

Out of the Silent Planet: C.S. Lewis

Discussion questions:

Group 1

Discuss these words of the sorn near the end of chapter 16:

"There must be rule, yet how can creatures rule themselves?"

Discuss all the implications within this question.

Group 2

What does Oyarsa teach about the deaths of individuals and species? Why do the Malacandrian hnau not fear death of themselves or their planet? What implications concerned with immortality of soul and spirit are involved in these questions?

Group 3

What exactly is meant by a "bent hnau"? Nyai tells Ransom that, "A pleasure is full grown only when it is remembered." (p.63) Discuss all the implications of this statement. Nyoi continues, in chapter 12 --- "..... it is not a few deaths roving the world around him that make a hnau miserable. It is a bent hnau that would blacken the world." Comment on the implications of this statement, and how may this idea be connected to your first discussion on pleasure and the recollection of pleasures.

Group 4

"It was necessary and the necessary was always possible."
Discuss the nature of that which is necessary in this novel. Correlate your ideas to what attitude, concerning necessity, would be expressed by:

- a) Weston
- b) Ransom
- c) Devine
- d) The Sorns, Hrossa and Oyarsa, i.e. the Malacandrian hnau.

Consider all the implications of this area of discussion.