

# The Seventh Scroll

WILBUR SMITH

- 1** 1 They are Egyptologists. They are studying the scroll because they want to find the tomb of the Pharaoh Mamose.
- 2 It was written by Taita, the slave of Lostris, a Queen of Egypt. It was written at the time of the Hyksos' invasion of Egypt, nearly 4000 years ago. Taita wrote a history of the life of Lostris soon after her death. He wrote this on ten scrolls. The Seventh Scroll is one of these.
- 3 Because some men have killed Duraid and stolen or burnt the things in Duraid and Royan's house.
- 2** 1 Nahoot Gudabbi is another Egyptologist. He is a colleague of Royan's. He also works at the Department of Antiquities. He asks what has happened to Duraid and Royan's papers. And he asks if Royan has copies of the papers.
- 2 She sees that someone has broken in. She finds out that her notes, photos and computer disks have been stolen.
- 3 She finds out that Nicholas is about forty years old and that he has a museum of Egyptian antiquities. She also finds out that Nicholas doesn't believe the stories about the secret tomb of Mamose.
- 4 *Student's own answer.*
- 5 In Addis Ababa, Geoffrey Tenant tells them to be very careful because there are rebel soldiers in the Blue Nile area who rob tourists.
- 6 Royan and Nicholas tell the guides that they want to do some hunting and they want to look at the Monastery of St Frumentius. Boris tells them that he recently took some men from a mining company – Pegasus Mining – to visit the monastery.
- 3** 1 Nicholas says, 'Oh, the tomb of Frumentius.' He says this because he doesn't want Boris to know about the tomb of Mamose.
- 2 The travellers are on a path which descends a cliff and leads to the Dandera River. They have seen two river valleys where they expected to see only one.

- 3 They meet a group of priests from the monastery. They learn that the abbot is over one hundred years old and that he wants them to visit the monastery.
- 4 He sees an inscription on a blue stone in the abbot's crown. He sees that the inscription is in Egyptian hieroglyphics, and he is able to read it. The inscription mentions Taita. This is important because it tells Nicholas and Royan that Taita had been in this place and that the tomb of Mamose is probably near to the monastery.
- 4** 1 The friend is Mek Nimmur. Nicholas has known him for a long time. Tessay, Nicholas and Royan are taken by rebel soldiers to a camp near a waterfall and they meet Mek there. Mek says that he has bought them to him by force so that they will not have trouble from the government. The government soldiers will arrest them if they find out that the travellers had arranged a meeting with the leader of the rebels.
- 2 They go into the monastery church. They see something which seems to be the tomb of St Frumentius. But inside it is another tomb – an Ancient Egyptian tomb.
- 3 (a) One is on a shelf above the coffin. The other is on a stone pillar. (b) Taita. (c) The first inscription seems to mean that Tanus is buried in the coffin. The second inscription suggests that, in fact, Mamose is buried in Tanus's coffin and Tanus is buried in Mamose's coffin. This inscription also seems to suggest that the tomb which was meant for Mamose is near a second waterfall or cataract of the Nile. [Hapi is the Egyptian god of that river.]
- 5** 1 He is looking for signs of excavations.
- 2 He thinks that the steps look natural, not man-made.
- 3 They find the remains of a quarry. This is important to them because it proves that the Ancient Egyptians did building work somewhere near to the river.

- 4 They want to build a new dam so that they can hold back the water of the river. Then they will be able to find the way into the tomb. They decide to return to England, to collect men and equipment to do this job.
- 6** 1 Everyone but the cook has been killed.  
 2 They find their truck, but it explodes as they get near it. Someone has tried to kill them.  
 3 Colonel Nogo tells Royan and Nicholas to leave the country because they have had meetings with the rebel soldiers.  
 4 He tells them that he had received a message about them from Pegasus Mining. And he tells them about the people who own and work for this company.  
 5 They needed new passports, perhaps because their old ones had been destroyed in the explosion. Geoffrey has got new passports for them. But the Ethiopian government has put stamps in them. The stamps mean that Nicholas and Royan can never return to Ethiopia.  
 6 Nahoot Gudabbi and another man. Geoffrey thinks that the other man is Gotthold von Schiller, the owner of Pegasus Mining.
- 7** 1 The contents of the tomb in the monastery which seems to be Tanus's tomb. Von Schiller wants the coffin and also the stone pillar with the inscription.  
 2 He calls an engineer called Sapper Webb. He calls a bank in the Cayman Islands. He calls Geoffrey Tenant. And he calls the office of Africair Cargo Services and leaves a message for a person called Jannie. The calls all seem to be about arranging for money and people to help him return to Ethiopia.  
 3 He is going to use gabions. These are large baskets made of strong wire and they will be filled with rocks. Then the gabions will be placed in the river, starting from each side of the river. The gabions, together with other rocks, will be built up into a dam. Sapper guesses that the Ancient Egyptians used a similar way of building, but their baskets were made of plant stems, not wire.  
 4 He thinks that Taita built his dam to change the course of the river. Then he built the entrance to the tomb below the dam. Finally Taita broke the dam, so that the river ran back into its first course. Nicholas thinks that all this took fifteen or twenty years.  
 5 They need to find the tomb before the rains start. When the rains start, the extra water in

the river will destroy their dam.

