

Discussion Questions 10/21/10: Wedding Songs

- 1) What kind of arrival does the bridegroom make in poem 21? How would you describe the reception he receives? How would you describe the relationship between the two kin groups involved in the marriage, as presented in the poem?
- 2) What kind of language is used to compare and describe the time before marriage and afterwards at the beginning of poem 22? Is continuity emphasized, or change? Explain your answer.
- 3) On page 150, the bride's fate is presented in extremely negative terms. What's the significance of this description? What kinds of instruction does it involve?
- 4) The end of poem 22 is supposed to cheer up the bride. How does it try to do so? What is meant to provide support and encouragement in the song?
- 5) What are the ideals of a working marriage, according to poem 23? Choose one ideal of marital behavior and explain how the poem presents it and why you think it's significant.
- 6) How do the instructions to the bridegroom in poem 24 differ from instructions to the bride in the previous poems? What are three differences you notice?
- 7) How is praise given in poem 25? Note three examples of praise. What qualities and things appear to be worthy of praise. What's their significance in relation to kin relationships, in your opinion?