

Camels on the Horizon?

Recently I saw a story that begins with a quote by Thomas Jefferson. My cursory investigation says it could also have been from John Quincy Adams. So who knows its actual origin?

Here's the quote: "My great grandfather was a warrior so my grandfather could be a farmer so my father could be a merchant so I could be a scholar."

That story continues under the title: "*Camels on the Horizon?*" A brief investigation gives credit for the part beginning "Hard times create strong men" to the 2016 science fiction title [Those Who Remain: A Postapocalyptic Novel](#) by [G. Michael Hopf](#). Portions of the story provide food for thought:

The founder of Dubai, Sheik Rashid, was asked about the future of his country. He replied, "My grandfather rode a camel, my father rode a camel, I ride a Mercedes, my son rides a Land Rover, and my grandson is going to ride a Land Rover. But my great-grandson is going to have to ride a camel again. "Why is that?" he was asked.

He replied, "Hard times create strong men, strong men create easy times, easy times create weak men, weak men create difficult times. You have to raise warriors, not parasites."

The story goes on to state that many great empires rose and fell within a relatively brief period of time. It mentions the Persian, Trojan, Egyptian, Greek, Roman, and British empires, alleging that they all ... "*rose and perished within 240 years.*"

Though I'm not an expert historian and have never claimed to be, I doubt the factuality of that premise, especially for the Egyptian, Greek, and Roman empires. But I digress.

The story continues: "*They were not conquered by external enemies; they rotted from within. America has now passed the 240-year mark. The rot is starting to be visible and is accelerating. We are past the Mercedes and Land Rover Years. The camels are on the horizon.*"

In light of current issues in America, one is faced with the daunting question about the long-term future of our country. The moral fabric of our society has experienced significant unraveling. The sanctity of life is no longer sacrosanct. The safety of individual citizens is shaky. Economic stability is fickle. Political integrity is precarious. International enemies seem emboldened. Religious influence is waning.

Hear what God said centuries ago to his chosen people: "*if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*" 2 Chron. 7:14

That's both sage advice and powerful promise, especially to us today in America!

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