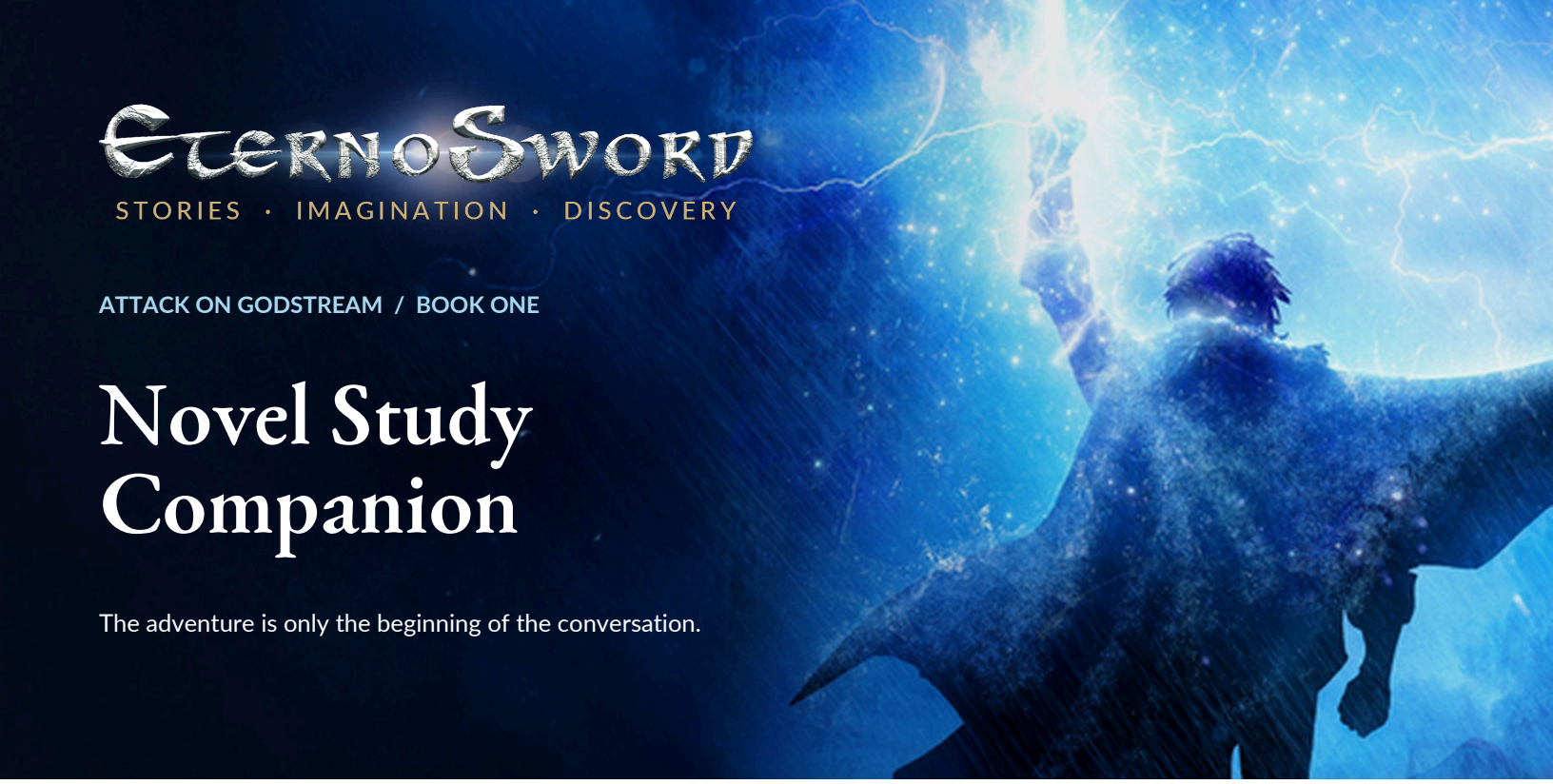


ETERNOSWORD

STORIES · IMAGINATION · DISCOVERY

ATTACK ON GODSTREAM / BOOK ONE

Novel Study Companion

The adventure is only the beginning of the conversation.

