

Notes for Podcast: *Stranger in Olondria*, Book 4**Book 4, Chapter Thirteen, Into the Valley**

In this chapter, Jevick meets Miros again, the young man who brought him to the first meeting with the High Priestess. Their meeting is informal, and it appears that they are becoming friends.

Read on page 143.

They stay at an inn, where they are treated well because of their association with Avalei. The grandmother tells a story about a sorcerer who falls in love with a dolphin, who is actually a beautiful woman who has been enchanted. The sorcerer follows her instructions and breaks the enchantment, freeing the woman and a whole city. He lives happily until he finds that he must know what the ninth wonder of the city is. He finds out, but loses everything.

We could ask, “What is this story doing here? Why did the author include it?”

Book 4, Chapter Fourteen, The Night Market

This chapter opens with what might be described as travel writing. Jevick and Miros and the priest Aurum, Miros’s uncle, are riding a carriage to the village where the Night Market will be held. Miros begins a poem.

Read on page 156.

After two days, the Night Market begins. People have come from all around to see the *avneanyi*. As a beginning, the priest recites a poem about a maiden given in marriage to a hero who turns out to be a monster, a son of the sea goddess. She refuses him, but he wreaks havoc on her village. Even after her tongue is removed, her soul sings so sweetly that the sea goddess rescues her.

Again we could ask, why is this story here?

Jevick is to receive people and ask Jissavet to answer their questions. A woman asks what has happened to her grandson. Jevick performs the mental discipline that he has memorized, and Jissavet comes, but she refuses to answer questions for the people of the north. She only want Jevick to write her a *vallon*.

Then the king’s guard arrives to break up the Night Market. Jevick escapes by hiding in a muddy ditch.

Question: Can a religion so deeply held by the people be suppressed by force? Throughout history, many have tried.

Question: Is Jissavet evil? Or just selfish?

Book 4, Chapter Fifteen, The Happy Land

Jevick finds Miros in the ruins of the village. He has also rescued Aurum, who turns out to be much older than Jevick thought. They escape in the carriage.

They take shelter with a group of women who have lost their brothers and their father to accidents. When Jissavet comes, he asks her to help them, but again she does not want to help northern people. She wants a vallon. However, they do manage to have something of a conversation before Jissavet starts screaming at him.

Book 4, Chapter Fifteen, The Courage of Hivnavir

Jevick, Miros, and Aurum cross a river to get to the village where they are supposed to meet the people sent by the High Priestess to retrieve Jissavet's body so Jevick can burn it. On the ferry they see a bride weeping. This is a bad omen for Jevick, who has had bad luck with sad women on boats.

Aurum tells a story about a man who falls in love with a cousin he has never seen. It has a sad ending. Aurum says the meaning of the story is that it takes courage to choose not what will make us happy, but what is precious.

The King's guard arrive at the tavern where the exchange is to take place before it can happen. There is a fight and Miros is wounded. Jevick escapes out the back taking with him not Jissavet's bones but Miros. He remembers the moral of Aurum's story. Burning Jissavet's body would relieve him of torment, but Miros is his friend.

Miros is severely wounded and heavy to carry. They get help from shepherds. Finally, they get to the edge of the desert.

Questions:

1. Book 4 has three stories—the sorcerer and the dolphin, the maiden and the sea monster, and the man who falls in love with his cousin. What role do these stories play in the novel? Why did the author put them here?
2. Can a religion so deeply held by the people be suppressed by force? Throughout history, many have tried.
3. Is Jissavet evil? Or just selfish?
4. Does Jevick make the right choice in saving his friend instead of Jissavet's bones?