

M.D.

Mrs. McCowan

Ancient History Based-Writing

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Your Destiny Matters

The Golden Goblet is a story about a boy named Ranofer who is confined by his dishonorable half-brother, Gebu. Ranofer's destiny is to become a master goldsmith, but he cannot when he is working in a stone-cutting shop and living on Gebu's pieces of bread. Gebu's secret life unravels one day when Ranofer discovers a golden goblet hidden in a chest and concludes that it could conceivably belong to one of the tombs of the Pharaohs. *The Golden Goblet* is a historical fiction novel written by a fabulous author named Eloise Jarvis McGraw. In *The Golden Goblet*, it teaches about perseverance and how to not give up on your dreams. Because life is tough or you are in a very bad situation does not mean it's all over and nothing can be done, but try hard and make your destiny come true.

Ranofer is a weak boy who has extraordinarily limited freedoms because of Gebu with whom he shares the same house. But he is determined to be a master goldsmith like his father who died when Ranofer was little. Gebu is Ranofer's wicked half-brother. He works for him as if a slave and makes him give his earnings because he is very selfish and rapacious. Heqet and the Ancient are Ranofer's loyal friends who help him. The story takes place in Ancient Egypt around 1400 BC, in Thebes near the Nile River. In the same house on the Street of the Crooked Dog in the City of the Dead near the tombs of the Pharaohs reside Gebu and Ranofer.

Gebu's greed and his evil behaviors result in him stealing and causing Ranofer to starve, do hard labor, and not have money. Because Gebu has control over Ranofer this causes him to have zero freedom. Although Ranofer wants to keep working as a goldsmith, Gebu forces Ranofer to quit and to work at the stone cutting shop which is the most despicable place in the world in Ranofer's view. One day, Ranofer, who is suspicious of Gebu stealing, decides to go

into Gebu's bedroom. As he looks expeditiously through a chest full of clothes, he finds something at the very bottom. It was a golden goblet. After thinking for a while about where Gebu might have found this goblet, Ranofer concludes that he stole it from one of the tombs of the Pharaohs. Then one day, when Gebu and Wenamon head toward the tombs, Ranofer follows them quietly behind, keeping a safe distance. They finally reach the tomb. Gebu and Wenamon enter not knowing that someone is with them. Ranofer, being very scared of the darkness, follows until he reaches a secret passageway previously excavated by the two robbers. There he finds the two of them smuggling the jewelry. Gebu's greediness results in him stealing not knowing that he is about to be caught.

Ranofer, who is terrified, cannot reach a decision if he should report to Queen Tiy about Gebu because he is nervous about getting in trouble and thinks no one would believe him. "Would anyone take an apprentice's word against his master's" (174)? Having low self-esteem, he thinks he is not important nor his words valuable. After arriving at the palace, Ranofer gains enough courage to not be tremendously apprehensive to report Gebu's behavior and tells Queen Tiy what happened. "Renewed fury drove away the last shreds of his caution" (228).

The best part of the book is when Ranofer receives the gifts from Queen Tiy and when the guards find Gebu and Wenamon in the tombs. Now he is able to accomplish his destiny while not having someone always keeping him away from doing the things he wants to do. By all means, the saddest part of the story is when Ranofer's immensely ferocious half-brother gives him beatings that he does not deserve. Beating your own brother, who has done nothing wrong, because you want to have control over him and force him to work, is very selfish and greedy. Not only that, it's very evil. Readers learn that just because you are restricted by someone more powerful does not mean there is no hope and your destiny can't be accomplished.