

# **Seven Pillars of Wisdom Study Guide**

## **Seven Pillars of Wisdom by T. E. Lawrence**

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# Plot Summary

*Seven Pillars of Wisdom* by T.E. Lawrence is the story of the Arab Revolt against the Turkish Empire and Lawrence's role in it. Lawrence, educated at Oxford, begins by working for a museum on an archaeological dig in the Middle East at the outbreak of the First World War. He is commissioned into the British Army while at the Euphrates and is attached to the Hejaz Expeditionary Force with Lawrence functioning as the British soldier attached to the Arab leadership in the revolt against the Turks. The Arab region is a part of the Ottoman Empire at the opening of the book. Turkey is an ally of Germany in the war and England feels that helping the Arabs defeat the Turks helps England in her war against Germany.

The book opens with Sherif Hussein as Emir of Mecca. The term "Sherif" means that the person is descended from the prophet Mohammed and as a descendent of the prophet, he is the ruler and the Emir's family, which has been the ruler of his people in Mecca for over nine hundred years. While the Emir is held an honorable captive in Constantinople, he sees that his four sons, Ali, Abdulla, Feisal, and Zeid have a good and modern education: these four sons become the leaders of the armies involved in the Arab Revolt. At this time the lands of the Arab world are inhabited by different tribes, most of whom acknowledged King Hussein as their leader, even though they had no obligation to serve in his army. Service had to be negotiated with the leaders of the tribes, most of whom were paid by the King and would only serve in their own immediate area. The tribes do not travel from battle site to battle site; only the four sons and their officers do. So there is no organized Arab army at the time of the revolt.

The book's setting is in the deserts of Arabia and much of the book has to do with what happens on the various marches. There is a great deal of time spent marching through the desert with camels and the telling of the events through Lawrence's eyes. Lawrence is not a professional soldier, but functions as an advisor to the Arab leadership and a liaison between the British Headquarters and Hussein and his sons. He advises them on military strategy, helps them devise attack plans, and helps carry them out. He becomes an expert on wiring and blowing railroad bridges; the work of Lawrence and his teams is instrumental in leading to the Turkish defeat in the region since he devises the plan of blowing the bridges that leads to the Turkish retreat from the Jordan valley and the capture of Medina.

Arriving as a stranger to the Arab thoughts and customs, Lawrence learns their language and way of life. Adopting Arab dress at the suggestion of Feisal, he is accepted as one of the Arab leadership and becomes known as Lawrence of Arabia for his work in the revolt. Lawrence returns to England after the war and is killed in a motorcycle accident in 1935.



# Introduction, Foundations of Revolt Chapters 1 - 7

## Introduction, Foundations of Revolt Chapters 1 - 7 Summary and Analysis

*Seven Pillars of Wisdom* by T.E. Lawrence is the story of the Arab Revolt against the Turkish Empire and Lawrence's role in it. Lawrence, educated at Oxford, begins by working for a museum on an archaeological dig in the Middle East at the outbreak of the First World War. He is commissioned into the British Army while at the Euphrates and is attached to the Hejaz Expeditionary Force with Lawrence functioning as the British soldier attached to the Arab leadership in the revolt against the Turks. The Arab region is a part of the Ottoman Empire at the opening of the book. Turkey is an ally of Germany in the war and England feels that helping the Arabs defeat the Turks helps England in her war against Germany.

The book opens with a discussion of how they have lived in the desert since they are in the desert fighting for an ideal. "I was sent to these Arabs as a stranger, unable to think their thoughts or subscribe their beliefs, but charged by duty to lead them forward and to develop to the highest any movement of theirs profitable to England in her war" (Chapter 1, pg. 28). Lawrence says he lost his English self by the number of years he lived as an Arab dressing in Arab dress. He views the West differently, as he now views things from both perspectives. He is still a Westerner but he feels that he is now capable of viewing things as an Arab does, due to the length of time he has spent living as an Arab.

The book discusses the Arab movement and their reasons for wanting freedom from the Ottoman Empire. Lawrence says they must define what an Arab is as there was once a country called Arabia. There is a language called Arabic but there are multiple language variations in its family. The term basically refers to the Arabic-speaking areas of Asia, which is the land of the Semites or the area now known as the Middle East. Lawrence discusses the geography of the region in which tribes roam from place to place in their nomadic lives. He describes the Arabs as people with different economics and social groups, not as different races. They are patrons of the arts, but not the artists. The Beduin finds God in nature, not in the towns or cities. Lawrence spends several pages discussing the different areas and the different people. Most are tied together through a related language and through various customs, not to mention geography. Lawrence discusses each country in the region and compares and contrasts the characteristics. These people are not different races. They are all the same race but differ in terms of social and economic characteristics. Lawrence spends some time describing the Beduin of the desert and his characteristics. The Beduin believes that he is with God whether he looks for God or not. God is still with him. Lawrence refers to this phenomena or



belief as the creed of the desert and it is this creed that the Beduin and other Arabs live by.

The Turks first appear in the Arab world as servants and eventually the Arabs are subjected to Turkish rulers. This occurs over a period of time and the Arabs are not happy about it and do not let it happen easily. The Arabs refuse to yield their culture to the Turks, protesting by interspersing the Turkish tongue with Arabic words and continuing to study their *Koran*. The Turkish revolution occurs and the Arabs want to be separate from Turkey, which leads to Nationalist movements occurring in Egypt, India, Persia, and Constantinople; many Arabs become ready to fight for independence. The Arabs become the largest alien population in Turkey. Turkey tries to eliminate their influence because Arabs have turned against Turkey. The Arabs form the Ahad, a secret society consisting of Arab officers in the Turkish army who vow to use what they learn against the Turks. In Syria, the Fetah is formed. It also is devoted to ruining the Turkish Empire. The Arabs see no benefit in siding with the Allies in World War I since they don't believe they will be left with freedom following the war, but they do prefer France to Turkey. The Turks try to send their Arab-speaking armies to other places, so they are not concentrated in one area.

Eventually a Holy War is declared, which the Sherif of Mecca has to go along with. "Sherif" means that the person is a descendent of the prophet Mohammed. The Sherif's family rules in Mecca and is looked up to by many Arabs, since the family has ruled for more than nine hundred years. The Ottoman government can't destroy the family and their followers because the family and followers are too strong. They put their own Emir in place in Mecca. The Sultan gains in strength and tries to rival the Sherif by appointing a rival family of the clan. Some of the family is taken to Constantinople as captives. One of the captives is Hussein ibn Ali, who provides his sons, Ali, Abdulla, Feisal, and Zeid with a modern education while he is in captivity. Eventually Hussein is sent back as Emir. Hussein is not in favor of Jihad against Christianity and refuses the demand for Jihad. He also receives a request from the Syrians that they be allowed to revolt against the Turks.

Hussein sends his sons to gather information about the situation. Abdulla is sent to the British to find out their views concerning a revolt. Ali is sent to Medina to put together troops and hold them ready, and Feisal is sent to Damascus to consult and survey the situation. Feisal follows the situations developing in World War I. When he returns to Syria he finds the local situation has changed with many of their supporters under arrest and the Arab divisions sent to other places. Since Feisal is an officer in the Turkish army, he is forced to live at the headquarters of Jemal Pasha and watch the execution of his friends. Feisal communicates with his father via human courier and counsels him to delay the revolt until conditions are more favorable. He is informed by Jemal that they are traveling to Medina with two higher-ups in the Turkish command for review. Feisal has to keep them from killing the Turkish visitors and beginning the revolt. Medina is full of Turkish troops since the Turks suspect the coming revolt. Feisal raises the Arab flag in Damascus. England soon parts ways with Turkey and the revolt begins. This is considered to be a very serious step for the Arabs.



The Turks are trying to hold on to the empire that they have. The rule has transferred from the old Turks to the Young Turks. These Young Turks do whatever they are told to do without thinking about it. They are not rated highly by Lawrence or the others. The others consist of a small handful of British. The British rally around Clayton, their Chief of Intelligence in Egypt, and look to him as their leader. Next to Clayton there is Ronald Storrs, the Oriental Secretary of the Residency. George Lloyd is knowledgeable in trade and politics in the Middle East and the group looks to him for guidance. Mark Sykes is the one who is knowledgeable about world affairs. Hogarth functions as the historian who gives their group wisdom and guidance. This is not the whole group of English in Egypt at the time, but it is the group with which Lawrence is closest.

England is involved in war with Turkey and is trying to get support in the region for its cause when the Arab uprising begins to occur. There were minor revolts occurring but the major one hadn't begun yet. The British, of course, help the Arabs when the revolt does begin because the revolt is against a common enemy.



# Book I, The Discovery of Feisal Chapter 8 - 16

## Book I, The Discovery of Feisal Chapter 8 - 16 Summary and Analysis

Lawrence discusses some of the people involved in the Middle East at the time of the outbreak of the war. There is no proper mechanism in place for the Arabs. They are not included in military information briefs. The British are not trying to ascertain local conditions or to adapt their own resources to local conditions. There had been attempts to discredit the Arab revolt, but these attempts didn't last for long. Lawrence escapes from the situation by going on holiday with Storrs for a few days. While he is gone he makes arrangements to have himself transferred to the Arab Bureau.

The Book begins with Lawrence, Storrs, and others on the liner *Lama*, meeting with Turkish officers on their way to see the Emir of Mecca. They have replaced the regular crew in their rooms and are enjoying the cruise. They travel to Jidda, a seaport near Mecca, where they are to meet with Sherif Abdulla, the second son of the Emir. They arrive in Jidda and walk to the Consulate. Storrs has known Abdulla for many years and knows that Abdulla is respected by the Arabs. The Arab revolt is in progress but is not progressing well, even though Abdulla has been successful at Taif and is being congratulated for his success. Abdulla has the respect of the British. Lawrence hasn't met him yet and is watching him. The British feel that the Arab revolt lacks leadership and manpower since their fighters consisted of the Beduin who have to be paid by the Sherif. The Sherif also had to feed their families while the men were away from home and would hire them and their camels to help with transport. There is no organized army that the Sherif can rely on. Most others in Hejaz are foreigners, not interested in an Arab revolt or an Arab state. In most of the towns, the Turkish Civil Code was done away with and replaced by the Koranic procedure, but Abdulla believes in the fight for Arab independence.

Lawrence's first impression of Abdulla is that his personality is not suited to success in revolutions. Abdulla, to Lawrence, is too cool and humorous to be successful in the revolution. Lawrence believes that Abdulla will be more valuable in the period after the revolution when the peace is being established. Lawrence feels that Abdulla's role cannot be ignored while the fight is going on or afterwards. Abdulla tells them that the Turkish system of government that they inherited from the Turks is still in effect even on a watered-down scale although it will eventually be done away with. Koranic law is slowly replacing the Turkish system and tribal order is being restored. The system based on custom was being restored slowly and it was a system that the Beduin trusted.

The Turks were not stopped by the British or by the Sherif. Since they both failed to cut the Hejaz Railroad, the Turks were able to keep themselves supplied at Medina. There



is an advance planned on Rabegh but the Arabs are too weak to defend the city since they don't have the supplies or the manpower. The Turks also have their support with some of the local tribes, like the Masruh Harb. Abdulla's father, the Emir, must lead the fight now for the city of Mecca. Abdulla's father says he will not allow the Turks to enter Mecca; he will be killed first before allowing them to enter.

Abdulla asks for a regiment of British troops currently at the Suez Canal be moved to protect Mecca for the Turks. They never cut off the Hejaz rail line because the Sherif had indicated that he would require it for his advance into Syria. Lawrence and Storrs are representing the British view to Abdulla about using troops sent for the defense of Egypt for other purposes but they say they will look into it. Lawrence wants to meet with Feisal to discuss the situation and Abdulla has to call his father for permission which Sherif Hussein eventually gives. Later that evening they are invited by Sherif Hussein to hear his band, which was a group of captured Turks. All of the other prisoners were sent to Egypt, but Abdulla kept the band. They all had to listen to the band play over the phone only finding Hussein saying he will have them force marched to Jidda so they can play. The band arrives the next day with Abdulla at the residence of Colonel Wilson and plays during an evening party.

The next day, Lawrence leaves Jidda for Rabegh. Lawrence meets Colonel Parker onboard. He has a letter from Abdulla which he shows to Ali granting Sherif Hussein's orders for Lawrence to be taken to Feisal. Ali is close to be a fanatic but is well educated in law and religion. He is pure in his actions and behavior but is susceptible to those around him. Ali has Lawrence wear Arab garb so his uniform isn't conspicuous as he helps him prepare for the journey by camel to Faisal. He is sent with a man named Tafas and his son Abdulla, both of whom are trusted by Ali. Ali has them wait until after sunset before they can begin their journey. Lawrence's traveling companions have orders to keep Lawrence from getting into trouble by asking questions of others who they meet as they travel, like the Masruh Harb. This group is loyal to a different sheikh and not so much to the Sherif. They travel almost continuously, night and day, for a day and a half, taking short breaks and Lawrence learns of the many water sources in the area and which cities and areas draw upon them. Lawrence is taught how to ride a camel during the journey. He also learns how to take care of camels on a journey such as watering them. Lawrence is grateful for whatever rest he gets on the trip. He learns to like the time they spend at the markets and cooking because this also represents time away from traveling. They eventually reach the Wadi Safra where there are strings of villages, one of which has Feisal residing in it. This is a village that the Arabs inhabit only for five months out of the year. This is a village where they have black African slaves. They eventually arrive at the village where Feisal is and are greeted by Feisal's soldiers. They follow the soldier's to Feisal's residence and Lawrence is introduced to him for the first time. Lawrence is very impressed with Feisal, believing the hope of the Arab Revolt lies with Feisal.

