

**Lecture Series on**  
**Edmund Spenser's *The Faerie Queene***  
**Book I Canto I: Lecture 9**

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In this great passion of unwonted lust,  
Or wonted feare of doing ought amis,  
He started up, as seeming to mistrust  
Some secret ill, or hidden foe of his:  
Lo there before his face his Lady is,  
Under blake stole hyding her bayted hooke,  
And as halfe blushing offred him to kis,  
With gentle blandishment and lovely looke,  
Most like that virgin true, which for her knight  
him took.

- Explanation: When the Knight saw the false Una wrapped in the throes of passion, he started suspecting foul play, while the false Una offered herself to the Knight.

1

All cleane dismayd to see so uncouth sight,  
And halfe enraged at her shamelesse guise,  
He thought have slaine her in his fierce despight:  
But hasty heat tempring with sufferance wise,  
He stayde his hand, and gan himselfe advise  
To prove his sense, and tempt her faigned truth.  
Wringing her hands in wemens pitteous wise,  
Tho can she weepe, to stirre up gentle ruth,  
Both for her noble bloud, and for her tender  
youth.

- Explanation: The Knight was dismayed to see Una stoop so low. He was also enraged, but then he decided to contain his anger. He couldn't believe that Una, with her noble blood, could indulge in such a vice.

li

And said, Ah Sir, my liege Lord and my love,  
Shall I accuse the hidden cruell fate,  
And mightie causes wrought in heaven above,  
Or the blind God, that doth me thus amate,  
For hoped love to winne me certaine hate?  
Yet thus perforce he bids me do, or die.  
Die is my dew: yet rew my wretched state  
You, whom my hard avenging destinie  
Hath made judge of my life or death indifferently.

- Explanation: Una urged the Knight to heed her advances. She told the Knight that perhaps it was the work of fate or of the blind God, Cupid, that the two were trapped together.

lii

Your owne deare sake forst me at first to leave  
My Fathers kingdome, There she stopt with teares;  
Her swollen hart her speach seemd to bereave,  
And then againe begun, My weaker yeares  
Captiv'd to fortune and frayle worldly feares,  
Fly to your faith for succour and sure ayde:  
Let me not dye in languor and long teares.  
Why Dame (quoth he) what hath ye thus dismayd?  
What frayes ye, that were wont to comfort me  
affrayd?

- Explanation: The false Una told the Knight that she had left her father's kingdom for the sake of the Knight. She said that hitherto ~~her young years had been spent in luxury,~~ and that she was braving the perils for the sake of the Knight.

liii

Love of your selfe, she said, and deare constraint

Lets me not sleepe, but wast the wearie night

In secret anguish and unpittied plaint,

Whiles you in carelesse sleepe are drowned quight.

Her doubtfull words made that redoubted knight

Suspect her truth: yet since no'untruth he knew,

Her fawning love with foule disdainefull spight

He would not shend, but said, Deare dame I rew,

That for my sake unknowne such grieffe unto you  
grew.

- Explanation: The false Una urged the Knight to not waste the night. The Knight, being noble, told the false Una that he had no idea that ~~Una was suffering so much on~~ account of the Knight.

liv

Assure your selfe, it fell not all to ground;

For all so deare as life is to my hart,

I deeme your love, and hold me to you bound;

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Ne let vaine feares procure your needlesse smart,

Where cause is none, but to your rest depart.

Not all content, yet seemd she to appease

Her mournfull plaintes, beguiled of her art,

And fed with words, that could not chuse but  
please,

So slyding softly forth, she turnd as to her ease.

- Explanation: The Knight assured the false Una that he shall consider her love, and that he shall keep her bound to him.
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lv

Long after lay he musing at her mood,  
Much griev'd to think that gentle Dame so light,  
For whose defence he was to shed his blood.

At last dull wearinesse of former fight

Having yrockt a sleepe his irkesome spright,

That troublous dreame gan freshly tosse his  
braine,

With bowres, and beds, and Ladies deare delight:

But when he saw his labour all was vaine,

With that misformed spright he backe returnd  
again.

- Explanation: Long after that conversation, the Knight lay musing over it. His heart was grieved and he was dismayed by the Lady's behaviour (the false Una's behaviour).