

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

RIDDLES

As you read the riddles, consider the following groupings based on Craig Williamson's commentary on the riddles. See how many examples you can find in our text that illustrate these groupings.

1. Bimorphic: riddles subject is compared to living creature, but it's difficult to tell if disguise is person, animal, or plant
2. Zoomorphic: subject compared to animal or has animal-like features
3. Anthropomorphic: inanimate subject is compared to a person; shield = warrior
4. Phytopomorphic: subject is compared to a plant
5. Inanimate object: subject is compared to an inanimate object
6. Multiple comparison groups: subject is compared to a variety of things; in one riddle, a tree is bloom, blaze, traveler, cross.
7. Selected details group: riddle enumerates descriptive details, typically of creature's form or function. One riddled describes an object that is "twisted, dried, rubbed, adorned" (answer here unknown)
8. Neck Riddle: speaker saves his neck by the riddle, for the judge or executioner promises his release in exchange for "impossible riddle."
9. Arithmetical group: The riddle takes the form of a math puzzle
10. Family relationship group: subject is described in terms of family relations; with a bizarre twist.
11. Crystomorphic group: Riddle uses runic or concealed codes.
12. Homonymic: solution is a homonym.
13. Erotic: double entendre with pornographic solution as one possibility.

