

“The Rise of Gawain, Nephew of Arthur”

- Medieval Latin, 13thc., Robert of Torigni: monastery of Le Bec in Normandy (Librarian 1139, 1st commentary on Geoffrey of Monmouth, Abbot Mont St. Michel 1154, d. 1186)
- Datable events: Sack of Rome (410), Roman War with Persia (421/22), Final Aid to Britannia (424)

Conception and Infant Exile

- Parents: Loth, nephew of King of Norway; Anna, Arthur's sister, daughter King Uther
- Baby sent off with gold, silver, vestments, Palladium embroidered with jewels, signet ring set an emerald, document certifying his lineage
- Land in Gaul (Montagne de la Clape, Narbonne Plage) where poor fisherman (Viamundus) steals baby and treasures

Childhood in Rome

- After 7 years travels to Rome devastated by sacking; Viamundus offers service, Emperor gives him hall of Scipio Africanus, villages, vineyards, fields
- Educated at the palace until 12 years old, when Viamundus confesses to Emperor and Pope, discloses Gawain's true identity, then dies
- “Boy With No Family Name” reared with royal children, granted arms by Emperor at 15; wins jousts at Circus, crowned with golden circlet at festival of Equirria, requests to be assigned for single combat with Emperor’s next enemy
- “Knight of the Surcoat” (deep red tunic over his armor) appointed to fight Persian King to defend Christians remaining in Jerusalem

King Milocrates

- Departs for Jerusalem with 16 ships blown off course during storm in the Adriatic to barbarous island of Milos, where King Milocrates has abducted Emperor's niece, who was betrothed to King of Illyrium
- Persian pirates in control of pagan islands of the Adriatic watching out for "Knight of the Surcoat," who camps with Roman Centurion in dense forest on the island
- Fights and defeats game warden and men after poaching deer; Centurion sends Gawain to spy on the court of King Milocrates; Gawain decapitates wild boar along the way and sends it back to the Centurion, who has captured the spies Milocrates
- Abducted Queen conspires with servant Nabaor to bring her the Knight of the Surcoat, and order the Centurion to send 40 men to capture the city when he fights Milocrates, using King's own sword and gilded armor with the curse, given him by the Queen
- Elaborate military strategies lead to the decapitation of the King, defeat of his army, occupation of his city, return of Queen to King of Illyrium

Sea Battle with Greek Fire

- Departure for Jerusalem with complicated naval battle against brother of King Milocrates
- Recipe for Greek Fire (395-97): toads, water snakes, asp with 3 heads; gall bladder and testicles of wolf; solidified stone of lynx urine; head, heart, and lung of crow; sulphur, pitch, resin, oil, tartar, petroleum
- Bronze heating vessel filled with blood of dragon (drugged and slaughtered for blood and “dragon gem”) and red-haired man (fattened, roasted on a spit, and drained of his blood)
- Vessel heated on trip for 7 nights with flames of naptha and pitch, copper valve, until it ignites with tremendous roar of an earthquake; bellow extract fire
- Gawain uses fire at climax of the long battle to defeat the pirates

Πήγασθε καὶ τοῦσκελαστὴρα πάλοι πυρί



Τὸν τῶν Εἵλαντίδών

Jerusalem, Rome, Return to Britannia

- Single combat with giant Persian Gormundus in epic style; defeated on third day to restore Jerusalem, impose reparations, and return to Rome to complete the cycle, and initiate the next
- Thinking to regain Britannia Emperor sends Gawain to Arthur, with letter and documents certifying his parentage
- Crosses Alps, through Gaul, to Caerleon in Britannia, where Romans wintered and Arthur convenes with his princes
- Arthur lies in bed with Queen Gwendolena, sorceress who predicts that a knight equal to Arthur will arrive next morning and give her a ring, 3000 pieces, and two horses
- Arthur sneaks out at night to test her prediction, and he and Kay knocked off their horses into the flooded river where Gawain is trying to cross the ford; Arthur returns home soaked

- Next morning Gawain arrives and presents Queen ring, gold, and two horses, which she sends into Arthur's bedroom, where he recognizes them as his own
- Gawain arrives and presents King with coffer and letter that certifies his identity, but Arthur won't disclose it until he accomplishes some heroic feat
- 6 days later Arthur sets off to Castle of Maidens (Edinburgh) besieged by pagan king, who razes the castle and abducts its Fair Lady
- Arthur's army trapped and surrounded, forced to flee; Gawain taunts him, pursues the pagan kind, whom he kills, in order to rescue the maiden, carrying her to the Antonine Wall that divides the two kingdoms
- Routs the pagan army, decapitates the King, and takes his head back to Arthur's hall
- Arthur produces the documents and coffer naming Gawain and uniting him with his true lineage (to complete large hero journey frame with symbolism of atonement and homecoming to place of origins)

Wolfram Von Eschenbach's Gawain



Kingrimursel (Lord Killed by Gawain): Joust in 40 Days

Fights for Duke Lyppault, Obie, Obilot the Younger

Defeats Meljanz & Meljahkanz (Chrétien's Meleagant)

King Vergulaht to sister Antikonie

Kingrimursel sends Gawain to find Grail in 1 Year

Lady with Urgans in Lap, wounded by Lischois

Sees Castle of Orgeluse (Spiral, Tree, Spring, Palfrey)

Malcreature: Cundrie's Brother, Daughters of Adam, Gift from Anfortas from Queen Secundille (whose kingdom Fierefiz won)

