

Discussion Questions for Wayfarer (Tales of Faeraven 2)

Question 1: Why does Elcon at first reject Emmerich?

Answer 1: Elcon objects to Emmerich's age because he feels insecure about his own position as a youth in authority. His recent troubles make him leary of Emmerich as an Elder. Elcon also senses the truth of Emmerich's identity, and because he fears losing his position over his people, he banishes Emmerich.

Question 2: Why does Brother Robb refuse to let Aewen take a vow of celibacy?

Answer 2: Aewen's request puts him in an awkward position. He sympathizes with her but doesn't believe she should take the vow. He also prefers not to cross her father, his King.

Question 3: What are King Euryon's reasons for refusing to pledge his loyalty to Elcon?

Answer 3: Fre aer visited Euryon first and succeeded in confusing his loyalties. Also Euryon doesn't feel very attached to Kindren matters. He honors his own wish to remain neutral by promising not to align himself with Fre aer against Elcon.

Question 4: How does Elcon's attraction to Aewen differ from his interest in Arillia?

Answer 4: Aewen's exotic beauty stuns Elcon, but he doesn't know her well. By contrast, his relationship with Arillia has grown over time but seems to him bland because of its familiarity.

Question 5: Why does Aewen's mother dislike her servant so much?

Answer 5: Because Inydde has lost touch with Aewen, she resents her closeness with Gaela. Her jealousy shows both her desire and her inability to love her child as she should.

Question 6: When Elcon declares his feelings for Aewen, is he being loving or selfish?

Answer 6: Although provoked by a combination of concern for her and Aewen's words, Elcon chooses to overstep the boundaries that separate them. He recognizes this fact later, when her father reproaches him and tries to put things right through his offer of marriage.

Question 7: Although he blames himself, did Elcon really cause Aewen's death?

Answer 7: Elcon certainly put in motion the series of events that culminated in Aewen's death, so he does bear part of the responsibility. However, Aewen chose her own path into hardship. Besides this, some of the blame belongs to Frear for leading the attack that drove her from Torindan and to those who sided with him. And finally, part of the cause of Aewen's death was no one's fault.