool Merchant*. His wife has died, and he believes his life is worthless, so he accepts. Life on the slave ship deteriorates until finally Paris, in a fit of rage seeing slaves being thrown overboard, begins a mutiny. The captain is killed and the crew and slaves hide the ship in the swamp lands of southern Florida. They build a settlement in which whites and blacks live in equality and peace; this peace begins to come to an end after twelve years when groups within the community form and individuals begin to use each other to serve their own needs. Before the fate of the settlement can be realized, Erasmus and his soldiers capture or kill these settlers. Paris dies and the story ends with the crew and slaves headed to St. Augustine. The book ends, as it begins, with a beggar known as the Paradise Nigger, who is Paris' son. He constantly talks about the paradise in which he was born; a place where black and whites lived in peace and equality.

Prologue and Book 1, Part 1, Chapters 1-5

Prologue and Book 1, Part 1, Chapters 1-5 Summary

"Sacred Hunger" begins in the Prologue with the story of an elderly mulatto beggar named Luther Sawdust. He tells those in the bars in New Orleans and anyone else who will listen about his father, who was a doctor aboard a ship and a childhood in a settlement where whites and blacks lived in harmony. Book One then begins the story of this doctor and his family and the adventures and obstacles that take place on a slave ship called the Liverpool Merchant.

In the Prologue, a mulatto beggar named Luther Sawdust, known in the bars as the Paradise Nigger, says his father was a white doctor aboard a Liverpool ship. He tells tales of a childhood in a tropical paradise where whites and blacks lived together in peace. Although the written story is gone, the tale of this interesting mulatto still resides in the author's mind.

In Book One, Part One, Chapter One, the ship mentioned in the Prologue is the Liverpool Merchant, a ship destined for the Atlantic trade and believed to be the death of Erasmus Kemp's father. Erasmus is remembering the building of this ship and how he, as a 21 year-old man, had been embarrassed by his father's theatrical behavior. However, he does believe some of this sensitivity was due to his new love for Sarah Wolpert. With remorse, Erasmus remembers his father's desire to appear knowledgeable and liked and the boredom he felt when watching his father speak about ship-building preparations. Erasmus' love and respect for his father does show as he becomes angry when the sail maker calls his father's bluff and makes it known that Kemp is not an expert in all aspects of ship-building. While at the sail maker's, Erasmus is reminded how close his love, Sarah Wolpert, lives. He had known her most of his life since their fathers were old acquaintances, but it had only been ten days since he realized his feelings for her were more than mere friendship; an evening spent in her company opens his eyes to her beauty and character. Erasmus' mind returns to the present. "New shackles were being forged here...the creeping fringes of the sail-cloth, his feelings for Sarah Wolpert, and for his father" (Unsworth, pg. 13).

In Book One, Part One, Chapter Two, a supper party is taking place in which Erasmus' cousin, Matthew Paris, is present. Paris had recently been released from prison and is to be the ship's surgeon. Erasmus has hated his cousin since an incident occurred when he was ten years old. As the evening goes on, the women retire for the evening, and the men discuss the Africa trade. Kemp sees this trade as the future for Liverpool, although not all present would agree. Erasmus remembers this evening as a night in which his father was in the right regarding everything he said, and he found his cousin's presence disturbing. He does realize, though, that his observational skills had been

compromised by a memory from earlier that day in which he had the courage to ride over to the Wolpert house and agree to act in a play.

In Book One, Part One, Chapter Three, the morning of the dinner party is described. Paris has just arrived after years of separation. Erasmus remembers the last time they were together when Paris had picked him up while he was trying to build a dam and set him down some yards away. This memory still angers Erasmus. Paris' qualifications as a surgeon are discussed, which leads to mention of the Bishop of Norwich, who signed both Paris' medical license and prison sentence. Erasmus is shocked and disgusted that Paris sees his time in prison as a mistake made by someone other than himself, for Paris had been imprisoned for denying the Holy Writ, the Bible. Contrasting Erasmus' feelings of disgust and hatred, his mother is very fond of Matthew Paris, her sister's son and does not hide her feelings for him. Paris is drawn to this woman's kindness. The chapter ends with Paris' account of the last time the two families were together at Brancaster on the Norfolk coast and Erasmus' building of a dam. The memory, as he tells it, is not the same as Erasmus', who denies having any memory of this event. This denial is a lie; Erasmus remembers all too well this event, which brings back feelings of loneliness and rage, and the worst part is that his cousin shows no sign of realizing his wrongdoing.

In Book One, Part One, Chapter Four, soon after the midday meal, Kemp and Paris are left alone. Kemp assures Paris that what has happened in the past will not affect his future with his family, and he will always be welcome in the Kemp home. Kemp sees God as keeping track of good deeds, so by showing his nephew kindness and giving him work, he is killing two birds with one stone. He is pleasing God and providing his ship with a trained physician. The two men discuss the Africa trade, and Paris officially agrees to be a part of the ship's crew, which brings relief to Kemp. He sees what has befallen Paris as the worst thing that could happen to a person, and he believes that if Paris' life can be rehabilitated, then his fears for his own life will disappear.

Prologue and Book 1, Part 1, Chapters 1-5 Analysis

The Prologue begins at what might be the end of the story. It prepares the reader for characters and events that are to come.

Book One, Part One, Chapter One begins prior to the leaving of the Liverpool Merchant for the Africa trade hinted at in the Prologue. It is told by an omniscient third person and focuses on the feelings of Erasmus Kemp who is grieving for the loss of his father from, at this point in the story, an unknown cause. What is known is that Erasmus blames the Liverpool Merchant, a slave ship, for his father's death. The problems this ship encounters are foreshadowed in this chapter when the building of the mast is described. Kemp believes that the more he talks about the strength of the mast, the more he can ward off problems such as violence of men and weather and ensure a safe passage for the ship, crew, and cargo.



Throughout this chapter, metaphors and imagery are used to describe the feelings Erasmus has regarding his father's death, the building of the slave ship, and Erasmus' feelings of love for Sarah Wolpert, a young woman he has known most of his life.

A possible theme is also present in this chapter, remorse. Through Erasmus' grief and memory of this time in his life, he frequently mentions the boredom and embarrassment he felt towards his father, which he regrets now that his father is deceased.

Book One, Part One, Chapter Two describes the various opinions, particularly Kemp's, regarding the Africa trade. It is seen as a way to build great wealth and prestige, and does not carry with it the same feelings of embarrassment and anger that are felt today regarding the slave trade. At this point in the story, Africans are seen to be no different than any other trade good. They are a means to an end, a prosperous end.

The chapter ends with a feeling of foreboding. Erasmus says the evening did not seem out of place; he believes everything his father said to be true, but he finds his cousin's presence to be disturbing. He also mentions that his observational skills are compromised by his new powerful feelings for Sarah Wolpert and events that have taken place earlier in the day.

Book One, Part One, Chapter Three takes place the morning of the dinner party. This chapter reveals more about the life and opinions of Matthew Paris. The narrator of the story focuses in on Paris' thoughts, as well as Erasmus'. Paris sees his imprisonment as a mistake and the role of a greedy man, the Bishop of Norwich, while Erasmus sees the fact that Paris denied the Bible as a perfectly good reason for him to be sent to prison. This hints at many more disagreements and differing opinions to come between these two characters. Unlike their son, both Mr. and Mrs. Kemp seem willing to forgive Paris for his past, Mr. Kemp because he seems to be making a deal with God and with his own conscience and Mrs. Kemp because she seems lonely in this home with her son and husband and she seems to need a friend. More is revealed about the last time Paris and Erasmus had seen each other, but it is still unclear what had actually taken place. Paris makes it seem that it was a very innocent game of building a dam, and Paris had saved Erasmus from being swept away by the current; based on Erasmus' reaction to Paris' account, the events, from Erasmus' perspective, had been much different.

In Book One, Part One, Chapter Four, Kemp and Paris are left alone to discuss the Africa trade. Through this chapter, it is learned that Paris agrees to be the ship's physician because he is looking for an escape. Through the use of a flashback, it is hinted that Paris' wife, Ruth, had died during childbirth, and that is when his life began to go downhill. Without Ruth, he does not seem to care where he is or what he does; his life is nothing without her. Kemp sees the obstacles Paris has had to face, "a specter of bankruptcy and ruin," as the thing he most fears (pp. 32). He hopes that by allowing Paris the chance to regain his wealth and prestige, he will be able to let loose his own worst fears.

Book 1, Part 1, Chapters 5-9

Book 1, Part 1, Chapters 5-9 Summary

In Book One, Part One, Chapter Five, Erasmus goes to the Wolpert house, supposedly to see Charles, but really to see Sarah. Upon arriving at the house, Erasmus learns Sarah and Charles are rehearsing a play with several friends, in a grove across the lawns from the house. Erasmus, feeling somewhat offended for not being invited to join, listens to a portion of the rehearsal and finally is seen by Sarah. It seems Erasmus has arrived in time to take the part of Ferdinand, since the original person chosen for the role has broken his leg after falling off his horse.

In Book One, Part One, Chapter Six, Kemp and Saul Thurso, the captain of the Liverpool Merchant, are meeting. Their conversation begins with a discussion of what various persons working aboard the ship will receive as payment. The discussion then turns to there being a surgeon on board, which Thurso finds unnecessary. The fact that this physician is a relative of Kemp's causes Thurso fury to grow, but he keeps his cool. As the meeting grows more uncomfortable, Matthew Paris arrives and is introduced. Paris is warned by Thurso that Thurso is in charge and all must follow his commands. The conversation continues between Paris and Thurso, as Thurso questions Paris regarding the trip to better understand why a gentleman would be joining the crew of a slave ship. This chapter ends with a toast among these three men to a successful trip and a mutual hatred beginning between Paris and Thurso.

In Book One, Part One, Chapter Seven, play rehearsal is underway. The actors argue over the various characters they portray, which reveals aspects of their personalities. Sarah Wolpert has decided that Miranda, her character, should have a speech originally written for Prospero, with Erasmus emphatically supporting her reasoning and desire for the speech. This support is partially due to his love for Sarah and his desire for a break from rehearsal, which reinforces his knowledge that he is a hopeless actor. Sarah wins the argument and is given the speech. Rehearsal continues, and Erasmus dreams of escaping this practice to spend some true quality time with Sarah, as themselves and not ridiculous characters. Rehearsal ends with Erasmus both happy and sorry to leave. As he enters town on horseback, he becomes lost due to avoiding a fist-fight in the street. He finds a man dying in the shadows; he goes to help him but decides the man wants to die in peace, so he quickly mounts his horse and rides home. The memory of this encounter, although at this time he is unaware, "festered and in the course of time rotted its container and leaked into his father's death and into the smell of the ship's timbers" (pp. 51).

In Book One, Part One, Chapter Eight, details are given regarding the building of the ship. William Kemp is present at every stage of the building of this ship and continues to tell stories of the success of the slave trade. Kemp, a poor boy who had wandered into Liverpool with nothing, has grown to be very rich, which Kemp finds to be miraculous. It is suggested by the narrator that because of this belief that his wealth had come



miraculously, and the Liverpool Merchant is part of this miracle, Kemp does not believe his good luck can be undone; therefore, he cannot adapt to the losses he has and will take. This time for Erasmus, like Kemp, is a time like no other. His days are spent either with his father at the shipyards, at home, or, where his life truly lies, at rehearsal. The chapter ends with Erasmus noticing that part of the ship being put together does not seem to be right. Soon after this thought, part of the ship snaps and two men are thrown from their work. One is left severely injured and one is dead. When Erasmus looks to Thurso, he seems pleased by this deadly event.

In Book One, Part One, Chapter Nine, with some disagreement between the figurehead sculptor and Kemp, the finishing touches are put on the vessel. It is launched and ready to set sail. The chapter ends with a sense of foreboding and sadness as Kemp watches the uniqueness of his ship sail into the water and seem like any other ship.

Book 1, Part 1, Chapters 5-9 Analysis

Book One, Part One, Chapter Five consists of Erasmus coming upon Sarah, Charles, and their friends rehearsing a play. This chapter reveals to what extent Erasmus is infatuated with Sarah. He first feels irritated for not being invited to join the play and continues to feel a range of emotions from agitated to elated during this chapter in which he first gazes upon and then has a conversation with Sarah.

Book One, Part One, Chapter Six relates the first meeting between Kemp, Paris, and the ship's captain, Saul Thurso. This is the first time in the book that the reader gets a true picture of what occurs in the Africa trade, which includes branding the Africans and a ship being steered by "scum." Thurso tells Paris about the type of men aboard a slave ship, men with whom Paris feels he can identify, considering he has spent time in prison and has had very low points in his life. The chapter ends with a mutual feeling of hatred beginning between Thurso and Paris, which gives a sense of uncertainty to the book. This chapter seems to be preparing the reader for what is to come aboard the Liverpool Merchant.

