

## Discussion Questions: *The Wedding of Zein*

### Group 1

1. What are Zein's distinguishing characteristics? How is Zein's character essential to the development of the story?
2. Why does Zein joke so much?
3. What is the significance of the incident with Seif al-Din? Compare him to Zein.
4. Who is Haneen? What role does he play in the story? What is his relationship with Zein like?
5. What is *baraka*, and how does it come into play in the story?
6. Why does Ni'ma marry Zein? What is the nature of their relationship?
7. How do we know the characters are Muslim? What religious values are expressed in the novel? Cultural values?
8. Do you think this book is specifically about Salih's home country of Sudan? Why or why not?
9. Do you see any similarities to other works we have read? Where?

### Group 2

1. Describe Zein and describe Ni'ma. Why is the contrast between them essential for the development of the story?
2. What would you say are the major themes of the book?
3. How are gender relationships described? Are their values that are particularly associated with men or with women?
4. What is the cultural significance of marriage? How is Zein's marriage arranged?
5. Compare and contrast Zein and the Imam. What do you think the Salih is trying to convey?
6. Is this a book about Islam? About religion in general? Why or why not?
7. Does the book and its characters bear any similarities to *Layla and Majnun*? Why or why not?
8. What role does scent play in the novel?
9. What role does food play in then novel?