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English Literature

Faculty of Literature
Lorestan University
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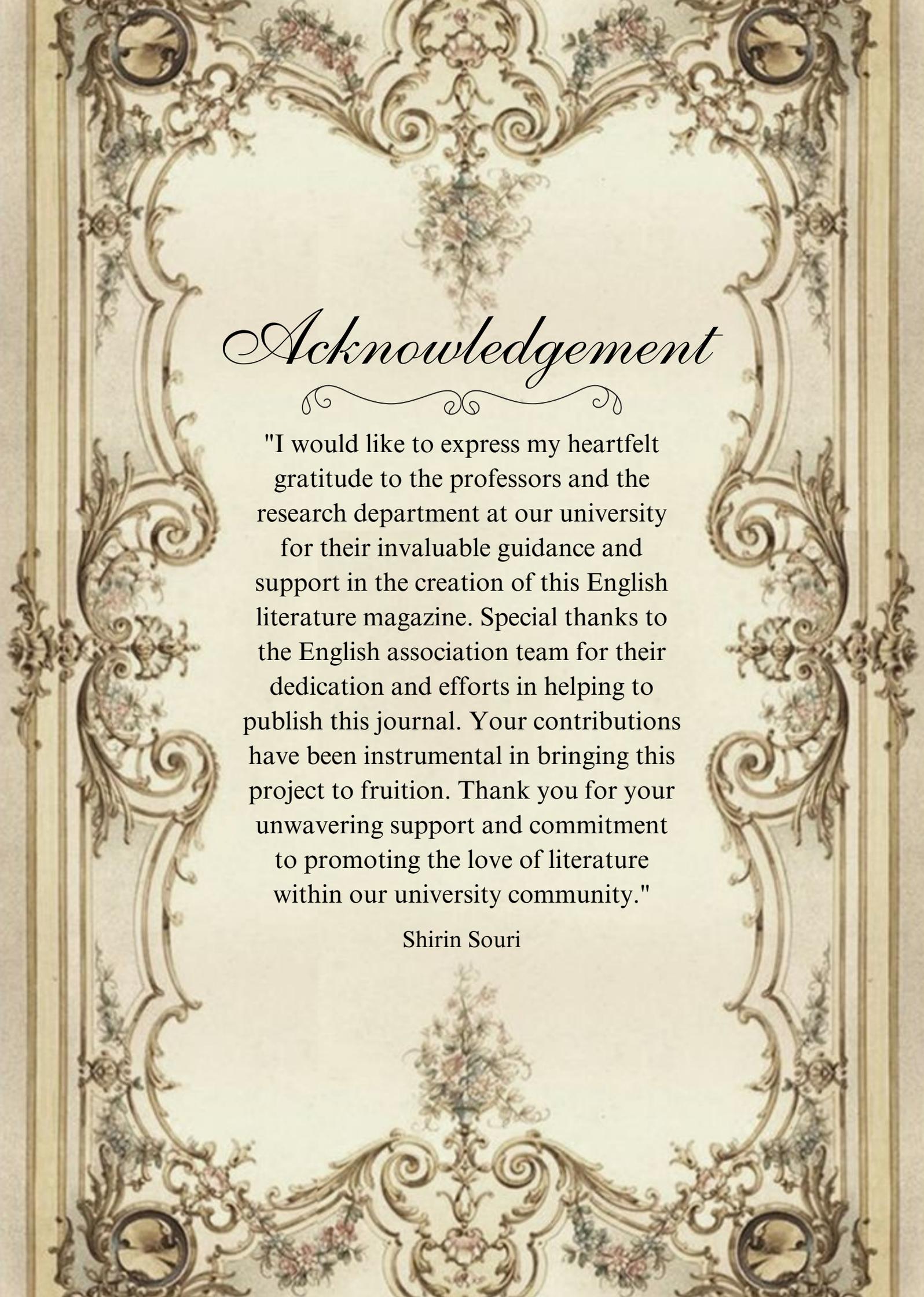
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Shirin Sourì

How was language invented?