Fights Lischois Gwelljus on Nag from Urgans

Ferryman feeds Merlin Hawk, gets Lischois, tells of Clinschor

Plippalinot gives him shield, instructions to buy from huckster

Palace with Peacock Roof, Empty Couches, Perilous Bed

Magic Pillar: Spiral, Gems, Mirror, Clinschor from Queen Secundille

4 Queens: Old Arnive, Daughter Sangive, Granddaughters Itonje & Cundrie

Sees and Defeats Turkoyt

Crosses Rosche Sabins with whirlpool

Gramoflanz: Tree, Garland, Peacock Plume, Ring for Itonje

Killed Cidegast (Orgeluse's Lover), Love with Itonje, Joust plans

Orgeluse: Gramoflanz killed Cidegast, Anfortas wounded fighting for
her, Malcreatiure gift from him

Merchandise of Thabronit, given to Clinschor so he won't use his
magic on her

The man who endures the Perilous Bed who will get her and the
goods

Gives sister Gramoflanz's Ring

Arranges for Arthur's Arrival

Queen Arnive tells Clinschor's Story

Fights with Parzival at Gramoflanz's Tree

Marriages: Gramoflanz & Itonje; Gawain & Orgeluse;

Feierfiz and Grail Maiden; Sangive and Turkoyt; Parzival and
Condwiramours

que hump d'kung Gramoflens zu Gavrin geuren do er denken
gebrochen hat und sie als heiligen ennen wuff und lügt sie



Die kam Gartm wondrich röber den grüben und das wäss rend die
herzogin kam mit ihm und besetzet ynd und d' minne ih' Gräfin.













fillen gespoeken den mit gevoerd te vroffen. In den
grall den die er grotte met da leed den wist mit vranne
te kam.





Die hat gewir gefritten mit einem Löwen den er
Den Löwen von einer ar Dicke an dem Leib lag als
ob er es über so Ewiget ein Füngt mit dem Kopf
Den haben ihn mit Wasser Dicke an Grader zu dem selber kam



Mit senften helleflichen ist
Aljöher gern zu bette lag und gar schwerlich
Was von die Königin in beschenkt



Sir Gawain and the Green Knight



luge d.

95.91

men ye lege i ye assaut vanc leled at trope
pe wy brittene & brent to brandz & aske;
ye talk pat ye traunes of tresor p o rost
vanc tried for his tricherie ye trewest ou to the
hit vanc cumas ye arbel & his wif p m.
pat lyen spreded princes & patrois incame
deteneze of alre wele i ye ault des
fro riche romulus to rone rudes b[ea]t[er]e
et gret lobbante peur burje he liges upon kyrt
& menenes hit hit ame nome as hit nose hat
tions to cuskian & telles menenes
lang alese i la lande metes up homes North wome
fer en re french and felip britt
en meny vantes ful lande bretern h[er]letter
where derre & derre & derder
in lande hat Scott & the
& ott vere misse xlndar
fullete hat styrte lome
dine men rig bretern vanc bigged in rig burn ryce
bold br[ea]dari verme baret pat letden
in mon tisued tyme tenz pat brosten
to ferne in rig sole han fallen here ott
men may op pat roet son pat ilk tyme
lome alli pat hero vint of breternigne syres
the gret arthur pe hercett as pat herde celle

Then ye lege & ye assant sat, seised at trope
ye wy brittene & brent to burne, & alse
ye telle sat ye traines of treason þe wroght
Dantes triud for his tricherie ye trewest ouer the
hit danc & unnes ye athel & his knyfes
sat liven depreded prynces & patronez picardie
Aethneze of alre were i ye deit illes
fre riche romainis to romayn ryding hys flotte
robbaunce per burze he brygges upon fyrt
& hit hit ame nome as hit wold haue
christian & celtes victories
In barrie wretes up honies March 1400
e french god felip bruis
woulches ful brode bretonis he settes
orre & greate & swider
in Scottis & tane
e wholle thider
hath rayted sone
i englyssh brethayn danc brygged in ynglyssh river

aymnde is myn bane 125
Sylue most admeid
Sum tyme was trewe asthon fro shane coupe hys feare



Fitt 1:

Christmas Feast
Arrival of Green Knight
Holly Bob and Axe (1.10)
Beheading Game
Sparks (Thor: Hammer & Lightning)

Fitt 2:

All Saint's Day
Arming of Hero: Pentangle, Virgin, Gold (2.27-28)
Mountains, Fords, and Wodwos (2.31)
Christmas Eve and the Castle (2.33)39)
Divestiture
Crone and Maiden (2.39)
Bertilak's Bargain

Fitt 3:

Three Hunting Scenes (Boar, Deer, Fox)
Three Temptation Scenes (Kisses, Green Girdle, Ring)
Thor and Tibetan Vajra

Fitt 4:

Green Chapel & Underworld (4.87-88)
Three Swipes
Mock Absolution
Revelation of Morgan the Goddess
Return to Camelot (Shame and Honor)

