

## Non's Priest Tale - Chaucer.

Chaucer, is the most outstanding poet of middle english period. In fact, it was he who popularised english language among intellectuals of the time. It is rightly said that he took a dialect in his hand & elevated it to the height of language. Before Chaucer, Latin and French were supposed to be the language of scholars. English was looked down upon. Chaucer decided to do away with this feeling and used english as the medium of his poem. Therefore, Chaucer is addressed as the father of English Poetry.

The work of Chaucer falls in three periods.

The first phase of his poetic career was influenced by French models 'Roman de la Rose' poem is the product of this period. During this period he wrote "The Book of Duchesse" also

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New Year

The poem of the second phase clearly shows the influence of Italian literary, particularly of 'The Divine Comedy' of Dante at the poems of Boccaccio. The most powerful poem of this period are - The House of Fame, and Troilus and Criseyde. In Troilus & Criseyde, Chaucer told the story of the Trojan's Prince Troilus & his powerful love for Criseyde. He took the story from Boccaccio.

The Nun's Priest Tale is one of the most powerful stories of Canterbury Tales. The story is about a poor widow who lived in a cottage. She leads the life of simplicity. She supported herself and her two daughters with great economy. Her animal wealth consisted of three hogs, three cows and a sheep. She derived sincere pleasure in activity and exercise which she enjoyed with all her heart. This was the reason that her health was very good. She was asked to



narrate a story. The story was about cock and hen. The widow had many cocks and hens. The important cock was Chantiseer. He was very faithful towards his family. The cock had seven hens as his wife. wives. All of them were of different colours. The fairest among them was Dame Pertelote. She was gentle and courteous. One day Chantiseer was not feeling well. He pointed out that he had seen a dream in which something like hound was trying to kill him. He was worried due to this wicked dream. His wife cut a joke, & said that a brave animal like him should not be afraid of dream. She cannot love a coward because no woman loves a coward. She told her husband about the famous advise of a cat who said "do not pay any attention to a dream". The husband was not agree with the suggestion of his wife. He told a story. He narrates the story of two person who once went

FEBRUARY 2015

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on a pilgrimage. It so happened  
 that they arrived in a town.  
 The town was crowded. Therefore,  
 both of them were compelled to  
 lived separately. Now it so  
 happened that during the night  
 one friend saw in the dream  
 that the other was crying of  
 being murdered. He woke up  
 from his sleep but did not pay  
 any attention to the dream.  
 Again he slept. The third time  
 he saw that his friend had  
 been coming in the dream to  
 inform him that he is murdered.  
 The husband gave an example of  
 old testament and other religious  
 books that proves that the dreams  
 are not unreal but indication of  
 something that has to come in the  
 future. It happened that a  
 sorrowful mishap overtook them.  
 A black fox named Russel  
 was all the time waiting for  
 attacking Chanticleer. The fox got  
 a chance and caught the  
 cock. The fox was really  
 very sick. Chanticleer wanted  
 to save his life. He  
 found that the dream

DECEMBER 2014

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that he had seen was coming true. He was at the point of death. But he did not lose his patience. He applied his mind and requested the fox to tell about his brave deeds. The fox opened his mouth to boast his superiority the cock slipped on from his mouth. ~~to boast his~~ He flew into a tree and became happy.

"No whyn he drank she  
Neither with ne need  
His board was served most with white & black  
Milk & brown breed in which she found no  
lak".

These lines present the picture of poor widow who led the life of purity & sincerity. Since, the story is narrated by the nun, it is best natural that the central character will lead a pious & noble life.