**The Idea of Exchange in Arthurian Legends**

As more details were added into the text of Arthurian legends in those that were produced more closed to the modern era, the knights in the old poems gradually change from flat, saint-like, perfect heroes to more three-dimensional character who cannot always be true to the chivalric code. During the adventures, their spirits are challenged, and different choices are made during the process in order to get out of the dilemmas. The literary change reflects the change of the society, and people's expectation.

Of all the ideas that are presented, the most impressive one is the idea of "exchange" in the poem Sir Gawain and the Green Knight. In this poem, not every offer can be accepted without paying its price.

The first exchange happened at the beginning, in King Arthur's court the Green Knight offered to be struck by someone presented at the feast, and in return, the person who accepted that quest shall be struck back in a year by him. This is a challenge brought by the Green Knight indeed, in order to compromise the authority of his reign, but it also reflects the ethics that those who kill people shall also be killed. Actually, considering the heavy impact that Roman Catholic Church has on the Western Europe during Medieval era, such exchange is not only a secular rule, but also backed by religious ideals that in bible, we can easily find the parallels of it. For example, in Leviticus, we have "Anyone who takes the life of a human being is to be put to death" and in Genesis, there is also " If anyone takes a human life, that person's life will also be taken by human hands".