The Egyptians and other Arabs who are involved in the fight against the Turks are hoping that the Englishman can help them. They are looking to him to help correct the wrongs that they see, along with Feisal. Their group is paid monthly by the Sherif in terms of money, but doesn't receive information, technical aid or arms. Feisal says that





he will allow them to work with Lawrence and sets out to explain the whole situation, from the beginning of the revolt. He begins with the first attack on Medina and how the men were afraid of the sound of the gunfire.

The Turks do not fight by the same code as the Arabs. They attack women and children and destroy property. This sends shock waves through Arabia because it is against the Arab code of ethics and war time behavior. When the revolt begins on the orders of Sherif Hussein, the Arabs are not prepared for it in terms of food and munitions. The Emir has not even taken his sons into his confidence, so there are no preparations for food and things of the like. After a while, Ali inquires in Rabegh and finds that the local chief, Mabeirig, sided with the Turks, thinking that they would be victorious.

The Arabs are not well-armed to fight the Turks even though many of them think that they are. They have thousands of men to repel the Turkish attack on Feisal using hand-to-hand combat techniques. Feisal is able to obtain guns from the British. In response to Lawrence's question regarding his plans, Feisal says they are tied down in Hejaz until the fall of Medina. Later that evening after dinner, Feisal tells him that they are happy and grateful to the British for aligning with them. He hopes to join his brother Alin in an attack of Medina to help push the Turks from the area.

Lawrence views Feisal as honorable and well-versed in diplomacy. He feels that Feisal is capable of running the army and driving the Turks from Arabia. Feisal is also well liked by the local Arabs and has their trust. Feisal tells Lawrence that due to the crimes and actions of Jamal Pasha, the Arabs are now tied to the British whether they want to be or not. The Arabs want a government that speaks Arabic and they want to be rid of the Turks. This is the goal of most of the tribes who will support Feisal's father in the quest for independence. They want to be rid of the Turks, not to conquer their empire.

Lawrence believes in the Arab movement. He is for their cause and they know that this is the truth. He supports them. Because of this, they trust him to help them and advise them. They know that Lawrence will try to do what he can for them. The troops they have are supported by Sherif Hussein since the tribes that served Feisal were basically paid for by his father. Others obeyed their sheiks and served near their homes. In spite of this, the Turks were good at offering large bribes to these troops and many who took money from the Turks reported to Feisal, who paid for captured Turks, mules, and weapons. The troops only serve under their tribal sheiks, without whom Feisal would have no support. Lawrence views the tribesmen as good for defense purposes but not good for offensive purposes since they are not disciplined enough to follow orders. But without the tribes, the Turks would have few problems in the area and would walk right through.

Lawrence promises to give Feisal whatever help he can and promises to supply weapons and British advisors to help Feisal in his cause. Feisal wants Lawrence to return to meet with him again and Lawrence explains his duties in Cairo and that he needs permission from superiors to make a trip to Feisal. It isn't a normal part of his work but he promises to do whatever he can to accommodate Feisal's wishes. On the way, Lawrence meets Feisal's agent in Yenbo. The agent, Abd el Kader, has just been



transferred to Yenbo and Lawrence spends four days at his home waiting for the ship that will take him to Jidda. Lawrence does not impress Captain Boyle because he is wearing an Arab headdress of which the captain disapproves. Lawrence receives permission to travel to Khartoum. Lawrence makes the journey back to Rabegh and heads to Port Sudan where he meets Davenport and Joyce, two British officers leaving for Rabegh. They lead the Egyptian troops and the Arabs owe them a huge debt of gratitude for their work. Lawrence and Sir Reginald Wingate both favor the success of the Arab revolt and this ties them together and makes him a favorite with the staff in Egypt. Lawrence manages a holiday along the Nile as he visits with different officers in the British command.



# Book II Opening the Arab Offensive

## Chapters 17 - 27

### Book II Opening the Arab Offensive Chapters 17 - 27 Summary and Analysis

Lawrence is sent back to Arabia and Feisal by Colonel Clayton, to whom he now reports. He is not happy about the assignment because he does not feel that he is fit to be an advisor and doesn't want the responsibility. But he must serve as liaison and advisor until the regular army officers arrive, so he travels to Yenbo, where Feisal has his base of operations and, as he is told by Clayton, it might be several months before they arrive. When he arrives in Yenbo, he finds a man named Garland training the troops in the use of munitions and explosives. Garland is experienced in the use of explosives and easily teaches the Beduin. His weak heart and health make him feel ill but he is still able to teach the troops until the day he dies.

There have been many changes in Hejaz during this period. Feisal is on the move, traveling to the Wadi Yenbo and securing his troops to prepare to attack the railway. His brother Zeid is helping him along with his brother Ali. The appearance of Turkish airplanes over Rabegh has shaken the population, which becomes reassured when British planes arrive.

Lawrence is supposed to travel to the Yenbo base with his sponsor, Sherif Abd el Kerim el Beidawi. Lawrence gets along well with Abd el Kerim, who, along with his staff, are expert riders. They are known for covering the terrain in record speed. They reach the Yenbo where Feisal has just arrived with his staff. There is a lot of activity in the area with all of Feisal's troops there. Lawrence and his party find Feisal amidst the troops.

At this time Abdulla and his four thousand troops leave Mecca and have moved toward Medina, affecting a blockade. Abdulla has the men, but not the arms to mount an attack with Ali and Feisal, so all they can do is blockade the city. Since they are all basically in a holding pattern, Feisal decides to move his base to a safer place since a good rain would flood the valley in which they are located. Lawrence falls into the rhythm and routine of camp life and begins to wear Arab dress, at Feisal's request. Feisal feels that Khaki symbolizes the Turks to the troops and that Lawrence would be better accepted as one of Feisal's leadership if he were to wear Meccan garb. The day in the camp begins with the call to prayer, which begins the activity around Feisal's tent and culminates with the emergence of Feisal himself in about an hour. The breakfast trays are carried into the tent and after breakfast, and Feisal does his correspondence with his secretaries. Feisal then goes to the reception tent where he receives visitors. After the reception period, it was lunch time. After tea came a two-hour rest period with Feisal either napping or resting; then it is back to the reception tent until all visitors are finished. Next is the sunset prayer and then dinner between six and seven o'clock. This meal marks the end of the day with the rest of the evening dedicated to relaxation.



Lawrence happily explores the villages of the area with some of the others. Feisal decides to send Lawrence to assist his younger brother Zeid, since he suffered defeat in a battle and had to retreat. Lawrence is supposed to do whatever he can to assist Zeid and Feisal gives him the gift of a camel for the trip. Lawrence and his party spend three days traveling to meet Zeid. During this time, Feisal also suffers a defeat and retreats to the same area when Zeid and his troops are, with the Turks following.

Feisal, Lawrence, and a group of men survey the town to see what they need to do to make it safe. Yenbo is a seaport town and surrounded by water on two sides. The desert sides, they decide, can be defended by the troops since there is no possibility for cover for miles in the desert. They decide to fortify the wall for defense. At the same time, British ships are arriving and sitting in the Yenbo harbor waiting for the Turks. "Afterwards, old Dakhil Allah told me he had guided the Turks down to rush Renbo in the dark that they might stamp out Feisal's army once for all; but their hearts had failed them at the silence and the blaze of lighted ships from end to end of the harbour, with the eerie beams of the searchlights revealing the bleakness of the glaxis they would have to cross. So they turned back: and that night, I believe, the Turks lost their war" (Chapter 20, pg. 134). The Turkish attack never materializes and the tension eases as the crisis passes. Although the Turks had planned to attack Yenbo that night, the attack never materializes since the Turks didn't have the gumption to carry it off. Lawrence believes that the Turks lost their war that night when they lost their nerve to attack Yenbo.

With the threat of the Turkish attack gone, the ships are eventually sent away by Captain Boyle. Lawrence uses the time to travel to Rabegh to consult with the chief of the French Military Mission, Colonel Bremond. Lawrence describes Colonel Bremond as the only real soldier in the city. They discuss the possibility of attacking Medina. Lawrence and the British think the attack is necessary; the French do not. Bremond thinks it is best to put troops on shore at Rabegh and eventually force the Sultan to concede Medina. He thinks that Feisal moving to Wejh is a suicide mission. He respects Bremond as an experienced soldier, and since Lawrence's superior, Colonel Wilson, will be arriving soon, Lawrence writes the details of the discussion to him and decides to wait for his arrival. Turkish troop movements changed the situation and forced the troops of Zeid, Ali, and Feisal to move to prevent the capture of Mecca. The Turks were being hit hard by British planes and gave up on their plan to attack Yenbo.

In the meantime, Ali sends reinforcements to help Zeid, only to find Feisal also suffering a defeat and having to withdraw. Ali and Feisal try to trap Fakhri's forces between theirs. The plan does not work out and Feisal gives his promise that he will go up the coast to the city of Wejh. He wants to take the different tribes, Juheina, Harb, Billi Ateiba, and Ageyl, with him and make it such a big operation and show of strength that it would bring about the end of the war. The group hopes to take Wejh by surprise, since the Turks are at Rabegh. Feisal is uneasy about leaving Yenbo but there is a place called Wadi Ais where they can be strategically located in such a way that they can help with the blockade of Medina and still receive supplies from Yenbo. They begin to move there with their troops before receiving word from Abdulla.



Feisal needs assurances from the British about support in the battle for Wejh. Feisal will not make a move without assurance from the British. The British agree to support Feisal who also receives word from his father to proceed on to Wejh. The Turks also fall upon hard times with their headquarters staff suffering from ill health. In addition, they suffer the raids of the local Arab tribes that cost them manpower and camels. The Turks end up instituting a line of defense around Medina which continues until the end of the war.

The troops traveling with Feisal have been with him for six months or longer. The newness and thrill of the situation have worn off. They are experienced and confident, but quiet, and their smaller units are more effective than larger numbers of soldiers. The mission that Lawrence is preparing with Feisal is supposed to bring the war in the Northern Hejaz to a close. It will be the biggest operation to date and the Arabs are favored to win because the Turks have transferred their supplies to the south of the area and would have to transfer them back north again. They are hoping to take the Turks by surprise at Wejh. Feisal does not like the idea of moving his base from Yenbo but helps perfect the plan proposed by Lawrence.

Lawrence travels with Feisal on the march to Wejh. The march is splendid, with Feisal and the others in dress robes. Along the way, Lawrence receives a message from the British command aboard the *Dufferin* that he'd better go to Yenbo, which he does. He finds that Zeid is not there. Lawrence arranges for the arms and munitions, solving some local problems by appealing to Boyle, a British soldier, who tells him a ship will be available since Lawrence is basically in charge of supplies. Lawrence and others meet with Feisal to plan the details of the attack on Wejh. Boyle accepts the proposed Arab landing party and agrees to take them onboard. There would be a nearby ship halfway in what they assumed was a natural harbor that would supply the troops with water. There were to be six ships at Wejh with guns and a plane to help them. They march and fight their way toward Wejh.

In the meantime they receive good news from Rabegh. The Turks did not attack Yenbo, and Abdulla is on the way to Ais and Feisal's group is halfway to Wejh. They are all on schedule. Lawrence is at Feisal's camp watching all of the activity. In the evenings they talk of their plans for the various marches as the revolt continues with mid-January targeted as the beginning of the big campaign. Their march begins, and they follow Feisal's lead. The movement on the Wejh is the biggest battle yet for them.

Along the way they camp for the night when news comes that the Sherif Bey has been taken victoriously. The tide of the revolt has been turning in the Arabs' favor and this is another example of that fact. The Sherif of Medina comes to visit Feisal unexpectedly and there is a great deal of entertainment and merriment. They learn from Boyle that the naval attack was successful. The next day rumors and excitement are circulating through the troops. Vickery is satisfied with the results but Lawrence is not happy about the twenty deaths that they sustained. Wejh is more or less destroyed by the battles with all the robbing and looting.



# Book III A Railway Diversion Chapters 28 - 38

## Book III A Railway Diversion Chapters 28 - 38 Summary and Analysis

The British-Arab victory at Wejh stopped the Turkish advance toward Mecca; the Turks were now busy defending Medina and the railway which they knew would be the object of attack soon. Guns and munitions continue to be a problem. The Arab troops do not have the equipment they need to adequately fight the Turks and are badly out-armed. It takes a year for Bremond to order the Suez batteries to assist the Arab cause, and it is his superior, a Major Course, who finally gives the order. This allows Lawrence and his groups, with the Arab troops, to enter Damascus. Feisal now has Jaafar Pasha, a captured Turkish officer, as a commander. Jaafar Pasha had escaped and then was re-captured when Feisal heard about him. King Hussein refused to allow Pasha, which left it up to Feisal to use Pasha at his own risk, without the king's approval. Bremond and Lawrence disagree on the method of taking Akaba. Bremond wants to put a mixed group of troops there so it isn't a total Arab win. Feisal is warned of this by Lawrence, who doesn't see Bremond's plan as possible. After his discussion with Bremond, Lawrence returns to Cairo.

