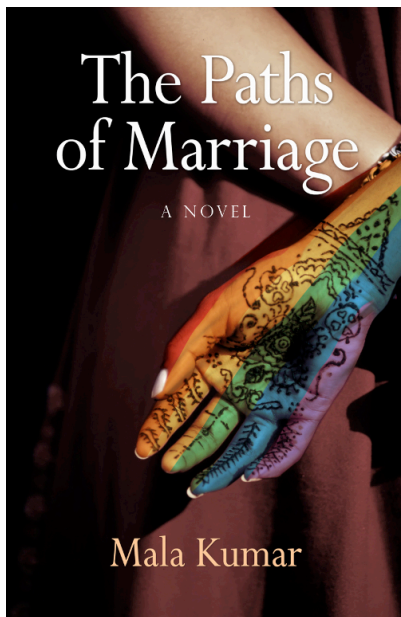


The Paths of Marriage

Book Discussion Questions



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The Paths of Marriage DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

About these questions

This document contains a list of suggested discussion questions on the novel, *The Paths of Marriage*, for classroom, book club, or other group meetings. These questions do not represent an exhaustive list of possible questions; rather, they serve as a starting point by which to facilitate group discussions.

Questions are grouped by theme. Each question also has a level of difficulty denoted by letters in parenthesis at the end – easy (e), medium (m), hard (h). Some questions may have a split-level of difficulty – easy/medium (e/m), medium/hard (m/h).

All discussions should maintain respect and decorum for moderators, teachers, participants, students, etc. It is highly encouraged to refrain from using racist, homophobic, sexist, caste-ist, religiously insensitive, culturally insensitive, or otherwise discriminating language or gestures.

Questions on <http://pathsofmarriage.com> are available to download free of charge, and are subject to change without notice.

The Paths of Marriage DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use and Meaning of Specific Words

- What is intersectionality? How is it used throughout the book? (e)
- Explain the idea of convergence. (h)
- How does the idea of convergence change in the three generations? (h)
- What is the progression of the explanation of the word “beta” between the three generations? What does this indicate? (h)

Women’s Rights and Gender

- What is the foreshadowing significance of Lakshmi’s statement that she would be the woman to change India? (e/m)
- Discuss the topics of Pooja’s college essays. What is the significance of her having that conversation with Jeff instead of Anand? (m)
- Why does the way Lakshmi refers to Go-wind/Govind change in the middle of Part I? (e)
- How does Deepa’s conversation with Audrey’s mother about gender equality parallel to Pooja’s story? (m)
- What are Lakshmi’s, Pooja’s and Deepa’s relationship like with the men in their lives – family members and otherwise? (e)
- Discuss the ‘Bangalore men’ characters – Anand and Shankar. How are they similar? How are they different? (e)
- Give examples of parallel physical experiences between the generations (e).
- Compare and contrast the two Alpa’s of the story. (e)

Race, Culture and Caste

- What are Lakshmi’s, Pooja’s and Deepa’s views on caste? How does caste affect their individual lives and their lives when considered together? (h)
- Compare and contrast Lakshmi and Pooja’s view on race and culture with Deepa’s. (m)
- Why aren’t the proper names of Lakshmi’s father, mother or ‘baby sister’ ever stated? What does this represent? (m)
- How are different languages used to represent difference characters? How do they progress the story? (h)
- Why did Lakshmi choose to be an accountant? Why did Pooja choose to be an architect/urban planner? What do these choices represent? (m)
- What is the role of money in the three generations? Give examples of lines or passages that support this argument. (m)

The Paths of Marriage DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Sexual Orientation/LGBTQ

- How do Deepa's and Audrey's respective upbringings affect the views on coming out to family in Part III? (m)
- Explain the line from Part IV, "I will not be a part of the many against you." (e)
- What is the significance of Deepa taking on the Ramirez case just before meeting Audrey? (e)
- What is meant in the line in Part IV, "Asking for a moment of reprieve, Deepa whispers to Audrey in a language Lakshmi cannot understand." (m)
- Discuss the song translation Deepa uses in Part IV to win Audrey back. What does it mean in the context of the entire story? (m)
- Discuss the 'everything and nothing' conversation between Pooja and Jeff in Part IV. (m)