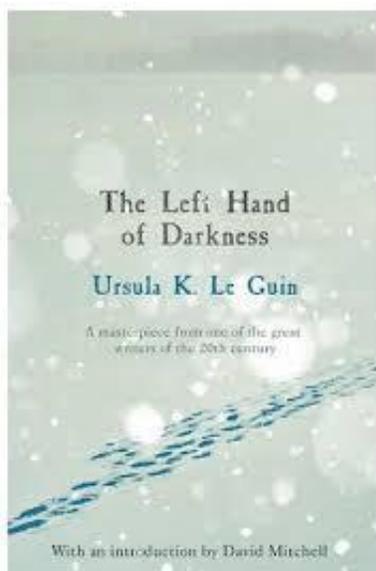


Book Talk

The Left Hand of Darkness

By Ursula K. Le Guin

Number of pages: 304



The alien planet of Gethen could not be more different from Genly Ai's home planet. Its inhabitants follow unfamiliar religions, are not part of any planetary confederation, and have no gender. When Ai is sent to Gethen to convince them to join his own confederation, the Ekumen, he cannot understand their way of life. While there, however, he meets a Gethenian politician, Estraven, and he begins to learn and understand more not only about Gethen, but about himself...

We recommend this book if you enjoyed Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Frank Herbert's *Dune*, or Andy Weir's *The Martian*.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think the Ekumen sends its envoys alone to new planets?
2. How would you compare Estraven's relationship with his brother to his relationship with Ai?
3. As Genly's relationship with Estraven develops, how do you think his ideas around gender change?
4. What are your views about the various religions on Gethen? Do you think their ideas are insightful?
5. Did you like the ending of the novel, or would you prefer it to end differently?

Thank you to our volunteer Ruby for choosing this title and creating the resource.