

Around the World in Eighty Days

by Jules Verne · Language: EN

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Overview

Jules Verne's "Around the World in Eighty Days" is a classic adventure novel that chronicles the extraordinary journey of Phileas Fogg, an eccentric and fastidious English gentleman, and his newly hired French valet, Jean Passepartout. The story begins in London in 1872 when Fogg, a member of the exclusive Reform Club, makes a wager of £20,000 with his fellow club members that he can circumnavigate the globe in precisely eighty days. Driven by his unwavering precision and a desire to prove his point, Fogg immediately sets off with Passepartout on a meticulously planned itinerary, utilizing the latest advancements in transportation, including railways and steamships.

The narrative unfolds as a thrilling race against time, fraught with unexpected obstacles and thrilling escapades. Unbeknownst to Fogg, they are pursued by Detective Fix, who mistakenly believes Fogg is a bank robber who has absconded with a large sum of money from the Bank of England. This misunderstanding adds a layer of suspense, as Fix attempts to delay Fogg at every turn, hoping to receive a warrant for his arrest. From rescuing an Indian princess, Aouda, from a ritualistic sacrifice, to navigating treacherous American landscapes and outwitting various delays, Fogg's journey is a testament to human ingenuity, determination, and the spirit of adventure. The novel culminates in a dramatic twist, revealing the true nature of Fogg's victory and the profound impact of his journey on his own life and those around him.

Key Takeaways

- Embrace the unexpected, as even the most meticulously planned journeys can be altered by unforeseen circumstances.
- Perseverance and unwavering determination are crucial for overcoming seemingly insurmountable obstacles.
- Cultural differences and encounters with diverse peoples enrich the experience of travel and broaden one's perspective.
- The pursuit of a goal can lead to personal transformation and the discovery of unexpected relationships.
- Sometimes, the greatest victories come not just from achieving a goal, but from the journey and what is gained along the way.
- Time is a relative concept, and understanding its nuances can sometimes lead to surprising advantages.

- Trust in others, even those you've just met, can be essential for navigating difficult situations.

Chapter Summaries

The Wager and Departure

Phileas Fogg, a man of precise habits, lives a solitary life in London. After a discussion at the Reform Club about the feasibility of traveling around the world in eighty days, Fogg wagers £20,000 that he can achieve this feat. He immediately departs with his new valet, Jean Passepartout, leaving London by train on October 2, 1872, beginning their ambitious journey eastward.

Suez and Detective Fix

Fogg and Passepartout travel through the Suez Canal. Here, they are observed by Detective Fix, who believes Fogg is the thief responsible for a recent bank robbery. Fix begins to follow Fogg, hoping to secure an arrest warrant and apprehend him, adding an element of suspense and pursuit to their otherwise straightforward itinerary.

India and the Rescue of Aouda

While crossing India, Fogg and Passepartout encounter a delay due to an unfinished railway line. They purchase an elephant to continue their journey. During this leg, they bravely rescue a young Indian woman, Aouda, from a forced suttee (ritualistic sacrifice). Aouda subsequently joins their party, becoming an integral part of their adventure.

Hong Kong and Passepartout's Delay

In Hong Kong, Fix attempts to delay Fogg by getting Passepartout drunk and separated from his master, causing Fogg to miss the steamer to Yokohama. Fogg, resourceful as ever, finds an alternative passage on a pilot boat, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to his schedule, while Passepartout struggles to catch up.

Japan and the Pacific Crossing

Passepartout, having been left behind, eventually makes his way to Yokohama, Japan, where he joins a circus to earn passage. Fogg and Aouda arrive and, by chance, find Passepartout. The reunited trio then boards a steamer for their long journey across the Pacific Ocean to San Francisco, continuing their race against time.

Across America by Train

The travelers embark on a transcontinental train journey across America. They face various challenges, including a herd of buffalo blocking the tracks, a collapsing bridge, and a dangerous attack by Sioux warriors. Passepartout bravely intervenes during the attack, saving the train but

getting separated from Fogg for a time before being reunited.

The Atlantic and Desperate Measures

Arriving in New York, Fogg discovers they have missed their scheduled steamer to Liverpool. Undeterred, he charts a private vessel, the *Henrietta*, and bribes the captain to take them across the Atlantic. When coal runs out, Fogg buys the ship and orders its wooden parts to be burned for fuel, demonstrating his extreme dedication to the wager.

Liverpool, Arrest, and the Final Dash

Upon reaching Liverpool, Fogg is immediately arrested by Detective Fix, who finally receives his warrant. However, Fix soon realizes his mistake: the real bank robber has been caught. Fogg is released, but the delay seems to have cost him the bet. They rush to London, seemingly arriving five minutes late.

The Twist and Victory

Believing he has lost the wager, Fogg returns home, heartbroken. However, Passepartout discovers a crucial detail: by traveling eastward and crossing the International Date Line, they gained a day. They are not late, but precisely on time. Fogg rushes to the Reform Club, winning the bet with moments to spare, and subsequently marries Aouda.

Themes

- Adventure and Exploration
- Time and Precision
- Cultural Encounters
- Determination and Perseverance
- Chance vs. Planning

Notable Quotes

- "As for Phileas Fogg, it seemed as if he had never left London." — Describing Fogg's calm and composed demeanor even amidst his extraordinary journey.
- "The unforeseen does not exist." — Phileas Fogg's declaration, reflecting his belief in meticulous planning and control.
- "In short, to go round the world in eighty days, it is necessary to be a calculating machine." — Passepartout's observation about the precision required for Fogg's enterprise.
- "We are going round the world, and we must not forget that." — Passepartout reminding Fogg of their ultimate goal amidst various distractions and delays.

- "It is true that I have no time to lose." — Phileas Fogg's frequent refrain, emphasizing the urgency of his journey.
- "You, an Englishman, have made this wager?" — One of the Reform Club members questioning Fogg's audacious bet.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Around the World in Eighty Days about?

The book is about Phileas Fogg, an English gentleman, who makes a bet that he can travel around the world in 80 days. Accompanied by his valet, Passepartout, he embarks on a thrilling journey, encountering various obstacles and being pursued by a detective who mistakenly believes Fogg is a bank robber. It's a tale of adventure, precision, and the unexpected.

Is Around the World in Eighty Days worth reading?

Yes, it is highly worth reading for its engaging plot, memorable characters, and imaginative depiction of global travel in the 19th century. It's a fast-paced adventure that explores themes of determination, cultural encounters, and the nature of time, making it a timeless classic enjoyed by readers of all ages.

How does Around the World in Eighty Days end?

Spoiler: Phileas Fogg arrives back in London believing he has lost his wager by five minutes. However, Passepartout realizes that by traveling eastward and crossing the International Date Line, they gained a day. Fogg rushes to the Reform Club, arriving just in time to win the bet. He then marries Aouda, the Indian princess he rescued during his journey.

Who should read Around the World in Eighty Days?

This book is ideal for readers who enjoy classic adventure stories, tales of travel and exploration, and narratives with a strong sense of urgency and mystery. It's suitable for young adults and adults alike, offering both excitement and a glimpse into the technological marvels of the Victorian era.

How long does it take to read Around the World in Eighty Days?

On average, it takes about 3 to 5 hours to read "Around the World in Eighty Days." This can vary depending on individual reading speed and the edition of the book, but its relatively concise length makes it a quick and enjoyable read.