Approaches

Structuralism: Binary Oppositions

Formalism: Parallels I/III and II/IV; 101 Stanzas;
 Endless Knot

Semiotics: Courtesy Book and Trimming the Beast;
 Green Girdle

Myth: Thor, Green Man, Devil,
 Neolithic Barrows, Fairy Lore







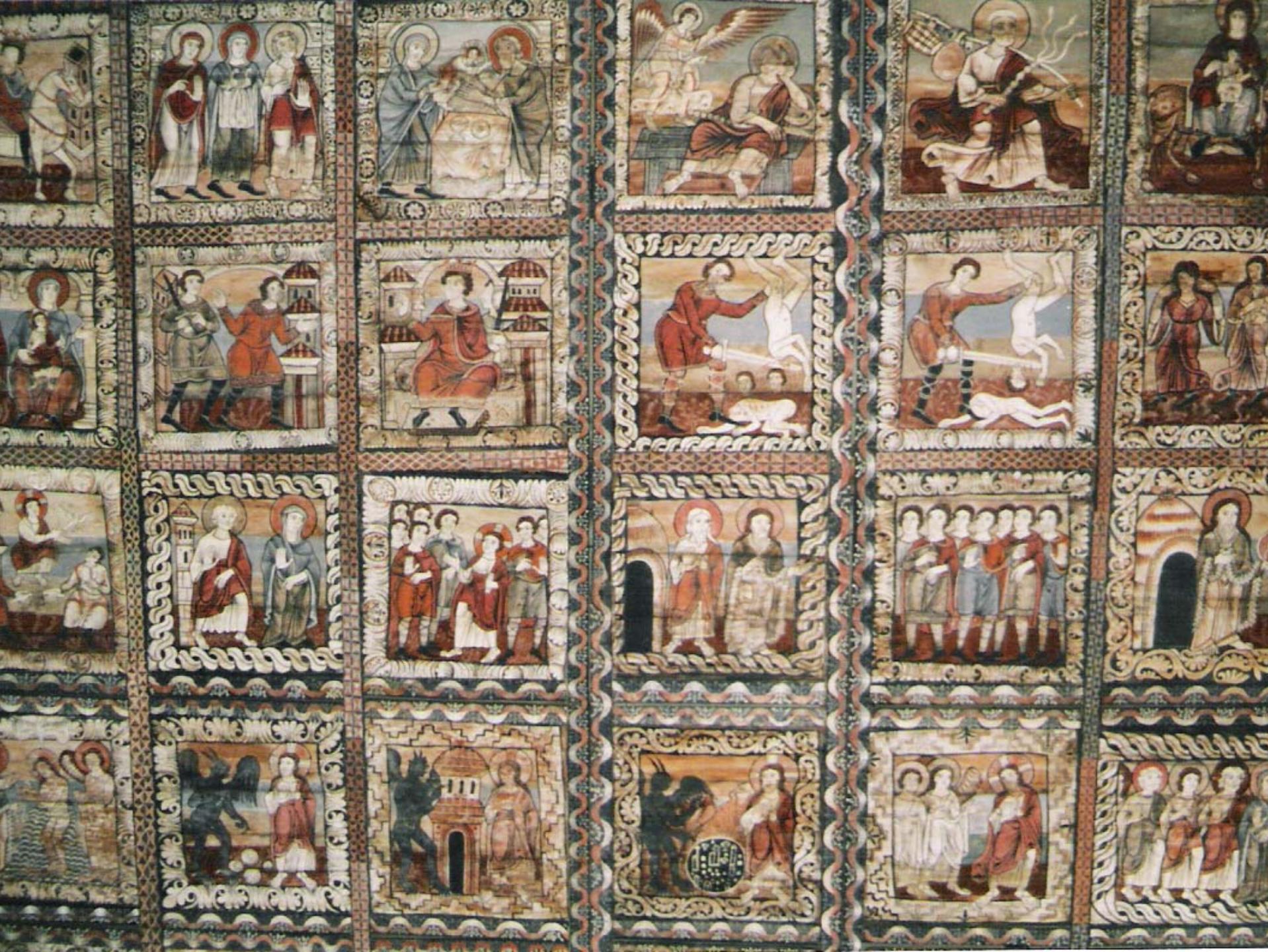


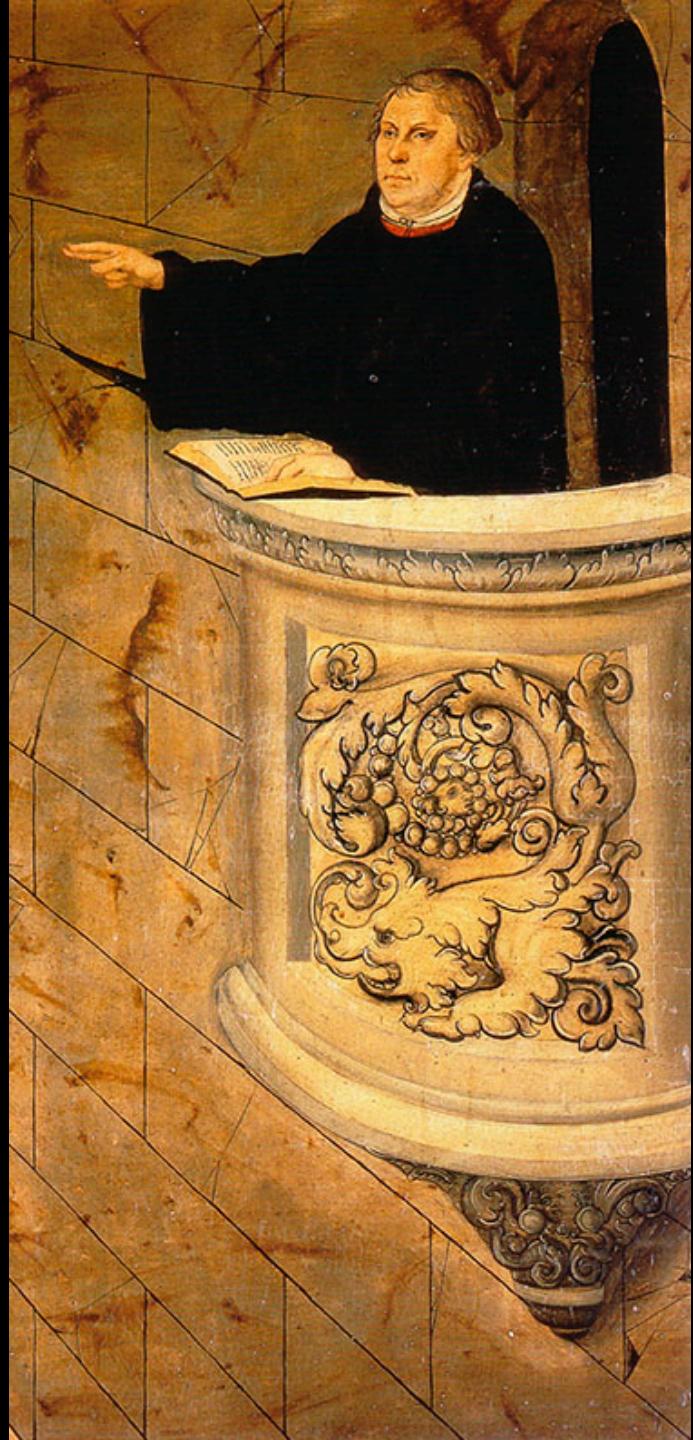














APPELLATIO D. MAR-
TINI LVTHERI AD
CONCILIVM A

Leone Decimo, denuo re-
petita & innouata.

V VITTEMBERGAE.









99.

Nr. i Mitt Tannen grün vnd Spiegel Elax
Ein Bier tēlanc dem Schämbart waar
D' Wildemann. Loffen auf'm Dinen Schämbart
ist allein bestelt. ein Vessmig ge milde flücht. Etz min
Kroß Doethen in den Haude in D're andern am zweyten
tag denij kād' Blaschun und dan kub' yo
Grußt mir Främe hüt aufz' und laß
Blasch mit fingenk' Esch und kt. aus jem
groß fuugt reibn.
der Fiedor.





