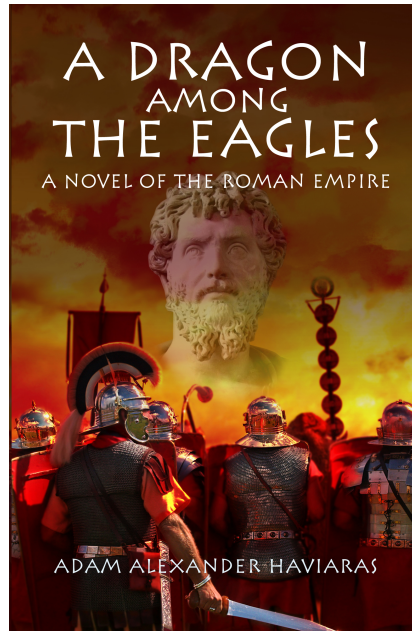


# A DRAGON AMONG THE EAGLES

## Book Club Discussion Guide



Here is a list of questions related to *A Dragon among the Eagles* (Eagles and Dragons – Book 0). To guide your book club discussion of the novel, select which questions you would like to cover at your gathering.

- 1.) What are some of the most striking differences between life in the Roman Empire and the modern world? What are the similarities?
- 2.) Are there traces of the Roman world in our modern world? What have the Romans done for us? Name a few things that have had an impact on our lives.
- 3.) Religion and belief systems were quite different in the Roman Empire. How do you think beliefs made life then different from today? To your modern mind, would you say life was better or worse for those beliefs? How so?
- 4.) How do you think the Roman army compares to today's military? What might have been the reason young men joined the army then, compared to the reasons why men and women join today?

- 5.) Septimius Severus was a militaristic emperor who led one of the biggest campaigns in Rome's history. Do you think his actions were justified, based on previous Parthian aggression? Are there any parallels from the modern age that can be drawn?
- 6.) Emperor Septimius Severus and Empress Julia Domna were intellectual and very spiritual, with strong beliefs in the Gods and astrology. Do you think this improved or hampered their ability to rule effectively and wisely?
- 7.) Consider the outcome of the attack on Hatra. How big a role did signs from the Gods (i.e. the incident Lucius reported) play in Severus' decision to abandon the siege, versus the threat of mutiny? Bear in mind the beliefs of the time.
- 8.) After Rome conquered lands and peoples, more often than not, the religion or gods of those lands would be incorporated into the Roman system, rather than be wiped out. Examples of this are the cults of Isis or Cybele. Was this a good policy? Do you think the world was a better place for this acceptance and integration, despite the initial bloodshed of conquest? Can you name some religions Rome refused to accept?
- 9.) If the Roman Empire still existed today, what do you think the world would be like now?
- 10.) Discuss the differences between Rome and Alexandria during the late second century A.D. Which place would you have preferred to live in, and why?
- 11.) Discuss your impressions of Lucius Metellus Anguis. What sort of young man is he at the beginning of the book? What changes does he undergo? What is he like at the end of the book, and do you think he will survive life in the Roman world?
- 12.) Discuss the nature of Lucius' relationship with the *hetaira*, Medea. Should he have stayed with her, or was he right to leave? Did he, in fact, love her?

- 13.) What do you think about Lucius' decision to turn down Galen's offer of a position at the Library of Alexandria, and stay in the army instead? Did he make the right decision?
- 14.) Galen speaks to Lucius about the Greek concept of *Philotimo*, the love of honour. What do you think of *Philotimo*? Should it be applied today, or is it an archaic notion?
- 15.) If this book were to be made into a movie, who would you cast for the main characters?

To learn more about the world of *A Dragon among the Eagles*, including the people, places, and events, be sure to check out the special blog series on our website at:

<http://eaglesanddragonspublishing.com/the-world-of-a-dragon-among-the-eagles/>