YOUR SIDE QUEST

The novel in eight volumes

Eight reading volumes. Forty-eight discussion questions. One unforgettable journey.

01	A Tale of Two Thieves	Prologue + Chapters 1–4
02	The Great Prophecy	Chapters 5–8
03	Squadpocalypse Now	Chapters 9–12
04	Let the Games Begin!	Chapters 13–16
05	Into the Void	Chapters 17–20
06	Into the Underkingdom	Chapters 21–24
07	Poet of Pain	Chapters 25–28
08	Attack on Godstream	Chapters 29–32 + Epilogue

HOW TO USE

Read a volume before discussing its questions. Choose whichever spark the best conversation; you need not answer them all. Imagine boldly, weigh evidence, and return to the novel whenever you disagree.

For independent readers, families, and reading circles. The story comes first.

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Volumes 01 / 02

01

VOLUME 01

A Tale of Two Thieves

Prologue + Chapters 1–4

01 The Prologue shows a frightened but battle-ready Mick, then returns to his carefree innocence two days earlier. Why reveal the danger first? What are you watching for as the adventure begins?

02 Wetcars glide along rivers and into Godstream's great gates. Imagine drawing a map of this world: why might its people travel so much by water? What detail in the opening makes your theory plausible?

03 Godstream celebrates skill and courage at its Olympics, while Mick quietly keeps the family wetcar afloat with his battered trumpet. How does his ordinary act of service show the very virtues this world admires?

04 Believing his wrongful detention could endanger his brothers' Olympic prospects, Mick follows Clovis's deceptive ruse to escape. Consider his decision in light of the Knightly Code: is his escape justified by loyalty to his family, or does he owe obedience to legitimate authority even when treated unjustly?

05 By the end of Chapter 4, does Mick have good reason to trust Clovis? Weigh an action that earns trust against one that invites doubt.

02

VOLUME 02

The Great Prophecy

Chapters 5–8

01 A prophecy promises a Great Hero, but the people offering clues may be mistaken—or worse. How should Mick and Clovis decide what to believe when mystery, excitement, and evidence pull in different directions?

02 Otarian Rock's living-light murals are like movies painted on a cavern wall. How do you imagine these wondrous images were made? Could the story's suggestion of angelic light-brushes explain them—or make them even more mysterious?

03 The Nine Worthies are famous models of chivalric excellence: three from the pagan ancient world, three from the Old Testament, and three from medieval Christendom. How many can you name? What might soldiers of Christ—confirmed Catholics—learn from such different heroes?

04 Jason the Reb claims the OWNers ruled a One World Nation and built techno-sorcery lairs underground. If true, how might this echo Babel—or our own society's dreams of manipulating the world through technology? Can Jesus Christ be at the center of such a civilization?

05 Jason the Reb turns a terrifying encounter into a book advertisement. What makes the joke work? More seriously, what does it suggest about people who sell secret knowledge—and how curiosity can make us easy to fool?

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Volumes 03 / 04

03

VOLUME 03

Chapters 9–12

Squadpocalypse Now

01 The novices expect guidance from their elders, yet Coach Tullion becomes a threat. What does this reversal suggest about the difference between someone's office or title and his actual honor?

02 Mick and Clovis trade rhymed couplets celebrating their hometowns. Write one for yours: praise its landscape, history, or a person worth honoring. Resist the urge to make a joke—what do you genuinely love about where you come from?

03 "Squadpocalypse" is an outrageous name for an unlikely team. Does it sound like a joke, a warning, or a promise? How might owning the name change the boys' idea of themselves?

04 The St. Augustine statue recalls Philippe de Champaigne's painting, where divine *veritas* (truth) shines upon both the saint's mind and the flaming heart he holds. How might divine truth enlighten thinking and feeling—and unite friends such as Mick and Clovis?