Book One, Part One, Chapter Seven reveals the personalities of those involved in the play as they argue over their characters, the most important of which is the personality of Sarah Wolpert. She is described earlier as being pale and delicate, the picture of beauty in the 18th century, but she is revealed to have a strong personality and to be capable of defending her views. This, despite the time in which this story takes place, seems to enamor the men, which causes a great deal of jealousy for Erasmus. For Erasmus, this rehearsal period is quite difficult. With both he and Sarah being in character, he is not sure whether her regard is for him or his character, Ferdinand. After leaving rehearsal, aspects of city life are revealed through Erasmus' ride home, which greatly contrasts the beauty of the countryside Erasmus had just left. There is a fist-fight in the middle of the street, the poor beg in the alleys, and the sick die in the shadows. Erasmus comes across one of these dying men, who gives him the impression he wants to die alone. As nausea begins to affect Erasmus, he goes back to his horse and rides away, not realizing how much this encounter would affect him later in life. Once

again, the theme of remorse is revealed through Erasmus' desire to get to know Sarah and his behavior regarding the dying man on the street.

Book One, Part One, Chapter Eight details the building of the ship, as well as the building of William Kemp's wealth. There is a parallel that can be found between these two aspects with the foreshadowing of the demise of both the ship and Kemp's prestige. Kemp's wealth is thought by him to be a miracle, and the ship is part of this miracle. Due to this belief, he can fear but cannot believe that this miracle could be reversed. Through this statement, Kemp's, and the ship's, demise is once again foreshadowed. Amid the building of this ship and the revealing of Kemp's rise in social standings is Erasmus' obsession with Sarah. His life revolves around rehearsals, which are bittersweet; he knows not if the compliments he receives are by Sarah to Erasmus or Miranda to Ferdinand. The chapter then returns to the ship, which suffers a devastating loss when two workers are killed. What is surprising about this incident is the fact that Thurso seems satisfied by these deaths. The reason for this satisfaction is revealed later in the book and is connected with the importance put upon luck.

Book One, Part One, Chapter Nine shows Kemp and Erasmus meeting with the sculptor of the figurehead which is completed but has not been made to Kemp's current wishes. Kemp seems to be changing his mind more and more as the days progress, which may reflect the anxiety he is feeling regarding this vessel and her maiden voyage to Africa, as well as the unknowns associated with this endeavor. Once a compromise is agreed upon, the ship is ready to sail. Unlike Kemp's vibrant personality, the launching is a very small affair, with only Kemp, Erasmus, and a handful of others present. Although the number present is small, they make a great deal of noise to show their enthusiasm for Kemp and his ship. Kemp is well-respected by these men, both for his boisterous personality and for the way he has handled the situation involving the accident described in the previous chapter.

Book 1, Part 2, Chapters 10-14

Book 1, Part 2, Chapters 10-14 Summary

In Book 1, Part 2, Chapter 10, Matthew spends his last night on shore at an inn on Water Street near the docks. He is physically ready for the voyage, but his mental readiness is uncertain. He is unsure as to what books he would like to take. These books, especially Harvey's "Treatise on the Movement of the Heart & Blood" remind him of his previous life, which seems to have changed so quickly in such a short period of time. He writes a letter to a friend named Charles, giving him the few possessions he will not need on the voyage. This letter reveals him to believe in evolution and explains the reason for his imprisonment. He regrets the choice he had made to express his belief in the evolution of creation and would gladly do anything to have his Ruth and their unborn child back. He knows that by giving this information to Charles, Charles will continue his studies but will be smart enough to not have anything published until well after his death. As Paris prepares for his future aboard the Liverpool Merchant, he can only think of the past.

In Book 1, Part 2, Chapter 11, Thurso meets with his ship mates, Barton, Simmonds, and Haines. He tells the men he does not want the other men mistreated, and they are not to be beaten until after the ship has left the port, because Thurso does not want any of them trying to swim for the shore. After Simmonds and Haines leave, Thurso and Barton discuss their plans once they reach Africa, which includes trading in gold dust, about which Thurso wants no one else to know. This will be Thurso's last voyage and he wants it to go as smoothly as possible. The ship is loaded and all that is left to do is find a few more men, using any means necessary, and to wait for the wind.

In Book 1, Part 2, Chapter 12, William Blair has just arrived back in Liverpool after eight months at sea. He goes to a bar to get food and drink and ends up being tricked into joining the crew of the Liverpool Merchant. The story then shifts to that of a mentally handicapped man named Daniel Calley. Due to his simple nature, advantage is often taken of him. The last man to be obtained for the Liverpool Merchant is Jim Deakin.

In Book 1, Part 2, Chapter 13, the men who were tricked or sold to be a part of the Liverpool Merchant's crew meet in a dark, musty hold in the bottom of an old barge. Along with the men taken in the previous chapter, the fiddler, Sullivan, is also a part of this group for trying to protect Billy in the bar. The two men in charge, Hughes and Cavana, especially Hughes, are not comfortable guarding these men, for it could mean trouble later.

In Book 1, Part 2, Chapter 14, the Liverpool Merchant has set sail with its crew and supplies. While the crew is busy with preparations, Paris writes in his journal and wanders the deck watching these men at work. On the third day, the winds turned fair, the crew goes to work, and the Liverpool Merchant is let loose in the Irish Sea.

Book 1, Part 2, Chapters 10-14 Analysis

Book 1, Part 2, Chapter 10 gives more insight into Paris' character and the reason for his imprisonment. He had been studying the evolution of various creatures, coming to the conclusion that man must also have evolved. This led him into trouble with the law, causing others to assume he did not believe the Bible; this is what led to his prison sentence by the Bishop Norwich. This chapter also reveals the love he has for Ruth and their unborn child; he would gladly make apologies and grovel for forgiveness for his supposed sins to have them alive. A flashback is used to take Paris back to fond memories of summers in his childhood and represents the sum of all he had lost. As he stands looking and trying to mentally prepare for the new voyage in his life, he cannot stop thinking of the past. This ends the chapter on a very somber note and causes some anxiety in the reader, for now the reader is growing attached to Paris and it seems this trip to Africa may not be what is best for Paris.

Book 1, Part 2, Chapter 11 describes a conversation between Thurso and members of his crew. Through this chapter, Thurso is seen as a shrewd and practical man. Compared to our own culture, the fact that men will be allowed to be beaten, chained, and branded is appalling, but in this society, it is suggested that Thurso is a fair man, for he does not want any of his men mistreated; it is yet unknown if Thurso demands this same treatment of the Africans. He has his own plans for when he arrives in Africa, but at the same time he also wants to make sure his employer, Kemp, receives the profits due to him. The chapter ends with Thurso telling Barton that three more men are needed, and Barton may find these men using any means necessary. This foreshadows the shocking addition of three members of Thurso's crew.

Book 1, Part 2, Chapter 12 describes the obtaining of these last three members of the crew and reinforces the theme of entrapment. It gives insight into the lives of these three men, as well as the way in which they have been tricked into joining the crew of the Liverpool Merchant. It is very shocking that Captain Thurso, who seems to be fair and practical in his dealings with others, would encourage his men to find the last few members of the crew using any means necessary. The capturing of these men reveals the desolation and poverty found in the dark alleys of Liverpool at this time. Since these men have been taken against their will, it makes the reader wonder how compliant these men will be as members of the crew. If the crew is treated in this way, one can only imagine what the treatment of the Africans will be like.

Book 1, Part 2, Chapter 13 begins with the men who have been tricked or sold meeting in the hold of an old barge. Their reactions to the situation vary from resignation to indignation to misery. It is realized that the fiddler is now a part of this group for trying to protect Billy, and he wishes now he had just kept quiet. Hughes and Cavana, the two men in charge, add to these various emotions. Foreshadowing of problems to come takes place when Hughes feels uncomfortable being near Cavana or being in charge of these men; he believes that this could easily lead to violence.

Book 1, Part 2, Chapter 14 shows the vast difference between Paris' lifestyle and knowledge and that of the crew of the Liverpool Merchant. It seems Paris might receive a rude awakening to what life is truly like on the sea. This is foreshadowed by the presentation of the whip and the captain's avoidance of him.

Book 1, Part 3, Chapters 15-20

Book 1, Part 3, Chapters 15-20 Summary

Book 1, Part 3, Chapter 15 takes place on the Wolpert property as rehearsals for *The Enchanted Island* continue with the usual banter. Erasmus is tired of pretending and not knowing if what takes place between him and Sarah is actually between them or just between Miranda and Ferdinand. Erasmus does get up the courage to ask to see Sarah at her home; she blushes but quickly regains composure and makes a coy response, asking if they will be seeing each other to practice their scenes. This question shows her amusement at his questioning and anxiety and, in Erasmus' mind, takes her a step down from the high pedestal on which Erasmus has placed her. The chapter ends with Charles making an announcement to the group that, since rehearsals are progressing at a rather slow rate, his cousin from London, who has experience in the theater, would come within the week and be the troupe's director.

In Book 1, Part 3, Chapter 16, squalls build up and give Paris severe seasickness. The next day, once Paris' stomach and the storm have calmed down, Paris goes to the galley to find some food. He is told he may have some oatmeal; he surprises the cook by asking to be served in the galley rather than in his own room. The weather continues to give the ship problems, causing it to get behind schedule. When James Wilson, one of the crew, raises his hand to the boatswain, Thurso decides to have him flogged. Thurso knows that although the boatswain has treated Wilson poorly, Wilson has no right to raise his hand, because by raising his hand to the boatswain, he has raised his hand to the captain. Thurso is aware that a flogging will serve as a lesson to the rest of the men. After the flogging, Paris hides his contempt for the captain's behavior towards Wilson; he instead asks the captain again for use of his sickbay, especially now that he has a man who is in need of his services. The chapter ends with Thurso noticing the wind picking up and saying that they had freed the wind while looking down at the spots of Wilson's blood on the deck.

In Book 1, Part 3, Chapter 17, Erasmus is given permission by his father to propose to Sarah Wolpert, but when he asks Sarah's father for permission, he tells Erasmus he must wait until Sarah is eighteen. He is surprised that Mr. Kemp would allow his son to propose to Sarah, so he hires a private investigator to look into Mr. Kemp's financial situation.

In Book 1, Part 3, Chapter 18, signs of traveling south appear, such as dolphins following the ship, a softer quality in the sky, and flying fish. Paris writes of the new things he is seeing in a journal and, in a way, talks to Ruth through this journal. Paris is reminded of his days as a student; these memories soon change to memories of his imprisonment and flogging. The chapter then turns to the men who have been bathed and given clean clothes, which seems to greatly upset them. Libby is then shown watching Calley do a job correctly but on the wrong rope; Libby does not stop him.



Fortunately for Calley, Deakin arrives and stands up for him. Calley becomes very angry with Libby and is barely stopped by Deakin from attacking Libby.

In Book 1, Part 3, Chapter 19, rehearsals continue but this time with a director, Henry Adams. He, to Erasmus' dismay, lays his fingers on the persons of the ladies in the cast, most frequently on Sarah. To make matters worse, Sarah does not seem to mind the attention. Erasmus senses that Adams has feelings for Sarah and will soon find a way to replace Erasmus, possibly with himself. Erasmus vows to prevent this from happening.

In Book 1, Part 3, Chapter 20, the ship has gone off course and Thurso wonders about the cause. Paris then writes in his journal about another flogging; he has realized that Thurso seems to do the bidding of an imaginary deity that guides the ship. Paris dines with Thurso and Barton; these men educate Paris in the harsh realities of life aboard a slave ship. Barton leaves dinner with Paris, trying to get information about Paris' secret life. Once again alone, Paris remembers various events from his past. The story then turns to Deakin telling Daniel about his plan for them to escape.

Book 1, Part 3, Chapters 15-20 Analysis

Book 1, Part 3, Chapter 15 shows that rehearsals for the play continue in the same way they have in previous chapters, and Erasmus seems no closer to understanding if Sarah has feelings for him. To make matters worse, she seems to realize he has feelings for her, but does not relieve his anxiety either by expressing an interest in him or a lack thereof. His anxiety seems to amuse her, which does not put her in a good light in Erasmus' eyes, yet Erasmus cannot help but be attracted to her.

Book 1, Part 3, Chapter 16 reveals to Paris what life is really like on a ship; the chapter begins with a terrible storm that causes Paris to be sick for an entire night, and Paris witnesses the flogging of a member of the crew. It is hinted at the end of the chapter that Thurso's decision to have Wilson flogged is not entirely because he wants to use Wilson's flogging as a lesson to the other men; he seems to be trying to gain favor with the wind by giving it human sacrifices. This is first hinted earlier in the book when one worker is killed and the other is seriously injured; Wilson's beating is the next human sacrifice. When the wind picks up and begins to move the ship, the captain seems sure that these sacrifices are pleasing to the wind or some sort of god.

Book 1, Part 3, Chapter 17 shows Erasmus deciding to propose to Sarah. His father gives him permission, even though he believes Sarah, at seventeen, is quite young; he remembers that he proposed to Erasmus' mother when she was just seventeen and he believes the combining of these two families would be good for the Kemps, so he gives Erasmus his blessing. It is hinted that there is much troubling William Kemp because he seems to rarely be relaxed these days. Sarah's father hires a detective to look into Kemp's financial situation, because he wonders if that is the true reason why Kemp allows his son to propose to Sarah, who is not yet eighteen. Sarah seems to fear

Erasmus, but it is not known if this is because she does not like him or because he has such an intense personality.

