



The Legend of the Dagger Prince
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The Legend of the Dagger Prince Literary Guide (With Answers)

This guide provides suggested questions and answers to assist in teaching *The Legend of the Dagger Prince* as literature, or for book club discussions. A version of this guide without answers is also available.

NOTE: This guide discusses issues relating to the book as a whole. To avoid “spoilers,” you may wish to draw from this guide as a starting point to develop questions based on groups of chapters.

• *Who is the “dagger prince”?*

The obvious answer is “Prince Korbin.” But as the book develops, we find little Nattan becoming enamored with the dagger; and ultimately it is the boy who uses the dagger to slay the villain.

• *The cost of deception is one of the central themes of the story. What deception lays the groundwork for all the tragedy within *The Legend of the Dagger Prince*?*

The choice by King Tsedecc to shield Prince Korbin from all knowledge regarding his brother, which in turn leads to Karridin’s ability to deceive the younger boy.

• *What other factors have contributed to the conflict at the center of the story?*

- ◇ Ill-conceived training of Karridin by Morashi
- ◇ King Tsedecc’s choices with regard to Karridin
- ◇ King Tsedecc’s distance from Prince Korbin, and the latter’s naïveté
- ◇ King Tsedecc’s misplaced trust in Adraans
- ◇ ?

• *How would you describe the character of King Tsedecc?*

A man who feels more than he expresses. A basically righteous man who is not all that wise. He has had the wisdom to surround himself with wise counselors, but not to listen to them when it really counts.

• *What role does Mordecani play in the story?*

Although clearly Korbin is the main protagonist, Mordecani is arguably the primary hero of the story. It is he who protects the Prince, sorts out the course of events, and generally reveals the truth, whereas

the Prince, despite having numerous sympathetic qualities, for the most part is portrayed as naïve and frequently vulnerable.

• *What does Korbin's adoption of Nattan contribute to the plot?*

Nattan becomes the means both of Karridin's death as well as the dynastic succession. Of course, he also helps provide occasional comic relief.

• *What are some examples of irony in the book?*

◇ Karridin tricks Korbin into killing his father, and ends up being killed by his own son.
◇ Karridin's undoing is a direct result of his evil, as Nattan is the product of what he did to Nattanah.
◇ Korbin laughs at the thought of a resemblance between "Sheq" and Tsedec, not knowing that the two are in fact father and son.

• *What are some examples of foreshadowing in the story?*

The repeated emphasis on the strength of Korbin's legs as well as Nattan's improbable strength and his attachment to the dagger hint at the climactic fight scene, as does Korbin's jest to Meresy that he would fill the great chest with earth.

• *What is the point of Mordecani's story about Areonani?*

Doing what is right requires more than having the right intentions; it involves appropriately-placed trust.

• *How does Nattan address Meresy? Why is this appropriate?*

He calls her "Amnessy," which sounds like "amnesty"—which is what she has received.

• *What two characters share the honorific, "the Wise"? What sort of wisdom is represented by each?*

Mordecani and Addrach. Primarily, Mordecani's wisdom aims to apply knowledge to do what is right; Addrach's wisdom aims to apply knowledge for his own safety and benefit.

• *Each of the book's two parts span two years. What is the significance of the naming of each part?*

In the first part of the book, at Karridin's behest Korbin does things in his own name, and although this is ostensibly for the Sheqqim people, it revolves around himself. In the second part of the book, Korbin's life revolves around his father and his legacy. (See also the answer to the final question.)

• *For reflection: Did you find the conclusion of the story satisfying? Why, or why not? Did the Rule of Patricide get applied to Prince Korbin, and if so, in what way?*

[Thoughts: The Prince does die, although not literally. Not only is he subject to a symbolic execution; he henceforth goes by the name of his father and is not known by his own name. He dies to his own legacy, so that his father's can live through him.]