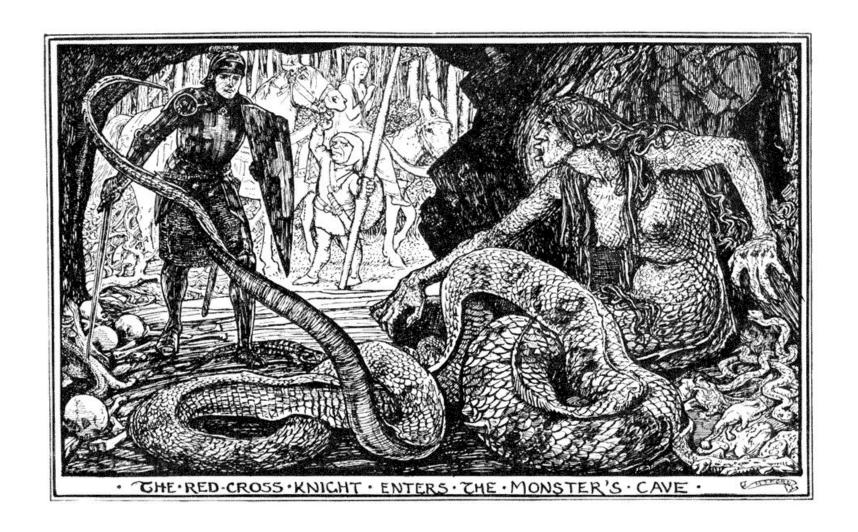


The Faerie Queene

Edmund Spenser



The Faerie Queene



The Faerie Queene

Lo I the man, whose Muse whilome did maske,

As time her taught in lowly Shepheards weeds,

Am now enforst a far unfitter taske,

For trumpets sterne to chaunge mine Oaten reeds,

And sing of Knights and Ladies gentle deeds;

Whose prayses having slept in silence long,

Me, all too meane, the sacred Muse areeds

To blazon broad emongst her learned throng:

Fierce warres and faithful loves shall moralize my song.

The Faerie Queene

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Whose prayses having slept in silence long,

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To blazon broad emongst her learned **throng**:

Fierce warres and faithful loves shall moralize my **song**.

Canto I

REDCROSSE



The First Booke of the Faerie Queene

Contayining
The Legend of the Knight of the
Red Cross
Or HOLINESSE.

A Gentle Knight was **pricking** on the plaine,

Ycladd in mightie armes and silver shielde,

Wherein old dints of deepe wounds did remaine,

The cruell markes of many a bloudy fielde;

Yet armes till that time did he never wield:

His angry steede did **chide** his foming bitt,

As much disdayning to the curbe to yield:

Full **jolly** knight he seemd, and faire did sitt,

As one for knightly **giusts** and fierce encounters fitt.

But on his brest a bloudie Crosse he bore,

The deare **remembrance** of his dying Lord,

For whose sweete sake that glorious badge he wore,

And dead as living ever him ador'd:

Upon his shield the like was also scor'd,

For soveraine hope, which in his helpe he had:

Right faithfull true he was in deede and word,

But of his cheere did seeme too solemne sad;

Yet nothing did he dread, but ever was ydrad.

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Upon a great adventure he was bond, That greatest Gloriana to him gave, That greatest Glorious Queene of Faerie lond, To winne him worship, and her grace to have, Which of all earthly things he most did crave; And ever as he rode, his hart did earne To prove his **puissance** in battell brave Upon his foe, and his new force to learne; Upon his foe, a Dragon horrible and stearne.

Questions

- What kind of person is Redcrosse?
- What is Redcrosse's "glorious badge"?
- Who is "the Faerie Queene"?