Book 1, Part 3, Chapter 18 shows the Liverpool Merchant headed into southern waters. Paris is amazed at the changes he sees and writes them in his journal. This journal has become his connection to his wife; it reminds him of the days when he would tell her of his many discoveries. He is then reminded of his fall and imprisonment; it is suggested that he, like Wilson, was also flogged. This shows a connection Paris has with the men on this ship. Although he is well-educated and higher-ranked than most men on the ship, he understands these men quite well. The chapter then changes to the story of the men who have been taken aboard this ship against their will. One may wonder why they, especially Sullivan, are distraught regarding the new clothes they wear, but these men not only have been forced upon this ship, they also have had no say in the removal of their clothes, showering, and the receiving of new clothes. To make matters worse, these new clothes will come out of their pay; the price paid for these things is much more than the clothes are worth. This section ends with a threat to Libby's life, and the story then shifts to Libby watching Calley splicing a piece of rope. What Calley does not know is that he has been given the wrong rope and is wasting his time. Libby and his underlings are thoroughly enjoying this, which reveals much about Libby's personality, when Deakin comes to Calley's rescue. Deakin is threatened when he reveals to Calley the mistake he has made; the dangerous side of Calley's personality is revealed when he is barely restrained from attacking Libby. The chapter ends with Calley still angry and saying that Deakin is his friend. To what this friendship may lead is unknown.

Book 1, Part 3, Chapter 19 returns to rehearsals. Henry Adams has arrived and is busy altering the acting of the various characters. He seems to thoroughly enjoy giving direction to Sarah, with his hands lingering around her waste. This adds to the torture felt by Erasmus who is receiving no attention from her. As fitting his intense personality, Erasmus vows to keep Adams from replacing him and putting himself in as Ferdinand, even if it means destroying the play. His only thoughts continue to be about himself and his feelings for Sarah, rather than what she might actually want for herself. He so desperately wants to be close to her, even if it means he may be close to her only as Ferdinand and she as Miranda.

Book 1, Part 3, Chapter 20 continues to show the power of an imaginary force on Thurso. The narration then turns to Paris and his thoughts about his voyage and shipmates; these thoughts then turn to memories of his imprisonment. He dines with Thurso and Barton, learning much about the changes that are foreshadowed to take place in him and the other men once the Africans are aboard. Much is revealed in this chapter about Paris' imprisonment and the life of one in jail at this time in history. Even more so than today, money is necessary for one in prison to live with any kind of comforts. These memories of prison also show Ruth being alive at the time that Paris is in prison; her feelings towards him seem to change with each visit, from distress to reproach. Mention is made of a man named Deever whom Paris uses as a shield against Ruth's shame; how he is used as a shield is yet unknown. The chapter ends with Deakin asking Daniel to run away with him; this may not be the wisest of ideas.

Daniel often forgets what he is asked to do, which could cause problems for Deakin. Success for these two men does not seem very likely.

Book 1, Part 4, Chapters 21-24

Book 1, Part 4, Chapters 21-24 Summary

In Book 1, Part 4, Chapter 21, Erasmus confronts Henry Adams regarding his behavior towards Sarah. He finds Erasmus to be mad. Erasmus threatens Adams' life by asking for a duel, and Adams walks away. At the same time, Mr. Wolpert learns that Mr. Kemp is struggling financially but could, with time, regain his wealth, so he does not believe that Kemp's allowance of his son to wed has to do with his financial worries.

In Book 1, Part 4, Chapter 22, the men aboard the Liverpool Merchant are preparing for the arrival of the Africans. A storm is brewing, and the chapter ends with Thurso thanking the gods for allowing them to be far enough east of the coast in shallow waters, which could have caused delays and other problems.

In Book 1, Part 4, Chapter 23, the cast of The Enchanted Island has congregated in the library, due to poor weather. They are discussing the confrontation between Adams and Erasmus; it seems many do not care for Adams. Erasmus leaves the room after letting the company know he will quit the play if that is what they wish. At the same time, Parker is being reprimanded by the Vicar for playing the role of the savage, Caliban, and is asked to quit the play; it seems the play will come to an end, but not due to Erasmus' behavior. Sarah joins Erasmus outside; they go for a walk with Miss Edwards trailing far behind. Erasmus and Sarah get into a disagreement regarding his behavior towards Adams; Erasmus' admission to his love for Sarah, desire to marry her, and a kiss ends the argument. She now reveals her interest in Erasmus but states that she will wait, as her father wishes, until she is eighteen.

In Book 1, Part 4, Chapter 24, the Liverpool Merchant arrives in Africa, and the crew prepare for trading. King Henry Cook, known as Yellow Henry, brings possible slaves aboard the ship, and Paris examines them, like one might examine cattle. Yellow Henry and Thurso argue over the worth of each slave, and Paris tries to calm himself and take himself away from this situation through memories. At one point he becomes nauseous and goes back to his cabin. The chapter ends with Thurso telling the men that their work has just begun and he will not tolerate his employer's property to arrive in Kingston in anything but perfect condition.

Book 1, Part 4, Chapters 21-24 Analysis

Book 1, Part 4, Chapter 21 includes the reaction by Erasmus that is previously foreshadowed. He has been described as wild and passionate, and this becomes very true in this chapter with his threat to Adams' life. Whether Erasmus is mad, as Adams says, or if this would be fairly typical of a man fighting for the affections of a woman at this time in history is unknown; what is known is that this would seem very strange to a modern reader, and it is wondered what Sarah might think about this encounter and

how it will affect her relationship with Erasmus. When Mr. Wolpert learns that financial troubles are unlikely to be the main reason for Kemp's allowance of his son's marriage proposal, Wolpert decides Erasmus would not make a bad son-in-law; this, along with his dislike of Adams, clears the way for future events.

Book 1, Part 4, Chapter 22 describes in detail the preparing of the ship for the slaves. This reveals to the reader, not only how the Africans will be treated aboard this ship, but also the mindset of the men regarding the Africans. It is made quite clear that they are seen as objects to be used and sold.

Book 1, Part 4, Chapter 23 seems to bring to an end the play, as well as Erasmus' distress. He frequently reassures himself that all his efforts are not in vain by repeating a sort of mantra, "when we are married." This reinforces his childhood behavior of being able to take control through the power of his will. He finally admits his feelings to Sarah during an argument; whether she had feelings for him prior to this moment is unknown, but she cares for him now. What also is unknown is whether she truly has feelings for him or only is reacting to the attention she is receiving from him.

Book 1, Part 4, Chapter 24 begins the true journey of the slave ship. Several slaves have been purchased and branded, as if they were animals. What is even more shocking is that Africans are the ones to sell Africans to Thurso and his men. Throughout this ordeal, Paris struggles to keep his composure and not to feel empathy for the slaves; at one point he goes back to his cabin, because he can handle the situation no longer. What does help Paris in taking his mind off of the situation at hand is a book about travels through Africa, which reads more like fairy tales than true accounts of this continent. This seems to reflect the lack of understanding Europeans have for this continent and its people. Some good comes from this chapter when Thurso threatens his men regarding the treatment of the slaves; although his reasoning for this is due to the fact he wants to receive the most money possible for these slaves, at least these men and women will hopefully not be mistreated any more than necessary while they are aboard the slave ship.

Book 1, Part 5, Chapters 25-31

Book 1, Part 5, Chapters 25-31 Summary

In Book 1, Part 5, Chapter 25, Adams leaves and Erasmus becomes a regular visitor to the Wolpert house. Wolpert notices the oppressive effect Erasmus has on Sarah, but she continues to want to see him. Erasmus believes he and Liverpool will prosper from the coal industry, as well as man-made canals. Erasmus envisions a well-off life with Sarah, although the present does pose some problems for him. He plans on eradicating Sarah's strong-willed personality from her once they are married. The chapter ends with a return to the discussion of Liverpool's financial future in coal and canals and the end of summer.

In Book 1, Part 5, Chapter 26, Paris writes in his journal about his experiences aboard the ship, including complications involved with trading and the behaviors of various men aboard the Liverpool Merchant. A barricado made of spikes with cannons pointing in towards the slaves is being made to discourage the slaves from jumping overboard. While a group of the crew is on shore collecting and trimming stakes, they trade with a party of black men for alcohol. Once the men have become severely intoxicated, a fight breaks out between Haines and Wilson with Haines ending up the more bloody and bruised of the two. All the men pass out after the fight and wake to find Calley and Deakin gone.

In Book 1, Part 5, Chapter 27, the boat party returns and Haines is put into leg irons and handcuffs for the night, with his pay docked for the stolen pistol and ammunition. The next morning Paris and Simmonds join Thurso and other crew members on shore to purchase slaves from Tucker, a principal slave dealer in this area. Once arriving at Tucker's compound, it is learned that the slaving party has not returned, so Thurso decides to stay the night to see if they return in the morning; Paris and Simmonds are sent upriver to Owen, an English factor, to see if he has any slaves to offer. Timothy Owen is a sickly, unhappy man who trades several slaves with Paris and Simmonds; Simmonds then heads back with members of the crew and the slaves, while Paris agrees, reluctantly, to stay overnight to keep Owen company. The men spend the evening discussing the slave trade and life in Africa. The next morning Paris goes outside to relieve himself and finds the bodies of Yellow Henry and several of his men in a shed; Paris says nothing of his find to Owen, and Paris heads back down the river to the Liverpool Merchant.

In Book 1, Part 5, Chapter 28, Paris arrives back on board the ship where a linguist has been hired and the carpenter and his men are busy working on the barricado. One of the slaves refuses to eat, so the captain has him tortured. The slaves must be healthy when they arrive in Kingston, and the slaves must know that they are not in control of their destinies. As the men talk, a boat of Susu people bring back Calley; the captain works out a deal with these people, and Calley is brought back on board and punished. At this time Deakin realizes that Calley is gone; he does not have a plan of where to go



and knows nothing of his surroundings. He soon is dying of starvation and thirst, but before these can kill him, he is surrounded by Africans and killed with a spear when he attempts to shoot at them.

In Book 1, Part 5, Chapter 29, Simmonds dies, presumably from an illness he contracted when returning from Owen's home. The slave who refused to eat in the previous chapter is dying but Thurso plans to force him to eat before he dies. Paris stops him and attempts to get the man to eat. The man spits the rice out in Paris' face; to the surprise of the crew, Paris pushes Haines, who is about to whip the man, out of the way.

In Book 1, Part 5, Chapter 30, many become sick and die on board the Liverpool Merchant. Trade is slowing, which is adding to the significance of the ill slaves. It is believed by several of the crew that the slaves can kill themselves by making the decision to die, and that when one dies this way, others will soon follow suit. The chapter ends with Sullivan deciding that he will speak to the captain about the noise caused by the clanking of the slaves' chains and how it covers up the sound of his fiddle. Bets are placed on this decision.

In Book 1, Part 5, Chapter 31, there are so many slaves aboard now that the ship is beginning to reek. Relations with the coast Negroes is worsening, and it is decided that the captain and Barton will be going ashore soon to do their private business regarding gold dust. Paris dines with the captain; they discuss how to deal with the smell and disease aboard the ship and the realities of life. During this discussion Sullivan enters and asks to have the slaves' shackles removed when he plays, so that he may hear his fiddle; this is laughed at by the captain. The chapter ends with the ship steering away from shore and the mournful cries of the slaves as they realize their chances of escape and return home have ended.

Book 1, Part 5, Chapters 25-31 Analysis

In Book 1, Part 5, Chapter 25, Erasmus' sense of self and need for control over all aspects of his life, including his relationship with Sarah, continue to be revealed; his belief in himself and his own knowledge goes so far as to think he knows Sarah better than she knows herself. This poses a major difference and potential obstacle for Sarah and Erasmus' relationship, for Sarah is outspoken and has a great deal of self-confidence, which is reflected in her mother's personality as well. Besides the dynamics of the relationship between Erasmus and the Wolperts, the chapter also brings up the future of Liverpool, according to Erasmus. Coal and canals seem to be in the financial future for the town, and Erasmus plans to be a part of it. His marriage to Sarah would help to solidify his future prosperity. These two aspects of this chapter foreshadow Erasmus and Sarah's future, although whether it is a future that Sarah will enjoy is yet to be seen.

Book 1, Part 5, Chapter 26 begins with Paris writing in his journal; this writing gives the reader a chance, again, to see into the mind of one of the characters in this story and



his perspective of the events he sees take place. Paris' observations are quite accurate and reinforce his abilities as a scientist, as well as other details about his character. It is learned in this chapter that Paris is liked by much of the crew for the way he speaks to them and treats them. These opinions of the crew towards Paris could benefit him later in the story. A barricado is being made to keep the slaves from jumping overboard or attacking the crew. Although, with the number of slaves aboard, the barrier could easily be destroyed; the slaves are tricked, through the placement of cannons in the barricado facing them, into believing they are powerless. This supports the themes of entrapment and control. Often in this book the characters have the power to free themselves but, for one reason or another, believe they are powerless over their own lives. While the men are on shore collecting stakes for this barricado, a fight breaks out between Wilson and Haines, with Wilson being the victor. This reveals how little respect exists between the men aboard the ship and the captain's top crew members and could pose problems for the Liverpool Merchant and its crew later in the book. The chapter ends with the running away of Deakin and Calley; Calley's painful memories of children mocking him are brought back through the calls of his shipmates, but their calls are different for they are calling him to join them. Calley seems to struggle with this, while Deakin stares off into space, comes to notice Calley looking at him, and tells him he will take care of him. It is wondered by the reader if this is possible; a sense of dread exists with the desertion of these two men from the ship.

