

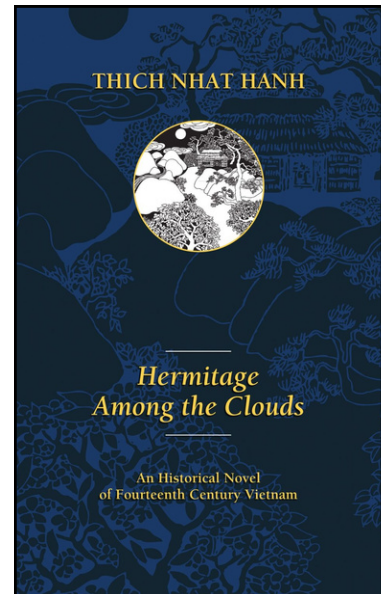
Discussion Questions

Hermitage Among the Clouds

by Thích Nhất Hạnh

Thích Nhất Hạnh (Thầy) gives us a window into Vietnam's past and at the same time, offers compelling insights about contemporary Southeast Asia and the world.

1. The translator introduces the book by acknowledging that the storytelling is not linear in the way that western readers are familiar with. How was your experience with the way stories are told and time exists in this book?
2. What is one part of the novel that really stood out to you?
3. Choose one character that you really enjoyed. What did you like about them?
4. Does reading this novel change or enhance how you understand the teachings and practices of Plum Village?
5. What connections do you see between Sister Fragrant Garland, her father the Noble Teacher, Sister Chân Không and Thích Nhất Hạnh's teachings of Engaged Buddhism?



Through the story of the fourteenth century Princess Amazing Jewel, the daughter of one of Vietnam's greatest historical Zen master kings, this historical novel expresses the suffering caused by war, the transformation potential of a commitment to practicing peace and reconciliation, and the beauty of a spiritual life.



Zen Master Thích Nhất Hạnh is a global spiritual leader, poet, and peace activist, revered around the world for his pioneering teachings on mindfulness, global ethics, and peace. Over seven decades of teaching, he published more than 100 books. Exiled from Vietnam in 1966 for promoting peace, his teachings on Buddhism as a path to social and political transformation are responsible for bringing the mindfulness movement to Western culture. He established the international Plum Village Community of Engaged Buddhism. He passed away in 2022 at the age of 95 at his root temple, Từ Hiếu, in Huế, Vietnam.