



## DAILY DILEMMA #3

LEWIS & CLARK

April 7, 1805

*“We are now about to penetrate a country at least two thousand miles in width, on which the foot of civilized man had never trodden. . . I could but esteem this moment of my departure as among the most happy of my life. The party are in excellent health and sperits, zealously attached to the enterprise, and anxious to proceed; not a whisper of murmur or discontent to be heard among them, but all act in unison, and with the most perfict harmony.”*

*Meriwether Lewis*

Your journey continues. The water is still extremely cold, freezing on the oars. From the report of hunters, you know the river is crooked and the Yellowstone River is near. The wind is blowing violently, making your progress difficult. You need to make observations of the Yellowstone River, yet you do not wish to be detained.

The Hidatsa had advised you and your men if you take the Yellowstone you could paddle your pirogues all the way to the river’s source in the Rocky Mountains. More importantly, they shared that the Yellowstone’s source was next to the source of the Missouri. Taking this journey would save you time.

Recalling President Jefferson’s instructions, “Beginning at the mouth of the Missouri you will take careful observations of latitude & longitude, at all remarkable points on the river, & especially at the mouths of rivers, at rapids, at islands, & other places & objects distinguished by such natural marks & characters of a durable kind,” you also remember that he wanted you take the shortest route to the Pacific Ocean.

Should you follow the Yellowstone, the shortest route to the Pacific Ocean, (according to the Hidatsa) or continue upstream on the Missouri River?