

Philadelphia Great Books Council  
64th Annual Spring Institute  
Saturday, May 18, 2024 by Zoom

### **Memory & Imagination**

Join our Zoom discussion of two modern classics. In the morning we will discuss ***The Immense Journey*** by Loren Eiseley. Published in 1957, this debut collection of writings about the history of humanity established Eiseley as a writer with the ability to combine science and humanity in a poetic way. It conveys his sense of wonder at the depth of time and vastness of the universe, using his own experiences, reactions to the paleontological record, and wonderment about the world to address the topic of evolution. Eiseley has made the ideas and findings of his special field not only radiantly comprehensible, but almost spiritually meaningful to readers whose knowledge of science is slight.

In the afternoon we will discuss ***Invisible Cities*** by Italo Calvino. Published in 1972, the novel deconstructs an archetypal example of the travel literature genre, *The Travels of Marco Polo*, which depicts the eponymous Venetian merchant's journey across Asia and in Yuan China (Mongol Empire). The original 13th-century travelogue shares with Calvino's novel the brief, often fantastic accounts of the cities Polo claimed to have visited, along with descriptions of the city's inhabitants, notable imports and exports, and stories by Polo about the region. This intricately crafted novel about an Emperor's travels—a brilliant journey across far-off places and distant memory, is framed as a conversation between the Mongol emperor Kublai Khan and Marco Polo.

Your \$35 fee covers copies of both books and mailing, which will be sent upon receipt of your registration. Please send this form, with your check made out to **Philadelphia Great Books Council**, to **John J. Munk**, 82-28 250 Street, Bellerose, New York 11426-2524. For more information, contact him by email at johnjmunk@verizon.net or at 718-347-7815 or Susan Odessey at sodessey5759@gmail.com or at 215-327-1691.

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**Please print your email and phone number clearly.**

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**CALCULATION of TOTAL COST:** \_\_\_\_\_ number of attendees x \$35 for each

registration & set of books = \_\_\_\_\_ .