

Chapter 1 : Books by Benjamin Roberts (Author of Learn to Swim)

Though Jackals of Samarra is a work of fiction, it comes so uncomfortably close to being real that using a book marker at stopping points might not work too well. After reading the last sentence of Jackals you might just feel relieved and lucky that it is only fiction.

This Caribbean Blog of global reach and appeal is maintained by Bahamian Blogger - Dennis Dames with all readers and subscribers in mind. Wednesday, January 20, Haiti, past and present, exposes the ugliness of humanity By Ben Roberts: We see the devastation in Haiti. We see the broken and lifeless bodies removed from the rubble. We see the walking dead with their bloody wounds, skin whitened by plaster and falling dust, and their hands caked with blood and abrasions from pulling each other from the crushing skin of the earth. We see the hand-wringing of anxious relatives wanting to know about the fate of their loved ones. We see regular genuine human beings from all creeds, colors, and walks of life of trying to be of help in this disaster. We see all this and cannot help but wonder about our own humanity, about what we are doing in this world, and what we have done in this world. This calamity in Haiti wakes us up to what we are and need to be doing. But Haiti has been a never-ending calamity because of what we have done in this world. Haiti needs us to keep its anemic body and soul together, but we need Haiti just as much to maintain our humanity by reminding us of how ugly the human spirit can be, and how low it can falter at times. For those not well-informed on the history of Haiti, it must be explained that, after Haiti defeated France and got its Independence from the yoke of slavery in 1804, the French demanded one hundred and fifty million francs as compensation for its loss of the wealth it would have realized had slavery remained intact in that former colony. But that is not all. Think of the world in 1804. Where would a shattered Haiti have gotten this money? A loan from Britain? And who, on moral grounds, would stop France from making this demand? No one, since all these nations were profiting beyond their wildest dreams from slavery. So this new nation of Haiti, if it wanted to join the club of nations, thought its best bet was to comply with this diabolical demand. Now that is a pact with the Devil if there ever was one. In most wars in history the victor demands reparations of the vanquished. In this instance the victor has to compensate the vanquished and has no choice but to get the loan from the vanquished to do so. How low can humanity sink? What a stain on us all who claim to represent a civilized world. Rush Limbaugh, as stated above, exhorts that we should pass on donating to Haiti since we already do in the income tax we pay. I sometimes wonder who actually listens to this man who pretends to be so informed and all-knowing. This would have been a disaster to American wealth and profits if American slaves got wind of this and challenged the institution of slavery. Because Haiti wanted to maintain good relations with the United States, Toussaint apparently complied with this request. Now that is a pact. Honoring such a request from the leader of a country which, a scant twenty nine years earlier, had fought its own war of Independence guaranteeing the rights of man. So you see why Rush Limbaugh needs to be informed or read some more before coming out and pretending to be some repository of knowledge about what America has donated to others. If Pat Robertson wants to know about the human capacity for diabolical violence then he should read about the top French military man in Haiti, General Rochambeau, and his mass drowning of Haitians in the harbor of Cap Haitien. He should read about British military overlord for the region, General Maitland, and his unrivaled wolfish propensity for deception. The British were also present in Haiti at this same time, complete with a fort, with designs on Haiti, the bountiful prize sought over by all the major world powers of that time. If Rush Limbaugh wants to know about outlays to other countries he should read about the aftermath of the Haitian Revolution where his country insisted that the Haitian government change its Constitution to allow outsiders to own property. A decision that affects Haiti to this day. In order to learn about all this these men should find and read: The Black Jacobins by C. In fact anyone who takes the time to read this text will have no choice but to rethink what they thought they knew about Haiti. Definitely a country with a dual personality. On the one hand it represents the hopes, dreams, indomitable spirit, and ability of a people and segment of humanity to fight and succeed against unimaginable odds to establish their unquestioned legitimacy as members of the human race. On the other hand it represents the fears of another segment of humanity at the prospect of losing

their privileges and presumed superiority in the human race. Simply put, Haiti represents the unlimited potential for the human race to overcome and move into the light. Alternately, it represents the ugliness and darkness of the human race. But enough of gloom and these bombastic individuals claiming to be authorities on something of which they seem to know very little. What a sight to see the potent military assets of America, such as the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson, and a Predator drone, being put to use in this calamity. Weapons of war highly capable of raining down death and destruction being utilized to extend hope and life. America never looked so good or so strong. It gives hope for a better world. Too bad it takes a calamity of such earth-shattering proportions for us to get to that point. He is a newsletter editor, freelance writer, and published author. He is the author of numerous articles that have been carried by a variety of Internet websites and read worldwide. His action adventure novel, Jackals of Samarra, can be found at Amazon.

