



BETWEEN CLAY AND DUST

by
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CONVERSATION STARTERS:

The friendship between Gohar Jan and Ustad Ramzi is an unconventional one, especially given the time period and the fact that they are opposite genders. What do Gohar Jan and Ustad Ramzi find so mutually satisfying about their friendship?

There are parallels to be found in the relationships between Ustad Ramzi and Tamami, and Gohar Jan and Malka. How would you compare and contrast these two relationships? For instance, how do Ustad Ramzi and Gohar Jan compare and contrast when it comes to their role as mentors to Tamami and Malka respectively?

“Their world no longer existed; but the tawaifs carried it within them in their memories, like exiles, and continued to adhere to a ritual of their lives.”

-Page 85

Discuss how the theme of tradition manifests within the book, and how traditions are treated near the end of the text.

How would you compare the wrestling styles of Ustad Ramzi and Tamami?

What do their distinct approaches say about their characters and their approaches to life?

Ustad Ramzi’s contempt for his younger brother Tamami is constant throughout the book. If Ustad Ramzi had approached his mentorship with Tamami with more love and understanding, would it have changed the outcome of Tamami’s life?

WATCH
a documentary about
the Pehalwani form of
wrestling