

The Burden of Exile: A Banned Journalist’s Flight From Dictatorship by Aaron Berhane

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS HERE** (Ideally 10 questions to guide discussion of the title):

1. What was your initial emotional reaction to Aaron Berhane’s story?
2. What new facts did you learn about Eritrea or about the plight of refugees as you were reading *Burden of Exile*?
3. Why do you think the book is called *Burden of Exile*? What burdens did Berhane carry as an independent journalist in Eritrea? As a refugee writer in Canada?
4. What do you feel is the most disturbing part of Berhane’s story?
5. Did you find this book uplifting or inspiring? In what ways?
6. In an article about Berhane, PEN Canada quotes Nelson Mandela: “Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again.” How appropriate is that quotation to Berhane’s story?
7. What new ideas or opinions came out of this memoir for you? Did it change the way you see the world?
8. After reading Burden of Exile, what would you like to know more about? What topics might you try to research and understand better?