Feisal has his camp about a mile from Wejh after the Arab victory. The English tents and Egyptian tents are separate from Feisal's tents, so Lawrence has to move back and forth between them. Lawrence covers the distance on foot instead of using the animals, which has the Arabs questioning him. Feisal is now in control of the area between the sea coast and the railway and they are ready to deal with the problem of the railroad. Feisal's group meets with the various local tribal leaders and secures their support, which gives him movement across their lands.

They can't reach Medina because it is still held by the Turks. The victory at Wejh had many sheiks and tribal heads coming to Feisal to congratulate him on his victory. Feisal also has to mediate disputes between the various tribes and groups. "During two years Feisal so laboured daily, putting together and arranging in their natural order the innumerable tiny pieces which made up Arabian society, and combining them into his one design of war against the Turks. There was no blood feud left active in any of the districts through which he had passed, and he was Court of Appeals, ultimate and unchallenged, for western Arabia" (Chapter 30, pg. 181). Feisal's judgment is acknowledged and accepted by the tribes.

Lawrence receives orders from Clayton to wait in Wejh for the arrival of the Egyptian patrol ship, the *Nur il Bahr*. Lawrence receives word from Clayton that the German staff in Constantinople ordered the troops to abandon Medina. Clayton sends him the evacuation route. The Arabs aren't happy about the German and Turkish troops being on the Beersheba front, but Clayton orders that Medina be captured. Lawrence meets



with Feisal and they decide to move toward the railroad. Lawrence is sent to Abdulla to encourage him to engage the Turks and attack the railroad. They have problems the day they begin their journey, and it takes them the whole day before they can leave the camp. Their travel is slow and they have a rough march over rugged terrain, complete with feuding tribes. Lawrence is sick during this march with fever and dysentery, having come down with the illness after the first day. They travel for several days through various wadis and valleys. After passing through the Wadi Gara, they come upon the Beduin tents of the Sheikh Fahad el Hansha tribe. These are friends who helped them out in the Wejh campaign.

They spend the night with the Sheikh, who tries treating Lawrence's illness with camel's milk to no avail. He is a little stronger and can walk unaided, but he is still sick. They continue to travel through the wadis, going from one to another until they meet Sherif Abdulla. Lawrence spends much of his time of illness, about ten days, at Abdulla's camp in the Wadi Ais. Upon his recovery, he informs Abdulla that he wants to help in the Hejaz railway campaign. Lawrence isn't well-versed in military theory, having no formal training, but rather being somewhat self-taught in the subject.

While Lawrence is sick, he is thinking about the psychology of the situation. He sees a conflict between strategy and tactics. He sees three elements of war: an Algebraical element, a Biological element, and a Psychological element. The Algebraic element is non-human; rather, it is almost mathematical, dealing with known variables and fixed variables. It is this element that comes into play when they plan to enter an area. The Biological element has to do with the troops or humans. Lawrence feels that they are more interested in the destruction of things like bridges, machines, and railroads than in the number of enemy deaths that they cause. The Psychological element gives it all shape since this is where the propaganda comes in.

Lawrence finally gets over his illness and begins to remember why he came to the Wadi Ais. He tells Abdulla that he is ready to resume his duties and help out in planning the attack on the Hejaz railroad. They are working with Sir Archibald Murray, who is leading the army. Lawrence helps the group develop its plans, which is the reason why he came to the Wadi Ais in the first place. Abdulla agrees that Lawrence can go to the front and sends a group with him. They leave on March 26th.

The group plans to mine the railroad tracks and capture a train, which they successfully do. The group travels and spends some time with a group of shepherds who spend their lives wandering around with their goats and sheep. Shakir has brought only three hundred men to take the train station. They reach their destination and mine the railroad. The successful attack causes a Turkish withdrawal from the immediate area, and it takes them three days to restore service on the line. When the group departs, they leave troops there to keep up the attack on the railway. Lawrence and his group return to Abdulla's camp. Lawrence and other members of Abdulla's group return to the railway several times for forays and raiding the trains. The one thing that they prove is that it is possible to use concealed mines to attack the trains; they had enough troops there to cause trouble on the railway line every day. The Turks keep inspecting the line and repairing the damage.



Lawrence is not happy at Abdulla's camp - he does not feel that he fits in with Abdulla's people and does not find them as personable as Feisal's. Abdulla is very interested in the progress of World War I in Europe and elsewhere. He only went to the Wadi in order to please Feisal, and he wouldn't engage in raids and didn't offer much encouragement to those who did. In spite of this, they have troops on the railway that are attacking on a daily basis. On April 10th, Lawrence leaves Abdulla's camp to return to Feisal's camp so they can then make their way to Akaba. The terrain on the way to Akaba meant they couldn't take machine guns, stores, or regular soldiers. Lawrence decides to do what he wants without orders and writes a letter to Clayton telling him so.





# Book IV Extending to Akaba Chapters 39 - 54

## Book IV Extending to Akaba Chapters 39 - 54 Summary and Analysis

Lawrence is on another march, this time with Nasir, one of Feisal's lieutenants, and the troops: this time they are marching to Akaba. Lawrence is impressed by Nasir and the others who are to represent Feisal to villagers in Syria. Feisal is paying for the trip and for any men that they hire. They had to divide the heavy gold pounds among them in order to carry them on the trip. Nasir is as new to travel and as inexperienced as Lawrence is. They bring the luxury of rice with them instead of the much lighter flour. After all of the well wishers have said their goodbyes, they set out close to midnight, heading for the oasis of Kurr. They travel for several hours at a time, and then rest for several hours. They find that the Sherif Sharraf, who they plan to spend the next night with, is out with a raiding party and won't be back, so they spend an extra two nights at El Kurr. Lawrence takes the time to practice his Arabic with Nasir and Auda and others helping him practice.

The next day some of their camels don't make it through the pass and they have to be destroyed. They cut them up and passed out the meat so that each man carried his own. They move on to Sharraf's camp where Sharraf is expected to arrive the next day; however, he does not arrive until the third day. He gives them good news of rains that have filled the pools and will shorten their trip to Fejr. The group leaves the next afternoon, not unhappily, since they were suffering from fever since being there. They begin going through the maze of valleys and hills.

Eventually they spot five or six riders coming from the railway and don't know who they are or what side they are from. They identify the riders as being British and eventually meet Hornby, an associate of Newcombe. Hornby tells them that Newcombe is in Wejeh meeting with Feisal. Hornby and Newcombe specialize in railroad destruction and are more or less legendary. The group continues with the travel reaching a valley by dark with only four of the group with them. They have to wait several hours for the rest of the group to catch up with them and arrive at their camp. They round up their wayward camels when they awake, eat and begin to travel again eventually reaching their next night's stop at the Wadi Aish.

While they are resting at the Wadi Aish, they find horse ridding men heading for the water. They fire at the group which scatters into the surrounding area for protection. The riders were a Shammer patrol that rode through the area leaving Lawrence's group to resume their travel at dawn to Diraa and the water pools Sharraf told them about. The area has enemy patrols that they are looking out for. They find a safe spot and spend the night. The next morning they set out again under the leadership of Auda. They go through the valleys and hills as they head for the summer camp of the Howeitat. Later



that day they enter the area between the valleys of the Seyal Abu Arad and the Jebel Rufeyia. They pass through that area and into other areas between valleys.

The group travels down the wall of the Seyal Abu Arad and reaches the well around noon. They water the camels and rest until night and then leave before dawn, traveling until lunchtime. They rest in the shade until after midday. Auda and others hunt on the plain for game and return with a gazelle that they caught. This meant a feast for the group who had meat and water. They travel again and reach Khabr Ajaj before sunset. They have now been traveling for two weeks and still have a ways to go. They are traveling again the next day. They are now traveling through the desert with its wind and dust and heat and are trying to travel mostly at night, since they are now running short of water. The next day as they are traveling, Lawrence becomes aware that they are missing a camel. They are wondering what to do, who they can send looking for the camel. Lawrence finally selects Gasim and sends him on his camel. Lawrence has to go out and find Gasim and the camel, which he does. Gasim complains about his thirst all the way back to where the group is, in spite of Lawrence telling him to keep quiet. He is found dead in the camp the next day.

There is no water available for the group but they travel on knowing they will find water the next day. They do find wells with water the next day and decide to spend the day there since there is grazing food for the camels. They see some riders that they think are part of a Shammar patrol but they ride off. Auda sends his nephew to scout the enemy and determine their numbers and hiding place but the nephew finds out nothing so they keep on traveling.

They meet with the locals along the way and survive the harshness of a desert storm. As they move through the land, they stop at watering places. When they reach the territory of Nuri Shaalan, they offer him and his tribe six thousand pounds to look after their troops' families. "Auda would explain to Nuri what we hoped to do, and Feisal's desire that he make a public demonstration of adherence to Turkey. Only so could he cover us, while still pleasing the Turks" (Chapter 45, pg. 270). The group decides to stay with Ali abu Fitna while Auda travels to see Abu Tayi. The group that stays behind is royally treated by the tribe with daily feasts. They finally travel to the Abu Tayi camp where they are accepted and given shelter. The party has a problem with snakes while they are at the camp. This resulted in three deaths among their men and others left with snake bites and having to recover.

As soon as the party begins to travel again and reaches Ageila, they meet the Auda abu Tayi who had been to Nuri Shaalan. They are showered with gifts of food and animals by people who follow the Arab movement and are loyal to Feisal. Lawrence becomes ill from a lice bite. Nasir, Auda and Lawrence spend days discussing the next move in the revolt and whether or not they should move on Damascus. They are busy preparing the route for the march. The group continues to meet with the sheiks and tribes along the way. They consider moving on Damascus but Lawrence doesn't feel they can hold Damascus, even if they take it. There is no way for support from British ships there. There is no base and no organization there for them. Lawrence sees Akaba as more important since they need the city to link to the British: if the Arabs capture Akaba, they



have a steady source of supplies from the British. The way it is now, the Turks have the steady stream of supplies.

Lawrence feels that the Arabs need Akaba for several reasons. They need to extend their front and they need to be able to connect to the British. Akaba serves both of these purposes since it leads to the Sinai. The Arabs would have a good supply source from Sir Archibald Murray, which they needed and there would also be protection for the right flank of the British Army which would no longer be exposed through Akaba. Lawrence has support from Nasir and Auda in this plan. Nesib offers to help out in the taking of Akaba if Lawrence will support his attempt to begin a Syrian movement without Feisal to which Lawrence promises to help with financial aid. The freeing of Akaba is one of the steps leading to the taking on Syria.

They find out that there is a secret treaty between Russia, England and France to keep some of the Arab lands after the revolt ends, which is why Lawrence maintains that the Arab revolt was based on false pretenses. This was not revealed to the Arab leadership or Lawrence or to any of them. The Arabs find out about the secret treaty from the Turks and ask Lawrence to endorse the promises that the British government has made. He tells them that he has no official knowledge but that the British will keep their word to them. "In revenge I vowed to make the Arab Revolt the engine of its own success, as well as handmaid to our Egyptian campaign; and vowed to lead it so madly in the final victory that expediency should counsel to the Powers a fair settlement of the Arabs' moral claims. This presumed my surviving the war, to win the later battle of the Council Chamber - immodest presumptions, which still balance in fulfillment. Yet the issue of the fraud was beside the point" (Chapter 48, pg. 283).

Lawrence returns to his camp in mid-June and finds Nasir and Auda still planning the mission. They are almost out of money and food and have replaced all of the tired camels. They are ready for action with little to weigh them down. The move to Akaba begins with a force of five hundred. As they leave the camp of the Abu Tayi for Akaba, the women begin to dismantle the tents and rearrange the camp for security since most of their men are on the march with Lawrence. They hope to enlist the aid of the local tribes along the way: their plan is dependent on this.

When they start out, they decide to stop at the tomb of Auda's son at Bair. There are wells along the way that are important to the troops of Nasir and Auda and there is smoke pouring out of the area. They will need watering places for their camels and they find that the area of the wells has been attacked by the Jazi. This causes Lawrence and the others to wonder about the wells at El Jefer, which figure prominently into their plans. Their scouts find empty cases of gelignite from the explosives that the Turks used in the area. Lawrence's group begins to clear the wells and collect the gelignite that they find. They decide to stay in Bair and to send a man to Jefer to determine whether there is damage there.

The attack on Akaba is planned two days before the food supplies are due to arrive. They plan to coordinate their attack from El Jefer, where they plan to cross the rail line and then take the Nagb el Shtar pass. This cut off the Turkish supply line which they



hope will force the surrender of Akaba. There is no way to keep their actions secret from the Turks, who they knew were aware of their actions by the destruction of the wells. The Turks were convinced that the object of their mission was Damascus, and not Akaba, and Lawrence and the Arabs did what they could to mislead the Turks. This misled the Turks and benefited the Arabs immensely.

