*ATSS,* Part Three Discussion

Below are the questions that we will use to begin our discussion about today’s reading. I am asking that you take the next 15-20 minutes to prepare your thoughts—take notes, find evidence, etc.—and then we will begin discussing as a class. My expectation is that everyone will be able to participate in the conversation about these important aspects of the text. If there are other parts of the text that you would like to discuss, please gather your thoughts about them and share the questions/comments during our discussion.

* Explore the significance of *home* in the novel. Consider which characters are displaced and their perception of home. Though many of the characters lose their initial home, does it still play an important role in their lives? What is this role? What might the author be suggesting about homes?
* Consider the contrasting places in the novel (Herat & Kabul, Kabul before & after the Soviet invasion, Kabul & the Bamiyan Valley, Laila’s house & Rasheed’s house, Nana’s house & Jalil’s house are a few contrasting places—feel free to work beyond this list). How do these places differ, and what is the significance of this contrast? How do these dueling locations impact the novel as a whole?
* Many of the characters are motivated by honor and/or shame. Explore the significance of honor and shame in the novel. What types of acts are considered honorable or shameful? Is the line between honor and shame distinct, or is there a gray area here? What does Hosseini suggest about honor and shame individually and/or the relationship between the two?