

The Gonder Castle

We'll have to leave the wonderful folks of Gonder for just a bit to have a quick tour of the castle and it's several outbuildings. Or, as the self-appointed archeologists call it "the royal enclosure."



This castle was built as the home of King Fasiladas (which unsurprisingly rhymes with Ozymandias--but more on that in a moment).



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By good chance, Gonder was at the crossroads of several trade routes, so became a flourishing capital starting around 1636 and lasting a couple of hundred years.



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Lonely Planet says this about the interior of the king's house: "In former times, the palace was sumptuously decorated. Gilded Venetian mirrors and chairs made up the furnishings; gold leaf, ivory and beautiful paintings adorned the walls. Visiting travelers described the palace as 'more beautiful than Solomon's house'." And so let's take a look inside.



Seems like a few of them gold leaf paintings have a gone missin'. And that leads us into Shelly's poem Ozymandias. Or, as Yogi Berra once quipped "It's Deja Vu all over again."

OZYMANDIAS

by [Percy Bysshe Shelley](#) (1792-1822)

I met a traveler from an antique land
Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert. Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;
And on the pedestal these words appear:
"My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!"
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.

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