

Thought Questions for So Long a Letter

1. How do Ramatoulaye's and Aissatou's notions of duty and responsibility—familial, religious, sexual, social,—differ?
2. Describe the personalities of Ramatoulaye and Aissatou. What level of education did they attain? What status did they achieve in the larger community? What risks did they take? What guided their decisions at key moments in their lives to submit to or to oppose tradition?
3. Describe Modou Fall's and Mawdo Ba's personalities. In what areas did they accept the traditional roles assigned to them? How did they rebel? Why did each of them take second wives?
4. What is the role of women's anger in this work? Does it correspond to aspects of women's lives with which we can identify if we are raised in North America? Why or why not?