



THE VEIL

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

General questions

- What are your overall thoughts on *The Veil*?
- Do you think that the mission was primarily for exploration and scientific purposes, or was its main purpose hidden?
- Why do you think Aarav's past keeps coming back to haunt him on Tvestra?
- What do you think "The Veil" phenomenon is?
- What do you think "Ghal" is? What is his place in everything that has happened?
- How do you think that humans got to Tvestra in the first place?
- How does Staff Sergeant Jennings seem to change his mindset by the end of the book?
- What do you think of Allie and Aarav's relationship? Did Allie make the right decision in telling Aarav that she would wait for him?
- Did Aarav make the right decision to leave Tvestra at the end of the book?

Questions concerning the Natural World:

- *The Veil* proposes an alternative view of civilization- one that intentionally relies on interconnectivity with nature. With this in mind, what do you think of Tvestran life and society?
- In Chapter 12, *The Feeling of Freedom Once Again Attained*, The Tvestrans and Earthmen go on a "Forest run". Why do you think Tvestrans favor this sort of pastime?
- In Chapter 17, Allie mentions the Tvestran belief that a society's health can be measured by its relationship with its food, specifically by the processes in which it is acquired.
 - Do you agree that our relationship with food can be an indication of societal health?
 - In what ways is our society dropping the ball in matters of food production and quality? What can we do to improve the quality of the food that builds our society?
 - In what ways does an unhealthy food system result in an unhealthy environment?
- What do you think of the concept of *Skyertas*, discussed in Chapter 11? It can be translated literally to "circle-ness", referring to the cyclical processes of nature.
 - In what way are we a part of the "cyclical" process of nature?
 - In what ways do we try to force ourselves outside the process of *Skyertas*? Are there any negative results from our attempts to disalign with "The Cycle"?

Questions concerning “High Strangeness”

- In Chapter 9, Corporal Sanchez suggests that Allie may be a “Missing 411” case. Have you ever heard of Missing 411? What do you make of this real-world Phenomenon?
- In Chapter 7, upon discovering the “Forest Tower”, Dr. Zhou gives an explanation on “Cyclopiian Architecture”. How is it that there are ancient real-world structures on Earth that modern science has no adequate explanation for? How might this change our perception of ancient history?
- In Chapter 19, the group encounters the “Draūghapūposah”- the “Phantom Children”. Do you believe in “ghosts”? If so, what do you think they are?
- In Chapters 7 and 15, we see some depictions of late-stage “Veil Sickness”. What do you think these depictions are meant to resemble?
- On Tvestra, Aarav experiences feelings of “unexplicable fear and dread” when looking into dark spaces. Why do you think this is?

Questions concerning spirituality

- *Deivar* is a clear allegory of the Christian God. In what ways is this evident?
- In Chapter 16, Allie, Arksenar and Aarav discuss why Deiver/God allows bad things to happen to good people. What do you think of this discussion?
- *Tvestra* is a fictional example of life on another world- do you think that the bible supports - or denies - the idea of life on other planets?
- In what ways is the Tvestran reverence for Deivar evident? In what ways is this similar - or different - than conventional Christianity?
- How does Ravi’s view of spirituality shift through the narrative?

Final Thoughts

- What do you think will happen in the next books in the series?
- What roles do you think Allie and Aarav will need to fill in upcoming events?