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Memoirs of Usama ibn Munqidh

Usama ibn Munqidh · *Hitti's translation, 1929 · Philip K. Hitti (1929), from the Kitab al-I'tibar*

Usamah was a warrior, a hunter, a gentleman, a poet and a man of letters. So Philip K. Hitti's 1929 introduction begins. The memoirs themselves are anecdotal, not a continuous autobiography. Later Usama says: I started without having even a bandage to dress my wounds. Worthy of admiration is he whose kingdom lasts forever! Keep the file's spellings (Usimah where Hitti prints it). For grades 10–12. War: gravity, no gore spectacle. Quote Hitti's English of Usama, not only the introduction.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read this file as Hitti's 1929 English of anecdotal memoirs, quoting Usama's own words and not only the introduction, and naming a kingdom that lasts forever?

"Worthy of admiration is he whose kingdom lasts forever! We"

A later recollection

Philip K. Hitti's 1929 English of the Kitab al-I'tibar, the memoirs of Usama ibn Munqidh. Anecdotes grouped by subject, not a continuous autobiography. Hitti's introduction calls him a warrior, a hunter, a gentleman, a poet and a man of letters. Later Usama says: I started without having even a bandage to dress my wounds. Worthy of admiration is he whose kingdom lasts forever! For grades 10–12. Teach with respect. Keep the file's spellings. Gravity in war; no gore spectacle. Quote Usama in this English, not only the introduction.

KEY CHARACTERS

Usama ibn Munqidh
Who, in this English, starts without even a bandage, and praises him whose kingdom lasts forever; the file also prints Usimah

Philip K. Hitti
The 1929 translator; name him, and do not quote only his introduction

HOW TO BEGIN THESE MEMOIRS

> *"Usamah was a warrior, a hunter, a gentleman, a poet and a man of letters. His"*
> Hitti's introduction

> *"Worthy of admiration is he whose kingdom lasts forever! We"*
> A later recollection

Grades 10–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

A Warrior, a Hunter, a Gentleman, a Poet

HITTI'S INTRODUCTION

Usamah was a warrior, a hunter, a gentleman, a poet and a man of letters. The introduction names him; it is not yet his own telling.

- Keep Hitti's wording and his spelling "Usamah."
- 10–12. Teach with respect.
- An introduction, not the memoirs themselves.
- Name Hitti.

> *"Usamah was a warrior, a hunter, a gentleman, a poet and a man of letters. His"*
> Hitti's introduction

02

Arab Civilization on Syrian Soil

HITTI'S INTRODUCTION

His life was an epitome of Arab civilization as it flourished during the early crusading period on Syrian soil. The introduction places him; the anecdotes will have to bear that out.

- Keep "early crusading period on Syrian soil."
- 10–12. Respect.
- Still the introduction.
- Quote Hitti, then turn to Usama.

> *"His life was an epitome of Arab civilization as it flourished during the early crusading period on Syrian soil. He was a"*
> Hitti's introduction

03

Without Even a Bandage

A LATER RECOLLECTION

I started without having even a bandage to dress my wounds. Usama speaks in the first person, of a departure already costly.

- Keep "without having even a bandage."
- 10–12. Gravity; no gore spectacle.
- Quote Usama in Hitti, not only the introduction.
- One anecdote, not the whole book.

> *"I started without having even a bandage to dress my wounds. Worthy of"*
> A later recollection

04

Whose Kingdom Lasts Forever

THE SAME RECOLLECTION

Worthy of admiration is he whose kingdom lasts forever! In the same telling, praise is given to a kingdom that does not end with a wound.

- Keep "whose kingdom lasts forever."
- 10–12. Teach with respect.
- Quote this wording.
- Gravity, not spectacle.

> *"Worthy of admiration is he whose kingdom lasts forever! We"*
> A later recollection

05

Hitti, 1929, Anecdotes Not a Continuous Life

THE EDITION

Philip K. Hitti, 1929, An Arab-Syrian Gentleman and Warrior in the Period of the Crusades. Anecdotes, not a continuous autobiography. Keep the file's spellings (Usimah where it so prints). For grades 10–12. Teach with respect. Gravity in war; no gore spectacle. Quote Usama in this English, not only the introduction. One map cannot teach the whole book.

- Name Hitti, 1929, and the anecdotal form.
- 10–12. Respect. No gore spectacle.
- Quote Usama, not only the introduction.
- Keep the file's spellings.

> *"Worthy of admiration is he whose kingdom lasts forever! We"*
> A later recollection

A gentleman named in an introduction | Syrian soil, in the crusading period | A departure without even a bandage | A kingdom that lasts forever | Anecdotes, not a continuous life

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 10–12

1. Hitti's introduction begins: "Usamah was a warrior, a hunter, a gentleman, a poet and a man of letters." It is not yet Usama's own telling.
2. These are anecdotal memoirs in Philip K. Hitti's 1929 English, not a continuous autobiography. Keep the file's spellings. Teach with respect.
3. Usama says: "I started without having even a bandage to dress my wounds. Worthy of admiration is he whose kingdom lasts forever!"
4. For grades 10–12. Gravity in war; no gore spectacle. Quote Usama in this English, not only the introduction. One map cannot teach the whole book.

Quotations are verbatim from the Philip K. Hitti (1929), from the Kitab al-I'tibar, An Arab-Syrian Gentleman and Warrior in the Period of the Crusades: Memoirs of Usamah ibn-Munqidh, trans. Philip K. Hitti (New York: Columbia University Press, 1929), via the Internet Archive (arabsyriangentle00usma), the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/usama-ibn-munqidh-memoirs/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.