Chapter 2 : Samarra - Wikipedia

Though Jackals of Samarra is a work of fiction, it comes so uncomfortably close to being real that using a bookmark at stopping points might not work too well. After reading the last sentence of Jackals you might just feel relieved and lucky that it is only fiction.

Cuba was the last Latin American country to abolish slavery, by means of a royal decree issued by the Spanish King in 1820. Interactions with wealthy, white, prejudiced visitors from the U.S. Afro-Cubans endured segregated facilities, discrimination under the guise of eugenics, and blatant racism at the hands of groups as extreme as the Ku Klux Klan Kubano. However, he failed to adequately address its cultural and societal roots. After a few years, he declared his policies a success and made any further discussion of race or racial inequality a counterrevolutionary crime, insisting that talk of race would divide the nation. Even though the Castro government achieved more for blacks in fifty years than previous administrations had in the last years,^[v] his policies only addressed issues of unequal access without changing structural biases underlying society. With a new wave of economic changes affecting the country, race and racism are once again becoming important issues in Cuba. Castro believed that such overt racism was in direct conflict with his commitment to social justice and equality and passed policies to desegregate beaches, parks, work sites and social clubs. He outlawed all forms of legal and overt discrimination, including discrimination in employment and education. Castro also worked to increase the number of Afro-Cuban political representatives, with the percentage of Black members on the Council of State expanding from 10% to 20%. However, overall, Afro-Cuban representation decreased as the institutions become more powerful. Alejandro de la Fuente, Professor of History at the University of Pittsburgh, used statistics from the census to illustrate the progress made during twenty years of Revolutionary rule. By 1970, the percentage of blacks was 10%. Three years into his rule, Fidel Castro declared that the Revolution had eliminated racism, making any further discussion of racial inequalities a taboo subject. Official discourse directly tied racism to capitalism, and thus the development of an egalitarian society officially ended racism. For fifty years of Castro rule in Cuba, race and racism were taboo subjects, making debate, discourse, and study impossible. The government stopped numerous social services and the country struggled with widespread shortages. Many of the economic reforms passed to bring the Cuban economy out of its deep recession served only to exacerbate these racial inequalities. While the tourist industry is currently the most profitable sector because of the availability of USD, it is also the industry with the greatest racial disparity in employment opportunities: Remittances -- transfers of money into Cuba from Cubans living and working abroad -- are a new source of unregulated USD in the Cuban economy. The Castro government began legalizing personal enterprises for profit during the Special Period. Since then, more and more Cubans have opened their own restaurants or repair shops. We believed at the beginning that when we established the fullest equality before the law and complete intolerance for any demonstration of sexual discrimination in the case of women, or racial discrimination in the case of ethnic minorities, these phenomena would vanish from our society. It was some time before we discovered that marginality and racial discrimination with it are not something that one gets rid of with a law or even with ten laws, and we have not managed to eliminate them completely in 40 years. In the documentary RAZA, Cuban citizens remark that there are equal rights before the law, but equal rights do not mean social equality: Cuba still suffers from the legacy of centuries of discrimination followed by decades of silence. They are often explicit in descriptions of racism as lived experiences, challenging the official silence and the popular belief that it no longer exists in Cuba. Esteban Morales, a PhD. We educate without mentioning color -- we are teaching each other to be white. Discussions and studies of race and racism on the island have been limited by the official silence, and much more investigation and research is needed to provide an accurate picture of the racial divisions on the island. The anti-discrimination advances of the Revolution deserve to be lauded, but they should not leave us blind to the racism that exists and the continuing struggles of Afro-Cubans. The references for this article can be found here. The Council on Hemispheric Affairs, founded in 1982, is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan, tax-exempt research and information organization.

Chapter 3 : www.nxgvision.com - When Asking For Directions In America Proves Disastrous

Jackals of Samarra was written in the period immediately preceding the Gulf War. It was just as contemporary then as it is now, as borne out by today's headlines of naval vessels falling victim to terrorist bombs.

