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The Bronze Bow

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Reading Notes

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

Vocabulary

Write the meaning of each bold word or phrase.

- splashed with **burgeoning*** thickets of oleander. v. growing, flourishing
- splashed with burgeoning thickets of **oleander**. n. evergreen shrub with showy flowers
- He looked down at his bare **calloused** feet adj. toughened, hardened
- his back still raw from the last **flogging**. n. a beating with a whip as punishment

*Look up “burgeon” in the dictionary, and write out the complete definition, the alternate forms, and 2-3 synonyms. v. 1. to grow rapidly or expand 2. (of plants) to sprout (buds)

synonyms: bloom, bud, increase, expand, prosper, thrive, succeed, blossom, develop

Expressions for Discussion

- “No one is free. So long as the land is cursed by the Romans.”* - Daniel, p. 9
- “All the mighty ones. Joshua, Gideon, David, all of them fought on the soil of Galilee. No one could stand against them. It will be so again.”* - Daniel, p. 11

*Teachers: Comprehension Question answers and Discussion Questions with an asterisk indicate important plot points that will appear in the quizzes.

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following in complete sentences.

1. Why is Daniel “puzzled and uneasy” about the two strangers climbing the mountain? _____
They remind him of the village he had left behind and thought he wanted to forget, but he is drawn to them as a link to his past.

2. How does Daniel know that Joel is not a coward? _____
Joel clenches his hands in preparation for defending Malthace and himself when Daniel approaches them. Daniel thought they would run, rather than face his rough appearance.

3. Why would the men in the cave have “hooted” if they could see Daniel washing his hands before a meal? _____
*When Daniel moved into the mountains, he quit observing the strict Jewish laws. The men in the cave lived rough, dirty lives, and handwashing before a meal would not have been a consideration.

4. How does Joel’s view of the Romans differ from Malthace’s view? _____
Malthace thinks that the Roman captivity is only temporary and that deliverance from God will come eventually. Joel, like Daniel, despises the Romans and is in favor of an active move to oust them from Palestine.

5. How is Daniel able to show Joel and Malthace that he is not an ignorant savage or simply a runaway slave? _____
*Daniel knows the story of Joshua marching against the heathen kings. He knows who Joshua, Gideon, and David were and their histories, proving he has some education.

Discussion Questions / Enrichment

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