

Socratic Seminar: *Siddhartha* Ch. 8-10

- * **Read from *Siddhartha*, Chapter 8-10:**
- * **Then think about...**
 - * How has Siddhartha changed over time so far?
What moment has changed him most?
 - * If you were Siddhartha, what would you do?
 - * What role does the Vasudeva play?
...The Son?
...Kamala?
What makes sense? What does not?

Period 5/7 Notes (1)

- * Did Sidd. succeed or fail as a father?
 - * Neither... didn't have a chance
 - * Old Sidd. wanted to live a new life
- * Will he look back with regrets?
 - * Son will make a difference
- * Consensus: Sidd. WILL go back for son
- * Will Son hate Sidd.?
- * Son would have left no matter what; could Son have learned to deal?
 - * He came from a different place
 - * "Couldn't tolerate it"
 - * BUT: book talks a lot about how people change; he's young and malleable
- * Talia is really upset about stealing the boat
 - * Is the Son excused because he is young? How does age influence our perceptions...
- * Sidd. keeps having to start over...

Period 5/7 Notes (2)

- * What will happen to Son in the city?
 - * Son is spoiled
 - * Sidd. should have tried harder
- * Was it reasonable for the Son to take things?
 - * Son was going through a lot...
 - * Was only thinking about himself
 - * Leaving seemed better than staying (mom died)
- * Do you think the Son has regrets?
 - * Doesn't regret meeting his dad
- * Relationship between Sidd. and Son
 - * Sidd. will understand
 - * Can "only go downhill"
- * Should Sidd. chase?
 - * Sidd.'s father didn't chase after him
- * Vasu = new Govinda; helps Sidd. and Son
- * Sidd. had good intentions; did not have the skills

Period 9/11 Notes (1)

- * What's the purpose of skipping years?
 - * Integral points
 - * Skipping boring, repetitive moments of his life
- * What is Kamala lived?
 - * She would not have stopped
 - * Son would've been better
 - * Son would've still been anti-Sidd.
- * Relationship
 - * Vasu: tells Sidd. he can't protect his son from "sansara"
- * Learning from teachings vs. doing
- * Vasu: enlightened?
- * Govinda too?
- * Vasudeva happy; content with the river
- * What are the "other things"
 - * River says "Om"?
 - * There is "no time"
- * How does Son influence Sidd.'s enlightenment journey
 - * Son would have found something wrong no matter what
- * "Is it worth it?"
 - * Sidd. "says it himself"; it is
 - * Worth being "happy"
- * Titles > "Journey"

Period 9/11 Notes (2)

- * Govinda's influence
 - * Govinda will "always be there"; strong friendship
 - * Was Govinda happy? "Did he even say bye?"
- * When the Son stole things, how did you feel?
 - * Parallel to Sidd.; "would rather die than stay"
 - * "Had to happen"
 - * Vasu: "let him go"
 - * What happens if he doesn't have the money?
- * What will happen if they find the Son?
 - * Sidd. would not be angry
 - * They would find him distressed; could lead to a bond (cliche)
- * Jo: Is Sidd. just not the fatherly type?
- * Son is older; Sidd. doesn't know him
- * Does Son know who Sidd. is?
 - * Nessa: Probably; Kamala told him about him
- * How similar are they?
- * Why is Sidd. trying to force this teaching?
 - * Shows how much he has changed; more like a merchant
 - * Lanz: Loneliness forces him to react
 - * D.C.: How would it be different if Sidd. didn't try to force it?
- * Cooke: How did you feel about Kamala's death?
 - * Felt bad about Son
 - * For a reason
 - * Govinda watched out for snakes for Sidd.; snake bit Kamala
 - * Snakes = rejuvenation

Period 2/4 Notes (1)

- * How will Sidd. feel after Son leaves?
 - * Sidd. won't be able to let it go
- * How would things have been different is he didn't have a kid?
 - * Wouldn't - he still doesn't have a Son
 - * Son knew, but didn't recognize Sidd. as dad
- * Vasu: why don't you just let him go?
 - * **Sidd. felt responsibility to Kamala**
 - * **Wants to make up for lost time**
 - * Wants to save Son from going on similar path
- * What if Kamala hadn't died?
- * What if Sidd. had been more firm with Son?
 - * Son would have still left
 - * **Punishing Son would not have made him respect Sidd.**
- * Will Sidd. go back
 - * maybe to die?
- * How would you have handled little Sidd. running away?
- * Son breaking the oar was "too much"
- * Overall changes:
 - * Had to figure out what he didn't like
 - * Was happier away from home
- * Why did he leave Kamala?
 - * He was getting tired of greedy merchant life
 - * **Was not about love; could have been anybody**

Period 2/4 Notes (2)

- * What did he learn from Kamala?
 - * Wanted not to learn the feeling of love, but the physical aspect
 - * Early on: he wanted a physical attraction
- * **What is something that Sidd. envied others for that he didn't have in his own life?**
 - * Love
 - * He loved Kam. to the best of his ability
 - * Kam. gave him Son, something to love
- * Theory: **Son is final step to enlightenment**; can't reach enlightenment w/o Son/peace of himself?
- * Son is same as Sidd.; more confused, will go down similar path
- * Why? Sidd. is "just a little brat"
- * **How are Sidd./Son similar?**
 - * Non-attached
 - * Will find own path
- * What if Vasu. spoke more than listened?
 - * Only really speaks when someone needs to hear it; **"river gives him some sort of power to know"**
 - * silence makes his few words meaningful
- * What if Kamala didn't die?
 - * relationship with Son/Sidd. would have been stronger
 - * Would he have met his dad?

Period 10/12 Notes (1)

- * If Kamala lived...
 - * Sidd/Son's relationship would be different
 - * Kamala/Son loved each other; would've made things better
- * Why did Sidd. just leave Kamala?
- * What was it like to see Sidd. & Gov.
 - * Intimate relationship; could be brothers
 - * Homosexual undertones...
 - * Kamala
- * **When Son ran away, could Son pursue an awakening of his own?**
 - * Son stole, Sidd. left with permission
 - * Maybe... too young to tell
- * Maybe... and it would be similar to how Sidd. left on his own journey
- * Why so much time?
 - * Shows intentionality of thought
 - * **Author means to include ALL of the moments of change in his life**
- * Vasu: Did his influence change Sidd. feelings about teachers?
 - * teachings come from the river; changing Sidd.'s learning style
- * What will Sidd. do next?
 - * New course; maybe go after Son?
- * **Is Sidd. closer to enlightenment?**

Period 10/12 Notes (2)

* **Why was Sidd. so against being strict with Son?**

- * Home was strict; Sidd. wanted to keep Son around
- * Kamala died; Sidd. is being considerate
- * His way of winning him over
- * Wants his Son to learn the same way he did

* **Did Son go too far?**

- * He went “overboard”
- * Overreacted by breaking the oar
- * Sidd.’s Highs & Lows; is this another awakening?
 - * Mixture
 - * Sansara was a distraction from enlightenment
- * Does his constant leaving have to do with being a Brahmin?

* Constantly trying something different leads him to enlightenment

* **Being educated gave him the ability to question things?**

- * Foreshadow: misdirection
- * Could the Son not be his son?
 - * Kamala was a prostitute after all...
 - * But they had a connection
 - * **Maybe she wanted him to raise him**
 - * It is his son; similarly unsatisfied with home
- * How did Sidd. fall so easily into greed/satisfaction/hunger
 - * Kamala; she needed shoes, clothes, \$; he chose intimacy
- * Chain reaction of enlightenment
 - * would rather be a “highway robber”