We see it in movies and advertisements all the time. And in our own interactions, we might have seen it on occasion work in this manner. However, do not be fooled into thinking this is the way it works all the time. If you happen to look Middle Eastern you might have a totally different and very disastrous experience. At least that is what we are told. He is an Egyptian, who for some years now has lived in Southern California. In the San Diego area, to be exact. Kewan is a house painter and handyman who does excellent work. Because of the quality of his work and his good character he benefits from regular referrals by those pleased with his work and impressed with his character. One day, some months ago, Mr. Kewan was driving on a San Diego highway to an appointment for a painting job to which he had been referred. The directions had been written down for him and the person about to hire him was waiting his arrival. He got lost on the highway and exited to ask directions. The exit he took was the one leading right to the gate of Camp Pendelton, the huge Marine base in San Diego. The guards at the base checked him out, concluded that he was who he said he was, and that there was no reason for alarm or apprehension, and sent him on his way. In fact they assisted him by updating his directions and explaining to him how to get to his appointment. They did one other thing. They forwarded the particulars of the incident over to Homeland Security. That is where Mr. Kewan at an American military base. They concluded that this legal resident, an upstanding and highly regarded house painter and handyman, was a threat to our national security. They picked up this man almost close to a year now, and he has been languishing in a California prison ever since. Prior to his being locked up Mr. Montag is a man who has spent about a decade conducting his business in the arena of Immigration law. He does not effect the pit bull, go-for-the-jugular persona we often see displayed by his cousins in Criminal law. No, the man looks the part of what I imagine an Immigration lawyer to be. He appears to be a thoughtful man who speaks in reasoned measured tones and seems to possess the patience of Job. After the Camp Pendelton event there came a series of delays from the Immigration judges that could not be properly explained. It was requested that Mr. Kewan be released pending review, since he was not a known threat. The Immigration judge ruled that Mr. Kewan remain incarcerated because he believed him to be a threat to our national security. The FBI investigated Mr. Kewan and found him to be no threat to the United States. Homeland Security has produced no evidence linking him to anything. Camp Pendelton security found him to be no threat. His previous employers have rallied in giving testimonials about his excellent character and high quality of work. The potential employer on the day of the Camp Pendelton incident has confirmed that he was waiting for Mr. Kewan to show up for an appointment for a job contract. I am no Sherlock Holmes, but this last fact qualifies as the equivalent of an alibi to explain why Mr. Kewan ended up accidentally where he was. Alibis are often the linchpin in cases to determine whether someone has committed an unlawful act or not. The lawyer in the case, Mr. Montag, has pointed out with utmost clarity that not a single document has surfaced in the American security apparatus to show that Mr. Kewan is anything other than who he says he is. Yet an Immigration judge, a civilian like you and I, has stated and determined that Mr. Kewan needs to remain incarcerated because he is a threat to our national security. How is this for a real joke. A few days ago a lawyer named Andrew Speaker was found to have a potent TB infection while on a trip overseas. Our potent Homeland Security network coupled with Health and Human Service swung into action in an attempt to locate, detain, and treat him overseas, thereby limiting the spread of the disease. Without much trouble the man was able to evade our keeping-us-safe from-terrorist apparatus and enter the United States by driving across the Canadian border. This incident clearly shows what a joke all this hype of war on terror and keeping us safe really is. Michael Chertoff and George Bush, and all those involved in and constantly assuring us about what a good job they are doing to keep us safe, should be thoroughly embarrassed and wiping egg off their faces as we speak. This incident must have those bent on doing us harm having a hearty laugh at our expense, as they realize that our supposed potent anti-terror security wall is not so potent when it is unable to keep tabs on even a sick

regular citizen. And from this we in America should really question our faith in those claiming to keep us safe. We are on the ball incarcerating indefinitely a man like Mr. Abdul Kewan who checks out in all of our security systems as being of no threat to us. However, a man who is a threat, albeit not terror but instead a health hazard, can easily penetrate our system and endanger us medically. Both men are decent and respectable. The only difference is that one is Middle Eastern and the other is Caucasian. Switch to the news of today. This is the first time since the Nixon Watergate scandal that a government official in such a high standing has been sentenced to jail time. Now what Libby engaged in amounts to serious endangerment to the security of this country. He endangered a citizen charged with ensuring our security, and could have cost her her life. He endangered and might well have cost the lives of people outside of this country with whom she was connected, in the nature of her work. What he did seriously impacted the security and safety of all living in America. This amounts to high treason. Yet the judicial system is in high gear trying shield this man and save his hide from paying for his actions. What a stark contrast to a lowly but decent and harmless house painter and handyman named Abdul Kewan who languishes in a San Diego area prison simply for asking for directions, and has done nothing to this country other than make it better by his presence. This leads me to ask the question: His words are well worth listening to: When the government is too intrusive people lose their spirit. Trust them; leave them alone. He is the author of numerous Internet published articles. His action adventure novel, *Jackals of Samarra*, and a collection of his articles can be found at his website www. He can be emailed from the site by clicking on:

Encuentra Jackals of Samarra de Benjamin H. Roberts (ISBN:) en Amazon. Env -os gratis a partir de 19 ,-.

