

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Here's a lively set of discussion questions for your book club to dive into *Nguni's Trade*—perfect for sparking debate, laughter, and maybe even a little dragon-inspired introspection!

### Themes & Worldbuilding

1. **Tanninim vs. Humans:** The tanninim live alongside humans but keep their true nature hidden. Would you choose secrecy like them, or would you advocate for openness? What are the risks of each?
2. **Power & Leadership:** An-Mbire rules cautiously, while Nguni craves bold action. Who do you think is the better leader, and why? Have you ever been torn between caution and ambition in your own life?
3. **Cultural Clash:** The tanninim struggle with whether to integrate or isolate. Can you think of real-world parallels to this tension? How do *you* balance tradition with change?

### Character Deep Dives

1. **Nguni's Flaws:** He's ambitious, impulsive, and often selfish... yet he's our protagonist! Do you find him sympathetic? Would you trust him as a friend (or ruler)?
2. **Rozwi's Loyalty:** She's Nguni's moral compass but also enables him. Do you think she's too forgiving? Have you ever stuck by a friend who kept making mistakes?
3. **LeahAn's Quiet Love:** She pines for Nguni for decades without acknowledgment. Heartbreaking or frustrating? Would you have given up on him sooner?

### Plot & Speculation

1. **Biggest Betrayal:** Which moment shocked you most—Nguni's scheming, Bashat's fate, or An-Mbire's final ultimatum?
2. **Kilwa's Fall:** The off-screen war changes everything. How do you imagine it happened? Do you think Nguni bears real blame?
3. **What's Next?:** The book ends with Nguni leaving for Kilwa. Predict his future: Redemption? Ruin? A surprise dragon empire?

### Fun & Creative

1. **Which Tannin Are You?:** Take a quick vote—are you a cautious An-Mbire, a fiery Rozwi, or a restless Nguni? Defend your choice!

2. **Fantasy Casting:** If this were a series, who would you cast as Nguni? (Bonus: Should it be live-action or animated?)
3. **Dragon Economy:** Trading gold, masonry skills, and iron work keep the city thriving. What modern trade would *you* introduce to Great Zimbabwe?

### Personal Reflection

1. **Secrets & Sacrifice:** The tanninim hide to survive. Have you ever kept a big secret to protect yourself or others? How did it weigh on you?
2. **Legacy vs. Survival:** An-Mbire prioritizes safety; Nguni wants glory. Which do you value more in your own life—security or leaving a mark?
3. **Unrequited Love:** LeahAn, Rozwi, even Nguni—so many yearn for someone who doesn't see them. What's your take on love that isn't returned?

**Bonus Wildcard:** If you could ask the author *one* question about this world, what would it be?

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These questions balance analysis with personal connection, ensuring a dynamic discussion. Happy reading—and may your book club live as long as Melchaiyim, even to the end of the age.