While they are spending their week in Bair, they decide to attack the enemy line near Deraa. They ride with one hundred ten men under the leadership of Zaal, trying to pass themselves off as an Arab raiding party and not as part of the army of the revolt. The second day they arrive at Zerga, a Circassian village to the north of Amman where they decide to water the camels. There is a post of Turks there with a general inspection soon to happen. Zaal's group waters their camels and ride on to the Dhuleil Bridge, which they plan to destroy. The Turks are camped less than two hundred yards from the bridge. They find that the bridge had been damaged by the floods and is in the process of being rebuilt. They decide it is useless to destroy the bridge when it is in this condition.

The group heads north to Minifir looking for a good place to mine the train tracks. They camp on a hill and the next day find a force of one hundred fifty men riding toward them. Lawrence's group backtracks and escapes from the hill, which would have been a deathtrap for them. The Turks rode by their hiding place. They find a place to mine the train tracks, and wait and by noon the next day, a Turkish infantry unit appears. Lawrence decides not to engage them because of the risk of casualties, even though they are on the higher ground. It was three days before a train arrives with set of Lawrence's explosives. By midnight the group was traveling again looking for other places to hit the railroad. They attack the Atwi station and into the attack rode a trolley full of Turks who were unaware of the attack. They capture the sheep of the Turks for food and after a feast on mutton, the group begins to ride back to Bair.

They learn that the wells at Jefer and Bair have been destroyed by the Turks. Lawrence and the others hope that the Turks work was sloppy enough for them to reconstruct some of the damaged wells so they can still be a source of water for the camels. When they reach Bair they find that they can salvage Auda's family well. The water from the well is enough for the camels. They travel to Jefer and blockade the Aba el Lissan, which cuts off the supply caravan from Maan, where the Turks believe that they have cut off the water supply to their enemy, not knowing the some of the wells are now operational.

Lawrence and his group learn of the massacre at the Fuwailah post that occurred on the previous day. The group is on their way to another railway station, this time south of Maan. They plan to begin destroying bridges and destroy as many as they can on the march to Akaba, but they find a long column of troops has been sent from Maan and is holding the Aba el Lissan line and waiting for them at Bara. The troops camp at Aba el Lissan for the night, which sends Lawrence and his group traveling quickly. They cannot take Akaba under these conditions and have to dislodge the Turks from Aba el Lissan. They remain in the hills around the valley where the Turks are, sniping at them on and off.



Auda comes to call on Lawrence when Lawrence and Nasir are resting. He has all of the men in position at the rear of the Turkish army, ready to engage the Turks. Lawrence and Nasir join in the attack. Lawrence's camel is killed in the attack and he uses his spare. The Arabs win the battle and many of the surviving Turks flee. Lawrence and his group have no money or communications. They promise to pay after Akaba is taken. The group is successful in taking Aba el Lissan.

Now there are three posts between them and Akaba, and they send messages to the commanders of each that it will be much better for them all if they surrender instead of putting up a fight. They will be treated well and sent to Egypt. The Turks respond by shooting, which begins the battles. Their march continues and on the way they do battle with the Turkish infantry and take prisoners. The march on Akaba is successful. Akaba is taken on July 6th, two months after they departed from Wejh.



# Book V Marking Time Chapter 55 - 68

## Book V Marking Time Chapter 55 - 68 Summary and Analysis

The taking of Akaba represents the end of the Hejaz war. The next step is the taking of Syria with the Arabs and British working together. Akaba gives the Arabs a position to be a part of Allenby's Sinai army. The capture of Akaba results in Feisal's army being transferred to Allenby's command, which is where Feisal's equipment now comes from.

The houses in Akaba are in a state of ruin from the battle. There is hunger in the city, especially since the Arabs have taken more than seven hundred prisoners and they have no money; of course, there is no market to spend the money in even if they had money. Things are so bad that some of the officer prisoners think that the lack of provisions is a tactic done to annoy them. Their group begins to wonder how they are going to hold Akaba now that they have taken Akaba. They discuss various plans, including where to place outposts and how Auda should place his men in four positions that form a semi-circle around the highlands of the Maan.

Lawrence and his group decide to request a relief ship from the British at Suez and Lawrence decides to go with the party to Suez. They set out, taking their best camels with them. Their group decides to move as long as they can out of each twenty-four hour period since they want to reach the Suez as quickly as possible. They reach Themed and its wells around midnight. Since this is the only place on the trip where there is water, they spend some time there, letting the camels drink. Moving again, they reach the Mitla Hills by nightfall. Marching through the night, they make it through the dunes by midday.

When they reach the town of Shatt at the Suez around three that afternoon, Lawrence calls the Suez headquarters but can't get any transport across the canal to their headquarters. The plague had appeared two days before their arrival and the troops have vacated the area and are out in the desert. The next day, Lawrence calls again and talks to a Major Lyttleton, who sends transport for Lawrence and his group. They are interrogated by the military police and since Lawrence is not in uniform, he is not recognized as a part of the British army.

They travel on to Cairo by train to see Colonel Clayton for the supplies they need. They change trains at Ismailia and wait for the express from Port Said. When the train arrives, Admiral Wemyss and Burmeister and Neville disembark and walk down the platform. Burmeister notices Lawrence and begins to talk to him. Lawrence tells him of their success at Akaba, and Burmeister orders a store ship to travel there with supplies and to return with the prisoners. Lawrence learns that Allenby is in command now. After leaving Burmeister, Lawrence continues on to Cairo, where he sees Clayton. Clayton gives them sixteen thousand pounds in gold and an escort to the train back to Suez, as the store ship *Dufferin*, sets sail for Akaba. The money will allow Nasir to pay the debts



for the Akaba campaign. Allenby calls for Lawrence to meet with him and the two discuss the situation in Arabia and the importance of the Syrian tribes.

Lawrence meets with Clayton and they discuss the Akaba campaign and situation. The two agree on the assignment of Joyce as the commanding officer for Akaba and Goslett as the supply officer. They also agree on the rest of the staff for the captured city. In addition, they arrange to have a supply ship sent there. Lawrence recommends that they close Wejh and have Feisal and his army move to Akaba and become a commander in the Allied expedition of Egypt, which is commanded by General Allenby. The only opposition to the plan, they think, might come from Hussein as Lawrence feels certain that Feisal will find it acceptable. They feel that General Allenby should make full use of Feisal.

Lawrence is sent to Jidda by ship, the *Dufferin*, to consult with Feisal, who is amenable to the proposition and sends word to his father. His army begins to prepare to move to Akaba, as Lawrence heads to Wejh to meet with King Hussein. Hussein accepts the proposal. In Jidda, word arrives of a plot with the Turks in which Auda and Mohammed are involved. Lawrence and his group quickly return to Akaba and meet with Auda and his group. They tell Lawrence what their correspondence with the Turks means and Lawrence appeases them when he tells them that money and supplies will be coming with Feisal's army, which is headed to Akaba. They apparently are upset at receiving no rewards for the job they completed during the Akaba campaign. Lawrence calls Cairo and tells them that the situation is okay and that there is no treachery.

The wait begins for the arrival of Feisal's army. Feisal has Jaafar and Joyce with him and they are all waiting for their arrival. The war in the Hejaz has ended with the taking of Akaba and the next move is to Syria. "The difference between Hejaz and Syria was the difference between the desert and the sown. The problem which faced us was one of character - the learning to become civil. Wadi Musa village was our first peasant recruit. Unless we became peasants too, the independence movement would get no further" (Chapter 58, pg. 336).

Syria is a country that is different than the Hejaz area. The desert is to the east and Syria and the Mediterranean are to the west. There are mountains and plains and seacoast all inhabited by different peoples. The shore people and the inland people treat each other as two different peoples since they have different customs and speak different Arabic dialects. They are a mixed, diverse population consisting of Christians, pagans, Arabs, Kurds, Jews and various others, as most of the inland is inhabited by a variety of some three hundred tribes. The tribes cannot be mixed and have to be dealt with on an individual basis because of their distrust of each other.

Syria consists of a series of north-south strips that divide the country and area into different zones. The zones are divided basically by rivers. Those living on the shore have different house styles, language dialect, and customs than the others. Each strip is inhabited with people who differ from each other, and it is from this that Feisal has strengths and difficulties. Along the Euphrates valley are Turkish-speaking villages and enclaves. Along the shore down to the Tripoli gap are pagan population who are



distrustful of Islam and Christianity. These people speak Arabic. Inland are the Circassians and some Druses, who speak Arabic. The Kurds are north-east of them. Beyond the Kurds are the Yeidis and beyond them is Aleppo, a city which has all of Turkey's races and religions. Further on are Arabs and the tribes.

Further south, a different section has Moslem Circassians around the coastal area and inland the Ismailiya, who were Persian immigrants who became Arab. The Christian Arab tribes are beyond the Ismailiya with their Sheikhs. Past them are the Moslem communities and beyond them the Beduin tribes. Below them is another section consisting of Tripoli and Beyrout. The Lebanese Christians are on the coast and are part Maronite and Greek. The higher areas are inhabited by Shia Mohammedans who originally came from Persia. Beyond them are the Christian villages, and then the semi-nomads and the desert.

Further south is still another section near Acre and on the banks of the Jordan who are Sunni Arabs, Druses, and Matawala. The Jordan valley is inhabited by Algerian refugees with Jewish villages across from them. Past them are the Arabs and the Hauran. To the East are the Druses who are more or less Moslems who despise, and are despised by, the Moslem Arabs. Another section around Jerusalem is inhabited by German Jews surrounded by the Palestinians. East of them is Jordan with its numerous Christian villages and then the thousands of nomadic Arabs.

The most important towns in the area of Syria are Jerusalem, Beyrout, Damascus, Homs, Hama, and Aleppo. Each town is distinct in its own personality and opinions. Jerusalem is the city made famous by every Semitic religion. Both Christians and Mohammedans pay homage there, along with some Jews. Beyrout is different, having a French-based language, an American college, and Christian businessmen. Damascus is the major city and the seat of the government; it is also the place where the Turks have their military headquarters. But all the people of Syria speak a common Arabic language, even though they have their own variations and distinctions in their customs. The Moslems want an Arab state and the Christians want European protection. Homs and Hama are manufacturing centers, with Homs specializing in cotton and wool and Hama specializing in brocaded silks. Homs and Hama are prosperous, like Beyrout. Aleppo is a city in Syria populated by many races and creeds. The city is also prosperous and friendly to Europeans.

All of these different people are tied together through a common Arab tongue even though there are political and religious differences between them. They obey their father not so much the Syrian government. They are unhappy with the present situation but they don't know what to replace it with. The village and clan are the largest units that they recognize and these units are informal and voluntary. There are no true feelings of nationalism. Some of the Moslems want an Arab kingdom, while many of the Christians want the protection of the Europeans. The area represents a mosaic of interests of the different peoples considered to be ripe for revolt.

The war practice depends on camels, the main transportation of the area. The British and Europeans would have to adapt to them and to the ways of the desert. Then each





man can carry a half-bag of flour and require little else for the next six weeks while relying on camels. The camels are watered at wells which are located around the regions. Some men might carry some water with them; others do not, only drinking at the well. The camels will go about two hundred fifty miles, or three days, in between watering. Since the wells aren't more than one hundred miles apart, each step is easily attainable no matter how fast or slow they move. Another factor in the travels is that the tribes do not all get along with one another or trust one another, so they cannot mix or combine tribes. They are all serving a common ideal without any formal organization. The Arabs could return to their homes whenever they wanted to without facing any punishment or recrimination. Most would only serve in the area around their homes.

Finally, Feisal arrives by vessel traveling up the Gulf of Akaba. Jaafar, the staff, and Joyce are with him, along with armored cars. Maan is now under the special command of Behjet with more than six thousand men and is the target of Lawrence and the Arabs, who want to clear the Aba el Lissan. The area is subject to air attack by the British. Lawrence decides to try mining trains again and boards the ship H.M.S. *Humber* where the gunner warrant officer helps them decide how to wire the detonators. They then set out to teach the Arabs how to use these weapons.

Lawrence is told that the Australians Lewis and Stokes want to be a part of his unit. Lawrence takes them with him to the Wadi Itm and makes the trip as easy as possible for them. There are two kinds of Englishmen in the Middle East; one is the subtle insinuating man, involved in what is going on around him in terms of the people and their characteristics and speech and thought. He keeps his own natures secret and hidden. The other kind is the typical John Bull who remembers his old English home fondly. He represents a sampling of British traits. One does things verbally; the other does things by implication.

Lawrence goes to the camp of Abdulla, discussing the manpower for the troops. The more they delay, the lesser the chance of finding more troops in the same temperament as the tribes. When the baggage camels arrive from Feisal they have the needed supplies. In September, they depart from Rumm, beginning their march toward the train tracks to attack the train. They ride for hours each day even though the different tribes will not ride together, which means that Lawrence must ride back and forth between the different tribes. Lawrence is functioning as the leader of the exposition. They are examining the railroad for a place to lay their explosives, finding a spot in the morning. The group comes within several miles of the Turks near a railroad bridge, so they wire the bridge with explosives. A Turkish scouting party appears during the day but doesn't find them; nevertheless, the Turks begin to move in their direction several hours later, just as there is a train in the station several miles away. The train leaves the station and heads their way, along with the Turks who were on the roof. They blow the train when it reaches the spot where they planted the explosives. The Arabs loot the train and take ninety military prisoners and the party returns to Rumm as victors.