This name appears on coins and was adopted by some medieval writers. These troops, who were from groups that had previously held only a marginal role in the Islamic world, were deeply unpopular among the residents of Baghdad, and violent incidents had repeatedly broken out between the soldiers and Baghdadis. Space was no object; land was plentiful and cheap, with little in the way of preexisting settlements to hinder expansion. Numerous cantonments were established for the army regiments, who in many cases were intentionally segregated from the residences for the general populace. Markets, mosques and baths for the people were built, together with a number of palaces for the caliph and other prominent individuals. Materials and laborers were shipped in from various parts of the Muslim world to help with the work; iron-workers, carpenters, marble sculptors and artisans all assisted in the construction. In fact, the sale of land seems to have produced considerable profit for the treasury: After moving to Damascus in 750, [14] he returned to Iraq and undertook his most ambitious project, the new city of al-Mutawakkiliyya to the north of Samarra. In the following year, however, he was assassinated, and al-Mutawakkiliyya was abandoned soon after. The city died, is dead like an elephant being untusked. Out of 6, registered buildings at the site as of 1950, only nine still have any components of significant height; the vast majority of the ruins consist of collapsed mounds of rammed earth and scattered debris. At ground level, the remains are mostly unimpressive; when viewed from the air, however, the entire plan of the Abbasid city, with its buildings and street pattern, can clearly be seen. In some cases, the cantonments of the troops were explicitly segregated from the rest of the populace. Numerous army commanders, together with their regiments, were granted allotments here, including those of the Turks, Faraghina, Ushrusaniyya, Maghariba, Ishtakhaniyya, Jund, Shakiriyya, Arabs and Khurasanis. Several bureaucrats, Abbasid princes and other personages also had allotments along the avenues. Near the markets was the gibbet from which the rebel Babak Khorramdin was hanged khashabat Babak, and which served as a place for displaying executed persons. Following the execution of al-Afshin in 835, al-Matira was granted to the Turkish general Wasif by al-Wathiq. This cantonment is tentatively identified as al-Waziriyya, containing the Waziri palace built by Abu al-Wazir. It was allotted to the Turkish general Ashinas, with strict orders that no strangers enter. The western portion of the wall bordering the central city was repeatedly demolished and rebuilt to make way for new construction, including that of the Great Mosque. The layout of these racecourses varied; one was parachute-shaped, another bottle-shaped, and a third shaped as a cloverleaf. This city, which was built in the vicinity of the settlement of al-Mahuza, was intended to replace Samarra as the residence of the caliphs. On the western side of the avenue was the Abu Dulaf Mosque. It was located in the north of al-Mutawakkiliyya and separated from the rest of the city by a wall. A canal was also dug to supply water to the new city, but this project failed and the canal never functioned properly. Despite the significant amount of money spent to construct it, however, al-Mutawakkiliyya was occupied for only a very short time. On the north side was a palace, and on the east and west sides were housing units. A large trapezoidal enclosure branched out from the complex and extended several kilometers to the north into al-Hayr. The site, which evidently served as a hunting palace, is identified with al-Shah, probably built during the reign of al-Mutawakkil. The northern part consisted of a palace that overlooked the Tigris, while the southern area contained a number of housing units. A long outer wall enclosing al-Istablak and the surrounding area was also built. It is the best preserved of the Samarran palaces and the main building was nearly completely restored in the late 20th century. The plan of the palace appears to have been based on that of the Jawsaq. An inner octagonal structure which featured a dome was reached by ramps ascending on four sides. Restoration work in the 1930s included the rebuilding of the dome. Samarra first drew the attention of archeologists around the turn of the 20th century, and excavation work was conducted by Henri Viollet, Friedrich Sarre, and Ernst Herzfeld [77] in the period leading up to World War I. Aerial photographs were taken between 1910 and 1920, which preserved portions of the site that have since been overrun by new development. The Directorate-General of Antiquities of Iraq restarted excavations between 1930 and 1935, and continued in the 1940s and 1950s. Excavation and restoration work took

place between and

Chapter 5 : Abbasid Samarra - Wikipedia

Saddam Hussein, in his leading role as the Jackal Of Samarra, will be thrilled to death. Ben Roberts is a newsletter editor, freelance writer and published author. His book, Jackals of Samarra, was published in January

