

The Jerusalem Inception – a novel by Avraham Azrieli

www.AzrieliBooks.com

Book Club Discussion Points:

- 1) Why is Tanya so vital to the plot? Discuss her significance. Why is she so conflicted about her relationship with Jerusalem? Does she see Jerusalem and Abraham as distinct people? Does she really care for Jerusalem?
- 2) Would Jerusalem have left Neturay Karta without Tanya's influence? Did she turn him from gentle, obedient son to the rebellious teenager who reads forbidden books? What snapped inside of him?
- 3) If Rabbi Abraham Gerster doesn't even believe in God, how can he be such a convincing Rabbi to thousands? What does he actually believe in? Does he believe in any aspect of what he preaches? Does Abraham truly care for his family, even as he longs for Tanya?
- 4) Discuss Elie's character. Is he good or evil? Or both? Why? How would Abraham answer this? Tanya? Why Elie still jealous of Abraham Gerster after so many years? What's his strongest motive—the future of Jews and the state of Israel, or his personal demons and jealousies?
- 5) What's the significance of Redhead Dan to the story?
- 6) The story's thread of preventing future existential threats towards Israel and Jews—how realistic? Then, and now?
- 7) In the novel, there is a hostile boundary between secular and ultra-Orthodox Jews. Is it the same today? In Israel vs the United States?
- 8) For true believers, like Benjamin, for example, where is the balance between relying on God and taking preventive actions in times of risk?
- 9) How could characters who claim not to believe in God continue to quote and refer to passages from the Torah and Talmud?
- 10) Do the characters identify more as Israeli or Jewish? Is there still a difference between Israeli and Jewish identities in today's world? Do American Jews identify with Israel, or with Judaism?