Book 1, Part 5, Chapter 27 reveals how much of the captain's behavior is based on his mood; many men have been flogged for various offenses, but when Haines fights another member of the crew and loses two men, a pistol, and ammunition, he is simply placed in handcuffs and leg irons for a night. More is also learned about Thurso's life prior to becoming a ship captain; his parents died when he was young and he was raised in a parish. He soon joined a ship's crew and considers the sea both mother and father; with a spiritual upbringing and a long life at sea, it is not surprising that he would believe that the sea and sky are some sort of deity he must keep happy. The contrasts in lifestyles for the slave trader is shown in the juxtaposition of the crew's encounters with Tucker and Owen. Tucker is a powerful man with great wealth, while Owen is sickly and trapped in Africa because he has invested everything in the slave trade and his life on this continent. The theme of remorse is reinforced with Owen's regret for investing in this land and culture that he fears and detests. The river, air, and land Paris encounters while on this trip inland seem to be consumed by fever and disease; this will soon be found true, causing many problems for the Liverpool Merchant. More is foreshadowed when Paris sees a beautiful slave woman; her presence will be noted later in the book, and she will become more significant in Book 2. Toward the end of the chapter, Paris finds the bodies of Yellow Henry and his men; it seems that no one is safe. This reinforces the theme of control; Yellow Henry believed he had power and control over his life, yet he was wrong. Those with the most power and wealth are the most frequently victorious.

Book 1, Part 5, Chapter 28 returns Paris to the ship where the captain explains his theory on how to treat the slaves; Paris realizes that the captain has reduced the world to one of commerce, specifically slave trading, and has built his morals around this. The one and only purpose of these slaves aboard this ship is to sell them at the highest



price possible; they are not seen as creatures to whom care must be given. They are merely property to be sold. To protect the captain's property, Paris uses all means necessary to brainwash the slaves into believing they have no control over their lives and situations, even their own deaths. This reinforces the themes of entrapment and control. This chapter ends with Deakin's death; although he has been able to escape, he does not have the means to survive in this foreign land. Many others are trapped in the same way; they realize that to escape would surely mean death, so, unlike Deakin, most characters in this story remain fettered and shackled by their fear, feelings of helplessness, and poor decisions.

Book 1, Part 5, Chapter 29 begins with Paris writing in his journal. Disease has come aboard ship and has already begun to claim lives. This foreshadows future bouts of illness and death aboard the ship. Along with the growing disease is the growing number of slaves aboard the ship; this adds to the sense of foreboding for the reader and the characters alike. The return to the story of the slave who refuses to eat shows him now close to death. Thurso is still determined to see this man eat, even by force. Paris persuades the captain to allow him to try to convince the man to eat; Paris has no success and ends up with rice in his face. This reveals the strength and persistence of this slave, and possibly other characters; even though he is critically weakened, he has enough strength of body and mind to refuse the food forced upon him. He has chosen to die and refuses to die on anyone else's terms but his own. Paris understands this, which is shown as shock in the faces of the crew. The chapter ends with one of the slaves looking at Paris steadily. It is not known the purpose of this gaze, but it is wondered if it is out of respect for Paris or a sense of understanding and equality between Paris and this black man.

Book 1, Part 5, Chapter 30 reveals the challenges facing this ship at this point in the story. Many are becoming ill and dying by causes unknown to Paris. Also, trading has slowed, so it has become even more important to keep the slaves healthy. Along with disease spreading through the ship, a sense of melancholy is beginning to be felt among the slaves. It is believed they can allow these feelings of depression to kill them. Several members of the crew discuss this problem and how one death in this manner can lead to many more. These problems place doubt in the reader's mind of whether or not this ship will make it to Kingston to sell the slaves.

Book 1, Part 5, Chapter 31 begins with a reminder of the increasing number of slaves aboard the ship and the worsening of the air quality aboard the ship and relations with the coast Negroes. This adds to the sense of foreboding and tension on this ship and for the reader and once again puts doubt in the mind of the reader as to whether or not this ship will make it to Kingston. Thurso once again reminds Barton that this is their last voyage together; this may be said to remind Barton that there is no friendship between him and Thurso. When Paris dines with the captain, Thurso attempts to explain to Paris what the real world is like and that one must shape his life according to this world. This belief of Thurso's helps to explain his actions throughout this story, and it confirms Paris' earlier writings about him regarding his moral compass. When Sullivan enters asking to have the shackles removed from the slaves so he can hear his music, his request is found to be absurd; he then says that Sullivan, like Paris, knows nothing of the real

world. Paris does not mind having this connection with Sullivan; these kind words are never forgotten by Sullivan and reinforce the reason for why the crew respects and admires Paris. The chapter ends with the same sense of melancholy that has been found frequently throughout this book; the slaves are mourning the loss of their freedom and the few chances they might have had at an escape.

Book 1, Part 6, Chapters 32 and 33

Book 1, Part 6, Chapters 32 and 33 Summary

In Book 1, Part 6, Chapter 32, Paris joins Thurso to meet the Governor of the Company fort. Saunders, a factor, takes Paris and Thurso to see the slaves; one of the female slaves stares directly at Paris. There is the constant hammering of coffins throughout this chapter, due to the number of men dying from disease. Delblanc, an artist, and Paris get into a discussion. After dinner Thurso meets with the Governor to discuss a price for the slaves; he agrees to the Governor's high price. At this same time, Delblanc shows Paris a portrait he has painted of the Governor that looks like a death mask; he knows the Governor will not like it, but he cannot change the truth. He now wants passage on the Liverpool Merchant. The two men discuss many things including the sacredness of money, the sacred hunger. Paris feels comfortable with Delblanc and tells the story about his wife's death; she had been startled when a mob broke into their home to steal the press on which Paris had printed the documents for which he had been placed in jail, miscarried, and died.

In Book 1, Part 6, Chapter 33, Paris resumes writing in his journal. Delblanc has joined the ship as a passenger. Paris sees the slave woman from the fort. Paris begins to feel unwell and suffers many days and nights from a high fever. One of the slave boys is also ill, so Paris is allowed to take him to shore. Cavana, while ashore, purchases a pet monkey. Thurso sends a letter to Kemp saying they will be leaving the coast with one hundred and ninety-six slaves. All but Delblanc seemed affected by the disease on the ship. Thurso decides something must be done to please the gods, for the wind has been still for many days with the ship in open seas; Thurso blames the problems on the monkey and throws him overboard. Soon after, a wind begins to blow.

Book 1, Part 6, Chapters 32 and 33 Analysis

Book 1, Part 6, Chapter 32 begins with Paris and Thurso going to meet the Governor of the Company. Paris describes the strange contrast between the white, monumental fort and the poverty of the town surrounding it. This is a repetition of the contrast in economic status found in Liverpool, so many miles away. It reinforces the theme of control and that those in control are those with money. Throughout the time spent in the fort, Paris and Thurso are surrounded by death. Many men are dying, the Governor and his men are not very healthy, and there is the constant sound of hammering coffins. These men know that their time is limited, so they want to acquire as much wealth as they can. Delblanc calls this desire for money the sacred hunger, which explains the title of the book. The sacredness of money exists all over the world but is seen in a raw form here in Africa. Those indebted to others are literally walking investments. Through the discussions had between Paris and Delblanc, Paris feels he can tell Delblanc the story of his wife's death. The reader now truly understands why Paris regrets printing his research and being put into prison; he believes he killed his wife and their unborn child.

Along with this guilt, he does not understand why he, who knows what it is like to be a prisoner, would join a slave ship. Can he be forgiven for this? He realizes now he does not even have the desire for death to clear his conscience.

Book 1, Part 6, Chapter 33 begins with Paris writing in his journal catching the reader up on information about the ship, crew, and slaves. Paris quickly becomes ill with a fever; Sullivan attends Paris with great devotion. It seems that Paris' fair treatment of others will benefit him. Several times the slave woman from the fort is mentioned. This repetition sets in motion her significance in Book 2. The fever that is spreading throughout the ship is affecting the men both physically and mentally. This depressed mood has been seen throughout this entire book and has continually grown stronger as the book has progressed. Will there ever be any relief from this depression? Thurso, once again, believes he has found a cure for their predicament by first ridding the ship of a young boy who is sick and by throwing the monkey over the side of the boat; unfortunately, every time he has given a life to his deity, the winds have been stirred and the boat has moved; therefore, he continues to give sacrifices to these terrible gods.

Book 1, Part 7, Chapters 34-36

Book 1, Part 7, Chapters 34-36 Summary

In Book 1, Part 7, Chapter 34, Kemp has received the letter from Thurso; Kemp's spirits have continued to fall. Erasmus is still very involved in his own affairs, for Sarah's eighteenth birthday is approaching. He goes to visit Sarah and her mother, and when he returns home he finds his mother irritated because Mr. Kemp has not returned home yet. When it has become dark and Mr. Kemp has still not returned from work, Paris leaves to fetch him; he finds him hanged in his office. He returns home and tells his mother what he has found. Mrs. Kemp, who is usually very unstable, takes charge; she is able to acquire a death certificate stating that Mr. Kemp died from natural causes, so she may protect the Kemp name. At the funeral, Erasmus thinks back to the day that his father had sniffed the wood for the mast of the Liverpool Merchant and blames that ship for his father's suicide.

In Book 1, Part 7, Chapter 35, many aboard the Liverpool Merchant continue to get sick and die; to make matters worse, the ship suffers from many weather-related challenges. Paris attempts to prevent and stop the scurvy from which many suffer. Again, Paris becomes ill with fever; he awakes to Thurso having slaves thrown overboard, because he could claim some insurance money for the lost cargo but not for cargo that had died of natural causes aboard the ship.

In Book 1, Part 7, Chapter 36, Erasmus meets with Mr. Wolpert; Wolpert offers him a job working for his son, Charles, but Erasmus turns it down. Erasmus believes his father's debts to be his and wants to clear his father's name on his own. Sarah is upset, because she had hoped Erasmus would take the job so they could still be together. The chapter ends with Erasmus vowing to restore his father's good name by going into sugar.

Book 1, Part 7, Chapters 34-36 Analysis

Book 1, Part 7, Chapter 34 returns after a long absence to the Kemp residence. Mr. Kemp's physical and mental states have greatly deteriorated and it seems that his demise is near. Kemp makes a comment about wishing he had avoided cotton and stayed in sugar; this comment will become more significant in later chapters. Erasmus continues to be infatuated with his relationship with Sarah; her eighteenth birthday is approaching, and Erasmus is thrilled by the idea of having her as his, as if she is a piece of property. Upon returning from the Wolpert's and finding his father not yet at home, he goes to fetch him. Kemp has hanged himself in his office. Erasmus, in shock, cuts his father down and returns home to tell his mother. The surprising reaction comes in that of Mrs. Kemp, who, throughout the story has had little to say but complaints regarding her health. When she learns of her husband's suicide, she takes complete control of the situation. Whether this new sense of authority is because she finally has

control over her own life or control over her husband's image is unknown. What is known is that Erasmus is appalled and stunned by all that takes place prior to his father's funeral. The chapter ends with Erasmus blaming the slave ship for his father's death; this will become more important as the book continues.

Book 1, Part 7, Chapter 35 continues to show the death toll rising aboard the ship. Paris does what he can for the sick, and even tries to find a cure for scurvy by asking the captain for some of his wine. When the captain refuses, he finds dried peas and allows them to grow shoots to be fed to the men; this continues to reveal Paris' analytical personality and his desire for knowledge. Soon birds are spotted, so the ship is coming near shore, so fresh fruits and vegetables can be found for the men; when Paris becomes ill with the fever again, the captain finds this a perfect time to throw slaves overboard for the insurance money. Paris awakes to find this taking place. Thurso's act is shocking, yet not truly a surprise, considering what is known about his character. This is his last voyage, and his only goal is to provide his boss with some income from the slaves. With so many dying, financially it is better to send them overboard than to let them die on the ship. This reinforces the theme of control, the control of one's need for wealth over his or her actions.

Book 1, Part 7, Chapter 36 returns to Erasmus' story, now that it has been discovered his father left his family deeply in debt. Erasmus' only chance of being with Sarah is by going into the Wolpert family business, but Erasmus turns all of this down to restore his father's good name. As seen throughout this book, Erasmus is a very determined man, but is ruled by the desire for wealth and prestige. He is so controlled by this that he gives up his love for Sarah to restore his family's name. Sarah finally sees what she is to Erasmus, which the reader has seen from very early on; she would have been his property. Now that he is unable to place her in a palace, high on a pedestal, he no longer wants her. The last line of the chapter regarding Erasmus going into sugar is foreshadowed by his father's line regarding sugar, as well as his determination as a young child when building a dam. The reader is intrigued to see what awaits Erasmus in the future.

