

The Last Battle: Week 1

Reading schedule. We will discuss three chapters each week.

1. By Caldron Pool, The Rashness of the King, The Rashness of the King, The Ape in Its Glory
2. What Happened That Night, How Help Came to the King, A Good Nights Work
3. Mainly About Dwarfs, What News the Eagle Brought, The Great Meeting on Stable Hill
4. Who Will Go into the Stable?, The Pace Quickens, Through the Stable Door
5. How the Dwarfs Refused to Be Taken In
6. Night Falls on Narnia, Further Up and Further In, Farewell to the Shadow Lands

“...Up far beyond
Goes Saturn silent in the seventh region,
The skirts of the sky. Scant grows the light,
Sickly, uncertain (the Sun’s finger
Daunted with darkness). Distance hurts us,
And the vault severe of vast silence;
Where fancy fails us, and fair language,
And love leaves us, and light fails us
And Mars fails us, and the mirth of Jove
Is as tin tinklin. In tattered garment,
Weak with winters, he walks forever
A weary way, wide round the heav’n,
Stoop’d and stumbling, with staff groping,
The lord of lead. He is the last planet
Old and ugly. His eye fathers
Pale pestilence, pain of envy,
Remorse and murder. Melancholy drink
(For bane or blessing) of bitter wisdom
He pours for his people, a perilous draught
That the lip loves not. We leave all things
To reach the rim of the round welkin,
Heaven’s hermitage, high and lonely.”

“The Planets”

“Not that I am (I think) in much danger of ceasing to believe in God. The real danger is of coming to believe such dreadful things about Him. The conclusion I dread is not 'So there's no God after all,' but 'So this is what God's really like. Deceive yourself no longer.’”

C. S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed*

“Aslan is a lion- the Lion, the great Lion.”

“Ooh” said Susan. “I’d thought he was a man. Is he- quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion”

...“Safe?” said Mr Beaver ...“Who said anything about safe? ‘Course he isn’t safe. But he’s good. He’s the King, I tell you.”

The Lion the Witch, and the Wardrobe

For Mr. Beaver had warned them, “He’ll be coming and going,” he had said. “One day you’ll see him and another you won’t. He doesn’t like being tied down—and of course he has other countries to attend to. It’s quite all right. He’ll often drop in. Only you mustn’t press him. He’s wild, you know. Not like a *tame* lion.”

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

“Of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It would be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies. The robber baron’s cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end for they do so with the approval of their own conscience.”

C.S. Lewis

Chapter 1: By Caldron Pool

1. Describe the characters we meet. What do their names say about them?
2. What do they find in the Cauldron Pool and what do they do with it?
3. How does Shift manipulate Puzzle? How does Shift use his imagination? How does Puzzle use his imagination?

Chapter 2: The Rashness of the King

1. What role do signs play in the story? Are they heading the signs or ignoring them?
2. Who comes to King Tirian.
3. What do they say about Aslan? What does it mean and is their definition full?
4. Facing bad news, what does King Tirian say they must do? What does Jewel say would’ve been better?
5. What had grown in the center of the wood that the Colormens were cutting down?

Chapter 3: The Ape in Its Glory

1. What do Tirian and Jewel do in response to the Narnian horse being beaten? Was their response appropriate or not?
2. What does King Tirian say it would be better to be dead than...?
3. What is on the “highest point of the hill”?
4. Describe how Shift is now dressed? What about his crown?
5. Where is Shift sending the Narnians? What does he say is the reason?
6. Who is the only one with the boldness to stand up to Shift?
7. What do the Calormen and the cat discuss?