The swastika in the center of the design is a reconstruction. The remains of prehistoric Samarra were first excavated between and by the German archaeologist Ernst Herzfeld. Samarra became the type site for the Samarra culture. Since , the notebooks, letters, unpublished excavation reports and photographs have been in the Freer Gallery of Art in Washington, DC. The civilization flourished alongside the Ubaid period , as one of the first town states in the Near East. A city of Sur-marrati refounded by Sennacherib in BC according to a stele in the Walters Art Museum is insecurely identified with a fortified Assyrian site of Assyrian at al-Huwaysh on the Tigris opposite modern Samarra. A supplementary canal, the Qatul Abi al-Jund, excavated by the Abbasid Caliph Harun al-Rashid , was commemorated by a planned city laid out in the form of a regular octagon modern Husn al-Qadisiyya , called al-Mubarak and abandoned unfinished in Here he built extensive palace complexes surrounded by garrison settlements for his guards, mostly drawn from Central Asia and Iran most famously the Turks , as well as the Khurasani Ishtakhaniyya , Faraghina and Ushrusaniyya regiments or North Africa like the Maghariba. Although quite often called Mamluk slave soldiers, their status was quite elevated; some of their commanders bore Sogdian titles of nobility. The city declined but maintained a mint until the early 10th century. The Nestorian patriarch Sargis 72 moved the patriarchal seat of the Church of the East from Baghdad to Samarra, and one or two of his immediate successors may also have sat in Samarra so as to be close to the seat of power. Its population returned to Baghdad and the city rapidly declined. Its field of ruins is the only world metropolis of late antiquity which is available for serious archaeology. This has made it an important pilgrimage centre for the Imami Shias. In addition, Hakimah and Narjis , female relatives of the Prophet Muhammad and the Imams, held in high esteem by Muslims, are buried there, making this mosque one of the most significant sites of worship. Modern era[edit] Men walk down a street in Samarra in In the eighteenth century, one of the most violent battles of the 18th Ottoman-Persian War , the Battle of Samarra , took place, where over 50, Turks and Persians became casualties. During the 20th century, Samarra gained new importance when a permanent lake, Lake Tharthar , was created through the construction of the Samarra Barrage , which was built in order to prevent the frequent flooding of Baghdad. On February 22, , the golden dome of the al-Askari Mosque was bombed , setting off a period of rioting and reprisal attacks across the country which claimed hundreds of lives. No organization claimed responsibility for the bombing. No fatalities were reported. An indefinite curfew was placed on the city by the Iraqi police. However, violence has continued, with bombings taking place in and ISIL forces captured the municipality building and university, but were later repulsed. Most rain falls in the winter. The average annual temperature in Samarra is Climate data for Samarra.

Chapter 6 : Great Mosque of Samarra - Wikipedia

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Whilst back on earth, I had to hear of it via an early morning jangling phone waking me from deep sleep. A call from a dear friend as she breathlessly told me to quickly turn on my TV to witness events of the capture. My reasoning has always been that were Saddam to be found he would be promptly killed by American forces because he would be such an embarrassment to our government. But a bonanza for who? Clearly Bush has to be thinking that he will be lauded and exonerated by American citizens for attacking Iraq by presenting them with the gift of Saddam Hussein. They in turn will give him what he desperately wants. A four year extended tenant lease at Pennsylvania Avenue. See Bush never does something for nothing. What could be better for Bush re-election prospects than Saddam Hussein on display in a trial just as he is asking for us to re-elect him? Just about every pundit and analyst, including David Corn of The Nation newspaper, has arrived at such a conclusion, as he did this week while on the radio show To The Point with host Warren Olney. My take is completely different. The display of Saddam Hussein in mock and I do mean mock as in mockery trial will be an embarrassment for Bush, that will send his election prospects down the drain. It is nothing short of laughable and ironic that it will be the despised dictator Saddam Hussein who will have to come to the rescue and save Americans from Bush II. Bush deposed Saddam by military means without the consent of his American constituency or the world community. Now Saddam has a chance to be on the world stage using his mouth to depose Bush. Saddam thrives on the world stage. Bush, in keeping Saddam alive, has misstepped badly, and his re-election chances do not look good. Bush realizes this, and is furiously backpedaling, trying to recover from this huge miscalculation. One look at Bush and his entourage clearly demonstrates this. For the Bush Team, confusion reigns. Remember Bush has been telling us all along that such attacks were due to Saddam loyalists, thugs, dead-enders. Then the attack happened. The TV newsman then changed to a new tune. Things are not safe and there are still violent people out there. With Saddam in custody the attacks should cease if he and his minions are responsible. The fact that there was an attack even as the soothsayer was telling us that they were over proves two things. First, it proves that regular Iraqi citizens, incensed that America has invaded their country, are fighting to defend it. Many such fighters have said this but have been dismissed. Secondly, it proves that foreign fighters are very much involved in these attacks. This is a battlefield nightmare for American forces. The Bush Administration has gone to great pains to keep us ignorant of these two developments on the ground in Iraq. Was it as a war criminal, a terrorist, or a brutal dictator? Rumsfeld, usually combative and on point, seemed to be fumbling and at a loss as he rambled on about the Geneva Convention. He seemed to be making up stuff as he went along. Are you a betting man? Of course this is a ploy designed to make the Iraqi resistance feel that they have been fingered by Saddam, their leader, and that they should throw in the towel. Wanna bet that right now Saddam is not fingering those in long-standing opposition to his regime, as he feeds their names to US interrogators. Saddam must have a sly grin on his face about now because he, the Jackal Of Samarra, is back in business. The desperation in Bush, at a living and breathing Saddam Hussein, is almost palpable. Then the reality sank in. Iraq has no death penalty. The American hand-picked Iraqi Council were trying to implement democratic and judicial changes but such undertaking were ground under the heels of the boots of US Overlord Paul Bremmer and the Bush Administration. So now they have outsmarted themselves. The Council does not truly represent Iraq. America saw to that. So it would be difficult to try Saddam in a narrowly focused strictly Iraqi trial which Bush would want because it would not allow Saddam an international forum where he could discuss how America facilitated his excesses against his people with arms, intelligence, and business transactions. Personally Bush would cringe at this. The names of Bush Sr. Moreover, the prospect of Saddam being put to death does not look good in such a trial. Not a good outcome for Bush. An alternative is for Saddam to be tried in an international forum. The world communities of the European Union and the United Nations oppose the death penalty. They would have to be an integral part of any such trial. So once again Saddam does not get the death

