

## 2. The Horse and His Boy Discussion Group

Week	Date	Reading Assignment	Chapters Discussed
Wk 1	Sept 10	Chs 1, 2	1. How Shasta Set Out on His Travels 2. A Wayside Adventure
Wk 2	Sept 17	Chs 3, 4, 5	3. At the Gates of Tashbaan 4. Shasta Falls in with the Narnians 5. Prince Corin
Wk 3	Sept 24	Chs 6, 7, 8	6. Shasta Among the Tombs 7. Aravis in Tashbaan 8. In the House of the Tisroc
Wk 4	Oct 1	Chs 9, 10	9. Across the Desert 10. The Hermit of the Southern March
Wk 5	Oct 8	11, 12, 13	11. The Unwelcome Fellow Traveler 12. Shasta in Narnia 13. The Fight at Anvard
Wk 6	Oct 22	Chs 14, 15	14. How Bree Became a Wiser Horse 15. Rabadash the Ridiculous

...Next beyond her  
 MERCURY marches; --madcap rover,  
 Patron of pilfrers. Pert quicksilver  
 His gaze begets, goblin mineral,  
 Merry multitude of meeting selves  
 Same but sundered. From the soul's darkness,  
 With wreathed wand, words he marshals,  
 Guides and gather them--gay bellweather  
 Of flocking fancies. His flint has struck  
 The spark of speech from spirit's tinder,  
 Lord of language! He leads forever  
 The spangle and splendour, sport that mingles  
 Sound with sense, in subtle pattern,  
 Words in wedlock, and wedding also  
 Of thing with thought.

from C.S. Lewis' poem, "The Planets"

"Mercury produces quicksilver. Dante gives his sphere to the beneficent men of action. Isidore, on the other hand says this planet is called Mercurius because he is the patron of profit (*mercibus praeest*). Gowere says that a man born under Mercury will be 'studious' and 'in writing curious'.... The Wife of Bath associates him especially with clerks. In Martianus Capella's *De Nuptiis* he is the bridegroom of Philogia -- who is Learning or even Literature rather than what we call 'philology'. And I am pretty sure that 'the Words of Mercury' contrasted with the 'the Songs of Apollo' at the ned of *Love's Labour's Lost* are 'picked', or rhetorical prose. It is difficult to see the unity in all these characteristics. 'Skilled eagerness' or 'bright alacrity' is the best I can do. But it is better just to take some real mercury in a saucer and play with it for a few minutes. *That* is what 'Mercurial' means."

C. S. Lewis, *The Discarded Image*

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### Chapter Three: At the Gates of Tashbaan

1. What do you think of Aravis' storytelling? What is the tension between her storytelling and Shasta's questions?
2. With whom is Aravis relationally connected? With whom is she disconnected? With whom does she not care?
3. What does Shasta ask about Aravis'
4. How do the virtues or vices of each manifest themselves in the characters?

### Chapter Four: Shasta Falls in with the Narnians

1. How is Tashbaan described?
2. How are the Narnian's described? What is the difference between them and the 'men of Calormen'? How would you contrast the wonder of Tashbaan and the loveliness of the Narnians?
3. How are the Narnian proverbs different from the Calormen proverbs?
4. Describe Susan. What is she like?

### Chapter Five: Prince Corin

1. How does the interaction between words and deeds play out?
2. How people married in Tashbaan and in Colormen?
3. What problem do the Narnian's face and what is the Narnian plan?
4. What mercurial things have taken place the past three chapters?

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<b>Calormen Proverbs</b>	<b>Narnian Proverbs</b>
Application to business is the root of prosperity, but those who ask questions that do not concern them are steering the ship of folly toward the rock of indigence.	See the bear in his own den before you judge his conditions.
Natural affection is stronger than soup and offspring more precious than carbuncles?	Come, live with me and you'll know me.
He who attempts to deceive the judicious is already baring his own back for the scourge.	Easily in but not easily out, as the lobster said to the lobster pot!
Swords can be kept off with shields but the Eye of Wisdom pierces through every defense!	We should be merely rats fighting in a trap. Nests before eggs.