Destroying locomotives is their biggest objective and this is what they are working toward. They lose a few camels, but they take their toll on the railroads and the Turks. They destroy seventeen locomotives in the next four months.



# Book VI The Raid Upon the Bridges

## Chapters 69 - 81

### Book VI The Raid Upon the Bridges Chapters 69 - 81 Summary and Analysis

It is now November 1917 and Allenby is staging a move against the Turks along the whole front of the Gaza-Beersheba line. The Turks, bolstered by a series of small victories, believe that most of the British officers are incompetent. General Bols and Dawnay, from Allenby's chief-of-staff, are a part of the party planning to help Lawrence and the others with the attack. His plan is that any attack must include a massive attack force using weapons and transport, since this is General Bols position. "We knew, better than Allenby, the enemy hollowness, and the magnitude of the British resources. We under-estimated the crippling effect of Allenby's too plentiful artillery, and the cumbrous intricacy of his infantry and cavalry, which moved only with rheumatic slowness. We hoped Allenby would be given a month's fine weather; and, in that case, expected to see him take, not merely Jerusalem, but Haifa too, sweeping the Turks in ruin through the hills" (Chapter 69, pg. 394).

Part of the plan is to attack the Gaza-Beersheba railroad. The railroads to Jerusalem, Haifa, Damascus, and Medina all meet at Deraa, and this is the center of Lawrence's attention. He feels confident that they will not only take Deraa, but also Damascus, by surprise. Lawrence is in the service of both Allenby and Feisal and they have more than twelve thousand men for the task. Serving both Allenby and Feisal causes some problems for Lawrence since he can't work with one without disclosing the situation to the other. Lawrence wants to move on the railroad but knows that if they suddenly capture Deraa, the result will be a massacre. They will only have one chance for a rising of the sort the capture of Deraa will require and they must be decisive when they do act. Lawrence has faith in Allenby and the British troops but decides to postpone the move on Deraa for another year.

Even though they aren't going to stage a general revolt in Deraa, they still need to mount some sort of operation to attack the enemy rear. Their first objective is to take out the bridges in the Yarmuk River valley, which also has the railroad running through it. This is one of the most difficult sections of the line to build and repair. There are a series of bridges through the valley as the railroad winds back and forth across the river. If they knock out the most extreme end bridges, then the Turkish army is trapped for two weeks from its headquarters in Damascus. The plan is so farfetched that the Turks never even think of it or bother to guard the bridges in the valley. Parties from the Arab army begin to mine the railroad bridges in various places.

They present the plan to Allenby who approves of it and wants it completed by November 5th. This will ensure that the retreating troops will not be able to reach Damascus as they would be cut off by the Arabs and British. They need someone to



lead the expedition and appoint Ali ibn el Hussein, a Harith Sherif. Feisal agrees to allow Lawrence to borrow him for the mission and Lawrence has a lot of faith in Ali. Lawrence plans to leave from Azrak and go to Um Keis with approximately fifty men with Wood, the base engineer and Lloyd going with them. He has six recruits for bodyguards; Mahmud, Aziz, Mustafa, Showak, Salem, and Abd el Rahman.

They set out on their mission, not very organized and not all sticking together. Wood and Thorne become separated and miss their turn as night falls. They wait for a day, hoping the others will find them. Finally, Ahmed, Aziz and Abd el Rahman scatter among the area, trying to find them to bring them to Rumm. Lawrence goes with Lloyd to Rumm to wait for the missing pair and finds them there already when they arrive. They feast and sleep and leave the next day, crossing the mountains. They scout the Turks at Aba el Lissan and this is how they spend the day.

Lloyd and Lawrence, along with Thorne and several others, set out to survey the train line. They navigate through the dark with the use of a compass and the star Orion. They come across a Turkish camp without a railway. They give up and leave, riding away from the Turkish camp, and rejoin Auda at camp where they dine and talk with him. Lloyd returns to Versailles and Lawrence provides the camel for his journey. Auda warns Lawrence about Abd el Kader.

Lawrence and his group move on, traveling past the Jefer flats and into the plains. They move daily without traveling at a pace that strains them. While they are eating with Sherif Ali and his men, they are warned that an attacking party is approaching. They find the party to be a raiding party from the Zebn Sukhur who shoot over their heads. They eventually talk, and ride off. They leave Bair before dark, following a steep old pathway which leads to the crest of the ridge where they meet the rest of their party and spend the night. They travel the next day and spend the night at the Wadi Jesha. They start early the next day hoping to reach the Safra el Jesha. They cross the rich valleys flowing with water.

The next day around noon, they notice a group of trotting camels heading their way, announcing the arrival of Fahad and Adhub, chiefs of the Zebn. They are camped nearby and have come to greet the group. They stop at Ammari for the wells, where one well in particular is considered to be very good. After frolicking in the water, eating, and resting, they move on toward Azrak. Outside of Azrak they meet the Serhan tribe and stay at their camp. Lawrence needs the support of the Serhan tribes if he is to adhere to the schedule set by Allenby. Without Abd el Kader they can't go to the Wadi Khalid and must try to blow the bridge at Tell el Shehab.

They set out early the next morning, riding into the Wadi el Harith. When they come upon a good pool, they stop and Adhub, Ahmed, and Awad are sent to hunt for food. They return with three gazelles but are fighting with one another and Lawrence has to settle them down. They move again after eating and find a place to set up a camp for their bridge raids. They are eighty miles from the bridge, and they must travel through darkness. Lawrence estimates the trip will take thirteen hours.



Lawrence sets out with a scouting party, their target being the rail tracks. They begin to set themselves up in the area and have problems with the Turkish soldiers. They eventually flee from the area and arrive at Sherif Ali's camp and rest. Ali and his group have been busy cutting the telegraph. Lawrence's group helps them cut the telegraph line to Medina. That night they discuss the problem with provisions and staffing for the blowing up of trains. The Indians are not well-suited for this kind of mission and depart with Wood the next morning.

There are now sixty men remaining with Lawrence for the bridge blowing work. They move on to Tell el Shahab and begin laying their explosives in order to blow up the bridge. They wire the area and then wait in the rain for a train to approach. Lawrence is hiding when the train approaches very slowly. His party has finished laying the wire and the mine when the train slows down and stops, right beyond the mine. The Turks get out and search the area, but find nothing and get back on the train, which leaves the area. Lawrence lets the train through without blowing it and the Turks find nothing strange about the area, since all of the wires were well hidden. The next time a train approaches, they blow the train and find that Jemal Pasha was on board; as a result of the explosion, both locomotives are damaged beyond repair and the rest of the cars are derailed.

The rains have come upon the area and there can now be no more great advances for the remainder of the year. They have taken Azrak and are determined to hold their position there. They make do with where they are and finding provisions. Wood becomes ill with dysentery and Lawrence and the others decide to return him to the coast at Akaba. A steady stream of visitors comes to see them off and to learn of life in Akaba. They wait out the winter and the rainy season.

Lawrence decides to explore the area around Deraa. In Deraa, Lawrence gets into a fight and is beaten severely. He is dragged into the street but gets away. He walks to a village, freshens up, and then goes to the valley where the hidden road to the raid site is and makes it back to their camp. He is ordered to Allenby's headquarters by air since the British have been experiencing victory after victory. The British have taken Jerusalem and are about to officially enter.



# Book VII The Dead Sea Campaign

## Chapter 82 - 91

### Book VII The Dead Sea Campaign Chapter 82 - 91 Summary and Analysis

Lawrence attends a big meeting and banquet at Shea's headquarters after the Jerusalem victory. It seems that the British are stuck in the hills along the line from Ramleh to Jerusalem and Lawrence is asked if they would come up and link with the southern end to make a continuous front. The plan apparently has the approval of Feisal. Allenby is basically immobile until mid-February when he begins the push to Jericho.

Lawrence is still with Allenby's group as they move past Jerusalem. They meet with resistance from the Turks so they move north toward the Dead Sea, where they run into bad weather. Allenby plans to enter Jericho in mid-February; they need a supply line for Feisal's troops and they need to cut off the Turk's food supply to Jericho. The plan is to move their base from Akaba to the Jordan valley in March. They need to be able to move sixty tons a day in supplies for Feisal. They figure that they can move their base within two months of the line going through. The plan is for them to be at the Jordan by the end of March.

Given this timetable, Lawrence takes a brief one week vacation in Cairo before beginning the move to the Dead Sea. While in Cairo he learns more about insulated cables and explosives. When he returns to Akaba, it is Christmas Day and the senior officer, Snagge, is treating the British community to dinner. Lawrence talks with Joyce of the events that have taken place, discussing the troop movements and camps.

As they have some time before the move north, Lawrence and Joyce travel to the Mudflats, complete with armored cars. They and the drivers have some fun driving around the Mudflats with their tires squealing and spend several days there. They then head for Mudowwara where they camp planning to find a road to the railroad. They come across and attack a Turk camp and easily win the skirmish. The Turks cannot combat the armored cars and it is obvious to them that they can't. This is important to Lawrence and the others to actually see this and understand this. The situation at Medina goes from bad to worse as the Turks want everything south of Maan abandoned. The British still insist that Medina has to be captured with the use of explosives. Lawrence wants them to cut the line south of Maan and keep it cut.

The Turks offer a reward for British officers, dead or alive, of one hundred pounds. After some of Lawrence's group's success with railway destruction, the price for Ali and Lawrence is twenty thousand pounds. There is no guarantee that the money will ever be paid but Lawrence becomes more concerned with bodyguards. When in Akaba, Lawrence always stays with Marshall, the doctor who carries a rich-looking Hasa



saddle-bag. One day a young man walks into the room, throws a saddle-bag on the carpet, tells Lawrence it's his, and walks out. The next day the situation is repeated. On the third day the young man returns empty handed and tells Lawrence that he wants to work for him. His name is Abdulla and Lawrence learns that he is recently released from prison. He came to the area trying to find work on the Hejaz Railway. Lawrence hires Abdulla as a kind of bodyguard. To the British, they are called cut-throats, and Lawrence pays his six pounds per month and provides the camels when they travel. Most supply their own camels but with Lawrence, travel is hard and long, so he supplies the animals for them; otherwise he wouldn't be able to obtain reliable help.

Lawrence has learned how to exist in the desert just as the Arabs do. He can go days without eating or drinking. He can go without sleep and spend the time on a night-arch through the desert when it is cool. When they return to Akaba they are bored waiting for the campaign to begin. They are being held up by the winter weather on and off as they begin to move toward the Dead Sea. Feisal has placed his younger brother Zeid in charge of the campaign.

They meet with surprise resistance from the Turks as they move toward the Dead Sea. They didn't expect any problems with Tafileh because the village isn't important unless Jericho falls. They plan to attack it from the west, south, and east at once. The attack from the east is being carried out by Sherif Nasir who is camped at Jefer. They take the station at Jurf and cut the line both above and below the station. After the looting, they fire charges under the two engines and at the water tower and pump. They burn the trucks and knock out a bridge and then camp behind the station. Around midnight, a train arrives and a soldier walks into the stations. They decide to hit the train, but when they open fire, the train begins to run in reverse to Maan.

Tafileh is taken and the people are fearful because of the lack of food and transportation. The local people hide their grains and send their pack animals away for safekeeping. Zeid has been placed in charge by Feisal and it is his first charge in the north. He has Jaafar Pasha as his adviser. Even though they are moving around Kerak, they are still having problems with the winter weather and snow. Back at their Guweira camp, Lawrence receives 30,000 pounds of gold from Akaba for expenses. Feisal lends him men and camels for the gold, since his regulars are off on missions. Lawrence takes the gold to Zeid by himself, handling the camels alone in the desert.

To the surprise of the British and Arabs, the Turks try to retake Tafileh. This doesn't make sense to Lawrence because the small town is of no importance, unless Jericho falls.

When it becomes obvious that the Turks will attack, Zeid orders the troops out of Tafileh and to the east where they hope to turn the Turkish troops. The townspeople think they are deserting the town and try to save themselves and their own belongings. They were terrified of the Turks returning. Zeid's troops engage the Turks outside of the town. They lose a lower ridge and move up to a position on a higher ridge with about eighty men and more arriving. Zeid arrives in the afternoon with the main body of troops, about two hundred fifty men plus the weapons. They are victorious by sunset as the Turkish leave.



As they leave, it begins to snow and continues to snow the next day. Lawrence sends news of the victory to headquarters and receives a decoration for the job.

When they send news of their victory to Abdulla el Feir they also suggest a raid on Kerak to destroy the Turkish flotilla. They set out with seventy horsemen and ride through the night. Their mission is successful - they have stopped Dead Sea traffic two weeks earlier than they promised they would and have taken sixty prisoners. Their first two objectives being successful, their third objective is to take the mouth of the Jordan by Jericho by the end of March. The tribes in the area stay in touch with Zeid since they are prepared to move with him when the time comes.