Book 2, Part 8, Chapters 37-45

Book 2, Part 8, Chapters 37-45 Summary

In Book 2, Part 8, Chapter 37, after Kemp's suicide, Erasmus goes into the sugar trade and marries a woman for her family's wealth and power. Kemp is meeting with Sir William Templeton, His Majesty's Principal Secretary to the West India Office, to attempt to stop the legislation being passed by the Kingston local assembly in which the land of absentee landlords would be confiscated and given to the locals. Erasmus threatens Sir William and leaves; he thinks back to his father and all he has achieved since his father's death. He arrives home and speaks to his wife briefly about her father's decision to purchase slaves so that the government will reimburse him when the slave trade is abolished; Erasmus does not believe the trade will be abolished any time soon and asks his wife to inform her father of this. That evening Erasmus attends a banquet of the West India Association and a secret meeting of the Trionfi Club, of which he is to be the new President; various strange rituals are performed, including the eating of a dessert made in the shape of a black woman and sleeping with a prostitute.

In Book 2, Part 8, Chapter 38, Erasmus meets with a captain who had seen the Liverpool Merchant abandoned in the swamps of southern Florida. Stories have been told of a settlement in which blacks and whites lived together in peace. Erasmus decides that his cousin must be brought to justice for hiding the ship in Florida and allowing the slaves, Kemp's property, to escape. He decides to take the man who was the first to see the ship, Harvey, with him to search for the Liverpool Merchant and her crew and captives.

In Book 2, Part 8, Chapter 39, Erasmus happily plans his voyage to find the Liverpool Merchant and its crew. Paris begins his voyage with many of his thoughts focusing on Paris. Harvey does not understand why this ship is to be found, but he enjoys his new lavish lifestyle and humors Erasmus. They land and, after much searching, find the Liverpool Merchant. Erasmus boards the ship, searches and finds the ship's logs, and vows to find his renegade cousin and have him hanged.

In Book 2, Part 8, Chapter 40, Erasmus heads to St. Augustine, all the while scanning the coast for human habitation. He reads Paris' journal, hoping to find evidence of his cousin's crimes. Erasmus begins to feel some compassion for his cousin, but quickly squelches those feelings by reminding himself of his cousin's wickedness.

In Book 2, Part 8, Chapter 41, Erasmus and his crew arrive in the almost-abandoned St. Augustine, Florida. Erasmus meets with Governor Campbell and Major Redwood, who discuss how they plan to make room for new English colonists; they want to convince the Creek Indians to give over a significant portion of their hunting ground, but the Indians outnumber the English twenty to one, so negotiations will be difficult. After leaving the Governor, who knows nothing of a settlement of blacks and whites of which



Erasmus speaks, Redwood tells Erasmus he has heard stories of this settlement and will see what else he can find out.

In Book 2, Part 8, Chapter 42, Mr. George Watson, Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Southern District, arrives for the negotiations with the Creek nation. It is the eve of the conference, and the men are discussing the difficulties they see in these negotiations; the Indians, like children, will be given gifts to pacify them. During this chapter, Erasmus also contemplates what he can gain from having ties to this colony and discusses this with the Governor. The chapter ends with the men making a decision about how many gifts to give the Indians, because there must be a balance between giving and withholding.

In Book 2, Part 8, Chapter 43, the conference with the Creeks takes place; the first day begins with ceremonial dances and pipe smoking and ends badly for the British. The Creeks do not trust them; the meeting is adjourned till the following day. Redwood meets with Erasmus in private and gives him the name of an Indian, Nipke, who might be able to help him find the settlement. Redwood expresses his feelings about the treaties with the Indians and how trade has corrupted them and will soon be their downfall; Erasmus sees these negotiations as good for both sides. The chapter ends with a cheer to the benefits of trade and justice.

In Book 2, Part 8, Chapter 44, Erasmus meets with the not-so-young Nipke, who agrees to search for the settlement. The second day of the conference has ended with the Indians only giving a small portion of their land; two of the chiefs are invited to dinner at the Governor's Residence to create conflict among the Indians. The chiefs are told what gifts they are to receive, including trade goods and special medals. The chiefs leave.

In Book 2, Part 8, Chapter 45, the treaty is signed by the Creek chiefs, and they all celebrate with a dinner at the Residence; the chiefs are all awarded medals for their acceptance of the treaty. It is decided that the Indians will not receive all that the British had planned to give them; the rest can be used as bartering tools later on. Erasmus brings up the settlement to the Governor and how those living in the settlement can be sold into slavery to the benefit of the British; the Governor agrees to a deal with Erasmus regarding these slaves. The chapter ends with Erasmus thinking about his cousin's hanging.

Book 2, Part 8, Chapters 37-45 Analysis

Book 2, Part 8, Chapter 37 takes place twelve years after the end of Book 1. Erasmus has done as he said he would; he has made his fortune in sugar. He has also married a woman he does not love and lives a life far different from the one he had left in Book 1, although this life could have been predicted. His sole purpose in life, as foreshadowed in the previous book, is to gain wealth; with this wealth, he has also gained feelings of anxiety and unhappiness. He does not understand from where these feelings come, since he connects happiness with wealth and prestige. Although his predicament is quite the opposite of his father's, he is gaining wealth, while his father was losing it; the

effects of money and the desire for wealth has affected them both in the same way. This supports the theme of control, because Erasmus, like his father, is controlled by his desire to build his wealth and power and yet is a miserable, lonely man.

Book 2, Part 8, Chapter 38 reveals a possible scenario for what had happened to the Liverpool Merchant. Erasmus, fueled by his hatred for his cousin and his belief that this ship had killed his father, decides to hunt down those who had abandoned the slave ship and created a new community. His cousin had stopped him from his building of a dam as a child and now has stolen his father's property, property that, in Erasmus' mind, led his father to suicide. Erasmus' determined and self-centered personality that has been seen in his thoughts and actions throughout this book has finally led to this purpose in his life, a purpose that many readers, and characters in the book, find to be ridiculous and the workings of the mind of a mad man.

Book 2, Part 8, Chapter 39 shows Erasmus preparing for his journey. Harvey's opinion of this trip reflects the view of the reader. Why is Erasmus so determined to find this ship and his cousin? The reader, as a member of a free society, might have difficulty in understanding why the freeing of the slaves and the building of a community in which both whites and blacks live in peace would be a bad thing. It is therefore difficult for the reader to sympathize with Erasmus; throughout Erasmus' story, he has been a difficult character to understand, because his thought process is so different from the mindset of the reader and other characters in this story. This difficulty and his decision to hunt down his cousin and this peaceful society clearly reveal him as the antagonist of the story. Although he is the "bad guy," he does have moments of doubt, anxiety, and other signs of humanity that aid the reader in understanding, to some extent, his point of view and the reasons for his beliefs and actions. The chapter ends with Erasmus saying his debts have not been paid yet. This is a repetition of what Paris has said, regarding his imprisonment and the death of his wife. This reveals a similarity between these men; they have strong beliefs about themselves and the world around them and will stop at nothing to see their desires come to fruition.

Book 2, Part 8, Chapter 40 shows Erasmus feeling some compassion towards his cousin. His reluctance to read his cousin's journal is justified; reading it has brought him too close to Paris and Paris' thoughts. He thinks back to his cousin's smile from when he had stopped Erasmus from building his dam; it is this smile and the wickedness that led to Paris' imprisonment that comforts Erasmus. He is reluctant to read this journal because he is afraid he will begin to see Paris as a man, not too different from himself; he must keep his memories of Paris, the monster, to complete the purpose of his journey. This tactic is often used during war to keep the soldiers from caring about those they must kill. It leads the reader to wonder if people could focus on seeing others as humans, like themselves, would war and violence end? Could there be peaceful existence like that found in the stories of this settlement in Florida?

Book 2, Part 8, Chapter 41 brings Erasmus to the abandoned town of St. Augustine. The British are significantly outnumbered by the Creek Indians, yet they still plan to persuade them to give up large portions of their hunting grounds. Through Erasmus' research, it is learned that the British have already defeated the Cherokee nation in



recent years, so it is possible for the British to get what they want from the Creek nation as well. The end of this chapter deals with Redwood's knowledge of the settlement of blacks and whites; it seems Erasmus may see justice done, although when Redwood mentions this word, through the bitterness in his voice, he seems to be suggesting that the justice of which Erasmus speaks is actually anything but justice; whether this specifically has to do with Erasmus' situation or Redwood's experience regarding justice is unknown.

Book 2, Part 8, Chapter 42 takes place on the eve of the conference with the Creek Indians. Through the discussions of the men, it is made clear what they think of the Indians; they are considered untrustworthy and childlike. This is a similar opinion to that of the Africans from previous chapters; the main goal of the whites throughout this book is to gain wealth and power. It seems this desire is what guides them into the negotiations with Indians. The belief that these groups of people are untrustworthy and devious is ironic, considering the whites seem to be no more trustworthy than the Indians and Africans in this book. Since the English consistently are the more powerful, it is very likely that they are also the most devious and untrustworthy of any culture mentioned in this book. The chapter ends with a discussion on the gifts that should be given to the Creeks and the difficulty that exists when trying to find a balance between giving and withholding. Based on previous actions of the British in this book and history as we know it, this discussion foreshadows the giving of very few gifts for the precious hunting grounds the Creeks will likely give to the British.

Book 2, Part 8, Chapter 43 involves the conference with the Creek Indians. The Indians do not trust the British, and for good reason; what is not known is if they can hold onto this doubt and lack of trust. The private meeting with Redwood and Erasmus reveals a great deal about the Major. He does as he is told, being a part of the British military, but his personal views vary greatly from that of the other men. He is the one man who verbalizes the truth of these negotiations; they are only a starting point for the goal truly is to eradicate the land of Indians. He believes trade is their undoing, because they are brainwashed into believing they need what the white man has to offer; this is seen in our own society today. Could this too be our downfall? The chapter ends with another mention of justice by Major Redwood; now it is clear what Redwood means by justice, justice for those in power and the ruin of all others.

Book 2, Part 8, Chapter 44 begins with Erasmus' meeting with Nipke and the organization of a group to search for the settlement; it seems this settlement will not live in peaceful secrecy for much longer. The rest of the chapter is devoted to negotiations with the Creeks. They agree to give a portion of their land but not enough to appease the British. Two chiefs are invited to a formal dinner to cause jealousy and conflict among the tribal leaders. Those in attendance at the dinner are told what gifts they are to receive; this bribing of the chiefs is validated at the end of the chapter by Campbell. He says that the Indians are cunning, so, although it goes against British culture, they too must be cunning. No evidence of cunning or trickery has been shown by the Indians; they do not trust the British, but that is for good reason. The British in this chapter prove they are the ones who are devious by attempting to weaken the tribe and bribe the leaders. Redwood's statements from the previous chapter are proven right in

this chapter; the Indians will be destroyed by trade and their inability to see through the British.

Book 2, Part 8, Chapter 45 shows the Indians signing the treaty and their land away to the British. They are all given medals, supposedly from the Great White King, which pleases the Indians, because they have been convinced that King George is their white father. Sadly, they have respect for this man who, as stated in this book, is creating policies that will eradicate the Indians from the land and take the land out of British hands within the next two hundred years. This statement of fact that is already known by the reader reinforces this monumental mistake made by the chiefs of the Creek nation. Along with the beginning of the end of this Indian tribe, the settlement of the Liverpool Merchant crew and slaves is discussed between Erasmus and the Governor. Not only will the slaves be returned to the Kemp family and Paris will be hanged, but now Erasmus has made a deal with Campbell to have the children of these people also sold into slavery as a profit for both Erasmus and the colony of Florida. These two events strongly reinforce the themes of control, power, and entrapment; these themes are all that seem to matter to the British.

Book 2, Part 9, Chapters 46-50

Book 2, Part 9, Chapters 46-50 Summary

In Book 2, Part 9, Chapter 46, Erasmus' ship is noticed by Hughes while he is up in a tree waiting for deer. Temka Tongman also sees the ship when he is out checking on his fishnets, but his mind is on the palaver between Bulum Iboti and Shantee Hambo; supposedly Hambo had committed witchcraft. At the same time Billy Blair and Inchebe are arguing; they were out of temper because their turkey hunting had not gone well. These two men are very familiar with each other, because they share the same woman, Sallian Kivee. Sullivan comes up to them during their argument over the beautiful Dinka, whose regular man had not returned from a fishing trip. The argument turns to the subject of rain and rain stones.

In Book 2, Part 9, Chapter 47, Hughes reports the sighting of the ship to Paris. Hughes saves the settlement when he sees men in a canoe with Indian captives. The settlement finally agrees to rescue the Indians and kill the other men. This story is told to the children by Jimmy, who mentions Wilson as the man who did not want to rescue these Indians from slavery; Wilson is used as the scapegoat. A group of Indians brings gifts to the settlement for saving their men. Paris has a son, although, like all the settlement's children, he lives with his mother.

In Book 2, Part 9, Chapter 48, Kenka and Paris return to the settlement and join Tabakali. Later Kenka runs off with his friends and the other children are put to bed; Paris and Tabakali discuss the palaver and have sex. As Paris lies awake he thinks about their existence in this settlement, the various deaths, and how Delblanc was able to use these deaths to strengthen the community. He ends the chapter by wondering why he and Delblanc could believe that what they want in society, equality and liberty, is a natural state of being.

