

**Lecture Series on**  
**Edmund Spenser's *The Faerie Queene***  
**Book I Canto I: Lecture 8**

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xli

And more, to lulle him in his slumber soft,  
A trickling streame from high rocke tumbling downe  
And ever-drizling raine upon the loft,  
Mixt with a murmuring winde, much like the sowne  
Of swarming Bees, did cast him in a swowne:  
No other noyse, nor peoples troublous cryes,  
As still are wont t'annoy the walled towne,  
Might there be heard: but carelesse Quiet lyes,  
Wrapt in eternall silence farre from enemyes.

- Explanation: The den of Morpheus was very peaceful. There was an even drizzle falling on the loft, acting as a lullaby. The wind also seemed to murmur. Quiet as been personified here, shown here as sleeping, wrapped in eternal silence.

xlii

The messenger approching to him spake,

But his wast wordes returnd to him in vaine:

So sound he slept, that nought mought him awake.

Then rudely he him thrust, and pusht with paine,

Whereat he gan to stretch: but he againe

Shooke him so hard, that forced him to speake.

As one then in a dreame, whose dryer braine

In tost with troubled sights and fancies weake,

He mumbled soft, but would not all his silence  
breake.

- Explanation: The messenger tried to break the silence of Morpheus' den, but was unable to do so. Morpheus slept very soundly.

xliii

The Sprite then gan more boldly him to wake,

And threatned unto him the dreaded name

Of Hecate: whereat he gan to quake,

And lifting up his lumpish head, with blame

Halfe angry asked him, for what he came.

Hither (quoth he) me Archimago sent,

He that the stubborne Sprites can wisely tame,

He bids thee to him send for his intent

A fit false dreame, that can delude the sleepers  
sent.

- Explanation: The Spirit then threatened him with Hecate's name. The Spirit said that he had been sent by Archimago, the evil magician. He had been sent to procure a false dream.

xliv

The God obeyde, and calling forth straight way

A diverse dreame out of his prison darke,

Delivered it to him, and downe did lay

His heavie head, devoide of carefull carke,

Whose senses all were straight benumbed and  
starke.

He backe returning by the Yvorie dore,

Remounted up as light as chearefull Larke,

And on his litle winges the dreame he bore

In hast unto his Lord, where he him left afore.

- Explanation: Morpheus immediately complied, and from his array of dreams, took out the darkest dream and gave it to the Spirit. The Spirit flew back with the dream, as swift as a lark.

xlv

Who all this while with charmes and hidden artes,  
Had made a Lady of that other Spright,  
And fram'd of liquid ayre her tender partes  
So lively, and so like in all mens sight,  
That weaker sence it could have ravisht quight:  
The maker selfe for all his wondrous witt,  
Was nigh beguiled with so goodly sight:  
Her all in white he clad, and over it  
Cast a blacke stole, most like to seeme for Una  
fit.

- Explanation: Meanwhile, Archimago, with all his charms and magic, fashioned the second Spirit in the shape and form of Una. He had her all clad in white, and the Spirit bore perfect resemblance to Una.

xlvi

Now when that ydle dreame was to him brought,

Unto that Elfin knight he bad him fly,

Where he slept soundly void of evill thought

And with false shewes abuse his fantasy,

In sort as he him schooled privily:

And that new creature borne without her dew,

Full of the makers guile, with usage sly

He taught to imitate that Lady trew,

Whose semblance she did carrie under feigned  
hew.

- Explanation: As soon as the Spirit brought the false dream, Archimago put it in the eyes of the Knight, making him dream that Una was trying to seduce him. Archimago also made the false Una lie next to the Knight.

xlvi

Thus well instructed, to their worke they hast,  
And comming where the knight in slomber lay,  
The one upon his hardy head him plast,  
And made him dreame of loves and lustfull play,  
That nigh his manly hart did melt away,  
Bathed in wanton blis and wicked joy:  
Then seemed him his Lady by him lay,  
And to him playnd, how that false winged boy,  
Her chast hart had subdewd, to learne Dame  
pleasures toy.

- Explanation: The false dream made the Knight dream of lustful activities. He dreamed that the “winged boy,” i.e., cupid had hit his arrow, and lady was trying to seduce him.



xlvi

And she her selfe of beautie soveraigne Queene,  
Faire Venus seemde unto his bed to bring  
Her, whom he waking evermore did weene,  
To be the chastest flowre, that ay did spring  
On earthly braunch, the daughter of a king,  
Now a loose Leman to vile service bound:  
And eke the Graces seemed all to sing,  
Hymen {i}{\_o} Hymen, dauncing all around,  
While freshest Flora her with Yvie girlond  
crownd.

- Explanation: And when the Knight opened his eyes, and found the false Una lying next to him, he was most disgusted. He felt that the Lady was behaving in ways most wanton. And that disheartened the Knight.