The group is almost out of money, so Lawrence and several others decide to make the trip to secure more funds from the British command. They have a hard trip through the cold until they reach Guweira and the British base. Lawrence is happy to see Dawnay, Joyce, and the others again and to tell them the story of Tafileh. The British have thirty thousand pounds of gold sent from Akaba and Lawrence has to request additional horsemen from Feisal to help carry the gold. The gold is spread out among the men and they pack up and prepare to head back to the camp. The group splits and Lawrence spends the night with the Saleh ibn Shefia. The trip back is just as long and hard and the trip to Guweira was. They have to dismount many times and guide the camels through the slush and snow. Lawrence makes it back to Zeid's camp.

Lawrence learns the latest news from Zeid and finds there is another Englishman in Tafileh. Lieutenant Kirkbride has been sent to gather intelligence concerning the Arab Front. They move to the edge of the Jordan valley as the weather clears on a reconnaissance mission, returning to Tafileh when they have finished. Lawrence learns that Zeid has used the gold to pay the men. The custom of the Sherifs is to hire the men of the tribes as they move around fighting the war, even though they are not legally required to do so. "I was aghast; for this meant the complete ruin of my plans and hopes, the collapse of our effort to keep faith with Allenby. Zeid stuck to his word that the money was all gone. Afterwards I went off to learn the truth from Nasir, who was in bed with fever. He despondently said that everything was wrong - Zeid too young and shy to counter his dishonest, cowardly counselors" (Chapter 90, pg. 512). Lawrence tells Zeid that he will have to leave if Zeid does not return the money and leaves for the British Headquarters at Beersheba later that afternoon.

Arriving in Beersheba around noon the next day, he finds that Jericho has been taken. At headquarters, Lawrence explains the fiasco that occurred with Zeid and the gold. He requests a lesser assignment but finds it is impossible. Allenby is under pressure from the War Cabinet to take Damascus as quickly as he can. The Arabs must take Maan and they can do it rather easily by cutting the railway and forcing the Turks to come out.

Two units of Camel Transport Corps are ordered to the area for that purpose. Other weapons are also promised for the effort. They discuss the plans for the coming part of the war and tell Lawrence that he is to attend a Corps Conference the next day. The Conference also concludes that Maan must be taken and that the Arab Army must be

moved to the area immediately. When Maan falls the Arabs will be able to receive supplies from Jericho.

After the conference, Lawrence flies to Akaba to discuss the situation with Feisal and they learn that the Turks have retaken Tafileh. This doesn't sit well with Feisal, who is concerned about his reputation. Lawrence tells him that Tafileh isn't important: the important towns now are Anman and Maan. The British send three hundred thousand pounds for Lawrence for Feisal. Feisal and Lawrence prepare their plans and Lawrence returns to Cairo.





# Book VIII The Ruin of High Hope Chapter 92 - 97

## Book VIII The Ruin of High Hope Chapter 92 - 97 Summary and Analysis

The plans now are to work with Allenby and take Jordan. Because of Allenby, they now have supply officers, shipping, ordnance and intelligence experts, which they didn't have before. Dawnay was also assigned to Lawrence's group, which Lawrence feels is the best gift Allenby could give them. Along with Joyce, they make their plans to support Allenby's initiative during 1918. They plan to take the city of Maan and to cut-off Medina during the year. Jaafar and their Arab regulars will occupy the area north of Maan while Joyce will take the armored cars and destroy the railroad near Mudowwara. This will have to be a permanent destruction since they plan to take Medina. Lawrence will help Allenby in the north when he takes Salt at the end of March.

They are now better supplied and staffed with professional English officers. Lawrence rejoins Zeid and Nasir in Shobek since his assignment doesn't begin until the end of March. They have plans to attack Maan by cutting off the railroad and forcing the Turks out to fight. Feisal's officers don't like this plan and want to attack directly. Joyce comes down with pneumonia and returns to the Suez. Dawnay tries to reason with the Arab officers who don't like all of the plans that have been presented to them. "In the regular Arab Army there was no power of punishment whatever: this vital difference showed itself in all our troops. They had no formality of discipline; there was no subordination. Service was active; attack always imminent: and like the Army of Ital, men recognized the duty of defeating the enemy. For the rest they were not soldiers, but pilgrims, intent always to go the little farther" (Chapter 92, pg. 522). This dissension is due to the absence of discipline since the Arab soldier cannot be forced to support the officers even though they are expected to. Lawrence does not really take exception with this fact that there is no discipline for Arab soldiers.

Lawrence leaves Aba el Lissan traveling with a Mirzuk and an army of supplies with two thousand camels. They reach the railroad and check out the line; it is intact. They march to Wadi el Jinz the next day and rest at the pools. Allenby's plan takes them to Themed from which they will move; meanwhile at Bair, Lawrence learns that Turks have moved into Tafileh. The Turks had moved to the South, accepting the bait that they had been fed. They are leaving the area where the attack is to be, which couldn't make Lawrence and the others happier. They move to a higher camp and swim, trying to avoid the bugs, gaining a good view of the Deraa and Amman roads. They are paused here for a few days on their march to Damascus. But the camps here and at Azrak are part of the deception of the Turks. Lawrence will go to Madeba and join Allenby when he takes the Jericho-Salt road. They are supposed to wait in Atatir. While they are en route to Themed, they receive conflicting news about the various battles going on: the English



have taken Amman, then they are falling back from Amman; the English are in retreat from Salt; and then that the English are still outside of Amman. Lawrence finally sends a letter asking for accurate information. Later that night they find that Jemal Pasha won the battle for Salt and was hanging the Arab prisoners and that Allenby is still in the Jordan valley fighting the Turks.

They head south and meet a band of eight Turks. They attack and one of Lawrence's men is badly injured. Lawrence shoots him rather than leave him behind to the cruelty of the Turks since there are another fifty or more Turks advancing on them. They flee and reach a place of safety, and Lawrence decides to move on to Feisal's camp for the battle for Maan. He does not stay with the Indians. They arrive at Semna, near Maan, and find it in the hands of the Arabs, so they ride on. They find an injured Maulud and find that Jaafar is off attacking at Jerdun. Lawrence finds that Feisal has moved to Uheida and they go to find him.

Lawrence stays and watches the operations for the next few days. There are two outposts that are east of the railway station that are captured by the Abu Tayi, and the Saleh ibn Shefia take twenty prisoners, which includes capturing a breastwork with a machine-gun. The next day that railway station is stormed. During the battle, they have to pull out of the rail station due to lack of ammunition. On April 18th they pull back to Semna and Lawrence goes with Dawnay in a car. They decide that they can't sustain anymore losses in the area and are heading to blow bridges. Each of their units has their own duties when it comes to wiring and blowing bridges.

Arriving at the first destination, they wire the bridge with each unit performing its assigned tasks. They blow it before the train approaches and move on to the next bridge in the plan. They do the same thing to the last bridge in the eighty miles series. The blowing of these two bridges cuts off the Turks. The Turks do not bother to fight much for the area. They take the station and move on to Mudowwara. The Arabs take the seven states on the eighty mile stretch from Maan to Mudowwara which gives the Arabs the control of the whole area and ends the Turks stronghold in Medina.

Lawrence meets with Darnay before joining Allenby at his camp. He learns that Fahad promised twenty thousand tribesmen to help General Bols when Lawrence knew that he couldn't raise two hundred men. Their planned raid obviously failed. The Arabs now have a big push on to capture Damascus and Aleppo. Lawrence has done his part by knocking out the bridges, which is the first phase of the operation. Lawrence asks for the bombing of the Hejaz Railway and for two thousand camels. His request is granted by his higher ups and he leaves for Feisal's camp the next day. The camels would arrive in two months and during that time Lawrence and his group had to see that the railroad lines remained cut. Even though it looks like the war is going in the Arab's favor, there is a large concentration of Turkish troops heading for Maan.

Lawrence advises Feisal that it will take another month to completely cut off the railroad and that they should ask King Hussein to transfer the troops of Ali and Abdulla to Akaba to function as reinforcements. The plan is to divide the troops into three groups: one group would hold Maan, a second would attack Deraa and Damascus, and the third

would help Allenby take Jericho and Nablus. This would force the Turks back into Amman and give the Arabs control of the lower Jordan. Feisal supports Lawrence's proposal and recommends it to his father. Lawrence then goes to Cairo to obtain approval and support for the plan.



# Book IX Balancing for a Last Effort

## Chapters 98 - 106

### Book IX Balancing for a Last Effort Chapters 98 - 106 Summary and Analysis

The big offensive is planned for the autumn with the Arabs trying to convince the Turks that the danger is beyond the Jordan. They are hoping to deceive the Turks into attacking when the Arabs will then cut off railway communication. Dawnay and Lawrence talk to Allenby and Bartholomew about the plans for the campaign. The next six weeks are spent preparing for the campaign since they don't begin the move to Deraa until late August. Allenby's attack is scheduled for September 19th when he plans to gather the bulk of his army at Ramlegh. They are feigning strength across the Jordan River, trying to tempt the Turks.

Dawnay and Lawrence return to Cairo since they are now facing the question of whether the plateau can be defended against the Turks. They need a two week delay. They receive the use of Colonel Buxton and three hundred men for a month to march from the Suez Canal to Akaba. Then they march on the Rum to take Mudowwara in a night-attack and then to destroy a bridge next Amman. They will then return to Palestine. This will give Lawrence's group a peaceful month in which to graze their camels. They learn that the group at Akaba has figured out their supply situation for two thousand men from Aba el Lissan to Deraa. The only problem is that this whole plan depended on the immediate reinforcement of the Aba el Lissan Arab Army, a plan which King Hussein has refused. They have to find another plan.

They need two weeks to travel to Deraa from Aba el Lissan and another week to cut the three railways and make their way out of the area. They need to carry their own supplies. They need to move two thousand camels and will need five hundred infantry to do so along with guns and two armor cars. The plan is approved. Joyce isn't happy with this plan because Lawrence is trying to do two things at one time, and Joyce feels he will accomplish neither. Joyce finds that Lawrence has no intention of return to Akaba after the mission but plans to go to Azrak after cutting the railway lines at Deraa on September 16th. Then, two days later, they will join Allenby near the Hejaz Railway.

The expedition to Deraa must begin by the end of August, in a month. They must move the camels in the meantime so Lawrence goes to Akaba. After training the troops for the journey, Lawrence returns to Akaba. Lawrence has promised his bodyguards some time off in their own villages. Lawrence flies to Jefer from Guweira since Feisal wants to see him. He remains to wait for the beginning of the battle with Feisal, Nuri, and their staffs.

"Feisal brought nationality to their minds in a phrase, which set them thinking of Arab history and language; then he dropped into silence for a moment: for a moment: for with these illiterate masters of the tongue words were lively, and they liked to savour each,



unmingled, on the palate. Another phase showed them the spirit of Feisal, their fellow and leader, sacrificing everything for the national freedom; and then silence again, while they imagined him day and night in his tent, teaching, preaching, ordering and making friends: and they felt something of the idea behind this pictured man sitting there iconically, drained of desires, ambitions, weakness, faults; so rich a personality enslaved by an abstraction, made one-eyed, one armed, with the one sense and purpose, to live or die in its service" (Chapter 99, pg. 563-564).

Feisal is asked to hold off his move on Damascus to give Allenby a chance to make it through the Jordan valley, or they will be trapped there with no way of receiving help. Feisal replies that he will give Allenby a chance but will move on Damascus in fall. If the British are not successful, he will make his own peace with Turkey for the benefits of his population. Mustapha Kemal, a Turkish general staff officer, offers peace terms to Feisal, offering first Hejaz, then Syria, then Mesopotamia, and finally an offer of Crown. Feisal holds to his promise to the British. The British promise the Arabs that they can keep whatever Turkish lands they gain from Turkey during the war. Mustapha warns Feisal not to fall for England's promises and they will use the Arab territory to attack Germany after the war.

In the meantime, Joyce and Lawrence decide to travel by car to Azrak and break the trail toward Deraa. The Mudowwara mission is also a success. The troops draw two days rest as Joyce and Lawrence make arrangements for watering the camels at the pools. The two continue on to the mudflats. They check all the pools along the route so the camels will be assured of water. They travel on to Bair and then return to camp with news of the wells.

Lawrence's group is with the Imperial Camel Corps, which has three hundred camels. Due to a Shammar raid, eighty camels have run off and have to be found. The camels are packed as they make preparations for their departure. All of the gun cotton they need for blowing bridges must be packed. They catch up with the group that left earlier. They move slowly, letting the camels graze whenever they find a place. They are making the preparations for taking out a bridge, but the day before the mission a Turkish plane flies overhead. They don't know if they have been spotted but figure the Turks will think that they are headed for Amman.

The party comes to within a mile of the bridge site with the camels and then proceeds on foot. They arrive and bury their gun-cotton in preparation for the campaign for Deraa in September. They have ten days to wait for the column to head for Azrak. After dusk, they begin the fifty-mile journey to Azrak. They again bury their gun cotton for the coming mission and then have two days of rest. Afterward, Aba el Lissan is driven to meet up with Joyce, Dawnay, and Young, who report that the mission is proceeding on schedule.

