



## DAILY DILEMMA #5

LEWIS & CLARK

June 3, 1805

You and your men form a camp at the junction of two rivers. You have yet to reach the Great Falls of the Missouri that the Native Americans told you about. Which river is the Missouri? A mistake at this point in the journey would disappoint the entire Corps; it could even defeat the expedition.

You decide to scout both rivers on foot. The north fork is deeper than the south; its current is not as swift, but its waters run in the same boiling and rolling manner as the Missouri. The south fork is very rapid, with smooth round stones like most rivers coming from a mountainous country.

You become convinced that the branch you scouted, the northern branch, travels much too far to the north for a route to the Pacific. You return the next day to the fork.

It continues to rain through the night. Everyone is disagreeable and restless. The rain has not stopped. The ground is slippery; no one is able to walk on the sides of the bluffs. The ground is clay, making the water saturation difficult and the ground slippery.

As you were walking along the face of one of the bluffs you slip and almost fall ninety feet. You manage to save yourself with your **espontoon**.

Suddenly you hear Windsor cry out, “Good god Captain, what shall I do?” He too has slipped and fallen. He is lying on his belly, with one hand. One foot is holding on to the edge of the cliff.

Knowing the clay is slippery, how will you attempt to save Windsor? Provided you all survive this experience, which river branch will you take—the north or the south?