penalty. A real bummer for Bush, who needs Saddam dead to appeal to American voters. What a wacky world. See how a senseless foreign policy can come back to haunt you? Totally up the creek without a paddle. A desperate and befuddled Bush came out yesterday with a new tune. What will our children make of such monstrous behavior? Opinions fly fast and furious as to Saddam Hussein. Does she know that the US supplied Saddam with satellite intelligence in his war with Iran, because at the time Ayatollah was the resident monster? She rattled on that Saddam should be indicted for his global crimes. Yes, he is innocent until proven guilty. Then there was a Mr. Feldman who, if memory serves me correct, was in some way connected to the UN. He said Saddam should be tried before his people for brutalizing them. Feldman bright eyed, shiny faced and well groomed on TV telling us what should happen to Saddam for being such a brutal dictator. Feldman would like to explain why dictators who chronically brutalized their people, such as Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines and Baby Doc in Haiti, were allowed to pack up their valuables and pots of gold and given free passage and had room and board seen to by the United States. I await with bated breath the next scene in this comedy drama. Some will not be pleased with how this presentation plays out, but of one thing I am sure. Saddam Hussein, in his leading role as the Jackal Of Samarra, will be thrilled to death. Ben Roberts is a newsletter editor, freelance writer and published author. His book, Jackals of Samarra , was published in January Ben can be contacted by email at:

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city of jackals Download *city of jackals* or read online here in PDF or EPUB. Please click button to get *city of jackals* book now. All books are in clear copy here, and all files are secure so don't worry about it.

Roberts is a newsletter editor, freelance writer and published author. His previous articles include: A Comedy of Errors SmirkingChimp. He can be emailed for a more comprehensive listing of his articles. Definitely a case of life imitating art. Ben can be contacted by email at: Jackals of Samarra Hide the crayons! Head for the hills! An ominous terrorist threat is upon us. They have raised the color coding threat level from yellow to orange. One step below the really bad critical "RED. Are we supposed to be frozen in terror like deer in front of the headlights? It appears these guys have been playing around with too many crayons or something. And sitting around watching too many poorly acted plays and movies. Heard the phrase "the one two punch? It is strategically aimed at the head to the American citizen with the intent of knocking them out, giving them a concussion, rendering confusion, and leaving them in no condition to prevent George Bush from his goal of going to war with Iraq. The Associated Press is carrying an article about how this current terrorist threat was arrived at. The story states that "a high level government official who remains anonymous has provided information that, based on increased intercepted communications chatter The "anonymous high level source" and the "increased chatter. As it stands, they cannot be checked or confirmed. Neither, can the individual be queried or taken to task when nothing comes of the threat. Our ace in the hole high level source goes on to reveal that increased chatter in the terrorist world is the reason for threat level change. He, or she, then goes on to add that this is because this week is the beginning of the Hajj, and they have noticed a spike in communications traffic as these people might try to pull off something at this time. New York is listed as the prime area the threat seems to be targeted at, and the source warns that it could be aimed at anything. They mention airports, subways, hotels, apartment buildings, transportation, the NBA All Star game, you name it. In essence, it seems to imply that we should simply lock ourselves in our basement in total darkness and do nothing. But strangely the warning instructs us to go about our business as usual. This has to leave one confused, and wondering whether or not there is a threat to our safety. Can we just dispense with the nonsense at this point? There will be roughly two million Muslims circling around the Hajj in Saudi Arabia, in one of their holiest undertakings. Many Muslims see a visit to the Hajj as the highpoint of their lifetime and the ultimate purification of their spirit. Why would these people be scheming and plotting the demise of America while involved in such a sacred event in their life? The truth is they should be more worried and concerned that America would use this time to launch an attack on the Arab world. Given Bush talk of "the game is over," and Rumsfeld announcement that "it could be anytime now," they would be more justified in feeling this way, than us feeling they are set to attack us. And as to the increased "chatter? How else would they be able to convene and coordinate such a huge undertaking? It is quite shameful what the Bush Administration is attempting to do, in mentioning the Hajj in its threat warning. Doing this leaves the impression in the American mind that there are millions of Muslims congregating in the Arab world, and they might be plotting our demise, when really these people sole aim is purification of spirit and connection with their God. How low will Team Bush go, in extracting American support for attack on Iraq? A bonus for Bush and his posse in declaring this threat is that, while they are attempting to saturate America on the idea to go to war, the warning has the effect of shutting down antiwar and peace activist demonstrations. The calculation is that it will scare them away from gathering in huge numbers, since they will be concerned that terrorist might wreak havoc on large gatherings. If this fails to work then Ashcroft can always show up with a new law in hand having to do with public security, and making such gatherings illegal in such a national security threat situation. We know of "America The Beautiful. Presumably the threat is focused on New York. Is this not the headquarters of the United Nations? What better place to spread fear. Terrorize those skeptics and doubting Thomas UN officials from other countries and galvanize them into action to throw their weight behind America for war with Iraq. This tactic was used by Ashcroft before, in the wake of September 11, when he testified before Congress, wanting to suspend American citizen liberties. We suddenly had threat of a possible nuclear explosion in the

