

Simon Armitage Sir Gawain

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
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following in the tradition of seamus heaney s reworking of beowulf armitage one of england s leading poets has produced a virtuoso new translation of the 600 year old arthurian story with both clarity and verve

when the mysterious green knight arrives unbidden at the round table one christmas only gawain is brave enough to take up his challenge this story first told in the 1400s is one of the most enthralling dramatic and beloved poems in the english tradition now in simon armitage the poem has found its perfect modern translator armitage s retelling of sir gawain and the green knight captures all of the magic and wonderful storytelling of the original while also revitalising it with his own popular funny and contemporary voice

description the programme for the reading of simon armitage s translation of sir gawain and the green knight the programme details the history of the manuscript and the possible origin of the anonymous author an interrogation of the poem s form and a broad outline of the poem is also discussed a biography of armitage also features

it is new year at camelot and a mysterious green knight appears at king arthur s court challenging the knights of the round table to a christmas game he offers his splendid axe as a prize to whoever is brave enough to behead him with just one strike the condition is that his challenger must seek him out in a year and a day to have the deed returned sir gawain accepts and decapitates the stranger only to see him pick up his head walk out of the hall and ride away on his horse now gawain must complete his part of the bargain search for his foe and confront what seems his doom michael smith s translation of this magnificent arthurian romance draws on his intimate experience of the north west of england and his knowledge of mediaeval history culture and architecture he takes us back to the original poetic form of the manuscript and brings it alive for a modern audience while revealing the poem s historic and literary context the book is beautifully illustrated by throughout with detailed recreations of the illuminated lettering in the original manuscript and the author s own linocut prints each meticulously researched for contemporary accuracy this is an exciting new edition that will appeal both to students of the gawain poet and the general reader alike

featuring both the original text and a modern translated version this fourteenth century arthurian poem tells the legendary tale of the mysterious green knight and sir gawain a great knight of the round table the knights of the round table are celebrating yuletide when their festivities are interrupted by the mystifying green knight riding on his green horse the green knight challenges king arthur s legendary men to a wager he who takes a blow at the green knight

must be prepared to accept a return attack one year and one day later it is the gallant sir gawain who takes this challenge on he raises his axe and strikes off the head of the green knight yet the intruder is undefeated still alive he picks up his head and promises he will see sir gawain in a year and a day in stanzas of alliterative verse ending in a rhyming bob and wheel the poem chronicles sir gawain s heroic quest this high quality edition features both william allan neilson s 1917 translated text and the original version by the anonymous writer known as the pearl poet or the gawain poet ragged hand has proudly republished this classic poem in a beautiful new edition complete with an introduction by k g t webster this volume is not to be missed by fans of the famous legend of king arthur and his knights of the round table

king arthur comes to vivid life in this gripping poetic translation by the renowned poet and translator

this prose rendering of a poem from the late fourteenth century or earlier recounts an adventure undertaken by king arthur s famous nephew sir gawain brave and chivalrous faithful to his word and ever mindful of his honor as well as that of others gawain represents the model of knightly grace when a gigantic stranger clad in green armor bursts in on the round table assembly to issue a challenge the gallant gawain volunteers to do battle for his king this parable blends pagan elements and christian ethics to celebrate the virtue of forgiveness and it is frequently assigned to classes in literature and history because of its short length and its excellent representation of chivalric tradition

this middle english poem about the moral testing of a young hero is commonly described as the greatest arthurian romance in our literary tradition it is a question still as to who the author is but this poet is considered second only to chaucer

with contributions from 29 leading international scholars this is the first single volume guide to the appropriation of medieval texts in contemporary culture medieval afterlives in contemporary culture covers a comprehensive range of media including literature film tv comics book adaptations electronic media performances and commercial merchandise and tourism its lively chapters range from spamalot to the rsc beowulf to merlin computer games to

internet memes opera to young adult fiction and contemporary poetry and much more also included is a companion website aimed at general readers academics and students interested in the burgeoning field of medieval afterlives complete with further reading weblinks my favourite guides to contemporary medieval appropriations images and interviews guide to library archives and manuscript collections guide to heritage collection see also our website at medievalafterlives.wordpress.com

sir gawain and the green knight is a masterpiece of medieval english literature and one of the finest arthurian tales in any language though its ingenious plotting and verbal artistry continue to dazzle readers it is written in a challenging regional dialect and uses many words that were already archaic when the poem was written in the late fourteenth century this edition is designed to make the poem in its original middle english accessible to students and general readers following standards adopted for editing other middle english poets the edition lightly normalizes spellings to make words more recognizable for a modern audience extensive marginal glossing of difficult words thorough on page explanatory notes and a comprehensive glossary offer further support for readers the historical appendices include other examples of medieval romance from france and britain

who is the pearl poet how do ideas about his life and interpretations of his poems shape our understanding of his work in late medieval england and beyond in *becoming the pearl poet* perceptions connections receptions readers can explore the world of this extraordinary fourteenth century writer in part i perceptions five scholars give insightful literary analyses of the narrative poems attributed to the poet pearl cleanness patience *sir gawain and the green knight* and *st erkenwald* in part ii connections six scholars examine connections between these diverse poems focusing on authorship ecology material culture sartorial adornment shields and the poet's pastoral theology in part iii receptions scholars consider the illustrations of the pearl manuscript british library ms cotton nero a x the poet's cultural situatedness in the northwest midlands and ricardian court his religious contexts later translations and paraphrases of his work and his medieval and modern audiences intended for students and scholars alike this book encourages readers to gain a deeper understanding of the pearl poet and his world learning many new things and enjoying old things in a new way

middle english text parallel english translation

winner pen award for poetry in translation from the acclaimed translator of sir gawain and the green knight a spellbinding new translation of this classic allegory of grief and consolation one of our most ingenious interpreters of middle english oxford professor of poetry simon armitage is celebrated for his compulsively readable translations new york times book review a perfect complement to his historic translation of sir gawain and the green knight pearl reanimates another beloved medieval english masterpiece thought to be by the same anonymous author and housed in the same original fourteenth century manuscript honoring the rhythms and alliterative music of the original armitage s virtuosic translation describes a man mourning the loss of his pearl something that has slipped away what follows is a tense fascinating and tender dialogue weaving through the throes of grief toward divine redemption intricate and endlessly connected armitage s lyrical translation is a circular and perfected whole much like the pearl itself

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Introduction

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