

3. The Last Battle: Mainly About Dwarfs, What News the Eagle Brought, The Great Meeting on Stable Hill

Reading schedule. We will discuss three chapters each week.

1. By Caldron Pool, 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, How the Dwarfs Refused to Be Taken In
5. 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”

“She is a black stone without head or hands or face, and a very strong goddess. My old master, whom we called the Fox, said she was the same whom the Greeks call Aphrodite...”

C. S. Lewis, *Till We Have Faces*

When we had made some progress in our task the King brought the Priest of Ungit in to hear us. I had a fear of that Priest which was quite different from my fear of my father. I think that what frightened me (in those early days) was the holiness of the smell that hung about him—a temple-smell of blood (mostly pigeons’ blood, but he had sacrificed men, too) and burnt fat and singed hair and wine and stale incense. It is the Ungit smell. Perhaps I was afraid of his clothes too; all the skins they were made of, and the dried bladders, and the great mask shaped like a bird’s head which hung on his chest. It looked as if there were a bird growing out of his body.

C. S. Lewis, *Till We Have Faces*

We may give our human loves the unconditional allegiance which we owe only to God. Then they become gods: then they become demons. Then they will destroy us, and also destroy themselves. For natural loves that are allowed to become gods do not remain loves. They are still called so, but can become in fact complicated forms of hatred.

C. S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

"...The Hideous Strength holds all this Earth in its fist to squeeze as it wishes. But for their one mistake, there would be no hope left. If of their own evil will they had not broken the frontier and let in the celestial Powers, this would be their moment of victory. Their own strength has betrayed them. They have gone to the gods who would not have come to them, and pulled down Deep Heaven on their heads. Therefore, they will die. For though you search every cranny to escape, now that you see all crannies closed, you will not disobey me."

C. S. Lewis, *That Hideous Strength*

My father was there in very splendid robes. And there was a great bird-headed man. By the smell and the smoke there seemed to have been much killing already, at the altar in the courtyard. (Food for the gods must always be found somehow, even when the land starves.)

C. S. Lewis, *Till We Have Faces*

"But . . . oh if one could have a charge in the old style. I don't mind anything once I'm on a horse." "I don't understand it," said Dimble. "I'm not like you, MacPhee. I'm not brave. But I was just thinking as you spoke that I don't feel afraid of being killed and hurt as I used to do. Not tonight." "We may be, I suppose," said Jane. "As long as we're all together," said Mother Dimble. "It might be . . . no, I don't mean anything heroic . . . it might be a nice way to die." And suddenly all their faces and voices were changed. They were laughing again, but it was a different kind of laughter. Their love for one another became intense. Each, looking on all the rest, thought, "I'm lucky to be here. I could die with these."

C. S. Lewis, *That Hideous Strength*

Chapter 7: Mainly about Dwarfs

1. What do we know about dwarfs? Consider all the dwarfs we've met through the Chronicles. Why do they suspect Tirian and Jill? How does their behavior mirror other dwarfs we've met?
2. What seems to be the only thing the dwarfs can trust? How do they say this?
3. What lies has Ginger told?
4. What was the nature of the 'knowing looks' which Ginger and Rishda Tarkaan?

Chapter 8: What News the Eagle Brought

1. Whom does the company see passing by? Describe him.
2. What is the news that the eagle brings?
3. What counsel does Roonwit send to Tirian?

Chapter 9: The Great Meeting on Stable Hill

1. How does Tirian view the last battle?
2. How is the Hill described?
3. What do Jill and Eustace say to each other? What do they suspect brought them into Narnia?
4. How do Jewel and Tirian speak to each other before they move ahead?
5. How has the Ape changed? OR How has the Ape become fixed?>
6. How does Rishda, Ginger, and the Ape make their lie stronger?