There is a little administrative snafu that has to be worked out. Allenby, without telling Feisal, has decorated Jaafar Pasha, who seems to then be referred to as the General Officer Commanding the Northern Army. King Hussein has made it clear, however, that there is no such rank. Jaafar and his staff offer their resignations to Feisal, who refuses



them. The disagreement between Feisal and his father must be worked out and as his first duty, Lawrence sends Nuri Shaalan to Mecca. His second duty has to do with the caravans for Azrak, which he has Young prepare. Quelling a mutiny of the troops turns out to be his third duty. The troops are reacting to rumors and need to be counseled. Sending the troops off to Azrak is a fourth duty that must be attended to. Lastly, Feisal's position has to be restored. There is no way to continue without him. Eventually, all of the problems are worked out.



# Book X The House is Perfected Chapters 107 to 122

## Book X The House is Perfected Chapters 107 to 122 Summary and Analysis

The campaign begins using planes, armored cars, and troops. Even though they still use camels, the mechanical means of transportation greatly cuts down on travel time. Lawrence and his group go to Azrak with plans to cut the railway line near Amman since this cuts Deraa off from Amman, making it nearly impossible for the Turkish troops in Amman to reinforce Deraa. While at Bair, Lawrence learns that Turks have moved into Tafileh. The Turks have moved to the south, accepting the bait that they had been fed. They are leaving the area where the attack is to be, which couldn't make Lawrence and the others happier. They move to a higher camp and swim, trying to avoid the bugs, gaining a good view of the Deraa and Amman roads. They are paused here for a few days on their march to Damascus. But the camps here and at Azrak are part of the deception of the Turks.

They had to keep the lines cut for a week to give the troops time to take Deraa. Then they learn of a change in Allenby's plans to go straight to Afuleh and Nazareth. The next day Feisal, the troops, and tribes begin to arrive, along with the two thousand camels. Lawrence goes to Ain el Essad to rest. He knows that they will soon be marching north from Deraa. They are preparing to break the Amman railway. Lawrence and his group plan to motor to the bridge with the gun cotton they need to blow the bridge. They drive out and do their wiring and then move on to the next target. While heading there, they see the planes headed to Deraa on their mission.

Lawrence takes one hundred fifty pounds of gun cotton in one car with him as he heads to the target bridge. They arrive and blow the bridge without any problems. Moving on to the site of the second bridge, they arrive the next day and have a skirmish with some Turk guards, but they take prisoners. They plan to blow the bridge and cut off Damascus from Constantinople and Germany. From their site they can observe a lot of airplane and machinery activity in Deraa. They can see that the trains are not armored. They blow the first charge and then discover a surveillance plane flying toward them, so they hide. When the planes leave, they resume wiring their charges and blow them one by one so as not to attract attention.

Their next objective is the Palestine Railroad. As they move toward the railroad, they are bombed by planes and Lawrence is injured. They not only disable the bridge on the Palestine line, but they cut the telegraph wires at the station. Afterwards, a reconnaissance plane flies over but doesn't notice them. The fourth bridge is near Nisib. This one they heavily load with explosive and blow at once; it is completely demolished. They then begin to travel toward Umtaiye and find a place to sleep. They move from location to location, taking out the targeted bridges.



Many locals come to visit and ask questions since rumor has it that they are the raiding party that is blowing bridges. Lawrence returns to Azrak to inform Feisal of the success of their mission. From there he travels to Headquarters where he explains the need for air support. They agree to send some planes to Umtaiye. The planes are used to bomb the Mufrak train station. They attack the Turks in other places and have the Turks' Fourth Army fleeing from Amman. After a council meeting, they decide to attack a village to cut Deraa off from Damascus and set out the next morning. They use their air support for most of their missions now. When they learn that Jemal Pasha's lancer regiment has entered Tafas, they go to the village and watch from the hills as the Arabs retreat. They meet up with Nuri's army and help take the city. As the war continues, they take thousands of prisoners.

As long as they hold Umtaiye, they hold the three Deraa railways. Even if there is no action by Allenby, they will still have the Turks in a stranglehold, which is why Umtaiye was such a tactically important position. Lawrence travels to see Allenby to request air reinforcements to help them hold their position. The reinforcements are sent. They kept hitting the bridge at Kilometre 149 on the Hejaz line; every time, it was mended.

Once the Deraa business is finished, Lawrence and the group have a council meeting. Lawrence proposes that they proceed to The Damascus area and the council agrees. So they begin to move to the Shekh Saad village, which cuts off Damascus from Deraa and Mezerib. They make their way to the outskirts of Damascus and wait for Allenby's troops to arrive. The Germans exit from Damascus, blowing up their ammunition and dumps on their way out. The next day as they enter the city, a messenger from the Emir arrives to welcome them. Lawrence appoints the Emir Shukri as Military Governor of the city and other temporary city officials until Feisal arrives. They begin to restore order and services to the city while Lawrence and his group set up supply lines to keep the people from starving. Feisal arrives by train.

"When Feisal had gone, I made to Allenby the last (and also I think my first) request I ever made for myself - leave to go away. For a while he would not have it; but I reasoned, reminding him of his year-old promise, and pointing out how much easier the New Law would be if my spur were absent from the people. In the end he agreed; and then at once I know how much I was sorry" (Chapter 115, pg. 683). Lawrence stays in Damascus until October 4th.





# **Characters**

**T.E. Lawrence**

**Hussein ibn Ali**

**Ali**

**Abdulla**

**Feisal**

**Zeid**

**Jemal Pasha**

**Colonel Clayton**

**General Allenby**

**Ronald Storrs**

**George Lloyd**

**Mark Sykes**

**Nasir**

**Sharraf**

**Auda abu Tayi**



# Objects/Places

## Turkey

Turkey rules the Arab world as a part of the Turkish Empire. This is the rule that the Arabs revolted against. Constantinople is the city in Turkey where Hussein ibn Ali was taken as a captive before being returned to Mecca.

## Mecca

Mecca is the home of the Sherif of Mecca, Hussein ibn Ali, a descendant of the prophet Mohammed. It is a city in what is known as Arabia.

## Damascus, Syria

Damascus, Syria is where the Turkish army is headed by Jemal Pasha. Driving the Turks out of Damascus in 1918 represented the end of the Arab Revolt.

## Medina

Medina is a city near Mecca in Hejaz in what is known as Arabia.

## Lama

The *Lama* is a converted liner that Lawrence and the British group travel on through the Suez Canal.

## Jidda

Jidda (also spelled Jeddah) is a seaport near Mecca in Arabia.

## Rabegh

Rabegh is a city on the coast of Arabia, close to Medina.

## Wadi Safra

Wadi Safra is the village in Hejaz where Lawrence first meets Feisal. It is a one and a half day camel journey from Rabegh.



## **Yenbo**

Yenbo is the location of Feisal's base of operation when Lawrence is assigned to him as an advisor. It is a seaport town on the Red Sea located west of Medina.

## **Akaba**

Akaba is a city on the Gulf of Akaba with strategic significance for the Suez region.

## **Suez**

Suez is the British headquarters at the Suez Canal.

## **Syria**

Syria is the country that is to the north of Akaba and Arabia. It is the next target after the capture of Akaba.

## **Jordan Valley**

The Jordan Valley is east of the Dead Sea and the subject of a campaign involving British officers. It is the site of the series of railroad bridges where Lawrence and his team blow the two end bridges, thus forcing the Turks to flee from the Jordan valley, which led to their departure from Medina.

## **Cairo, Egypt**

Cairo is the location of the British Headquarters where Lawrence travels to several times.



# Themes

## Freedom

The Arab Revolt was the Arab struggle to free themselves from Turkish domination as part of the Ottoman Empire. The Turks had begun to move into the Arab regions during the Middle Ages, first as servants and then as conquerors. As conquerors, they tried to banish the Arab language and other parts of the Arab culture. They tried to replace things Arabic with things Turkish and subdue the Turkish identity. The Turkish ruled the Arab region, which was a region of tribes who held their allegiance to the King. The tribes and other people of the region are united basically in the Arabic language. Like all people, they desired to be free of foreigners and have their own Arab state. This quest for freedom is an underlying theme of the book, especially with the main characters of Hussein, Feisal, Ali, Abdulla, and Zeid and the other Arab leaders. This desire to achieve freedom motivated all of their actions, their willingness to endure hard times, fight battles, and take risks.

The desire for freedom has the Arab aligning with England and France during World War I since Turkey was an ally of Germany. The outbreak of the war gave the Arabs a friend in England and France against Germany and Turkey. It was beneficial for the English and French to help the Arabs in order to defeat Turkey in the war. People with different goals united against a common enemy. Without a desire for freedom, there would have been no Arab Revolt.

## Loyalty

A second underlying theme of the book is loyalty. Loyalty to a cause denotes the purpose for many Arabs to join in the fight for freedom. The desire for Arab rule and loyalty to one's own kind was a driving force in the revolt and those who saw it through to the end. Hussein's own four sons headed armies in the war for freedom. There is also a theme of loyalty to the leader or the tribal leader. The lack of any formal army at the time of the revolt meant that Hussein and Feisal had to rely on the tribal leaders to deliver fighting men. Most of these men were loyal to their leader and did what their leader wanted, even though they had to be paid. They would only fight in their local region.

Loyalty and custom are also evident in Zeid's behavior when he receives the money from Allenby via Lawrence. The money is intended for supplies to finance the upcoming campaign. Zeid has troops that haven't been paid and uses the money to pay them. Lawrence then asks for its return, but Zeid refuses. Loyalty to Zeid's culture's custom and tradition superseded his loyalty to the British who were helping them. Other examples of loyalty are seen in the behavior of Ali, Abdulla, Feisal, and Zeid toward their father. Almost all decisions have to be made by Hussein. All plans are referred to



Hussein for his approval. The sons never overstep their own authority out of respect for and loyalty to their father.

## Planning

The role of planning and its importance is another underlying theme of the book. Most of Lawrence's missions were successful because of the time spent in his preparation. The bridges in the Jordan Valley are a good example. There are a series of eight or nine bridges that connect the area with Damascus. Under Lawrence's guidance they took out the two end bridges, thus forcing the Turks to flee from the Jordan Valley and Medina. This is the result of good planning.

Lawrence learns how to blow the tracks in such a way that he uses a minimum of explosive and does just enough damage to make the tracks buckle, making the line unusable until it is fixed. In order to do this, they have to place the charges in the right place and in the right way. This takes planning.



# Style

## Perspective

Lawrence, born in Wales in 1888, was educated at Oxford. He began to work for the British Museum in 1910 and was in Egypt working on a dig at the Euphrates when World War I began. He is commissioned into the British Military while in Egypt and appointed to the Hejaz Expedition Force and serves as an advisor to the Arabs during the Arab Revolt. As such, he works closely with Hussein, Ali, Abdulla, Feisal, and Zeid and the other leaders and travels throughout the area involved in different operations. He learns the Arab customs and language and dons Arab dress and becomes accepted by them as one of their own leaders.

Lawrence writes the book because he wants people to know what happened during the Arab Revolt. Since he was a participant, he is well qualified to tell the story of the war.. Lawrence is not a professional soldier, but he learns what he needs to learn during the course of the war. He functions as both an advisor and liaison with the Arab leadership so he writes from personal experience of what happens in his dealing with the King and his sons. Since much of the time is spent on their marches through the desert, the book is sometime slow moving. The intended audience is anyone with an interest in the Arab Revolt.

## Tone

The book is written in an objective tone with the story being told through the eyes of Lawrence. The first person style lends more credibility to the events because the reader knows that Lawrence was there and is telling the story in his own words. There is little narrative emotion in the book, even when Lawrence writes of his injuries. The book is a presentation of the facts and events from Lawrence's point of view. He writes of his role in each of the events and tells the story of the event. Much of the book is the story of Lawrence and his teams on marches across the desert.

He gives his brief opinion of the various characters but provides little insight into the characters themselves. The reader doesn't get to know any of the characters because Lawrence doesn't reveal more than a few sentences of introduction.

The reader may find the book slow moving at times since there is so much time spent traveling. The reader waits for action to take place at some times; nevertheless, the reader is impacted by the events and the history.

## Structure

The structure of the book is a little unusual in that instead of an Introduction, there are a set of introductory chapters. Aside from that, there are ten books which contain one

hundred fifteen short chapters. Each book is devoted to a different aspect of the Arab Revolt. Lawrence also takes the time to provide the background of the region and its people and how they came to be dominated by the Turks. Most of this information is contained in the introductory chapters.

There are also maps in the book to which the reader can refer. There are a large number of characters, with many only appearing for a page or two, so they are sometimes difficult for the reader to keep track of. There are good indices for the book, including separate indices for people and places, so it is easy to look up information.



## Quotes

"The story which follows was first written out in Paris during the Peace Conference, from notes jotted on the march, strengthened by some reports sent to my chiefs in Cairo" (Introductory Chapter, pg. 21).

"The Beduin of the desert, born and grown up in it, had embraced with all his soul this nakedness too harsh for volunteers, for the reason, felt but inarticulate, that there he found himself indubitably free. He lost material ties, comforts, all superfluities and other complications to achieve a personal liberty which haunted starvation and death" (Chapter 3, pg. 38).

