

Living in a Pluralistic World: Class 8  
**Fernea - Guests of the Sheik – Part III, Ch. 15-18**  
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- Quiz
- Chapter 15, Summer
  - Sheik Hamid takes a two-month vacation annually to Lebanon with the other sheiks
  - Spoiled son Feisal gets typhoid
  - Laila insists that BJ will forget them after she leaves
  - Charms, the Book of Stars
    - Is it against the Koran?
  - Midwife knows how to get rid of babies
  - Americans put their old women in houses by themselves
- Chapter 16, Hussein
  - Hussein, their armed guard
  - Migrant labor in Baghdad
  - Hussein can repeat his family tree back five generations
    - All the wives and children as real to him as though they were alive today (p. 190)
  - Visitor from Baghdad terrified when Hussein shoots a gun at night to test it
    - The “Experience with the Tribe”
  - BJ hit in the head by a mourning dove
    - She screams
    - Bob was in the outhouse, did not hear it
    - Denies to Hussein that she was screaming
    - Hussein assumes he was beating her
    - Strikes El Nahra women as very funny
      - Either because they believed it
      - Or because they thought it was an elaborate lie
- Chapter 17, Muharram
  - The month in which Hussein went to Karbala to demand the Caliphate, was denied, and was killed in the battle of Karbala
  - Krayas
  - Mourning processions
  - Reenactments
  - British-backed government requires a deposit, forfeited if violence breaks out between factions
  - Jabbar thinks BJ and Bob will find it primitive and barbaric, and think badly of Iraqis
    - Compare to CNN article about Ashura...
    - Is Jabbar’s concern justified?
  - Jabbar also thinks the British encourage the rituals in order to accentuate the Shi’ite/Sunni split and prevent Arabs from uniting against them
    - Is this a reasonable interpretation?
    - Consider the boundaries of Iraq, cross-cutting Shi’ites, Sunnis, and Kurds... why?

- He says “when the revolution comes, all this will change” p. 196
- Taaziya processions of men flagellating themselves or cutting foreheads with knives
- Shabih (passion play) reenactment of battle of Karbala
  - The war “between the good men of Hussein’s family and the evil men of Muawiya”
- “don’t they speak Arabic in America?” p. 208
  - English sound hilariously funny to the women they visit for the reenactment in Suffra
  - They are unimpressed by BJ’s white gold wedding band
- Reenactment of Hussein’s burial
  - Led by a young boy (representing Ali, Hussein’s son)
  - Mannequin of dead Hussein, with a bloody cow’s neck
  - Taaziyas
  - Everyone wailing
  - Amina switches the wailing and dust-throwing on and off
  - Watch the ceremony through the mosque windows
- Chapter 18, Pilgrimage to Karbala
  - Shiites should not only visit Mecca, but also the shrines of the twelve imams (for “twelver” Shiites)
    - Actually, several sects, who consider slightly different sequences of imams to be correct
  - Laila wants to go to Karbala and pray in order to get Moussa to send her with Basima to secondary school in Diwaniya
  - Bob would be too obvious when Karbala “was particularly sensitive to the presence of unbelievers”
    - But BJ could pass in her abayah
  - Conversation with shopkeeper about wearing the abayah
  - Procession, taaziyas, BJ steps on a prayer rug, Sitt Najat drags her to safety...
  - Sitt Najat's ideal of how Karbala is turns out to be far from the real