In Book 2, Part 9, Chapter 49, Calley wakes on the beach and finds a young boy's body while collecting firewood; he decides to take the boy back to the settlement. At the same time, a young man named Sefadu goes out to collect pearls to make a necklace for Dinka, whom he loves. The children are acting out the shooting of Wilson by the men of the settlement. Sullivan is busy replacing the strings on his fiddle so he may play music to woo Dinka. The dead boy's body is brought to Paris; he is reminded of his son who is fortunate to be born to freedom. The boy is buried in the common plot. Sullivan plays his fiddle, but it is not Dinka who comes out of the hut; Sefadu had arrived with his gift before Sullivan. Kenka falls asleep to thoughts of the night-time deer hunt.

In Book 2, Part 9, Chapter 50, it is suggested by Paris to Libby that Iboti is being framed for making the death fetish; the purpose of the palaver will be to determine why. Paris's mind drifts back to memories of his relationship with Ruth. Nadri arrives in Paris' hut; they are close but can never be friends due to their sharing of Tabakali. They argue over their lives in the settlement; Paris often feels alone because he is the most guilty of the

mistreatment of others of all those aboard the ship. The palaver takes place; Tongman speaks for Iboti, who is found not guilty.

Book 2, Part 9, Chapters 46-50 Analysis

Book 2, Part 9, Chapter 46 serves the purpose of reintroducing the reader to some of the characters from the first book, as well as to several new characters. The dynamics of this settlement are also starting to be revealed through the pidgin speech used by the characters, the fact that two men share a woman, and the characters have various roles they play within the community.

Book 2, Part 9, Chapter 47 Matthew Paris is reintroduced in the story. His thoughts guide this chapter, which reveals that Delblanc has played a large role in the organization of this settlement in which freedom must prevail. Jimmy's role in this chapter is as the children's teacher and moralist; he tells the stories of the settlement and omits certain details to keep in line with the moral he is teaching. This reflects our own society in which stories of our country's past are told with the omission of various details. It is only as one ages that one learns the truth about various topics, such as the relationship between cultures in our country, details of war, and other struggles our country has faced. The chapter ends with a story told by Paris to his son in which one tree chokes another; Paris says that men must not be like these trees. Kenka responds that this should not happen because no trees will survive if they kill each other and there will only be grass. Kenka's final remark is that even when the trees die, a new seed will come on the wind. If this is compared to man, it says that men may kill other men because more will come to take the place of these men. Paris' reaction is not given, but he most likely reacted with surprise. He had felt guilty telling this story about murder taking place in nature, because he believes that a man, in a natural state, would not kill other men. Although Kenka is talking about trees, it represents his opinion of mankind. This belief that mankind has the right to use and kill others is repeated later in this story.

Book 2, Part 9, Chapter 48 focuses on Paris and his thoughts and memories. It is learned that he shares Tabakali with another man and, although he has been with Tabakali for many years, in many ways she is still a stranger. His relationship with her is vastly different from his relationship with Ruth; this difference will continue to be revealed in later chapters. What is the same about both women is that Paris finds a safe haven in them and his relationship with them; much of his time is spent feeling anxious over his decisions and life going on around him, but these women bring him both peace and a sense of calm and safety. The story of Haines' scalping is told for the purpose of reiterating the importance of death to this community. The stories of those who have died are passed on to the younger generations. These ordinary, and often unkind men, have been used by Jimmy and Delblanc to help solidify the community and its belief in freedom and equality, but now Delblanc is dead, and Paris is unsure if what he and Delblanc want in a community is actually possible in nature. The chapter ends with a feeling of foreboding through Paris' feelings of doubt regarding the continuation of this community.

Book 2, Part 9, Chapter 49 consists of several short moments in the lives of several characters in this book. Calley is collecting firewood and carrying it on his back; this work resembles the work he did when living in England, carrying animal carcasses on his back. Although he is in a new place, in a new community, his life has not significantly changed. The finding of the dead boy intrigues the entire community; the boy is a reminder of their own mortality and the lives they had lived aboard the slave ship. In this chapter, both Sullivan and Sefadu are in love with Dinka; this love triangle, which is accepted in this community, reinforces a way in which this community's life is different from our own and the communities many of these people had left. It shows how one is capable of adapting to the environment in which finds oneself, much like the creatures Paris studied as a young man. The reenactment of Wilson's death by the children may be very shocking to the reader, but it is not so different from children today playing cops and robbers or pretending to be in the military. Like the settlement, killing and death are still a part of our society, even though we, like these people, hide it behind a mask of patriotism and justice.

Book 2, Part 9, Chapter 50 focuses on Paris' memory of Ruth, a discussion he has with Nadri, and the palaver. This memory of Ruth is a reminder of how different Paris' relationship had been with her, in comparison to his relationship with Tabakali. The discussion between Paris and Nadri shows the strain the sharing of women has placed on the men in this community; they are close but can never be friends. These two discuss how they have come to be in this community and, once again, their discussion shows how Paris has tried to push his views on others, a trait of which he has tried to rid himself. This belief that Paris is trying to manipulate those around him to fit his belief about mankind will be seen again in this book in a disagreement with Kireku. This behavior on Paris' part, although it is for the good of others, is still a form of control and entrapment. It is a power struggle just like the other examples found throughout this book.

Book 2, Part 9, Chapters 51-Epilogue

Book 2, Part 9, Chapters 51-Epilogue Summary

In Book 2, Part 9, Chapter 51, it is evident that there has been a conspiracy to trap Iboti; Paris is convinced that Kireku has played a role in this and goes to speak to him. Paris fails at convincing Kireku that their way of life must be maintained. Kireku has Barton as a servant and sees nothing wrong with using others; it is reality. Barton speaks to Paris in private; he too uses Kireku and is waiting for his turn to have power. The chapter ends with Paris watching the children playing a game of slavery; he sees his son play his role and knows that he too will live a lonely life, never a part of a group of people. Jimmy had taught the children the history in precise order but that does not mean that it resembles the truth.

In Book 2, Part 9, Chapter 52, Neema is hosting a celebration for the birth and naming of her baby, Kavamoko. Billy and Sullivan are boasting about Sallian, and she makes a comment about how there is little to eat in her home, and that her men need to go out fishing; Billy decides that he and Sallian's other man, Inchebe, will go out fishing that night. Erasmus hears the music from the celebration and tells his men to wait until they have all gone to bed, so the camp can be surrounded and all can be taken prisoner. At the same time Erasmus orders his troops to begin surrounding the settlement, Billy and Inchebe go fishing. Upon returning to the settlement, Billy and Inchebe see a "Redcoat" and run to warn the settlement; Billy is killed in the process. The community is warned but several are injured or killed when they attempt to escape; Paris is shot in the leg and found by Erasmus.

In Book 2, Part 9, Chapter 53, the captives are aboard a ship bound for St. Augustine. Erasmus meets with Barton to learn about the end of the Liverpool Merchant's voyage and to discover what role his cousin played in it; Barton does what he can to get in the good graces of Erasmus. By the end of the conversation, Erasmus is pleased; his cousin is alive and has been found guilty of mutiny, murder, and piracy.

In Book 2, Part 9, Chapter 54, Paris is feverish; Michael Sullivan, once again, steps in to care for him. It is learned that many in the community have died and those who haven't have been captured. Erasmus returns; he is fascinated by what Erasmus has to say about his beliefs and feelings about events that have occurred in his life. By the end of the chapter, Erasmus finds himself telling his cousin about his life; this is the first person he has ever been able to talk to about how the events of his life have affected him.

In Book 2, Part 9, Chapter 55, Paris awakes very ill and possibly dying; he and Sullivan speak of their lives, and Sullivan gives him a metal button which is very precious to him and leaves. Erasmus returns and watches as Paris dies. Erasmus thinks about the slaves aboard the ship and how they will fetch good prices at market; he then realizes that some of the children might be Paris'. He then remembers the day Paris pulled him away from the dam he was building, realizing for the first time that Paris was saving him



from defeat; no one else in his life had done that for him. Paris had given his life purpose and meaning, and Erasmus does not know what he has now. The chapter ends with Erasmus putting the metal button, a gift, in his pocket.

In Book 2, Part 9, Epilogue, the story returns to the Prologue and the Paradise Nigger. He is almost completely blind and telling the story of the paradise in which he was born. The book ends with this feeble old man being cared for by a woman and talking about paradise.

Book 2, Part 9, Chapters 51-Epilogue Analysis

Book 2, Part 9, Chapter 51 shows the beginning of the end of Paris' utopia. He is once again reminded that what he wants is not necessarily what the others want, and that by trying to force the community to live the way he wants them to live, he is enslaving them to his beliefs. Groups have already been formed within the community, so it seems it is only a matter of time before major changes begin to take place. It seems that Paris' fear that a community living in peace and equality in nature, for which he had hoped, is not natural; slavery and the use and abuse of others is a part of nature, like the tree that strangles other trees.

Book 2, Part 9, Chapter 52 is the beginning of the end of the settlement. The happiness of the celebration is seen in direct contrast to the arrival of Erasmus; this puts feelings of both happiness and dread in the heart of the reader. Throughout much of the chapter, there is hope that those in the community can escape Erasmus and his men, but, unfortunately that does not occur. This chapter ends supporting the themes of power, control, and entrapment. Erasmus has power and control over the people of this community, and they are, after twelve years, trapped.

Book 2, Part 9, Chapter 53 reveals Barton to be the same as he had been twelve years ago; he serves whoever is in power. By the end of his talk with Erasmus, he has had Paris condemned. The only escape for Paris is to die before he can be charged and hanged.

Book 2, Part 9, Chapter 54 brings doubt to the mind of Erasmus, as he listens to Paris. He first finds himself fascinated by what Paris has to say and then finds Paris is the only person he has ever felt he can talk to about his own life experiences and emotions. This is the first time in a long time that the reader has seen the humanity in Erasmus; it seems that it might be possible for him to stop blaming Paris.

Book 2, Part 9, Chapter 55 is the end of the story of Erasmus. He finally realizes that Paris had been trying to protect him as a child, not trying to control him. With this realization comes great sadness, for he sees that no one else in his life has been strong enough to protect him and save him from himself. It is tragic that this realization has to occur after Paris dies, although it is possible that Paris' death leads to this realization. Throughout the story, Paris frequently feels that he is being selfish by trying to convince others to believe as he believes; through this realization by Erasmus, Paris is shown to

be a man who did not try to control others, he only tried to protect them. In this Paris' actions are vindicated.

Book 2, Part 9, Epilogue returns to the subject of the Prologue, the Paradise Nigger. It is clear he is Paris' son and the best part of his life has been spent in the settlement; it seems he had been sold into slavery and had lived a difficult life remembering his childhood in southern Florida as some sort of paradise. This constant talk about his childhood and the settlement also vindicates Paris and his actions regarding his beliefs about freedom and equality. The fact that this man had been taken away from paradise also makes this place more magical; based on the feelings and actions of others in the community, it seems that this settlement would not have stayed the utopia it was. So, maybe this man is right; this settlement was paradise. Maybe this type of free and equal society is not possible in the long term; what is known is that it is a utopian society for which one might strive. Maybe paradise on earth is possible.

Characters

Erasmus Kemp

This man is the antagonist in the story and the first character introduced. His emotions are swayed quite easily by his circumstances. He is both annoyed by and proud of his father and suffers from other mood swings due to his love for Sarah Wolpert and his hatred of his cousin, Matthew Paris. His love for Sarah is physically and emotionally painful for him. He wants to propose marriage but is stopped by Sarah's father until Sarah is eighteen, which seems to bring Sarah relief. As time grows near to Sarah's eighteenth birthday, Erasmus finds his father hanging in his office; he has committed suicide. This changes Erasmus' life forever. His engagement and relationship with Sarah is ended, and he spends the next twelve years building up wealth and restoring his father's good name.

In Book 2, Erasmus is even more anxious, stern, and unhappy than he is in the first book. He has married a woman he does not love for the sake of wealth, and his wealth and prestige has not made him happy in the way he thought it would and should. He finds purpose again in his life when he learns that his cousin, Matthew Paris, might still be alive, as well as the crew and many of the slaves from his father's ship. It did not wreck as had been assumed; it had been hidden from view in the swamplands of southern Florida twelve years before. This leads Erasmus on a manhunt for his cousin, whom he plans on having hanged for mutiny, murder, and piracy. When he does finally find Paris, Paris has been mortally wounded and dies; at this point, Erasmus finally realizes that his hatred towards Paris is unfounded. As a child, Erasmus had seen Paris as trying to keep him from victory; he now realizes that Paris had been trying to protect him from defeat. With this comes the realization that no one else had been strong enough in his life and now that he has allowed Paris to die, he has no one. He takes a metal button he finds in Paris' hand as a parting gift from Paris. This is how Erasmus' story ends.

Matthew Paris

This man is the protagonist of the story and the nephew of Mrs. Kemp. His wife and child have died, and he has spent time in prison for believing in evolution, rather than the creation story found in the Bible. In this story, he has just gotten out of prison and is taken in by his aunt and uncle to work as a physician on the Liverpool Merchant, a slave ship. He still suffers from the death of his wife and his imprisonment, so he accepts this job, because it does not matter to him where he is or what he does. His first days on the Liverpool Merchant are very revealing for him; he sees sea creatures he never knew existed and has time to read, write, and study. He also suffers from severe seasickness and witnesses the flogging of a crewman. Throughout the voyage, Paris continues to learn about the horrible lives of those aboard a slave ship, and he is frequently reminded of his imprisonment.