- 8** 1 They find the body of the Pharaoh Mamose. They think this because the body is wearing the gold crown of an Egyptian king.  
 2 They meet Jannie. Jannie is a pilot for Africair Cargo Services. He is going to fly them to Sudan. Later, he is going to drop their heavy equipment near the camp at Taita's Pool.  
 3 The rest of the cargo will come after one week. Jannie will fly along the river and drop the cargo by parachute when he sees Nicholas's signal.  
 4 Nicholas and his team will have returned to the Sudanese airfield. Jannie will collect them on that day.
- 9** 1 (a) He tells the abbot that he has found an old map which shows where St Antony was buried. (b) The abbot agrees that his monks will help Nicholas to find the tomb.  
 2 The area in which things dropped by parachute from an aircraft will land.  
 3 'Big Dolly' is Jannie, and 'Pharoah' is Nicholas. Perhaps they use these names because they think that government officials are listening to their messages. When Nicholas heard the message, Mek's men lit signal fires at the drop zone and Jannie dropped the cargo.  
 4 A front-end loader truck.  
 5 When they have finished their work, Nicholas's team will use the boats to travel by river to the airfield in Sudan.  
 6 Nicholas wants to sink the raft in the middle of the dam. This will stop the flow of the river completely. One of the inflatable boats guides the raft to the correct place.  
 7 The water level rises behind the dam and this helps the river to find another course – the channel which has been dug upstream.
- 10** 1 A corridor with many coloured paintings on its walls. There are also shrines with statues of gods. And there is a chamber with a huge sarcophagus.  
 2 Nothing – it is empty. This is strange because the outer door was sealed.  
 3 She now thinks that the text meant: 'The Lord Osiris is the opening', not: 'the Lord Osiris is the beginning.' She thinks that the entrance to the real tomb is behind the shrine of Osiris.
- 11** 1 Because he hears the noise of the stones falling from the wall onto the crates.  
 2 Because rain is falling heavily. This means the extra water behind the dam will break it.

- 3 (a) She is at the bottom of some steps which lead down from the shrine of Osiris.  
 (b) She has started to lose consciousness.  
 (c) Because the air in the chamber she has entered is bad.
- 4 It is of a painting of a man with red hair and blue eyes. He has a mysterious smile. His hair is dyed with henna. Royan thinks that it is a picture of Taita.
- 5 A chamber with many *ushabti* figures on shelves.
- 6 Mek is in the quarry. He and his men are being attacked by Colonel Nogo's troops.
- 121** The war bow called Lanata which Taita made for Tanus.
- 2 It means that Taita promised to tell the gods about all the good things that Tanus had done.
- 3 It has no crown on it and there are no royal symbols on the body. Therefore Royan believes that the mummy is not the mummy of a king.
- 4 Into one of several deep caves behind the monastery.
- 5 He is trapped in the tomb, which is sealed with water. He lies down in the sarcophagus. He probably dies.
- 131** 'No, I have a war to fight. I want to find Colonel Nogo and kill him.'
- 2 He hides them under the jetty and covers them with grass and earth from the river bank.
- 3 Because he has seen the yellow colour of the inflatable boats. The river has washed some of the grass and earth away from them.
- 141** (a) He is killed when his helicopter crashes.  
 (b) He joins the Ethiopian government after a change in its politics. He becomes Minister of Defence.  
 (c) He marries Royan and plans a second expedition to Ethiopia.  
 (d) She marries Nicholas.  
 (e) We can believe that she stays with Mek since Nicholas sends money to the two of them.  
 (f) Nicholas pays him. Perhaps he then goes home to Malta.  
 (g) Nicholas pays him. Perhaps he then goes home.
- 2 (a) They are given to the Egyptian government. Royan takes them to the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.  
 (b) Nicholas sells it to a rich collector called Walsh. He uses the money to pay his helpers and sends some of it to Mek and Tessay.  
 (c) Nobody knows.