der Slands=geschichten
is sein? Hif nichten

1

War der anfang 3wer
Risen=gross das End



VIRGINIS MATER IUSTITIA

PRO DUCUM

DUCI BONI VNI
IOM

WNI

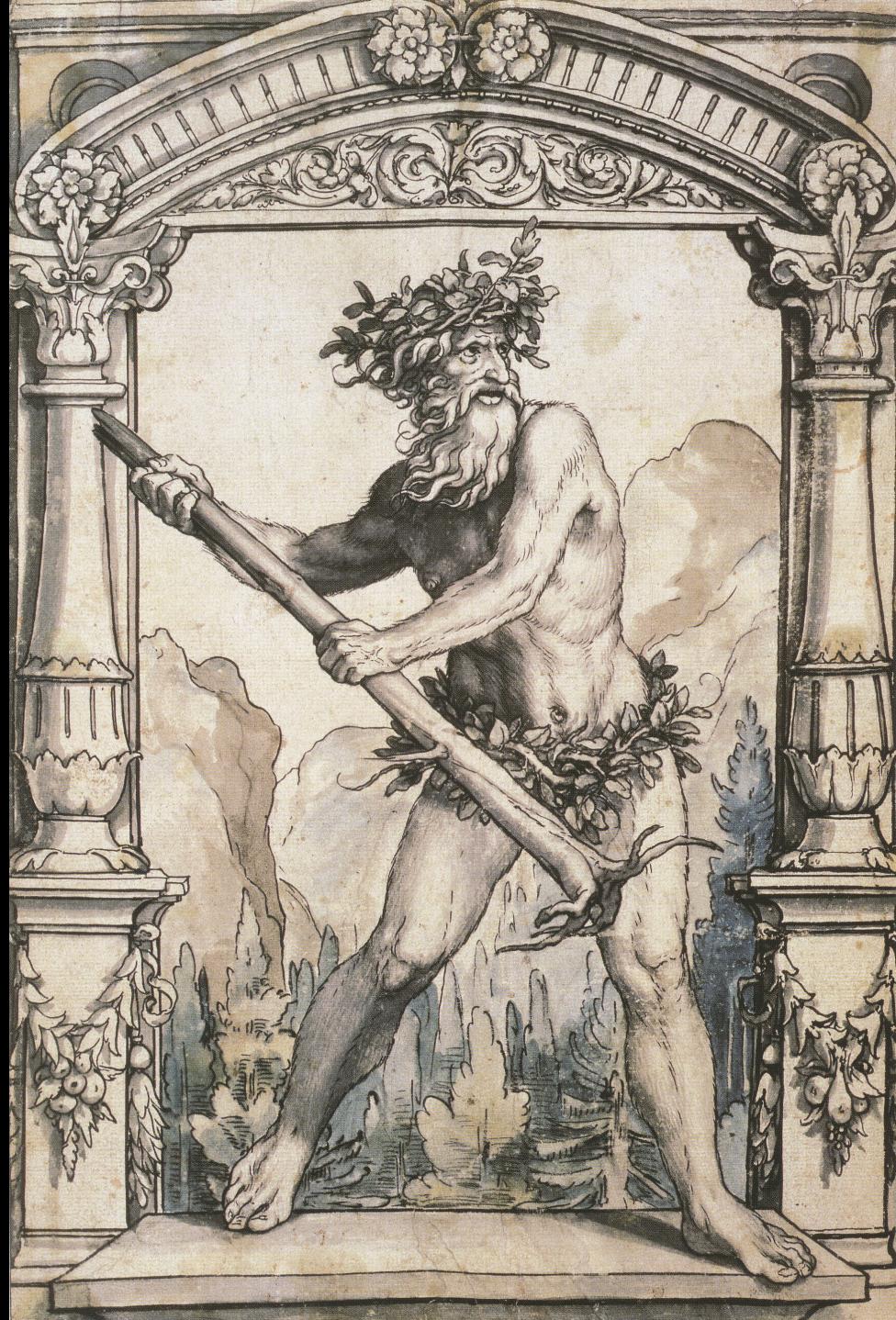
PRO DUCUM

PRO DUCUM

Die künig pentus und sin gesellen mit loub und blümme
gehendot vor den tischen in dem salē vor der dore und dorein
dineten



Grolet der zweiter sprach sehet all das ge-
meine wolt ist doch heymlich so war vmb
solten ich und re ouch mit also so reisen. Ge-
wonne aber mit den wolt im hause. Er dat sy-
gome das sy de teilre wolt lassen vnd dar an gedachten das
das gemeint wolt kee romahelschafft erseinet were als si









English songs and tunes









Going Wodwo

Shedding my shirt, my book, my coat, my life
Leaving them, empty husks and fallen leaves
Going in search of food and for a spring
Of sweet water.

I'll tell the wind my name, and no one else.
True madness takes or leaves us in the wood
Halfway through all our lives. My skin will be
my face now.

I'll find a tree as wide as ten fat men
Clear water rilling over its gray roots
Berries I'll find, and crabapples and nuts,
And call it home.

I must be nuts. Sense left with shoes and house,
my guts are cramped. I'll stumble through the green
back to my roots, and leaves and thorns and buds,
and shiver.

I'll leave the way of words to walk the wood

caedmon
TC 1628

Selections from
CROW
and WOBWO

read by the poet **Ted Hughes**





Járn Óre
íþar Ása
þoors.

Asaföt
et þeltai
Sýnū hab
it og held
a hámrin
um vniði
t Járngre
írum Sýnū
Háner og
spentur
meiqingi
ordum: og
har han ha
biði keðsa
lina friða
Loftgripi
var hónū
eðri eftö
ómaillugt
þer viða
i Eðnu gott













“Lasair Gheug, King of Ireland’s Daughter”





Gaulish God with a Boar; France, 1st century B.C.





