

**Lecture Series on**  
**Edmund Spenser's *The Faerie Queene***  
**Book I Canto I: Lecture 6**

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xxvi

That detestable sight him much amazde,  
To see th'unkindly Impes of heaven accurst,  
Devoure their dam; on whom while so he gazd,  
Having all satisfide their bloody thirst,  
Their bellies swolne he saw with fulnesse burst,  
And bowels gushing forth: well worthy end  
Of such as drunke her life, the which them nurst;  
Now needeth him no lenger labour spend,  
His foes have slaine themselves, with whom he  
should contend.

- Explanation: As soon as the monster fell upon the ground, her younglings started feeding upon her body, and soon the monster was dead.

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His Ladie seeing all, that chaunst, from farre  
Approcht in hast to greet his victorie,  
And said, Faire knight, borne under happy starre,  
Who see your vanquisht foes before you lye:  
Well worthy be you of that Armorie,  
Wherein ye have great glory wonne this day,  
And proof'd your strength on a strong enimie,  
Your first adventure: many such I pray,  
And henceforth ever wish, that like succeed it  
may.

- Explanation: Una, upon seeing this spectacle, encouraged the Knight to gather his strength and congratulated the Knight on his victory.

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Then mounted he upon his Steede againe,  
And with the Lady backward sought to wend;  
That path he kept, which beaten was most plame,  
Ne ever would to any by-way bend,  
But still did follow one unto the end,  
The which at last out of the wood them brought.  
So forward on his way (with God to frend)  
He passed forth, and new adventure sought;  
Long way he travelled, before he heard of ought.

- Explanation: The Knight mounted his horse, and they all went forward in search of new adventures.

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At length they chaunst to meet upon the way  
An aged Sire, in long blacke weedes yclad,  
His feete all bare, his beard all hoarie gray,  
And by his belt his booke he hanging had;  
Sober he seemde, and very sagely sad,  
And to the ground his eyes were lowly bent,  
Simple in shew, and voyde of malice bad,  
And all the way he prayed, as he went,  
And often knockt his brest, as one that did repent.

- Explanation: Soon the trio chanced upon an old man. His feet was bare, his beard was gray. He seemed very sagely. And he was praying all along the way.

XXX

He faire the knight saluted, louting low,  
Who faire him quited, as that courteous was:  
And after asked him, if he did know  
Of straunge adventures, which abroad did pas.  
Ah my deare Sonne (quoth he) how should, alas,  
Silly old man, that lives in hidden cell,  
Bidding his beades all day for his trespass,  
Tydings of warre and worldly trouble tell?  
With holy father sits not with such things to mell.

- Explanation: The old man appeared to be a sage who knew nothing of worldly matters. He told the trio that he spent his days bidding his beads.

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But if of daunger which hereby doth dwell,  
And homebred evill ye desire to heare,  
Of a straunge man I can you tidings tell,  
That wasteth all this countrey farre and neare.  
Of such (said he) I chiefly do inquere,  
And shall you well reward to shew the place,  
In which that wicked wight his dayes doth weare:  
For to all knighthood it is foule disgrace,  
That such a cursed creature lives so long a space.

- Explanation: The old man told the trio about a wicked wight who had caused havoc to the place and who was a disgrace to all knighthood.

xxxii

Far hence (quoth he) in wastfull wilderness  
His dwelling is, by which no living wight  
May ever passe, but thorough great distresse.

Now (sayd the Lady) draweth toward night,

And well I wote, that of your later fight

Ye all forwearied be: for what so strong,

But wanting rest will also want of might?

The Sunne that measures heaven all day long,

At night doth baite his steedes the Ocean waves  
emong.

- Explanation: Then the old man told the three travellers that they should take shelter in his hermitage for the night, and that they should suspend their adventures for the day.