

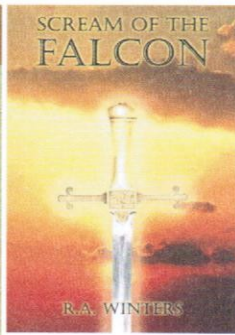
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READER'S GUIDE ~ SCREAM OF THE FALCON

1. In the Bible, certain scents are pleasing to God and many have a deep spiritual meaning. What is the meaning of the scents that surround Creator in the introduction of the book? What other scents later on in the story represent a connection between man and God?
2. During ancient times, names had a particularly deep meaning for families. Names could either represent an instantly noticeable characteristic about a child or their birth, or could represent characteristics that a parent wished for their child to develop. It was believed that naming had a power of its own and could literally change the fate of a child. How do the names of the characters foreshadow their fate in the story? What characters in the Bible were defined by their names? What biblical examples show us that we are not tied by circumstances to a particular fate (or name) but that only God has the ability to define our fate?
3. How do the main characters in the story display the Seven Attitudes of the Spiritual Life? The Seven Attitudes Of The Spiritual Life are:
 - a. Lying down (Ps. 23:2) for the purpose of rest
 - b. Sitting (Lu. 10:39) to receive instruction
 - c. Standing (Eph. 6:14) representing warfare
 - d. Walking (1 Jn. 1:7) fellowship with God
 - e. Running (He. 12:1) as a means of progress
 - f. Leaping (Ac. 3:8) spiritual ecstasy
 - g. Mounting Up (Is. 40:31) spiritual exaltation
4. The main characters put on the "Full Armour of God" (Eph. 6:13). The Armour of God helps us to stand our ground in the day of evil. In what situations



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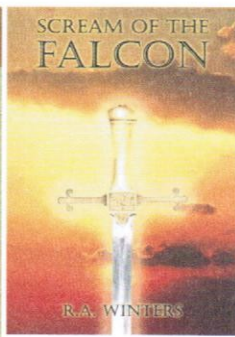
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throughout the book do we find the characters donning the armour in their battles? The armour includes:

- a. The belt of Truth
 - b. Breastplate of Righteousness
 - c. Feet shod with the Gospel of peace
 - d. Shield of Faith
 - e. Helmet of Salvation
 - f. Sword of the Spirit (Word of God)
5. Though the conceptualization of the Seven Deadly Sins began as early as the 4th century from monk Evagrius Ponticus' Eight Evil Thoughts, they morphed over the centuries eventually condensing into the modern rendition as depicted in Dante Alighieri's *The Divine Comedy*. In *Scream of the Falcon*, a few of the Seven Deadly Sins are represented by character sketches and experiences. Which characters represent someone taken in by a deadly sin?

The Seven Deadly Sins include:

- a. Pride
 - b. Envy
 - c. Gluttony
 - d. Lust
 - e. Wrath
 - f. Greed
 - g. Sloth
6. Prudentius wrote an epic poem c. 410 titled *Psychomachia* ("Battle for the Soul"). He offered that practicing the Seven Contrary Virtues would protect one against the temptations of the Seven Deadly Sins. Be mindful of the spiritual battles of the characters and watch for their success or failure in their



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battles. The Bible says that our warfare is not a physical battle against other men but a battle for our spirits (Eph. 6:12). The match-up looks like this:

- a. *humility* vs. pride
 - b. *kindness* vs. envy
 - c. *abstinence* vs. gluttony
 - d. *chastity* vs. lust
 - e. *patience* vs. wrath
 - f. *liberality* vs. greed
 - g. *diligence* vs. sloth
7. Ecclesiastes 3:1 from the King James Version (Cambridge Ed.) of the Bible says, “To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven.” Pay close attention to the physical seasons that occur in the book and how they mirror the spiritual seasons of the characters. I.e.: spring as new birth, growth or enlivenment; summer as vibrancy, peak of success; fall as the natural decline or time of careful gathering in; winter as a time of struggle, of unawakened success or triumph, death.
8. The Oracle of the Prophet Isaium at the beginning of *Scream of the Falcon* is an important poetic verse split into three parts with one third of the verse offered at the beginning of each story in *The Falcon Wars* trilogy. It prepares the reader for an understanding of the spiritual ties within and between each book as well as the plot to come. If this guide is being used in a book club encourage the readers in the group to try and dissect the verse ahead of reading to see who can guess the plot and spiritual meaning of the book to come.