

*Discussion Notes: Kebra Negast*  
*September 19, 2005*

Incidents and Passages of Importance:

\*Pg. 29 “The Seduction of the Queen of Sheeba”- Are there some questionable ideals here?

*-No law had been laid down for him [Solomon] in respect of women, and no blame can be imputed to him in respect of marrying many wives. –Pg. 29*

Was Solomon virtuous? Is he justified in his actions by being a King?

Is Solomon similar to Odysseus? (In trickery?)

-Both are cunning

-Odysseus used his wits for survival

What is Wisdom? Is Solomon wise?

*What is better than wisdom? For wisdom hath established the earth and made strong the heavens, and restrained the waves of the sea –Pg. 39*

Was Solomon’s strategy to father the world realistic? Wise?

Why does the Queen of Sheeba (Ethiopia) go back to see Solomon?

For a hook-up?

To possibly make a powerful comrade or avoid a potential enemy?

Out of respect and guidance in her new Christian religion?

Is Solomon too wise?

There are some striking similarities between the Odyssey and Kebra Negast:

- Wisdom and cunning of the father figure
- The son resemblance of their father
- A journey away from home to become a man

COMMON THEME:

Why is there so much emphasis placed on one person?

**Bayna-Lehken**

- Queen of Sheeba→ Afraid of losing her only son, the son of Solomon. She also changed the entire hierarchy of Ethiopia so that Bayna could rule
- Solomon→ Wants his first-born to rule his kingdom.

POINT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

**Is Solomon’s seduction of the Queen a reinforcement of a Patriarchal society, reinforcing male supremacy while degrading a women’s sense of self?**

Was the book effective in breaking African stereotypes?

In all three books read so far (Odyssey, Sundiata, and Kebra Negast) there is a common theme of leaving home to grow up. Do you need to leave home to grow up?

-Do you have to go back?

-There is a strong sense of destiny, resulting in this need.

-All of these books have been about Kings, is this realistic to the rest of African society?

*For no man hateth the place where he was born, and everyone loveth the things of his native country –Pg. 42*