"Rebellion was the gravest step which political men could take, and the success or failure of the Arab revolt was a gamble too hazardous for prophecy. Yet, for once, fortune favoured the bold player, and the Arab epic tossed up its stormy road from birth through weakness, pain and doubt, to red victory. It was the just end to an adventure which had dared so much, but after the victory there came a slow time of disillusion, and then a night in which the fighting men found that all their hopes had failed them. Now, at last, may there have come to them the white peace of the end, in the knowledge that they achieved a deathless thing, a lucent inspiration to the children of their race" (Chapter 5, pg. 53).

"The Arabs thought Abdulla a far-seeing statesman and an astute politician. Astute he certainly was, but not greatly enough to convince us always of his sincerity. His ambition was patent. Rumor made him the brain of his father and of the Arab revolt; but he seemed too easy for that. His object was, of course, the winning of Arab independence and the building up of Arab nations, but he meant to keep the direction of the new states in the family. So he watched us, and played through us to the British gallery" (Chapter 7, pg. 67).

"I felt at first glance that this was the man I had come to Arabia to seek - the leader who would bring the Arab Revolt to full glory. Feisal looked very tall and pillar-like, very slender, in his long white silk robes and his brown head-cloth bound with a brilliant scarlet and gold cord. His eyelids were dropped; and his black beard and colourless face were like a mask against the strange, still watchfulness of his body. His hands were crossed in front of him on his dagger" (Chapter 12, pg. 92).

"This was unwelcome to him; for the Sykes-Picot Treaty of 1916 between France and England had been drawn by Sykes for this very eventuality; and, to reward it, stipulated the establishment of independent Arab states in Damascus, Aleppo and Mosul, districts which would otherwise fall to the unrestricted control of France. Neither Sykes nor Picot had believed the thing really possible; but I knew that it was, and believed that after it the vigour of the Arab Movement would prevent the creation - by us or others - in Western Asia of unduly 'colonial' schemes of exploitation" (Chapter 21, pg. 136).





"The Arabs had passed from doubt to violent optimism, and were promising exemplary service" (Chapter 30, pg. 178).

"I wondered why Feisal wanted to fight the Turks, and why the Arabs helped him, and saw that their aim was geographical, to extrude the Turk from all Arabic-speaking lands in Asia. Their peace ideal of liberty could exercise itself only so. In pursuit of the ideal conditions we might kill Turks, because we disliked them very much; but the killing was a pure luxury. If they would go quietly the war would end. If not, we would urge them, or try to drive them out" (Chapter 33, pg. 196).

"The first confusion was the false antithesis between strategy, the aim in war, the synoptic regard seeing each part relative to the whole, and tactics, the means towards a strategic end, the particular steps of its staircase. They seems only points of view from which to ponder the elements of war, the Algebraical element of things, a Biological element of lives, and the Psychological element of ideas" (Chapter 33, pg. 197).

"I longed to get north again quit of this relaxing camp. Abdulla might let me do all I wanted, but would do nothing of his own: whereas for me the best value of the revolt lay in the things which the Arabs attempted without out aid. Feisal was the working enthusiast with the one idea of making his ancient race justify its renown by winning freedom with its own hands" (Chapter 37, pg. 223).

"Such people demanded a war-cry and banner from outside to combine them, and a stranger to lead them, one whose supremacy should be based on an idea: illogical, undeniable, discriminant: which instinct might accept and reason find no rational basis to reject or approve. For this army of Feisal's the conceit was that an Emir of Mecca, a descendant of the prophet, a Sherif, was an other-worldly dignitary whom sons of Adam might reverence without shame. This was the binding assumption of the Arab movement; it was this which gave it an effective, if imbecile unanimity" (Chapter 40, pg. 241).

"Palestine became a land of milk and honey to those who had spent forty years in Sinai; Damascus had the name of an earthly paradise to the tribes which could enter it only after weeks and weeks of painful marching across the flint-stones of this northern desert: and likewise the Kaseim of Arfaja in which we spent that night, after five days across the blazing Houl in the teeth of a sand-storm, looked fresh and countrified" (Chapter 45, Ch. 264).

"Of course it was monotonous; but the crystal happiness in our hosts was a return satisfaction for our eyes, and to have shattered it a crime. Oxford or Medina had tried to cure Nasir and me of superstitious prejudice; and had complicated us to the point of regaining simplicity. These people were achieving in our cause the height of nomadic ambition, a continued orgy of seethed mutton" (Chapter 47, pg. 278).

"I wanted contact with the British; to act as the right wing of the Allies in the conquest of Palestine and Syria; and to assert the Arabic-speaking peoples; desire or desert of freedom and self-government. In my view, if the revolt did not reach the main battlefield



against Turkey it would have to confess failure, and remain a side-show of a sideshow. I had preached to Feisal, from our first meeting, that freedom was taken, not given" (Chapter 48, pg. 281).

"In the end our little army was ready, and wound slowly up the height and beyond into a hollow sheltered from the wind; and there, while the tired men slept, we dictated letters to the Sheikhs of the coastal Howeitat, telling them of the victory, that they might invest their nearest Turks, and hold them till we came. We had been kind to one of the captured officers, a policeman despised by his regular colleagues, and him we persuaded to be our Turkish scribe to the commandants of Guweira, Kethera, and Hadra, the three posts between us and Akaba, telling them that if our blood was not hot we took prisoners, and that prompt surrender would ensure their good treatment and safe delivery to Egypt" (Chapter 54, pg. 315).

"It was good for the Arab Revolt that so early in its growth this change imposed itself. We had been hopelessly labouring to plough waste lands; to make nationality grow in a place full of the certainty of God, that upas certainty which forbade all hope. Among the tribes our creed could be only like the desert grass - a beautiful swift seeming of spring; which, after a day's heat, fell dusty. Aims and ideas must be translated into tangibility by material expression. The desert men were too detached to express the one; too poor in goods, too remote from complexity, to carry the other. If we would prolong our life, we must win into the ornamented lands; to the villages where roofs or fields held men's eyes downward and near; and begin our campaign as we had begun that in Wadi Ais, by a study of the map, and a recollection of the nature of this our battleground of Syria" (Chapter 58, pg. 336).

"Yet Beyrout, because of its geographical position, because of its schools, and the freedom engendered by intercourse with foreigners, had contained, before the way a nucleus of people, talking, writing, thinking like the doctrinaire Cyclopaedists who paved the way for revolution in France. For their sake, and for its wealth, and its exceeding loud and ready voice, Beyrout was to be reckoned with" (Chapter 59, pg. 341).

"All of these people of Syria were open to us by the master-key of their common Arabic language. Their distinctions were political and religious; morally they differed only in the steady gradation from neurotic sensibility on the sea coast to reserve inland. They were quick-minded; admirers, but not seekers of truth; self-satisfied; not (like the Egyptians) helpless before abstract ideas, but unpractical; and so lazy in mind as to be habitually superficial. Their ideal was ease in which to busy themselves with others' affairs" (Chapter 60, pg. 343).

"We on the Arab front were very intimate with the enemy. Our Arab officers had been Turkish officers, and knew every leader on the other side personally. They had suffered the same training, thought the same, took the same point of view. By practicing modes of approach upon the Arabs we could explore the Turks: understand, almost get inside, their minds. Relation between us and them was universal, for the civil population of the enemy area was wholly ours without pay or persuasion. In consequence our intelligence service was the widest, fullest and most certain imaginable" (Chapter 69, pg. 394).



"Blowing up trains was an exact science when done deliberately, by a sufficient party, with machine-guns in position. If scrambled at it might become dangerous. The difficulty this time was that the available gunners were Indians; who, though good men fed, were only half-men in cold and hunger. I did not propose to drag them off without rations on an adventure which might take a week" (Chapter 77, pg. 434).

"For years before the war I had made myself trim by constant carelessness. I had learned to eat much one time; then to go two, three, or four days without food; and after to overeat. I made it a rule to avoid rules in food; and by a course of exceptions accustomed myself to no custom at all. So, organically, I was efficient in the desert, felt neither hunger nor surfeit, and was not distracted by thought of food. On the march I could go dry between wells, and like the Arabs, could drink greatly to-day for the thirst of yesterday and of to-morrow" (Chapter 783, pg. 476-77).

"The practice of our revolt fortified the nihilist attitude in me. During it, were often say men push themselves or be driven to a cruel extreme of endurance: yet never was there an intimation of physical break. Collapse rose always from a moral weakness eating into the body, which of itself, without traitors from within, had no power over the will" (Chapter 83, pg. 477).

"There was no escape for me. I must take up again my mantle of fraud n the East. With my certain contempt for half-measures I took it up quickly and wrapped myself in it completely. I might be fraud or it might be farce: no one should say that I could not play it. So I did not even mention the reasons which had brought me across; but pointed out that this was the Jordan scheme seen from the British angle. Allenby assented, and asked if we could still do it. I said: not at present, unless new factors were first discounted" (Chapter 91, pg. 515).

"I was not discontented with this state of things, for it had seemed to me that discipline, or at least formal discipline, was a virtue of peace: a character or stamp by which to mark off soldiers from complete men, and obliterate the humanity of the individual. It resolved itself easiest into the restrictive, the making men not do this or that: and so could be fostered by a rule severe enough to make them despair of disobedience. It was a process of the mass, an element of the impersonal crowd, inapplicable to one man, since it involved obedience, a duality of will. It was not to impress upon men that their will must actively second the officer's, for then there would have been, as in the Arab Army and among irregulars, that momentary pause for thought transmission, or digestion; for the nerves to resolve the relaying private will into active consequence. On the contrary, each regular Army sedulously rooted out this significant pause from its companies on parade. The drill instructors tried to make obedience an instinct, a mental reflex, following as instantly on the command as though the motor power of the individual wills had been invested together in the system" (Chapter 93, pgs. 522-523).

"Bartholomew wished us to supplement his efforts with all vigour and ingenuity, from our side of Amman. Yet he wanted us that, even with this, success would hang on a thread, since the Turks could save themselves and their army, and give us our concentration to do over again, by simply retiring their coast sector seven or eight miles. The British



Army would then be like a fish flapping on dry land, with its railways, its heavy artillery, its dumps, its stores, its camps all misplaced; and without olive groves in which to hide its concentration next time. So, while he guaranteed that the British were doing their utmost, he implored us not to engage the Arabs, on his behalf, in a position from which they could not escape" (Chapter 99, pg. 554).

"Yet I cannot put down my acquiescence in the Arab fraud to weakness of character or native hypocrisy: though of course I must have had some tendency, some aptitude, for deceit, or I would not have deceived men so well, and persisted two years in bringing to success a deceit which others had framed and set afoot. I had had no concern with the Arab Revolt in the beginning. In the end I was responsible for its being an embarrassment to the inventors. Where exactly in the interim my guilt passed from accessory to principal, upon what headings I should be condemned, were not for me to say. Suffice it that since the march to Akaba I bitterly repented my entanglement in the movement, with a bitterness sufficient to corrode my inactive hours, but insufficient to make me cut myself clear of it. Hence the wobbling of my will, and endless, vapid complainings" (Chapter 100, pg. 569).

"Fortunately, I had early betrayed the treat's existence to Feisal, and had convinced him that his escape was to help the British so much that after peace they would not be able, for shame, to shoot him down in its fulfillment; while, if the Arabs did as I intended, there would be no one-sided talk of shooting. I begged him to trust not in our promises, like his father, but in his own strong performance" (Chapter 101, pg. 572).

"Feisal was a brave, weak, ignorant spirit, trying to do work for which only a genius, a prophet or a great criminal, was fitted. I served him out of pity, a motive which degraded us both. Allenby came nearest to my longings for a master, but I had to avoid him, not daring to bow down for fear lest he show feet of clay with that friendly word which must shatter my allegiance. Yet, what an idol the man was to us, prismatic with the unmixed self-standing quality of greatness, instinct and compact with it" (Chapter 103, pg. 582).

"The main purpose was to cut the railways in the Hauran and keep them cut for at least a week; and there seemed to be three ways of doing it. The first was to march north of era to the Damascus railway, as on my ride with Tallal in the winter, cut it; and then cross to the Yarmuk railway. The second was to arch south of Deraa to the Tarmuk, as with Ali ibn el Hussein in November, 1917. The third was to rush straight at Deraa town" (Chapter 107, pg. 605).

"Pisani, whose long military life had been all as subordinate, said with correctness that he took his orders and would follow. I liked him for that, and tried to soothe his honest doubts by reminding him that we had worked for eighteen months together without his ever finding cause to call me rash. He replied with a French laugh that he thought it all very rash, but was a soldier" (Chapter 115, pg. 646).



## Topics for Discussion

How does Lawrence become involved in the Arab Revolt?

What is a Sherif? How is it that Hussein is accepted as a leader?

To whom do the tribes have their first allegiance? How does this cause problems?

Why is Lawrence so impressed with Feisal?

Why is the city of Akaba of strategic importance?

Why do Lawrence and his people cut off the railroad bridges at each end of the Jordan valley? What is the significance of this for the Turks and Medina?

What is the significance of Damascus to the Arab Revolt?