Paris is a man with very strong beliefs, which have often made him proud; this pride, he believes, had led to his wife's miscarriage and death. He spends much of this book trying to overcome this pride. When the ship veers off course, he and Delblanc lead the crew and slaves in the creation of a free and equal society. This society is successful for almost twelve years, but by the time the second book takes place, many members of this society have formed smaller groups and are beginning to try to force others to work for them. Before the settlement can experience any other problems, Erasmus arrives; the members of this community are either killed or captured.

Paris is mortally wounded and dies on a ship headed for St. Augustine. His beliefs and actions are vindicated by Erasmus, when he realizes that Paris has attempted to be a protector, not a tyrant. Paris' vision for the settlement is also supported by his son, who at the end of the book talks only of his life in paradise, with his father the doctor.

William Kemp

This man is the owner of the Liverpool Merchant, a slave ship. He is very opinionated and wishes to be liked and thought intelligent, although this false intelligence, at times, puts him in some uncomfortable situations. As the story progresses, he grows increasingly anxious about his financial situation. He commits suicide and is found by Erasmus. His wife takes control of the situation and makes sure that a death certificate saying he has died from natural causes is made, so that her husband's name would not be completely destroyed. Although, upon his death, it is discovered how deep in debt he truly is, and Erasmus spends many years of his life bringing prestige back to the Kemp name.

Sarah Wolpert

She is the love interest of Erasmus Kemp. She is pale and beautiful, as well as outspoken and flirtatious. She is the cause of many mood swings for Erasmus. Erasmus, in the end, does not marry her, because he is unwilling to work for her father and her brother Charles. When Erasmus is found to be a pauper, she believes that he never really wanted to give something to her; he wanted to have her as something to add to his own wealth. In her mind, she was not as important to him as clearing his father's name and regaining his family's wealth.

Luther Sawdust

This man is a mulatto beggar who loves to talk to anyone who will listen on the streets of New Orleans. He tells of his life in which his father was a surgeon on a Liverpool ship and his childhood was spent in a tropical paradise where whites and blacks lived in peace and harmony.



Ruth Paris

She is the deceased wife of Matthew Paris. She was frightened by a mob that broke into her home to destroy the printing press, while Matthew was in prison. She miscarried and died.

Elizabeth Kemp

This is the hypochondriac wife of Mr. Kemp. She does not seem comfortable in her own home where her husband and son both frequently correct her. She is very fond of her sister's son, Matthew Paris, to her son's annoyance. Her character drastically changes when she learns of her husband's death. She no longer is pale and feeble; she strongly takes control of the situation and has a fake death certificate made up so that it seems that her husband died of natural causes. This greatly upsets Erasmus.

Charles Wolpert

He is the brother of Sarah and the excuse for Erasmus to see Sarah. He does not care much for Sarah's suitor, Erasmus Kemp.

Captain Saul Thurso

This man is the captain of the Liverpool Merchant. He has a great deal of experience in the transportation and trade of African slaves. He plans to make this trip with the Liverpool Merchant as his last. He often commits horrible acts, such as flogging and torturing his crew and slaves, to pacify some deity that controls the wind and water. He is murdered by this same crew and these slaves.

The cast of the Enchanted Island

These people are friends of Sarah and Charles. They participate in this play for entertainment and to entertain Mr. Wolpert for his sixtieth birthday. As rehearsals progress slowly, the cast finally disbands and the play is abandoned.

The Bishop of Norwich

This man had Paris imprisoned for not believing in the church's interpretation of Genesis. According to Paris, he makes a great deal of money off of this prison from the prisoners themselves.



Mr. Barton

This man is the first officer aboard the Liverpool Merchant.

Samuel Oates

This man is the the artist who creates the figurehead for the Liverpool Merchant.

Haines

This man is the bosun on the Liverpool Merchant. He is scalped by local Indians and dies.

Simmonds

This man is Barton's second mate on the Liverpool Merchant. He dies on the ship.

The Wolperts

Mr. and Mrs. Wolpert are not too excited to have Erasmus as a suitor for their daughter. Sarah is not yet eighteen, and Erasmus's intense personality causes them some weariness. The fact that William Kemp gives Erasmus his blessing causes Mr. Wolpert to hire a man to look into Kemp's financial dealings, for Wolpert believes that to be the true reason for his blessings on this marriage. When Kemp dies and his debt is found out, he offers Erasmus a job with the family business. When Erasmus does not accept the offer, he forbids Erasmus' marriage to his daughter Sarah.

Reverend Kalabanda

This man is an African who completed his schooling and seminary in England. He has returned home to preach to his free brethren and the white soldiers. He is well-spoken and constantly praises Great Britain and the white man.

William Blair

This man is a sailor who has just returned from eight months at sea. He is tricked by a bartender and robbed by a prostitute named Eve and reluctantly agrees to work off his debts on the Liverpool Merchant.



Michael Sullivan

This man is a fiddler who, because he attempts to warn his former shipmate Blair that he is about to be caught in a trap, is added unwillingly to the crew of the Liverpool Merchant.

Daniel Calley

This mentally handicapped man is convinced to leave his work in the market on Stone Street to join the crew of the Liverpool Merchant.

Bessie and Eve

These women are prostitutes who aid in the capture of William Blair for the purpose of making him a part of the Liverpool Merchant crew.

Kate

This is the woman who is willing to come out to the yard to spend time with Calley for two pennies.

Jim Deakin

This man is sold to Mr. Barton by Jane Britto for two guineas.

Jimmy

This man is the linguist brought aboard the Liverpool Merchant. He is later the school teacher for the children of the settlement.

Cavana and Hughes

These are the men that bring the captured crewmen on a barge to the Liverpool Merchant. Hughes is happiest when he is away from other humans and in nature. Living in the settlement in Florida, he is most content when he is high in a tree waiting for deer.

Johnson, Charlie, Libby, Wilson, McGann, Tynesider, Davies

These men are members of the Liverpool Merchant's crew.



Slaves

These people are purchased for various goods and for the purpose of selling them in the Kingston market. Many die from illness or from being thrown overboard. When the ship veers off course and lands in Florida, these people, along with the crew, form a new community.

Henry Adams

This man is brought from London to direct the play being rehearsed by the Wolperts, Erasmus Kemp, and friends. He has an interest in the women in the cast, especially Sarah, who does not seem to mind his attention.

Joshua Partridge

This man is an attorney but spends much of his time investigating the lives of various persons. He is hired by Mr. Wolpert to investigate Mr. Kemp's financial dealings to see if that could be the reason for Mr. Kemp giving his blessing to his son's proposal to Sarah.

King Henry Cook/Yellow Henry

This man is the king of the Kru people; he trades members of other African tribes for various goods brought by European merchants. He and his men constantly smile, afraid they will become the captives.

Timothy Owen

Paris spends an evening with this English factor. Through this man, the reader learns the harsh realities of the lives of those who choose to invest in the African slave trade.

Tucker

This mulatto man is a powerful slave trader along the Sherbro River.

Delblanc

This man is an artist painting a portrait for the Governor. When he realizes he has painted the Governor's face as a death mask, he decides it is time for him to leave. He pays Thurso to allow him to board the Liverpool Merchant. He later dies in Florida after assisting in organizing the community of blacks and whites.



Sir William Templeton, His Majesty's Principal Secretary

Erasmus goes to this man to try to convince him to stop the legislation that would give land owned by absentee landlords to the locals of Kingston.

Elizabeth Jarrold

She is Erasmus Kemp's wife. He married her for her wealth and her father's connection with the West India trade.

Dr. Ebenezer Slingsby/Dr. Sugar

He is a man who promotes the use of sugar as both a food and a remedy for a multitude of ailments. He receives many generous subsidies from the West India Association for his research into sugar.

Captain John Philips

This man tells Erasmus about finding the Liverpool Merchant in the swamps of southern Florida. He also tells of stories he has heard of a settlement of blacks and whites in this same region.

Harvey

Erasmus takes this seaman with him to find the Liverpool Merchant and her crew. He was one of the first men to find the Liverpool Merchant, by accident, while drunkenly stumbling through the swamps of southern Florida.

The Governor of Florida, Colonel Campbell

This man is in charge of the new colony of Florida. He convinces the Creek Indians to give up a significant portion of their hunting grounds for trade goods, gifts, and medals.

Major Redwood

This man is the commander of the garrison in St. Augustine. He aids Erasmus in his search for the Liverpool Merchant's missing crew and slaves.



Mr. George Watson

This man is the Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Southern District who comes from Savannah for the conference with the Creek Indians.

Creek Indians

This tribe is convinced by the British to give up a significant portion of their hunting grounds for gifts and medals.

Nipke, the Young Soldier

This Indian leads Erasmus to the settlement.

Lamba

She is Hughes' and Mando Tammy's woman.

Temka Tongman

He speaks for Bulum Iboti and wins his case.

Bulum Iboti

He is a slow, poor member of the settlement and is accused of witchcraft by Shantee Hambo.

Shantee Hambo

He accuses Iboti of witchcraft so that he can have Iboti be his servant.

Inchebe

He is a Negro and shares Sallian Kivee with Billy Blair.

Sallian Kivee

She is a large, good-tempered woman. She is shared by both Billy Blair and Inchebe.



Kireku

He is a powerful member of the settlement who does not see eye to eye with Paris. He sees nothing wrong with using others for personal gain.

Dinka

She is a young woman whose regular man has not returned from a fishing trip and is presumed to have drowned. Many men in the settlement wish to be with Dinka.

Kenka

He is Paris and Tabakali's son.

Tabakali

She is the woman Paris first saw in the sunlight at the fort. He shares her with Nadri.

Nadri

He is Tabakali's other man besides Paris.

Arifa

She is the woman shared by Hambo and Iboti. She assists Hambo in accusing Iboti of witchcraft.

Sefadu

He is the youngest of the original adults. He makes a pearl necklace, in honor of his love, for Dinka.

Tiamoko

He shares Neema with Cavana; these men share a son named by both of them, Kavamoko.

Objects/Places

Liverpool, England

This is the city in which much of the first book takes place.

Liverpool Merchant

This is the slave ship owned by William Kemp.

Kemp Home on Red Cross Street

This is the home of the Kemp family. Here Matthew Paris arrives after a decade of being apart from his aunt and her family.

The Wolpert House

This is the country home of Sarah and Charles Wolpert. It is also the location of rehearsals for *The Tempest*.

Castle Street and Pool Lane

These roads are located in a seedy part of town and frequented by sailors, prostitutes, and others looking for a good time and a strong drink.

Norwich Jail

This is the prison to which Paris was sent when his writings on evolution were printed and read by those in the Catholic Church.

Africa

This is the continent on which the Liverpool Merchant and her crew arrive to purchase slaves.

London, England

This is where Erasmus resides in Book 2.

St. Augustine, Florida

This is the city in which Erasmus stays prior to his trek to find the settlement.

Fort Picolata

This is where the treaty is signed by the Creek Indians.

The Settlement

This is where Paris, the crew, and the slaves set up a community in southern Florida.

Palaver

This is a trial held in the settlement to determine if wrongdoing has occurred.

Goldwater, Oose Tree, Red Creek

These are places that have become legendary in the settlement's culture.

Themes

Remorse

This book begins and ends with remorse, Erasmus' remorse. He regrets his feelings of irritation towards his father, because he does not realize how soon his father would die. At the end of the story, Erasmus regrets allowing Paris, the cousin he has so strongly detested, to die, because he realizes how wrong he has been about the man. Throughout the story various characters feel remorse, Paris for the death of his wife and for his pride, Calley for deserting Deakin, Sullivan for playing in the tavern and protecting his friend.

Remorse is also a universal theme, because everyone feels remorse at some point in his or her life. It may be a small incident requiring momentary regret, or it may be something quite substantial such as Paris' printing of the information regarding evolution that led to his wife's miscarriage and death, but all people experience remorse and can, therefore, relate to the characters in this story.

Control

The theme of control is found in many forms throughout this book. In some cases the characters are trying to control those around them; several are quite successful at controlling others. For example, Erasmus is almost successful in trapping Sarah into a marriage, Thurso successfully purchases and shackles over one hundred slaves aboard his ship, and Erasmus successfully captures the remaining Liverpool Merchant crew and slaves and takes them to St. Augustine to be tried or sold. Some frequently lose control to those more powerful. For example, the slaves aboard the ship are trapped by the stronger Africans and the white traders, the Indians are trapped by the colonists into unfair treaties, and Paris is trapped through the printing of his ideas about evolution and by his cousin. In other cases the characters try to control their own thoughts and actions. For example, Paris tries to rid himself of the pride that has often led to confrontations with others and, in his opinion, led to his wife's death. Control includes more than individuals in this story; the various cultures found in this story are constantly fighting for control of land and property. Like remorse, this is a universal theme. In a world that often feels chaotic, humans attempt to control aspects of their lives in a variety of ways, from self-control to the controlling of others.

Entrapment

This theme is tied to the theme of control. To aid those trying to control others, various individuals and groups of people in this story have trapped others. Entrapment is used by all the cultures in this story. The whites trap not only the slaves, but other whites as well, through trickery and deception. The blacks trap other blacks to sell to the white traders. The Native Americans trap themselves in treaties with the white colonists,

allowing their hunting grounds to be taken from them for trade goods, medals, and friendship with the Great White King.

