

Giovanni Boccaccio

Istituto poligrafico e Zecca dello Stato - Giovanni Boccaccio (Author of The Decameron)



Description: -

-Giovanni Boccaccio

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And an infinite number of times it befell that, two priests going with one cross for some one, three or four biers, borne by bearers, ranged themselves behind the latter, and whereas the priests thought to have but one dead man to bury, they had six or eight, and whiles more.

CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA: Giovanni Boccaccio

How many memorable families, how many ample heritages, how many famous fortunes were seen to remain without lawful heir! A good month after, I found that they were four farthings more than they should have been; wherefore, not seeing him again and having kept them by me a full year, that I might restore them to him, I gave them away in alms.

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

He was belike the worst man that ever was born. Lauretta having thus made an end of her ballad,—in the burden of which all had blithely joined, albeit the words thereof gave some much matter for thought,—divers other rounds were danced and a part of the short night being now spent, it pleased the queen to give an end to the first day; wherefore, letting kindle the flambeaux, she commanded that all should betake themselves to rest until the ensuing morning, and all, accordingly, returning to their several chambers, did so.

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What while he continued to pass back and forth, it chanced one holiday that, the lady being seated with many others before her door and espying Master Alberto making towards them from afar, they one and all took counsel together to entertain him and do him honour and after to rally him on that his passion. Indeed, leaving be that townsman avoided townsman and that well nigh no neighbour took thought unto other and that kinsfolk seldom or never visited one another and held no converse together save from afar, this tribulation had stricken such terror to the hearts of all, men and women alike, that brother forsook brother, uncle nephew and sister brother and oftentimes wife husband; nay what is yet more extraordinary and well nigh incredible fathers and mothers refused to visit or tend their very children, as they had not been theirs. In their time there were not a dozen men in who could read the works of the Greek authors in the original.

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Accordingly, by her commandment, Dioneo took a lute and Fiammetta a viol and began softly to sound a dance; whereupon the queen and the other ladies, together with the other two young men, having sent the serving-men to eat, struck up a round and began with a slow pace to dance a brawl; which ended, they fell to singing quaint and merry ditties. As for the hope that moveth me, who am an old man, to love you who are courted of many young gallants, it is on this wise: I have been many a time where I have seen ladies lunch and eat lupins and leeks.

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