port city of Baltimore, that might involve a ship in the Bin Laden company fleet. No explosion, but Ashcroft got what he wanted. It's called the Patriot Act.

Chapter 8 : RASTA TIMES - A Coalition of the Villains

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Friday, May 28, by Ben Roberts Does anyone notice that these days George Bush hardly ever haunts military bases like before, giving political speeches crowing about keeping America safe and being an exemplary Commander In Chief. But the question needing to be asked is, Why this about face? He kept stressing that he served his country as a Guardsman. He created his own firestorm when questions began to fly and revelations began spilling out. General Turnispeed, the top man in the Guard where Bush was supposed to report to, said that he never saw him. Bush was unable to explain why no one saw him and why he did not take his physical exam. The most telling revelation however, was probably the one we never got to hear. In an article in the Tennessee Flyer, two Guardsmen, one named Paul Bishop, recounted how the young Bush was supposed to report to their unit. These were young men from small town America, with limited resources. Well, they revealed that Bush never showed up. These men appear to have no political agenda, and one or both described themselves as Republican. They have decent jobs as airline pilots, but decided they had to say something when Bush kept claiming Guard service to his country, when they knew otherwise. Would it not have been much easier if Bush could show a photo of himself with his buddies hamming it up after a flight training mission? Bush promised Shock And Awe, and he delivered more than he bargained for. We certainly have Shock and Awe with the Abu Ghraib prison scandal of Americans dehumanizing and torturing Iraqi citizens in their own country. No question we have Shock And Awe with the brutal decapitation of the young American, Nicholas Berg, with a smile so engaging, enthusiastic, and full of life. That was Shock And Awe all right. Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz, and the whole cast of characters consistently scoffed at the Geneva Convention and the International Court as a forum for abiding by international law. So it is not surprising that the military chain of command of this Commander In Chief would adopt his attitude, with or without his complicity. A Commander In Chief leads. This one led all right. Right down a path of shame, embarrassment, and moral decline that America will not recover from anytime soon. All this under the guise of safeguarding Americans. Bush thought this past Thanksgiving that, as Commander In Chief, a TV op with the troops under his command was in order. There he was with a turkey on a platter beaming with delight with our troops in the Gulf. But why does this same Commander In Chief and leader of men coldly refuse to acknowledge these same soldiers by not being present at their last farewell when they fall in battle in a war he sent them to? If that was not bad enough here is the ultimate insult. The scene was of him at a memorial service with a wreath being laid by a military officer. Bush was at a memorial service at the Spanish embassy in Washington to honor the Spanish citizens killed in the Madrid train bombings. Now do not get me wrong here. But how must Americans feel, especially those who lost their loved ones in Iraq, when they see Bush at this event with the express purpose of keeping some coalition together, while steadfastly refusing to show his face to memorialize their loved ones who paid with their lives in a war he condemned them to? What are they to make of their Commander In Chief? If you, like me, are pining away for more of the earlier comic relief from Bush and his team have no fear. We still have it. Bush was recently sighted at a war college in Pennsylvania, and by inference that makes him the war President, though he was careful not to loudly claim this, bullhorn style, as before. This is absolutely false. In his speech to this nation on the eve of war, Bush made it clear that the overriding reason he was sending our forces into war in Iraq was because they had diabolical weapons of mass destruction that could annihilate us at any moment. Ask the mushroom cloud lady, Condeeze Rice. She left no doubt about this. Last week on the front page of the Washington Post was a picture of Donald Rumsfeld walking along the dusty street of Abu Ghraib prison with his entourage. Last week US forces had a running shootout with Iraqi fighters at one of the Shiites most holiest cemeteries in the Muslim world in Karbala, Iraq. A few weeks ago our forces handed over security of Fallujah to former Saddam army regulars who were shooting at them days before. The Iraqi General in charge was promptly sacked when he reported that there were no foreign insurgents in the town. Now Ahmed Chalabi, the Iraqi National Congress leader, Iraqi