Individual characters are trapped by a variety of means, with some asking to be trapped. For example, Paris knows the risk of publishing his study of evolution and is willing to take that risk, possibly for the sake of his pride, to see this work in print. He also agrees to be a member of a slave ship's crew, knowing the pain of imprisonment. Some characters are physically trapped in cages, handcuffs, and leg irons. Others are trapped monetarily. Owen feels trapped by his livelihood in Africa. He has put all his money into the slave trade and is barely getting by; he has to continue living in Africa and involving himself in the slave trade to survive. Others are trapped by their opinions of themselves and others. Both Erasmus and his father keep their worries to themselves and suffer for it.

Although most readers may not know what it is like to be physically trapped, they can understand what it is like to trap oneself in work, worries, and obligations.

Power

The theme of power is connected to all the other themes. It is the reason for the need for control and entrapment, and the cause of much remorse. Each character in this story desires power in one way or another; even the children mimic the power struggles between the adults. The characters, in the least, want power over their own lives, while many want power over others' lives as well. Paris wants power over his pride. Erasmus wants power over others so that he can regain respect for his family's name. William Kemp wants power over his finances, so that he may continue living his lavish lifestyle. Elizabeth Kemp, through her strength at her husband's death, seems to have wanted power over her own life. Captain Thurso desires power so that he may complete his last voyage in the slave trade and retire. The list of characters is lengthy, and they each desire power for one reason or another.

The title of the book, "Sacred Hunger," is connected with the power of money and the hunger and drive associated with money. The reason money is so sacred is that it brings power; those with the most wealth have the most power. This struggle for power is seen in contemporary literature and life today; in this sense, not much has changed regarding power in the past two hundred years, except maybe the ways in which power is acquired.

Style

Point of View

The point of view in this book is mainly third person omniscient. The narrator follows the lives of Erasmus Kemp and Matthew Paris. The point of view is from that of the narrator but gives insight into the thoughts of these two characters. Other characters' thoughts are also revealed to the reader but not as often or to the extent of Erasmus Kemp and Matthew Paris. The narrator not only knows about the lives, opinions, and emotions of the various characters, but he or she also uses events and feelings from the past to support events and feelings of the present and to foreshadow events to come. For example, the story begins with Erasmus; it is known that his father has died, and by looking into past events, by the end of the first book, the reader knows what has led up to his father's death. There is also dialogue between the characters to show more of their personalities and culture. What is interesting about this dialogue is that through word usage and phonetic spelling a wide range of accents are created for the characters. The point of view of the narrator and the dialogue between characters give a great deal of information to the reader in a creative way. These aid in the understanding of the various cultural groups found in the story, as well as the distinguishing of one character from another.

Setting

The Prologue and Epilogue take place in New Orleans many years after the main body of the story. The setting of Book 1 begins in Liverpool, England in 1752. Depending on the character and scene focused upon, the setting varies from the shipyards, dark alleys, and pubs to the Kemp home and Wolpert residence. This shows the contrast in the lives and livelihoods of the characters in this city. The setting is also that of the Liverpool Merchant and her various ports of call in Africa. Imagery and descriptive language are used to show the vast differences between life on this ship and life at these ports to life in England. The final setting found in Book 2 is in Florida. Erasmus spends time in the newly acquired, and subsequently deserted, town of St. Augustine before his trek to find Paris and those aboard the Liverpool Merchant. Paris, the crew, and the slaves create Paris' and Delblanc's version of a utopian society in the swamp lands of southern Florida. Once again, descriptive language and imagery are used to describe each setting and how it contrasts with other settings in this story.

Language and Meaning

Along with third person omniscient perspective, dialogue between characters is used. Within this dialogue various accents and dialects are detected through the use of phonetic spelling. The language of the upper class is shown through the use of correct grammar and spelling, as well as a large vocabulary. Scottish, Irish, Cockney, and

African accents are created by adjusting the order of words and the spelling of words to better match the sound of each accent. The same can be said for the pidgin English that is spoken in the settlement. The use of phonetic spelling and word usage help to distinguish one group of characters from another and aids in making each character more believable and real to the reader. Also, with so many characters found in this book, this creation of accents helps to avoid confusion between one character and another. It also supports themes related to cultural differences, as well as the plot and settings of the story, which take place in many different locations.

Structure

The story primarily jumps back and forth between a present time in the 18th century to memories in various characters' pasts. The book begins with a Prologue from a much later time in history, which gives information regarding characters in the story, as well as events and the setting. The body of the story begins in Liverpool, England in 1752 and continues through Book 1 until 1753. Both Erasmus Kemp and Matthew Paris relive memories that are connected to their present lives and futures. In Erasmus' story, from the beginning it is known that his father has died; the rest of Book 1 is the reliving of the events leading up to and directly after his father's death. In Paris' story, he has just been released from prison and his wife has recently died; much of this first book's purpose is to reveal the details of these two main events and how they have affected Paris.

Book 2 takes place twelve years after the end of Book 1. It mainly follows Erasmus' life and what he has done over the past twelve years. Towards the end of Book 2, several chapters are used to give the reader information about the past twelve years in Paris' life and what his life is like currently. Both Erasmus' and Paris' lives meet at the end of the book when Erasmus finds Paris' settlement.

The book ends with an Epilogue that picks up where the prologue left off. It is now known who the character in the Epilogue is, as well as details about his father the surgeon and the paradise in which he was raised. The Epilogue can be used to make assumptions about the lives of those who were taken from the settlement and their opinions about this settlement.

Quotes

"New shackles were being forged here, in the light-filled loft, amid smells of oiled canvas and raw hemp and tar, the creeping fringes of the sail-cloth, his feelings for Sarah Wolpert and for his father."

Book 1, Part 1, Chapter 1, pp. 13

"I am talking about a commerce that will be worth millions. A lawful commerce - it is sanctioned by the law of the land. Merchants trading to Africa can hold up their heads with the best."

Book 1, Part 1, Chapter 2, pp. 16

"The last Kemp saw of his ship was the duchess yearning away from him...this was any ship now, a shape become generic, universal. His last real sight of her had been that swanning glide, that brief, ungainly wallowing, that yearning retreat of the figurehead. It was the last of her he would ever see."

Book 1, Part 1, Chapter 9, pp. 62

"Ambition, the wish for some lustre to fall on him from this great and revolutionary work? But how could that live in one breast with a desire to kill the self, to smother it in darkness, a desire so urgent at times that it came to him like an impulse of violence?"

Book 1, Part 2, Chapter 10, pp. 66

"It was a scene that left him feeling strangely weak. Of its affect on her he was not sure, but these days he read an expression of trouble in her eyes."

Book 1, Part 3, Chapter 15, pp. 105

"...most of the time she could feel herself alone on the ocean, the sole trader of the world, instead of what she was, a member of a vast fleet sent forth by men of enterprise and vision all over Europe, engaged in the greatest commercial venture the world had ever seen, changing the course of history, bringing death and degradation and profits on a scale hitherto undreamed of."

Book 1, Part 3, Chapter 18, pp. 130

"With the utmost regularity, like a sleeper breathing in the deepest vale of sleep, the Liverpool Merchant dipped into her moonlit reflection and rose and dipped again, as if she could never have enough of her own image, the curving headrails, the full cheeks of the bows, the bosomy wraith of the Duchess of Devonshire yearning up to meet her and endlessly falling away."

Book 1, Part 3, Chapter 20, pp. 162

"The future he thus envisaged was a palace of marble and Sarah was queen of it, enclosed within, securely his own."

Book 1, Part 5, Chapter 25, pp. 220



"'They cheat us and we cheat them,' as Barton put it, 'that is the way the world goes round.' I dare say it is, but I cannot help suspecting that it was we, rather than the Africans, who gave the globe its first spin in that direction."

Book 1, Part 5, Chapter 26, pp. 233

"'Because they have all black faces we suppose them close in fellowship, but when have we been so towards people only because they are white-skinned like ourselves?'"

Book 1, Part 5, Chapter 29, pp. 285-286

"...when the ship met the deep sea swell, the rhythm of her movement changed and the people in the cramped and fetid darkness of the hold, understanding that they had lost all hope of returning to their homes, set up a great cry of desolation and despair that carried over the water to the other ships in the road and the slaves in the holds of the ships heard it and answered with wild shouts and screams, so that for people lying awake in villages along the shore and for solitary fishermen up before dawn, there was a period when the night resounded with the echoes of lamentation."

Book 1, Part 5, Chapter 31, pp. 303-304

"In the fertile interior of Africa her children, her greatest resource, would multiply endlessly and come down in endless procession to be sold below these walls, beside the sea."

Book 1, Part 6, Chapter 32, pp. 308

"'Money is sacred, as everyone knows...So then must be the hunger for it and the means we use to obtain it.'"

Book 1, Part 6, Chapter 32, pp. 325

"'...we spread death everywhere. But that sacred hunger we spoke of justifies all. The trade is lawful, they say, and that is enough.'"

Book 1, Part 6, Chapter 32, pp. 328

"'That face on the easel is the face of plunder and death, sir, it is the face of Europe in Africa.'"

Book 1, Part 6, Chapter 32, pp. 328

"Erasmus rose too hastily and felt a wave of dizziness. In the desolate clarity that came with its passing he understood that his father had been sniffing at his own death, his own decay, that day at the shipyard - it was the ship that had killed him."

Book 1, Part 7, Chapter 34, pp. 368

"The future lay with those who dealt in money, not commodities...It lay with people like himself, people who could see. Why then did he feel this desolation...The successful cannot be unhappy - it was a contradiction in terms."

Book 2, Part 8, Chapter 37, pp. 421

"Suddenly he felt like a man who has played by the rules and been cheated by an opponent more cunning - so cunning that it was not possible to see how the trick had

been done."

Book 2, Part 8, Chapter 37, pp. 421

"This movement for abolition of the trade is a chimera, there will be no bill, there are no voices against it but some few members of the Quaker Faction and one or two meddling fools outside parliament."

Book 2, Part 8, Chapter 39, pp. 436

"Trade is the thing that has undone them, this great blessing of trade...They have hunted over these lands for centuries without ever knowing that what they needed for happiness were muskets and looking-glasses and beads and bits of printed cotton. Now they are persuaded that they cannot live without these things. Strange, is it not?"

Book 2, Part 8, Chapter 43, pp. 480

"Men living free and equal in a state of nature...What gave us the confidence to suppose that a state of nature could only mean what it meant to us, a notion of Eden, a nostalgia of educated, privileged men?"

Book 2, Part 9, Chapter 48, pp. 541

"Wilson had been killed by everybody. It was this that made his death special, the children had been told. It was justice, it was all the people showing how much they hated this crime. Killing was justice when everybody joined in."

Book 2, Part 9, Chapter 49, pp. 548

"Who put dis slavemark on him...Only ting we ken say buckra man slaver done it. If he got no mark tell us who he belong, we oblige say dis dead picken belong nobody. But wait one minnit, what dat mean? My pinion dat mean he belong everybody. He belong all of us here."

Book 2, Part 9, Chapter 49, pp. 553

"You say an attempt understanding but it is only an attempt proving your ideas the right ones. First you bringed us, say we are free, then you want to make us serve some idea in your head. But the people cannot serve your idea, you cannot make them do that."

Book 2, Part 9, Chapter 50, pp. 563

"...Paris had lifted him...It had not been to cheat him of victory - he knew that now, perhaps he had always known it - but to save him from defeat. It had been an act of kindness, perhaps even love. Only superior strength had enabled his cousin to do it. No one since then had been strong enough. And now there was no one at all."

Book 2, Part 9, Chapter 55, pp. 626

Topics for Discussion

"Sacred Hunger" is the title of this book. What is meant by sacred hunger? How is it sacred? Does every character in the book have this sacred hunger? Why or why not? Give two examples of this sacred hunger. Does this sacred hunger exist today? If so, how? If not, why not?

Who are the main characters in this book? How do you know they are the main characters? Describe the relationship of the main characters. Does it change throughout the book? Why or why not? In what ways are the main characters connected? How does this connection affect the plot of the book?

Choose four characters from the book. How does each become involved in the slave trade. What role do they play in the slave trade? How are their lives affected by the slave trade? How are we affected by the slave trade today?

Erasmus shows himself to be a bad actor early on in this story. Why is he such a bad actor? How does he feel about acting? Why does he feel this way? How do his acting skills change by the start of Book 2? Why? What does this say about his character?

What institutions are challenged in this book? How is each institution challenged? Why are they challenged? How do the various characters react to these challenges? How do these challenges affect you as the reader? Why?

Describe the settlement. How was it created? On what principles was it created? Would you consider this a utopian society? Why or why not? Might this society have survived and flourished? Why or why not?

The author uses phonetic spelling and specific word usage to create several different accents and dialects. How is this useful to the reader? How does it support themes found in this book? How does this affect the plot?

What is a theme in this story? How do you know this is a theme? How is this theme found throughout the plot of the story? How can the reader relate to this theme? How is this a universal theme?

The author uses a great deal of imagery in this book. Why does he do this? How does he do this? How does this affect the reader? How does it support themes and the plot?