

Discussion Questions

Book 2: Thaddeus and the Master

Book Club Leaders ... contact Louis to participate in a special meeting to discuss the book; the concepts; and the evolution of the series. In-person gatherings are possible if you are in the Midwest and Louis is available. Otherwise, Zoom is always an option.

1 The prophesied fourth member of the group of Apprentices is introduced as a student already an Upperclassman. The street thief Rolland immediately takes a dislike to him as he is a 'Man of the Sun'. Is it the obligation of Thaddeus and Anders to attempt to interrupt and correct Rolland's obvious and harmful racist views in order to save the Prophecy *or* to improve his 'human-hood' and life's attitude?

2 The Master Cook at the College of Sorcerer's is the last of the Fathers of Men, though Thaddeus and his friends do not understand the significance of this fact. Additionally, he claims to be father to the leader of the Thieves' Guild in Fountaindale. Given that this leader, Faran, has but recently put a bounty on Rolland's head, how are Thaddeus and Anders to address this threat and, more basically, should they?

3 The thief's attempt to use forbidden Sorcerous powers on the College grounds results in a *Daemon* appearing to carry him off. Only Thaddeus' timely intervention saves his Brother Apprentice, but at the cost of bringing his ability to control such a being to the attention of the Evil Sorcerer, Perditus. Would Thaddeus have been better to consider an alternate strategy to free his friend rather than give away his secret so easily?

4 Rolland uses knowledge gained from his life-long association with the Thieve's Guild to diagnose that some of the *Faerrae* Folk have become addicted to the honey from Beewicke that their Master has liberally dispersed to them. During Rolland's withdrawal of the Sprites from this dependence, it is learned that his Master has used this minions' addiction to his advantage. Do Rolland and his Brothers have an obligation to expose their knowledge of this issue and address it with their Master?

5 Thaddeus is transported to the *Orbis Magnus*, the Great Ring, by powers beyond his control. There he is greeted by Iam, Keeper of the Ring. It dawns on Thaddeus that he may have traveled back in time. How will he be able to return to his own world? How can he prove to others where and to when he traveled?

6 After a year at the Sorcerer's College, Thaddeus returns to visit his parents but finds that his feelings toward them have changed as he realizes he is no longer the callow youth he was when first he left Beewicke. How can Thaddeus come to grips with the meaning and understanding of how things have changed for him and, more

importantly, how can he help his Mother and Father to recognize these new and strangely foreign aspects now present in their only child?

7 Zoarr of Mauresia meets Rolland's child-hood friend, Molly-O-the-Willows and is immediately taken with her, to the extent that he proposes marriage on the spot. Molly, from a working-class background, is hesitant thinking the young Prince only seeks a 'bed-warmer'. What steps must Zoarr take to ease his love's mind and show her both the respect and honor she secretly craves.

8 Excelsior-class brigands attack the three friends, but are dealt with harshly as they had discounted the Mauresian's spell-casting abilities, thinking him a novice as opposed to Upper Class. This was also a revelation to Zoarr's classmates. How is it, though, that they could not have known or guessed that he already possessed such talent?

9 On the journey to Bannock, Rolland is approached by a mystic pale horse seeking the solution to a riddle. Rolland answers correctly and is granted a boon in return. After the creature leaves him, the Apprentice describes the incident to his mule. Asullus is more than surprised by the visitation and sees immediately that his young charge has no idea of the identity or significance of the interaction. Should Asullus make Rolland aware of what his fate is to be now or remain silent regarding the boy's destiny?

10 Master Silvestrus brings his four Apprentices to a meeting of negotiation concerning an attack on a member from the College of Sorcerers. At the tense summit, Silvestrus is aware of Faran, Fountindale's Thieves' Guild's leader, who, himself, harbors secrets concerning his exact relationship to the last remaining Father of Man, Specus, and Rolland, the street boy. What Master Silvestrus is *not* prepared for is the presence of a long-ago banished Apprentice, now Sorcerer of the Black Order who once lusted after the Master's love. Is it Silvestrus' duty to confine the settlement to an oath-swearing only, or should he release the pent-up wrath toward his former failed student and indulge himself in revenge for vile attack on the Lady Geanninia?

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