



1. How does the Sultan's plan to send the plague to Venice compare to modern warfare? Can you see any similarities?
2. Annibale and Feyra both wear disguises. How do their clothes influence their characters? Do they depend upon the masks they wear?
3. Feyra tackles the Plague with Eastern Medicine, while Annibale uses Western methods. How do they differ? Which is more effective?
4. The Doge of Venice believes that faith can save the city. Is he right? How does Palladio's church help to cement this belief? How significant is architecture to the Christian and Muslim faiths?
5. How does Annibale change once he is on the island of the Lazzaretto Novo? What changes does the island bring about in Feyra?
6. How does the arrival of Annibale's mother change the atmosphere on the plague island? How does she compare to the other maternal figures in the novel, such as the Sultana and the Badessa?

Discussion Questions



7. Takat Turan and the Camerlengo are both faithful servants to their respective masters. But is either of them a good man?
8. How does the Great Fire of Venice become a turning point for the characters in the book?
9. Which society seems more misogynistic, that of Venice or Constantinople?
10. The image of the horse is a constant presence in the book. How important is this motif?

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