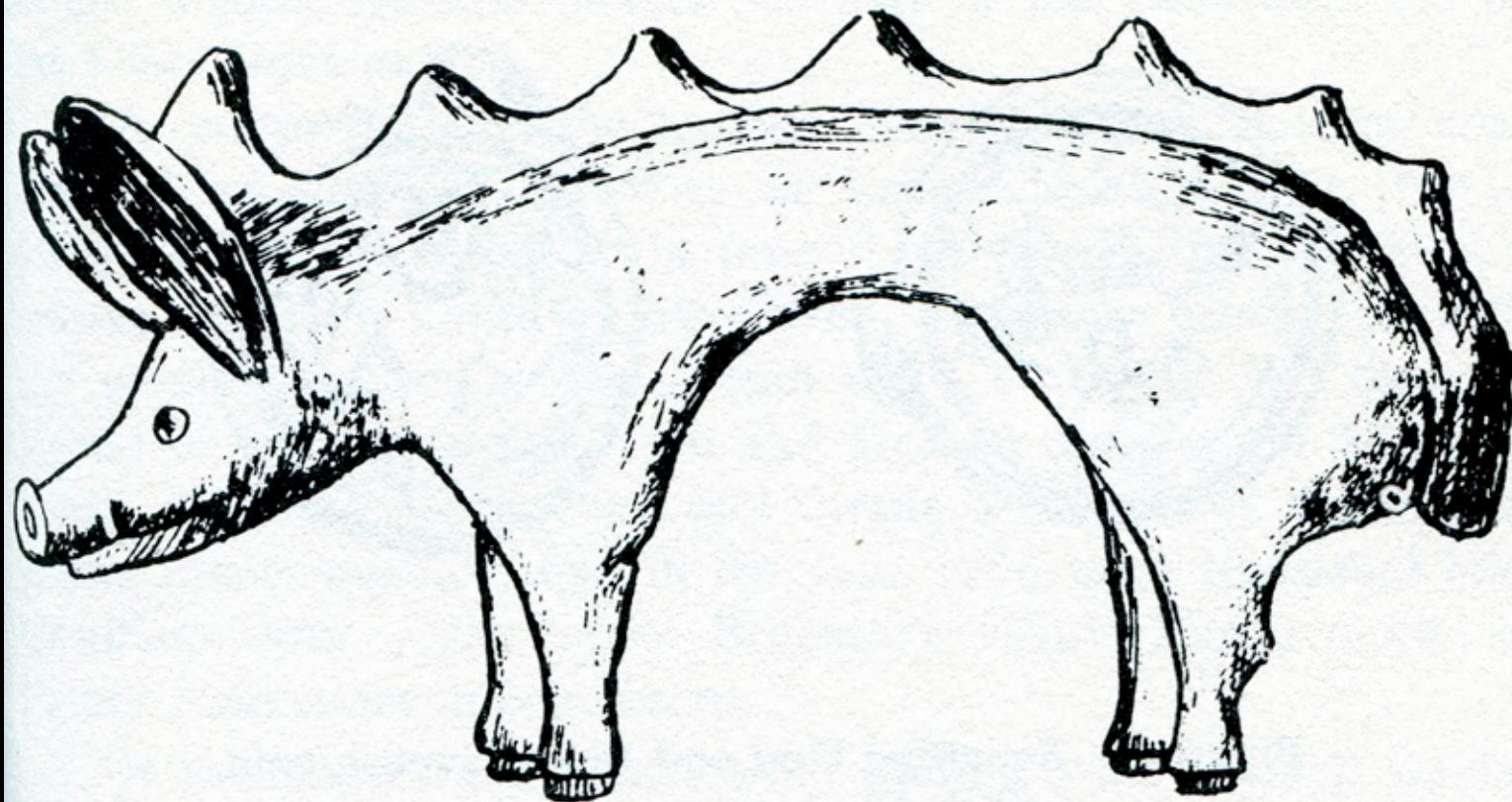


Figure 20. Sacred Boar; bronze, England, Roman Period

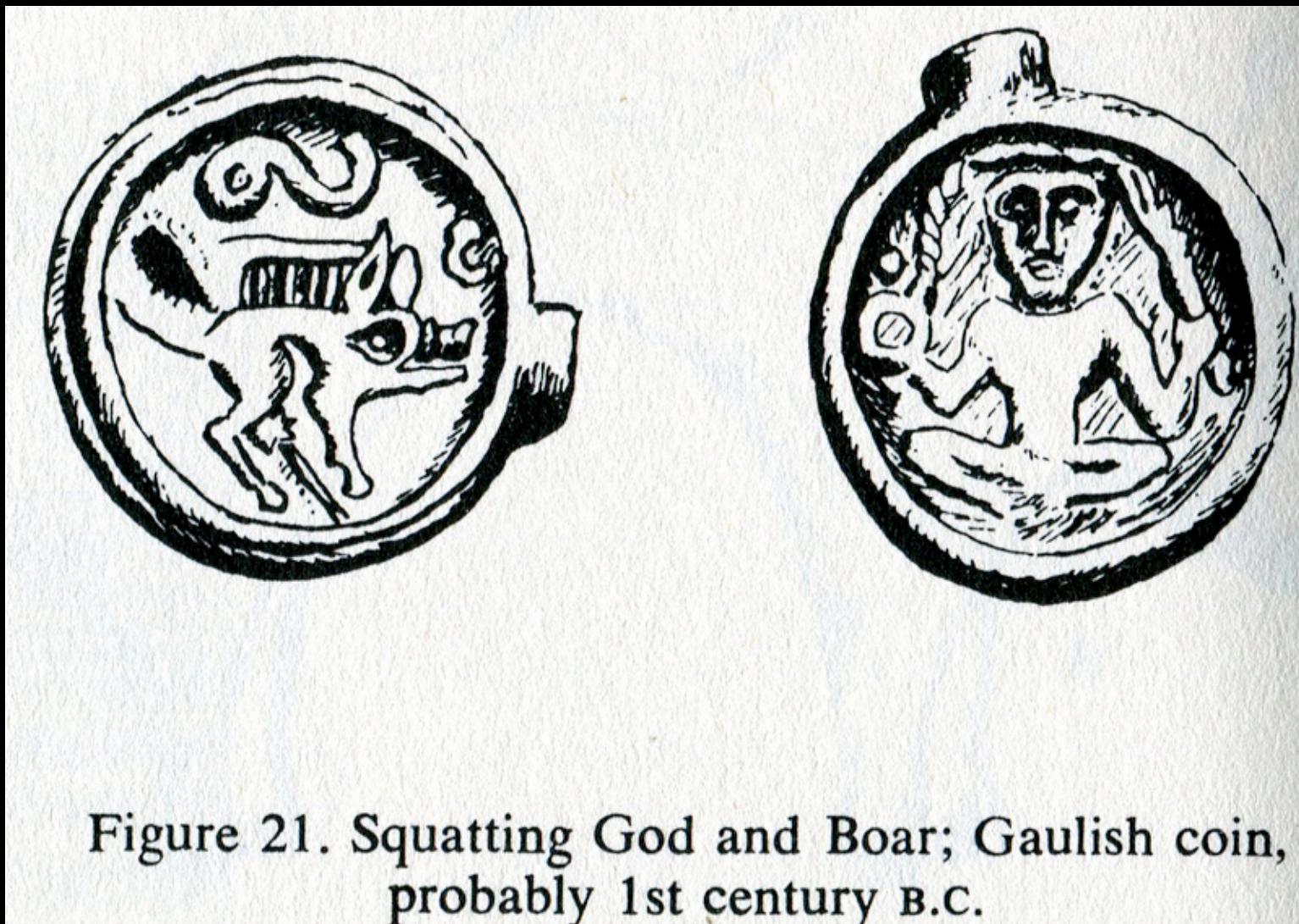
