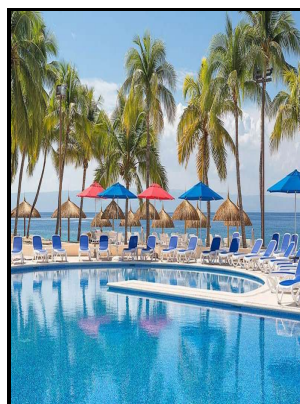


Decameron

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Description: -

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Why Boccaccio's 'The Decameron' Can Guide Us Through COVID

Moreover, these stories begin to imagine new futures that were deemed impossible or unimaginable in the old world. His name was Master Alberto and such was the vivacity of his spirit that, albeit he was an old man of hard upon seventy years of age and well nigh all natural heat had departed his body, he scrupled not to expose himself to the flames of love; for that, having seen at an entertainment a very beautiful widow lady, called, as some say, Madam Malgherida de' Ghisolieri, and being vastly taken with her, he received into his mature bosom, no otherwise than if he had been a young gallant, the amorous fire, insomuch that himseemed he rested not well by night, except the day foregone he had looked upon the delicate and lovesome countenance of the fair lady.

The Decameron: Study Guide

Algates, in the abbot's chamber there be certain grain-sacks, whereto I can bring thee and spread thee thereon some small matter of bed, and there, an it please thee, thou shalt lie this night, as best thou mayst. On the other hand, he hath been so wicked a man that he will never consent to confess or take any sacrament of the church; and he dying without confession, no church will receive his body; nay, he will be cast into a ditch, like a dog. Boccaccio may not have invented any of the stories.

The Project Gutenberg eBook of The Decameron of Giovanni Boccaccio, Translated by John Payne.

Many breathed their last in the open street, whilst other many, for all they died in their houses, made it known to the neighbours that they were dead rather by the stench of their rotting bodies than otherwise; and of these and others who died all about the whole city was full.

Why the Decameron Is on Everyone's Coronavirus Reading List

Two in particular have elaborate drawings, probably done by Boccaccio himself. This, given the social importance for a woman of appearing chaste, provides drama and humour in many of the tales.

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