

June28 Questions

Questions, concerning Sheldon Gardner's book *The Coverso Legacy*, for Great Books discussion group

- 1) Overall, what was your impression of this book?
- 2) One of the things that we, who somewhat knew Sheldon, fondly remember was his delicious, if somewhat irreverent, sense of humor. What, if any, evidence can you find for Sheldon's sense of humor in this book?
- 3) What other elements of Sheldon's personality do you experience as being expressed in this book?
- 4) Literature teachers often claim to find that there is one character in every book that is a disguised Jesus figure. What, if any, evidence can you find for such a character in this book?
- 5) On page 233 there is an account of a Catholic's being forcibly circumcised (being made to appear Jewish) in order to minimize the likelihood that that person might bring the punishment of the Inquisition onto hidden Jews. Discuss the moral issue involved—the justification for 'doing bad to prevent other bad'.
- 6) Cervantes and other authors have also written about conversos. Research on the Internet under the search term: 'forced religious conversion' discloses that numerous religions have practiced at least somewhat similar coercion (not just Catholics against Jews).
Either from such information or from you own life experience, what are your feelings about the possible good or bad elements of forced religious conversion?
- 7) According to information on the Internet, the major audience of this book's publisher (Pittsopany Press) is Jewish children, up to about age thirteen. What evidence do you find that this book seems tailored for a youth audience? Conversely, what evidence do you find that this book includes adult themes?
- 8) What do you feel was Sheldon's purpose in writing this book?
- 9) Many people who enjoy reading also aspire to write. What sorts of things do you personally hope to write about (or have written)?