



## *The Faerie Queene*

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As time her taught in lowly Shepherds 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 prayes 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.*

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To blazon broad emongst her learned **throng**:  
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[...]

Canto I

# REDCROSSE



***The First Booke of the Faerie  
Queene***

*Contayning  
The Legend of the Knight of the  
Red Cross  
Or HOLINESSE.*

I

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 bloody 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.

ii

*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**.*



iii

*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"?