05 Apron Man mocks Mick's hometown, then demands that Mick respect his elders. Why might a wise teacher provoke a boy this way? How can you tell the difference between defending something truly good and merely protecting wounded pride?

04

VOLUME 04

Chapters 13–16

Let the Games Begin!

01 In Chapter 13, Master Viator says the Rangeman class represents prudence in a squad. The other cardinal virtues are justice, fortitude, and temperance. How might those virtues appear in the duties of Slayer, Hunter, and Exorcist? No single arrangement is fixed: every good warrior needs all four.

02 Romulus killed his brother Remus, whereas Lionel and Jonesy must learn to stand together. When the statue falls and the boys cry "Rome hath fallen again," consider the collapse of pagan Rome and the rise of Christendom: what made this new civilization superior to the old one it replaced?

03 Clovis insists that "knowledge of history is its own reward," while the others prefer to smash their way through problems. When does historical imagination prove more useful than brute strength in the Citadel?

04 Mick and his trumpet become crucial in the Citadel when he grasps the instrument held out by an angel statue, despite the Shadow's resistance. How do years of ordinary practice, his courage, and an extraordinary gift come together in this rescue?

05 After the drakwolf is defeated, Lionel calls Mick "my Captain, my brother," and Jonesy says they owe him their lives. Why might winning his brothers' respect mean more to Mick than an Olympic medal or the Citadel's treasure?

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Volumes 05 / 06

05

VOLUME 05

Into the Void

Chapters 17–20

01 Mick learns that the Calibournes are not his birth family. How does his parents' answer to "Who am I?" challenge the idea that identity is determined only by blood, status, or a mysterious destiny?

02 Chrism oil sets St. Augustine's quill in motion, revealing hidden words about virtue and sacrifice. Why might this wonder come through a saint, a quill, and sacred oil rather than through a weapon or machine? What kind of hero do the new lines describe?

03 The blue boulders trace Virgo, with a golden Jupiter—the "king" of planets—poised for birth. The image hints at a royal child. The Virgin Mary gave birth to Jesus Christ, the true King. Can you see other zodiac signs as pointing toward Christ? Could God have woven sacred symbolism into the stars—or are we reading it into them? Why?

04 Sir Cullain's offer begins to entice Mick, but young Griffith makes it clear the man is bad news. Compare that temptation to sudden glory with the patient questing that led the boys here. How can a young hero distinguish a genuine calling from a shortcut that merely flatters his ambition?

05 In the darkness, Mick discovers that his asthma medicine can reveal a hidden world—and may be a Divine Item. Then he freely steps into the void after Clovis. How might a lifelong weakness become an unexpected gift that helps him risk everything for a friend?

06

VOLUME 06

Into the Underkingdom

Chapters 21–24

01 The Great Prophecy says, "One's life laid down, the highest sacrifice." Mick hurls himself at the drakes to save Clovis, expecting to die. Later Syderia asks, "What's love?" How has Mick already answered both the prophecy and her question?

02 The Underkingdom's "thru-view" spheres watch Olympic events and even St. Constantine's sanctuary. What happens when the powerful can watch others unseen? Where do you recognize similar pressures in our society—and what should remain private?

03 The laboratory experiments on a dead rabbit and other monstrous hybrids using the substance M-tron ("Messiah-tron"). Messiah is the Hebrew word for Christ. How might the substance have gotten its name? At what point might the dream of conquering death become a counterfeit of salvation?

04 In the Underkingdom, motorcycles are called "lie steeds" and fluorescent bulbs "lie lights." Why might someone give these devices such names? What do they imitate, and what makes an imitation different from the real thing?

05 Syderia sees Springtime grass, clouds, and "singing" trees for the first time; Mick realizes how easily he overlooks such wonders. What does her innocent delight reveal about God's creation—and what ordinary sight would you love to show her next?

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Volumes 07 / 08

Chapters 25–28 / Chapters 29–32 + Epilogue

07

VOLUME 07

Poet of Pain

Chapters 25–28

01 Mick realizes “Gate of Death” and “Generative Operating Director” both spell G.O.D. How might technology become a diabolical replacement for God—and how might the very same human ingenuity be used to serve Him instead?

