

**NAXOS**
AudioBooks

**NON-
FICTION**

BIOGRAPHY

T.E. Lawrence
**Seven Pillars
of Wisdom**

Read by **Jim Norton**



NA301012D

1	The Arab stage	6:10
2	Lawrence's experience	9:10
3	Meeting Sherif Ali and Feisal	9:46
4	Meeting Feisal's men	5:56
5	Camp life – and Arab clothes	5:35
6	Preparations for the coming march	5:53
7	Taking Wejh	5:28
8	The execution	7:28
9	Attacking the Hejaz railway	8:05
10	Shepherds and mine-laying	6:30
11	Feisal and Auda abu Tayi	6:44
12	Plans for Akaba	2:41
13	Departure on the long detour	9:44
14	Banqueting – Bedouin style	6:08
15	The niceties of feasting	6:42
16	Setting out for Akaba	8:50
17	Travelling – and arrival	3:40
18	The disorder of Akaba	8:17

19	Back in Cairo	4:32
20	Return to Akaba	5:26
21	Blowing up trains	7:55
22	The machine guns go into action	9:12
23	The effect of mining trains	2:01
24	Wintering in Azrak	10:20
25	Entering Deraa in disguise	5:51
26	The Bey changes his tone	5:12
27	'At last, when I was broken...'	7:04
28	Winter depression, farewell to Ali and arrival in Akaba	5:50
29	Allenby insists on more action	5:48
30	To Mezerib and battle	4:59
31	Allenby's overview	9:31
32	Damascus at last	9:11
33	The horror of the Turkish hospital	6:57
34	Bureaucracy takes over – my job is done	5:22
35	Epilogue	2:04

Total time CDs 1-3: 3:50:53

T.E. Lawrence

Seven Pillars of Wisdom

At the funeral of T.E. Lawrence, Churchill wept and called him 'one of the greatest beings of our time. Whatever our need we shall never see his like again'. For the generation who experienced the mud and horror of the trenches in Flanders, Lawrence offered a view of the war in Arabia which was at once more romantic and exotic. But the reality of Lawrence was more complex than the courageous, blue-eyed British hero, risking his all for the love of his country and his commitment to the Arab cause against their Turkish oppressors.

Thomas Edward Lawrence was born on 16 August 1888. His father, Thomas Chapman, was heir to an Irish baronety, but he had left his wife and four daughters to live with their governess, Sarah Maden. He and Sarah changed their name to Lawrence and Thomas Edward was the second of their five sons. In 1907, Lawrence won a scholarship to Jesus College, Cambridge, to study History. He later undertook a 1,000-mile walking tour of Syria and became fascinated by the country.

In 1914, he was recruited by military

intelligence and when Turkey joined Germany in the war against the Allies, he was posted to Cairo. His subsequent role in the war in the Middle East is described in *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*.

It is clear throughout the book that Lawrence was well aware that his promises of freedom to the Arabs were hollow; that his job was to get them to fight the Turks at all costs. It is possible that this sense of betrayal and guilt dogged him for the rest of his life.

After the war, he withdrew from public life and became an ordinary aircraftman with the Royal Air Force under the assumed name of Shaw. Here he devoted himself to the development of high-speed launches and a primitive forerunner of the hovercraft.

In 1935, he left the RAF and retired to his cottage in Clouds Hill in Dorset. On 13 May 1935, only ten weeks after his retirement, Lawrence was injured in a motorcycle accident and died six days later. He has become one of the legendary figures of the 20th century; his bust stands in St Paul's Cathedral along with those of

Nelson and Wellington. Although he was a reluctant leader, and never felt that he fully belonged either in Arabia or as part of the British establishment, he has become,

nevertheless, the epitome of the swashbuckling British adventurer.

Notes by Heather Godwin



The music on this recording taken from the NAXOS catalogue

KALINNIKOV TSAR BORIS/EPIC POEM/THE CEDAR & THE PALM ETC. Budapest Symphony Orchestra, Antal Jancsovcis	8.223135
CIURLIONIS THE SEA/IN THE FOREST/FIVE PRELUDES Slovak Philharmonic Orchestra, Juozas Domarkas	8.223323
RAVEL RAPSODIE ESPAGNOLE Czecho-Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra (Bratislava), Kenneth Jean	8.550424

Cover picture: T.E. Lawrence, Augustus John, 1919.
Courtesy of National Portrait Gallery.

T.E. Lawrence

Seven Pillars of Wisdom

Read by **Jim Norton**

Although Lawrence of Arabia died in 1935, the story of his life has captured the imagination of succeeding generations. *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* is a monumental work in which he chronicles his role in leading the Arab Revolt against the Turks during the First World War. A reluctant leader, and wracked by guilt at the duplicity of the British, Lawrence nevertheless threw himself into his role, suffering the blistering desert conditions and masterminding military campaigns which culminated in the triumphant march of the Arabs into Damascus.

'It ranks with the greatest books ever written in the English language.
As a narrative of war and adventure...it is unsurpassable.' Winston Churchill



Jim Norton, one of Ireland's leading actors, has worked regularly on Joycean topics, and particularly *Ulysses*, during his long career in film, TV, radio and theatre. Born and brought up in Dublin, he spent his early acting years in Irish radio. He now divides his time between London and Hollywood – where, among his many parts, he has played the role of Einstein on the popular TV serial *Star Trek*. He has also recorded *Ulysses* by James Joyce for Naxos AudioBooks.

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