

SHORN: BOOK ONE OF THE SKY SEEKERS

Book Club Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be Shorn? How is the marginalization of Shorn people like the "othering" of certain people in our own history?
2. What are some parallels between the political structures of Avelos and our own reality?
3. Jhared struggles with feelings of guilt and shame over his ancestors' actions. How do the citizens of Avelos reinforce those feelings in order to control Jhared and other Shorn people?
4. What does it mean to "travel the paths?" What makes Lady Nemiah especially good at it?
5. How does the religion of Avelos shape its culture? In particular, how does the concept of "balance" and the tension between the Goddess of Order, Riana, and the spirit of chaos, Cael, influence the behavior of Avelonian people?
6. Avelos oppresses and exploits Shorn people, but not all Avelonian leaders agree with this policy. Why? What are some of the ways Shorn people push back against their oppression?
7. What is the nature of Jhared's relationship with his foster family? Why is it so unusual in his culture?
8. What is the nature of Nemiah's relationships with her Arionad, Rom, and her Bearer, Leita? How do they help her see into the true nature of Avelonian power?
9. How do Jhared's talents—music, tracking, archery, healing—compensate for the limitations placed on him by Avelos?
10. What do you think will be the source of the killing winds?
11. At the end of the novel, Jhared feels confident that he will be able to "complete the Shorn promise with final reparation." Why does he think so, and do you think he's right?