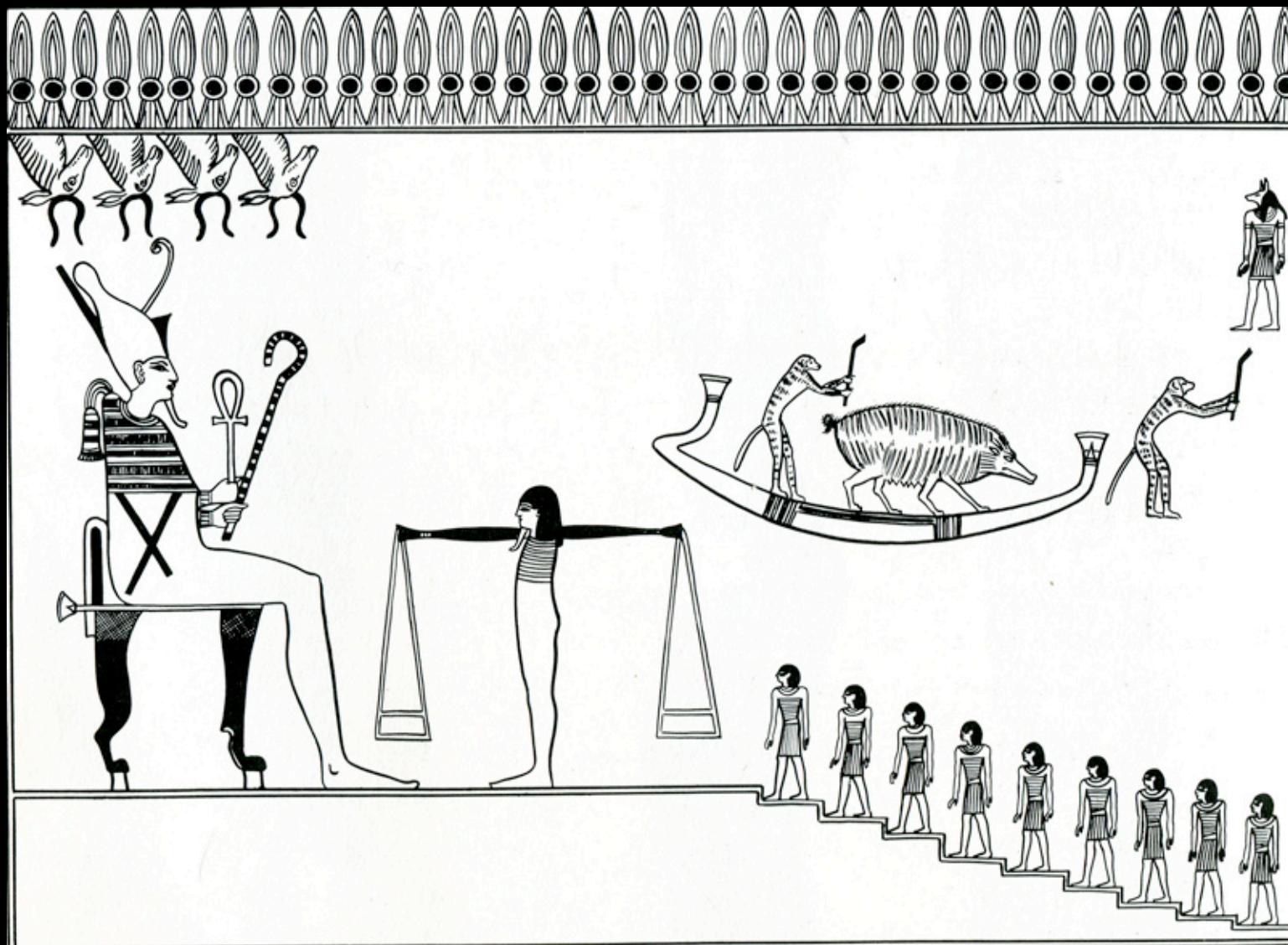


Figure 21. Squatting God and Boar; Gaulish coin,
probably 1st century B.C.



