

BOOK CLUB/DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. How has *Anahita's Woven Riddle* changed your perspective on Iranian culture?
2. What aspects of the Muslim religion or world view, as portrayed in the book, relate to your own religion or world view?
3. Read the poem "A Great Wagon" (included in chapter twenty). Do you think Rumi wrote the poem to a woman or to God (Allah)? Discuss your answer using examples from the text.
4. In the last stanza of "A Great Wagon" (included in chapter twenty), Rumi says, 'Some of us walking alongside/are lame!' Discuss his meaning within the context of the poem.
5. In fiction, the protagonist (main character) undertakes some sort of change by the end of the story. Discuss the ways Anahita has changed and grown.
6. Discuss the feminist element of the book and Anahita as a feminist icon.
7. When looking at a woven tapestry or rug, you often have to look closely to realize the complexity of the work, which looks simplified standing further away. Thinking about some of the characters in this way, how are their complexities revealed more fully upon closer inspection?
8. Thinking about what you've learned about ancient Persian culture from this book, discuss the differences and similarities with your own culture.
9. Discuss the idea of arranged marriage and what the advantages and disadvantages are.
10. Good writers know that it is important to make their characters complex and three-dimensional, especially the protagonist, who should have some weaknesses, and the antagonist, who should have some strengths. Using examples from the book, discuss Anahita (the protagonist) and the khan (the antagonist) as complex characters that possess both strengths and weaknesses.
11. Discuss how the author's use of multiple points of view in this book enhance the story, imagining how it might be different if it were told only from Anahita's point of view.