

THE HOBBIT

CHAPTER ABSTRACTS – CHAPTER 8

- The dwarves and Bilbo travel for many days through the dark forest of Mirkwood. Their supplies of food and water begin to run low, and they begin to wonder if they will ever get through the forest to the other side.
- Most of the party cross the enchanted stream in Mirkwood safely, but Bombur tumbles in and falls into an enchanted sleep, requiring the others to carry him.
- After an encounter with a white deer, they begin to hear the presence of other folk in the wood.
- Bombur wakes up from his enchanted sleep just as their supplies of food run out, and they have given up all hope of reaching the end of the forest. Bombur recounts his dream of seeing an elvish feast in the woods.
- The dwarves and Bilbo leave the path to follow some strange lights in spite of Gandalf's warnings. Three times, they break in on the Autumn Feast of the Wood Elves. After the third time, the dwarves and Bilbo are scattered in confusion.
- Bilbo wakes alone to find a giant spider attempting to wrap him up and sting him like a fly. He fights and kills the spider, then names his sword Sting.
- Bilbo is encouraged by his slaying of the spider and sets out to rescue the dwarves from the spiders. Using his ring, his wits and his sword, he frees them all and kills the spiders. However, Thorin is missing.
- Thorin, meanwhile, has been taken prisoner by the Wood Elves. The King of the Wood Elves is angered by Thorin's refusal to say what he and his companions are doing in the Wood Elves' domain.
- Bilbo recognizes his own courage and strength when he kills the spider alone by skill rather than luck. This gives him confidence and he begins to believe in himself.
- The dwarves now see Bilbo as being a vital and useful member of their party rather than a useless nuisance - he is the one who is sent up the tree as a scout; he finds the way to cross the enchanted stream, and he rescues them all from the spiders, saving their lives.

