

# Chivalry in English literature - Chaucer, Malory, Spenser, and Shakespeare.

University Press - Chivalry in English literature : Chaucer, Malory, Spenser and Shakespeare : Schofield, William Henry, 1870



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There is a strong Ovidian atmosphere about Venus and Adonis, which is paralleled in some of Chaucer's works: but Shakespeare felt as keenly as Chaucer, or even Malory, the difference between love and lust. Probably he was with him at the famous siege of Rouen in 1419, and at the marriage of Henry V with Catherine of France the year after.

**Malory in Chivalry in English literature. Chaucer, Malory, Spenser and Shakespeare**

Cecilia is a close translation, and one cannot infer much from it as to the poet's own sentiments. With others like-minded and like-trained, Christine strove in France to effect a union of learning and chivalry, but plainly with less success than was achieved beyond the Alps.

**Shakespeare in Chivalry in English literature. Chaucer, Malory, Spenser and Shakespeare**

The greater part of Spenser's time of poetic composition he lived in Ireland.

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In early days, just after leaving college, the poet had become enamoured of a lady in Lancashire whom he calls Rosalind, and had taken her as the inspiration of his verse, though we cannot believe that she was a much more real personage, as he describes her, than many another object of sonnet love. To obtain relief for this faithful friend, Orlando, with drawn sword, breaks into the company of the gentle duke, and defiantly demands food. In only one of Shakespeare's plays is pure love not given something of a chivalric cast; yet that is the greatest of all his poems dealing with such emotion, Romeo and Juliet.

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If Malory read it, he did so, we may be sure, with full understanding and sympathy. On the other hand, Shakespeare had strong sympathy with true aspirants to distinction, no matter from what rank they came, and believed that As the sun breaks through the darkest clouds, So honour peereth in the meanest habit.

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Rosalind, all the while deeply enamoured of Orlando, is merely playful in her mockery. Let no man predicate That aught the name of gentleness should have.

**Malory in Chivalry in English literature. Chaucer, Malory, Spenser and Shakespeare**

And all was full of damsels and of squires. Spenser developed the idea finely in the Faery Queen.

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