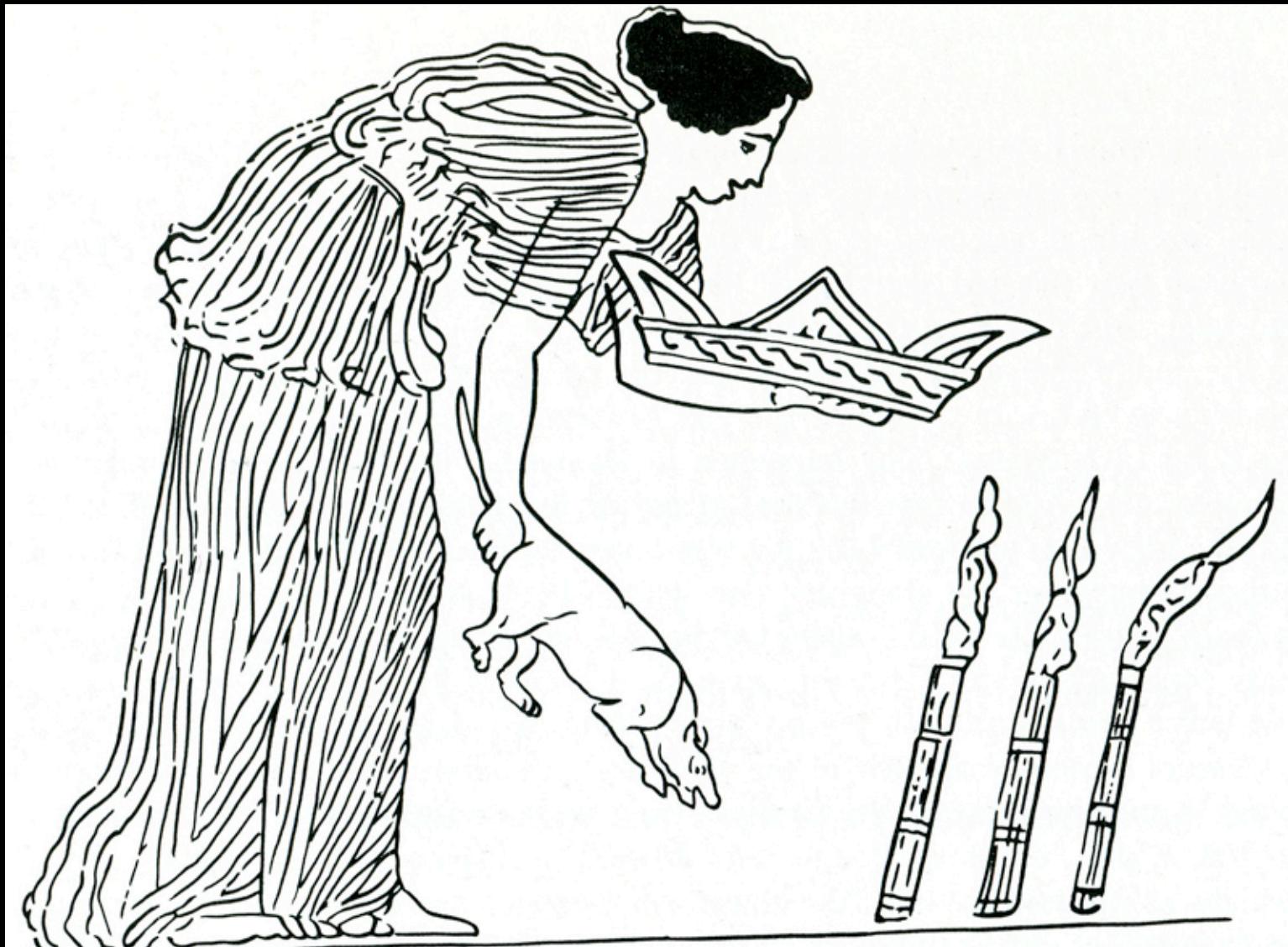


Odysseus Forces Circe to Restore His Men to Human Form. 4th century B.C.

















100 ft
20 m





Chaucer's "Wife of Bath's Tale"

Plot: Wife's Introduction: Friars Replace Faeries

Gawain's Rape and Sentence

Yearlong Journey (With Midas Digression)

24 Maidens Dancing in Forest Round Old Woman

Return to Camelot: Fair and Faithful

Terms: Auctoritee and Experience (Ovid, Seneca, Dante)

Ensaumple, Gentillesse, Rhetorik

“The Wedding of Sir Gawain and Dame Ragnelle”

1450 (Sir Thomas Malory?)



- c.1450, one manuscript from 16thc (Bodleian MS 11951), possibly written by Sir Thomas Malory
- Similar “loathly ladies” in “The Marriage of Sir Gawain” (ballad in Bishop Thomas Percy’s *Reliques of Ancient English Poetry*) and “King Henry” (Child Ballad 32), Chaucer’s “Wife of Bath’s Tale,” Gower’s Book 1 of *Confessio Amantis*
- “Tail-rhyme” stanzas (aabccb) with alternating 4/3 stresses (see PDF); theme of controlling one’s own body, possessions, fate on political, personal, spiritual levels
- Arthur hunting deer in forest of Inglewood encounters Sir Gromer Somer, who accuses him of unjustly giving his lands to Gawain; threatens to kill or decapitate him if he can’t find out what women love best within a year’s time

- Arthur returns to Carlisle and tells story to court; King and Gawain ride off to find answer; with one month left King encounters the loathly lady, ornately dressed (485), who promises to reveal secret if he can arrange her marriage to Gawain
- Arthur returns to Carlisle to tell story of Dame Ragnelle to Gawain, who agrees to marry her
- 3rd departure with 5/6 days left to encounter Dame Ragnelle again, who tells Arthur women want “sovereignty,” so Arthur hurries through bog, moor, and swamp to give Sir Gromer Somer the answer
- Sir Gromer curses his sister, and Arthur goes again to meet her, taking her back to Carlisle, where Gawain pledges fidelity, in spite of her two boar’s tusks (1 up 1 down)

- Dame Ragnelle comes lavishly dressed to public wedding ceremony, where like an ugly sow she devours everything in sight
- Wedding night kiss transforms her and Gawain lets her decide when to be beautiful, when ugly, by day or by night
- She tells her story of being transfigured into her “opposite” by the sorcery of her stepmother, only to be redeemed by best man in England who will give her “sovereignty” over body and possessions
- Presented to court, Gawain tells her story to the King, and the King to Guinevere
- Live together 5 years, Gyngolyn born, Dame Ragnelle dies; Gawain remarries often but never “loved a woman so faithfully” again
- Ends with imprisoned poet’s pitch for King to free him (Malory connection)