

THE HOBBIT

CHAPTER ABSTRACTS – CHAPTER 13

- Several days go by and the dwarves do not hear or see Smaug. In the darkness, the dwarves felt utterly hopeless of ever escaping Smaug's lair. Finally, they decide to walk down the passage to the center of the mountain to see where the dragon has gone.
- In the darkness and silence, Bilbo decides to enter the treasure chamber a third time, unsure whether Smaug is there or not. The others are afraid.
- Bilbo finds and takes the Arkenstone, the most precious gem in the hoard. The Arkenstone, known as "The Heart of the Mountain," is a great gem that takes "all light that falls upon it and changes it into ten thousand sparks of white radiance shot with glints of rainbow." For some reason, he keeps it secret.
- The dwarves give Bilbo a "present", a chain-mail coat made of mithril, Elvish metal.
- When they realize that the dragon is elsewhere, the dwarves enter the treasure chamber. They begin to take the treasures and the obsessive love that dwarves have for gold is awakened.
- Bilbo reminds the dwarves that they should not wait for Smaug to return. Thorin agrees, and he leads them by memory through the old halls to the Front Gate.
- After the excitement has died down, Thorin leads the company through the passages of the mountain and out the main gate at the source of the River Running. They still have no idea what to do about Smaug when he returns. In the meantime, they are desperately hungry, so they follow the river down from the mountain to an old guard-post cavern that has not been used since the days of Thrór, Thorin's grandfather. There, they rest, eat, and wonder where the dragon has gone.

