

Lecture by Uffaq Zahra

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The Faerie Queene Book 1

Poem by Edmund Spenser

The Faerie Queene is an English epic poem by Edmund Spenser. Books I–III were first published in 1590, then republished in 1596 together with books IV–VI.

Originally published: 1590

Author: Edmund Spenser

Genre: Chivalric romance

Original language: English

Lines: Over 36,000

Metre: Spenserian stanza

What is the story of Faerie Queene?

The Faerie Queene (1590) is an epic poem by Edmund Spenser (c. 1552–1599), which follows the adventures of a number of medieval knights. The poem, written in a deliberately archaic style, draws on history and myth, particularly the legends of Arthur.

Who is The Faerie Queene woman?

The poem is dedicated to Elizabeth I who is represented in the poem as the Faerie Queene Gloriana, as well as the character Belphoebe.

Is The Faerie Queene an allegory?

Allegory is a type of story which carries a second meaning along with its surface meaning." Spenser's "The Faerie Queene" is an allegorical romance, symbolizing the moral and spiritual journey of an individual through innumerable temptations of sins towards the ultimate attainment of glory and truth.

What is the main theme of Faerie Queen?

The Importance of a Virtuous Life. Spenser views the righteous moral life as a noble quest similar to a knight's journey. His knights go on pilgrimages both to save people in peril and to perfect their own virtues. The demands of virtue hold knights to a high standard.

What is Spenserian stanza in poetry?

Spenserian stanza, verse form that consists of eight iambic pentameter lines followed by a ninth line of six iambic feet (an alexandrine); the rhyme scheme is ababbcbcc. The first eight lines produce an effect of formal unity, while the hexameter completes the thought of the stanza.

Summary and Analysis of Book 1

The first book follows the adventures of the Redcross Knight (or "Red Cross Knight"), the knight of Holiness. Redcross is on a mission from the Faerie Queene Gloriana to lead his companion, Una, back to her homeland where he is to defeat a mighty dragon that is terrorizing the people. The Faerie Queen opens with Redcross and Una, followed by their attendant, a dwarf, coming upon the monster Errour, a woman-snake hybrid. Redcross defeats Errour, and after leaving the forest they are lured into the home of Archimago, an evil sorcerer disguised as an old man. Archimago creates a false Una and sends his creation to seduce Redcross. Redcross rebuffs the false Una, only to later find the false Una laying with a squire. The Redcross Knight abandons Una, fooled by Archimago's magical deception.

Traveling alone, Redcross meets Duessa, who calls herself Fidessa, another agent of deception.

Duessa leads Redcross to a magical spring that drains his vitality, and the evil Duessa delivers the weakened Redcross Knight into the captivity of the giant Orgolio. However, Una has been searching for Redcross and she meets Arthur, the man later to become the legendary King Arthur. Una and Arthur rescue Redcross from Orgolio and Una brings the knight to the house of Holiness to recover. Once healed, physically and spiritually, Redcross and Una finally journey to Una's home. Redcross

battles the dragon, being mortally wounded three times. Each time he is resurrected, and on the third day of resurrection, Redcross kills the dragon. With much celebration, Una and Redcross are promised to be married and the land will be theirs after Redcross serves Gloriana for six more years. Archimago reappears once again to undo Redcross with lies and deception, but his falsehoods are easily uncovered and Archimago is imprisoned.

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