



BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the stages of awareness that David goes through as his character develops in the novel.
2. What does the novel say about the relationships between fathers and mothers and their sons and daughters?
3. The relationships between siblings is important in the novel. What are other examples in the Bible of siblings helping or hurting each other?
4. The novel portrays worshippers of four gods: the Philistines' Dagon; the goddess Ashdoda; a serpent deity; and the Israelites' Almighty. Discuss how the ways these gods are worshipped – and the values of the worshippers – differ.
5. Discuss how the author depicts David's character and the world he lived in. How does this differ from your perception of David and his world before reading the novel?
6. At the end of the novel, why does David choose not to use either Joshua's sword and shield, or Ashdoda's stones, when he finally faces Goliath?
7. As women of their time, how do Ahinoam, Nitzvet and Hada attempt to fulfill their own ambitions through the lives of those they have raised?
8. What is the role of the Philistine priests? The Israelite priests? How do they differ?
9. How and why is the secret of making iron a key element in the story?
10. Several places in the novel, the author describes Israelites who worship idols along with the Almighty. Why did these Israelites do so?
11. Do you think that at the end of the story, Nara will stay with the Israelites, as David requests? Will she worship Ashdoda or the Israelites' Almighty?
12. Read the story of David and Goliath as it unfolds in the Bible (I Samuel, Chapter 17) and discuss how it may have inspired the author's retelling of it.