**Reading Extract**

Read the passage below in detail. If you print it out, make sure you gloss over the text to add details related to characterization, plot, setting, theme and importance devices such as symbolist, simile, metaphors, etc.

If you choose to do this online, use the “Ctrl + Alt + M” command prompt on the keyboard to add your comments.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask me or e-mail me at mr.heidarbozorg@gmail.com

**Narnia 1 - The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe - By: C.S. Lewis**

CHAPTER EIGHT- WHAT HAPPENED AFTER DINNER

“AND now,” said Lucy, “do please tell us what’s happened to Mr Tumnus.”

“Ah, that’s bad,” said Mr Beaver, shaking his head. “That’s a very, very bad business. There’s no doubt he was taken off by the police. I got that from a bird who saw it done.”

“But where’s he been taken to?” asked Lucy.

“Well, they were heading northwards when they were last seen and we all know what that means.”

“No, we don’t,” said Susan. Mr Beaver shook his head in a very gloomy fashion.

“I’m afraid it means they were taking him to her House,” he said.

“But what’ll they do to him, Mr Beaver?” gasped Lucy.

“Well,” said Mr Beaver, “you can’t exactly say for sure. But there’s not many taken in there that ever comes out again. Statues. All full of statues they say it is - in the courtyard and up the stairs and in the hall. People she’s turned” - (he paused and shuddered) “turned into stone.”

“But, Mr Beaver,” said Lucy, “can’t we - I mean we must do something to save him. It’s too dreadful and it’s all on my account.”

“I don’t doubt you’d save him if you could, dearie,” said Mrs Beaver, “but you’ve no chance of getting into that House against her will and ever coming out alive.”

“Couldn’t we have some stratagem?” said Peter. “I mean couldn’t we dress up as something, or pretend to be - oh, pedlars or anything - or watch till she was gone out - or- oh, hang it all, there must be some way. This Faun saved my sister at his own risk, Mr Beaver. We can’t just leave him to be - to be - to have that done to him.”

“It’s no good, Son of Adam,” said Mr Beaver, “no good your trying, of all people. But now that Aslan is on the move-“

“Oh, yes! Tell us about Aslan!” said several voices at once; for once again that strange feeling - like the first signs of spring, like good news, had come over them.

“Who is Aslan?” asked Susan.

“Aslan?” said Mr Beaver. “Why, don’t you know? He’s the King. He’s the Lord of the whole wood, but not often here, you understand. Never in my time or my father’s time. But the word has reached us that he has come back. He is in Narnia at this moment. He’ll settle the White Queen all right. It is he, not you, that will save Mr Tumnus.”

“She won’t turn him into stone too?” said Edmund.

“Lord love you, Son of Adam, what a simple thing to say!” answered Mr Beaver with a great laugh. “Turn him into stone? If she can stand on her two feet and look him in the face it’ll be the most she can do and more than I expect of her. No, no. He’ll put all to rights as it says in an old rhyme in these parts:

*Wrong will be right, when Aslan comes in sight,*

*At the sound of his roar, sorrows will be no more,*

*When he bares his teeth, winter meets its death,*

*And when he shakes his mane, we shall have spring again.*

*You’ll understand when you see him.”*

“But shall we see him?” asked Susan.

“Why, Daughter of Eve, that’s what I brought you here for. I’m to lead you where you shall meet him,” said Mr Beaver.

“Is-is he a man?” asked Lucy.

“Aslan a man!” said Mr Beaver sternly. “Certainly not. I tell you he is the King of the wood and the son of the great Emperor-beyond-the-Sea. Don’t you know who is the King of Beasts? Aslan is a lion - the Lion, the great Lion.”

“Ooh!” said Susan, “I’d thought he was a man. Is he - quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion.”

“That you will, dearie, and no mistake,” said Mrs Beaver; “if there’s anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they’re either braver than most or else just silly.”

“Then he isn’t safe?” said Lucy.

“Safe?” said Mr Beaver; “don’t you hear what Mrs Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? ‘Course he isn’t safe. But he’s good. He’s the King, I tell you.”

“I’m longing to see him,” said Peter, “even if I do feel frightened when it comes to the point.”

“That’s right, Son of Adam,” said Mr Beaver, bringing his paw down on the table with a crash that made all the cups and saucers rattle. “And so you shall. Word has been sent that you are to meet him, tomorrow if you can, at the Stone Table.’

“Where’s that?” said Lucy.

“I’ll show you,” said Mr Beaver. “It’s down the river, a good step from here. I’ll take you to it!”

“But meanwhile what about poor Mr Tumnus?” said Lucy.

“The quickest way you can help him is by going to meet Aslan,” said Mr Beaver, “once he’s with us, then we can begin doing things. Not that we don’t need you too. For that’s another of the old rhymes:

When Adam’s flesh and Adam’s bone

Sits at Cair Paravel in throne,

The evil time will be over and done.

So things must be drawing near their end now he’s come and you’ve come. We’ve heard of Aslan coming into these parts before - long ago, nobody can say when. But there’s never been any of your race here before.”

“That’s what I don’t understand, Mr Beaver,” said Peter, “I mean isn’t the Witch herself human?”

“She’d like us to believe it,” said Mr Beaver, “and it’s on that that she bases her claim to be Queen. But she’s no Daughter of Eve. She comes of your father Adam’s” - (here Mr Beaver bowed) “your father Adam’s first wife, her they called Lilith. And she was one of the Jinn. That’s what she comes from on one side. And on the other she comes of the giants. No, no, there isn’t a drop of real human blood in the Witch.”

**Key Questions**

**Once you are done with the reading, answer the questions below. Make sure each answer is in paragraph format and that you use specific examples to support each response.**

1. Who is the Witch in the story? How is she described?
2. Most of this extract written in dialogue. Does this make the story easier to comprehend or more difficult. Explain.
3. What does the poem about Aslan demonstrate about him?
4. Research the background of the novel and the author. Explain how the biography of the author and the era it was written, may have influenced different aspects.
5. Make a couple intertextual connections between the text and either another book (passage), scene from a TV show or movie, or from your personal life / news.