

Discussion Questions for DawnSinger (Tales of Faeraven 1)

Question 1: In the beginning of the story, is Katera's shock at finding Shae asleep in the Place of Prayer genuine?

Answer 1: Katera feigns shock to mock Shae. Aleanor's preference for her flesh-and-blood daughter has sparked a superior attitude toward Shae in Katera. Since Shae's devotion to prayer is far greater than her own, Katera feels the need to devalue it to protect her role as the "perfect" twin. The only other alternative would be for Katera to develop a prayer life of her own, something she doesn't know how to do. Her inability to best Shae in this area irritates her and makes her unkind. Later at Graelinn Hold when Katera senses the power of Shae's prayers, she again lashes out at her sister. This time Shae understands her anger as frustration with herself, and Katera humbles herself enough to ask for help in developing her own prayer life.

Question 2: What major factor contributed to Kai's attachment to Maeven since his early life?

Answer 2: Kai left his mother and went to live among the Guardians of Faeraven at a young age. Because of this, Maeven became something of a mother figure for him, although he didn't recognize this.

Question 3: Can souls really touch?

Answer 3: In common lingo, we speak of being touched, feeling another's pain, and of a meeting of the minds. Perhaps we simply use the physical to help us express intangibles, but these concepts inspired the soul touch found in DawnSinger .

Question 4: Why does Shae have so much trouble breaking her bond with Frearer?

Answer 4: Shae is blinded by Frearer's beauty and confused by the conflicting emotions he evokes in her.

Question 5: When Kai's wound turned septic, he slowed Shae's progress. Should he have sent her on without him instead?

Answer 5: That would possibly have been the noble thing to do, but Kai couldn't overcome his protective instincts where Shae was concerned. He also felt that Shae might not complete her journey without his skills. Later in the Cavern of Death, he does send her on without him.

Question 6: What is the significance of the Chasm of Confusion?

Answer 6: It leads from a place of defeat (Paid Burien) into the Smallwood, a place of bondage.

Question 7: What does the Smallwood represent?

Answer 7: It symbolizes the smallness of our own selfish natures, which both compel and repulse us.

Question 8: What are waevens most like in the real world?

Answer 8: They closely match an addiction. A spider waeven injects a hidden poison that eats away its victim's soul. A waeven's bite carries its victim into an insane world and requires a miracle to bring healing.

Question 9: Just before she goes through the Gate of Life, Kai nods his approval. Why does he do this?

Answer 9: Kai loves Shae enough to let her go. His sacrifice is almost as great as hers.

Question 10: Why did the death song wield such power in the story?

Answer 10: Shae sang it as she essentially surrendered her own life so that others would live. When we sacrificially give to others, miracles occur.