

Book Club Discussion Prompts

DOMINIQUE'S JOURNEY

A Novel by D. J. Pratt

1. Which character did you connect with most, and why? Did your feelings about any character change significantly as the story progressed?
2. Dominique's journey begins with questions about knowledge, love, and things he cannot explain. What do you think he is really searching for? Does what he is searching for change along the way?
3. Dominique encounters people from very different cultures, religions, and ways of life. Which encounter most changed the way he saw the world? Did any change the way you saw it?
4. Léonide, Claude, Avice, Trikala, and Leela each form a very different relationship with Dominique. Which person did you connect with most – and which relationship with Dominique did you find most compelling? Were they the same? Why or why not?
5. Dominique begins as a scholar who trusts reason and evidence, but he repeatedly encounters things that challenge what he thinks he knows. Where would you draw the line between reason, intuition, faith, and experience? Did Dominique draw it in the same place?
6. The idea of "home" follows Dominique throughout his journey. What does home come to mean to him? Did his evolving idea of home resonate with anything in your own life?
7. Dominique forms very different kinds of connections with the people he meets. What does the novel seem to suggest about love? Is love diminished when it takes different forms with different people – or can one connection deepen another?
8. Dominique encounters radically different attitudes toward religion, sexuality, gender, social class, authority, and spirituality. Which differences were hardest to view through the eyes of a person living in the 16th century? Did any make you reconsider assumptions of our own time?
9. Failure, waiting, and uncertainty recur throughout Dominique's journey. Which experiences that initially seemed like setbacks ultimately proved important to his growth? Do you think he could have learned the same things without them?
10. The novel repeatedly explores attachment – to people, places, possessions, beliefs, and even to our ideas about ourselves. Which attachments do you think sustain Dominique, and which hold him back?
11. Were there any "aha" moments when something you learned later suddenly made an earlier event, comment, or character action mean something entirely different? Which one stayed with you?

12. The novel sometimes leaves open whether an event is coincidence, destiny, intuition, or something else entirely. How did you decide what to believe? Were there mysteries you preferred the novel *not* to resolve?
13. By the end of the novel, how has your understanding of Dominique changed from the person you met at the beginning? What do you think changed most profoundly – and what, if anything, remained essentially the same?