

5. 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 15 | 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"

"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*

Chapter Eleven: The Unwelcome Fellow Traveler

1. How is King Lune described? How is this significant?
2. What judgments do the Archenlanders make of Shasta? On what basis? Is there any credence to the basis of their judgment?
3. Describe the setting Shasta's journey after being separated from the Archenlanders. Why is this significant? What is Lewis showing us?
4. Who does Shasta meet? What spiritual truths is Lewis showing us? What is the significance of the interaction with the unwelcome fellow traveler? What does Shasta learn?

Chapter Twelve: Shasta in Narnia

1. How does Shasta's perception of luck change? How did he view himself? How does he now understand himself?
2. How are the horns of Tashbaan described? How are the horns of Archenland described? How are the horns of Narnia described?

Chapter Thirteen: The Fight at Anvard

1. How does the mercurial move and assemble?
2. In what way are words used?