Governing Council bigwig, self anointed leader in waiting to rule Iraq, and former darling of America, is in a brawl with us and now wants us to set his Iraq people free. And now for this hot off the press piece de resistance. Bush wants to raze the Abu Ghraib prison. In America we prominently display monuments to pain and suffering. Why should Iraqis have theirs erased? Instead of being contented with acting like a sea of SpongeBobs soaking up everything the White House, the Pentagon, CNN, Fox Cable, and embedded reporters throw at them, what Americans should tell Bush in response to his predictable style of take-the-high-ground-and-let-the-grunts-take-the-fall-over-Abu-Ghraib disaster is this: President this is not the America I entrusted to you for safekeeping and leadership. Look what you, the Commander In Chief, have done to my country. His book, Jackals of Samarra , was published in January Ben can be contacted by email at:

Chapter 9 : RASTA TIMES - George Bush: Commander In Please!

Samarra is a key city in Saladin Governorate, a major part of the so-called Sunni Triangle where insurgents were active during the Iraq War.

A Coalition of the Villains Posted: Bush statements, which boil down to a declaration of war, has effectively ushered in a new era in how nations deal with each other. It is called preemptive strike doctrine, and is based on the premise that if you suspect someone might attack you, you can attack them first. This is nothing short of absolute madness. Such a scenario is the equivalent of a police officer accosting a citizen, suspecting that the individual is a real or imagined threat who might attack and, resorting to deadly force, kills the individual. The brutal death of Amadu Diallo in New York by police officers as he was harmlessly producing his drivers license is a sad real life example of such a situation. On the other side, an individual accosted by the police might fear the use of deadly force and attack the officer in an effort of self preservation. A sure fire prescription for chaos, lawlessness, and villainous behavior. Now we have an update to this scenario. The United States has attacked Iraq. In other words, we now have the first scenario, with the police officer attacking the citizen. Simply put, the United States and Britain have become the villains and rogues. They are violating the wishes of their respective communities, of the world community, and of the world body duly authorized to maintain law and order, and ensure peace and security. But let us consider the behavior of someone who is regarded as a villain. They lie, cheat, steal, deceive and kill. Surely Blair and Bush, respectable leaders in their blue suits, are far removed from such a despicable designation. British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, blatantly deceived and lied to us in an effort to implement his war crusade against Iraq when he plagiarized a student paper, and used it almost word for word, telling us it was an up to date top secret intelligence document of Iraqi military capability. This amounts to stealing of intellectual property and deliberately deceiving the public. The perpetrator of such illegal behavior usually ends up in front of a judge, might be required to do jail time, and provide restitution to the injured party. Now onto George Bush. Hans Blix, top UN investigator, countered immediately that the sites were no such thing, but rather old sites that he and his team had investigated and shut down. Do I need to explain to anyone that he is calling Bush a liar? Bush said that Iraq had been attempting to produce, and had in its possession nuclear weapons. ElBaradei, the premier investigator for the international nuclear regulatory body, the IAEA, declared that Iraq possessed no nuclear weapons, and their acquisition of aluminum tubes was not in keeping with nuclear weapons production. Is he not calling Bush a liar? Even more recently ElBaradei angrily assailed the Bush Administration, accusing them of presenting his agency with fake documents that supposedly detailed Iraqi purchases of nuclear material from Niger. We know how the Bush Administration intercepted the Iraqi inventory document submitted to the UN, and removed 8, pages before anyone else got to see it. This document was the property of the UN. Is this not stealing and deception, and do we not warn our children against such undesirable and despicable behavior? Then last night, American FA Stealth bombers and cruise missiles hit Iraq, attempting to kill Saddam Hussein and his top leadership. We are told that in the process there has been injuries and at least one fatality. This is attempted murder, and in the case of the fatality, murder. George Bush signed off on this action to kill Iraqis. But that is not strange. Recently, he signed off on an action that had a drone over Yemen unleash a missile that took the life of an American in that country who was guilty of no crime. No innocent until proven guilty. Just the action of one man with a propensity to lie and deceive, and who has decided that he is judge and jury, with the power over life and death. A small observation is in order here. They are supposedly primarily involved in chemical warfare. However, just three months ago The Washington Post carried an article in its Friday, December 20, issue detailing that the US was imposing sanctions on that nation for money laundering that facilitated terrorism. This week media reports revealed that they had also sold a radar system to Iraq that was capable of detecting stealth technology. In other words, the Stealth bomber. Now they are in the front lines assisting America after being paid by Iraq. How can this be? Not long ago they were despicable persona non grata slated for US sanctions. This is a villainous lot who would make Ali Baba and his band of cutthroat thieves look like a harmless Boy Scout

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team. Ben Roberts is a newsletter editor, freelance writer and published author. His book, Jackals of Samarra , was published in January