02 Viator’s lofty residence has eight sides. In Christian tradition, the “Eighth Day” evokes Christ’s Resurrection and a new creation; the Greek letters of “Jesus” also total 888. What new beginning might this number foreshadow for Mick under Viator’s guidance—and as he rides to defend Godstream?

03 When Viator’s maddening training brings on hunger pangs, Mick resists the tempting meal. How might ruling a small desire prepare someone for a far greater moral test? Give an example.

04 Viator’s wooden acorn still looks unfinished, yet he tells Mick, “It is finished.” What was completed if the carving was not? How might a tiny seed represent the cultivation of virtue in a young hero?

05 The peaceful supper, starlight, and crickets serenade Mick to sleep; then we are told his life “would never be the same again.” The attack comes mere hours later. How might it change him? What can he never return to, even if the city survives?

08

VOLUME 08

Attack on Godstream

Chapters 29–32 + Epilogue

01 The enemy draws everyone’s attention toward the South Wall, while the true attack threatens elsewhere. How might Godstream’s soaring Wall—its greatest protection—also become its greatest vulnerability?

02 Virgo’s constellation had fourteen stars; now Syderia’s fourteen golden rods form a key that breaks Mick’s cuffs and banishes the Shadow. The alephs suggest beginning and strength, and St. Michael stands nearby. How might these signs point beyond a clever puzzle to Mick’s deliverance—and a new beginning?

03 St. Michael’s statue lowers its sword into Mick’s hands, and Mick’s first act with it is to save Navarre, a former rival. Why might this extraordinary gift used for mercy tell us more about the Great Hero than a spectacular victory over an enemy?

04 The M-tron-powered Z-Rex is a grotesque kind of life after death; Navarre’s restoration is something very different. What makes one seem like a counterfeit of resurrection and the other like a gift?

05 Godstream survives, but the Epilogue opens another dangerous quest. What has the story truly resolved—and what remains unfinished? Is a victory less meaningful because evil has not vanished?

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After the Epilogue

SEEING THE WHOLE ADVENTURE

Choose the questions that send you back into the story.

01 The story begins by asking who the Great Hero will be. By the end, is heroism something Mick inherits, receives, chooses, or learns? Which two scenes make your strongest case?

02 The knights' Divine Items have extraordinary forms, names, and powers. Which Divine Item fills you with the greatest wonder—and what might it reveal about its wielder?

03 The novel keeps asking its characters to look again: at a backward inscription, a sideways statue, a star pattern, a shabby custodian, an overlooked boy. How does changing perspective lead to discovery—or humility?

04 The OWNers, Messiah-tron, and the false "G.O.D." promise extraordinary power. Is there ever a truly good use for technology this advanced—or might its effects on how we live outweigh its benefits? Where would you draw a boundary?

05 Compare St. Augustine's moving statue, Otarian Rock's living light-murals, and the knights' Divine Items. As supernatural aids, how do these wonders differ from forbidden power associated with magic and witchcraft?

06 Many ordinary things conceal something extraordinary: an asthma attack, a seemingly pointless hood, a janitor's mop, a set of hair sticks. Which revelation surprised you most? How did the author hide its importance in plain sight?

07 Mick's friendship with Clovis begins in confusion, suspicion—and outright annoyance. How does Mick's practical outlook balance Clovis's eccentric temperament? What does each notice that the other overlooks?

08 The next quest beckons in the Enchantlands, where Sorcerer Khaqan still plots. Imagine joining Mick's squad: would you be a Hunter, Slayer, Rangeman, or Exorcist? What Divine Item would be yours—what would it look like, what could it do, and what would you name it?

IF YOU FEEL LIKE WRITING

Invent one new wonder for Godstream—a vehicle, place, device, or mystery that would delight Mick and Clovis. How might the same wonder be used for good or for harm? A paragraph is plenty.

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