By Alireza Zarghampour, Senior student of English literature

Language, the cornerstone of human communication, has a rich and enigmatic history that has captivated scholars for centuries. From the primal grunts of our early ancestors to the intricately structured languages spoken today, the evolution of language is a testament to the ingenuity and adaptability of the human mind.

In the primordial days of humanity, language emerged as a tool for survival, allowing early humans to convey basic needs and emotions through simple sounds and gestures. Over time, these rudimentary forms of communication evolved into the diverse array of languages spoken around the world today.

There are several famous theories about language development that have been proposed by linguists, psychologists, and anthropologists. Here are a few notable ones:

The Innateness Theory (Noam Chomsky): This theory suggests that humans are born with an innate ability to acquire language. Chomsky argued that there is a universal grammar shared by all human languages, and that children have an inborn capacity to learn language based on this underlying structure.

The Behaviorist Theory (B.F. Skinner): Behaviorist theorists like Skinner believed that language is acquired through reinforcement and conditioning. According to this theory, children learn language by imitating the speech of others and receiving positive reinforcement for using correct language forms.



The Social Interactionist Theory (Lev Vygotsky): Social interactionist theory emphasizes the role of social interaction in language development. Vygotsky proposed that children learn language through interactions with more knowledgeable individuals, such as parents or caregivers, who provide language models and opportunities for practice.

The Cognitive Theory (Jean Piaget): Piaget's cognitive theory of language development focuses on how children's cognitive abilities influence their language acquisition. According to Piaget, children go through distinct stages of cognitive development that shape their language development, with language acquisition tied to broader cognitive processes.

These theories represent different perspectives on how language develops in humans, each highlighting different aspects of the complex and multifaceted process of language acquisition. By considering these theories together, researchers can gain a more comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms underlying language development and use this knowledge to support language learning in diverse populations.

Despite the mysteries that shroud its origins, the development of language remains a testament to the remarkable adaptability and creativity of the human species. As we continue to unravel the complexities of language and its evolution, we gain a deeper appreciation for the power of communication to shape our understanding of the world and our place within it.

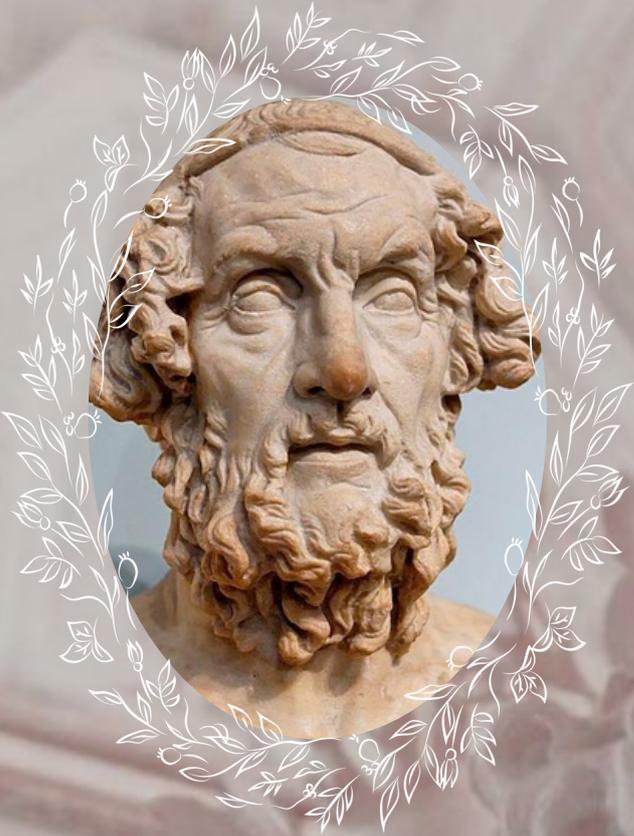
Overall, the invention of language is a complex and multifaceted process that likely involved a combination of biological, social, and cognitive factors. While we may never know for certain how language was invented, studying its evolution and development can provide valuable insights into the nature of human communication and cognition

Homer

Was a mystery...

Seven interesting facts about Homer

By Taha Jasempour, Senior student of English literature



1. Homer was a mystery

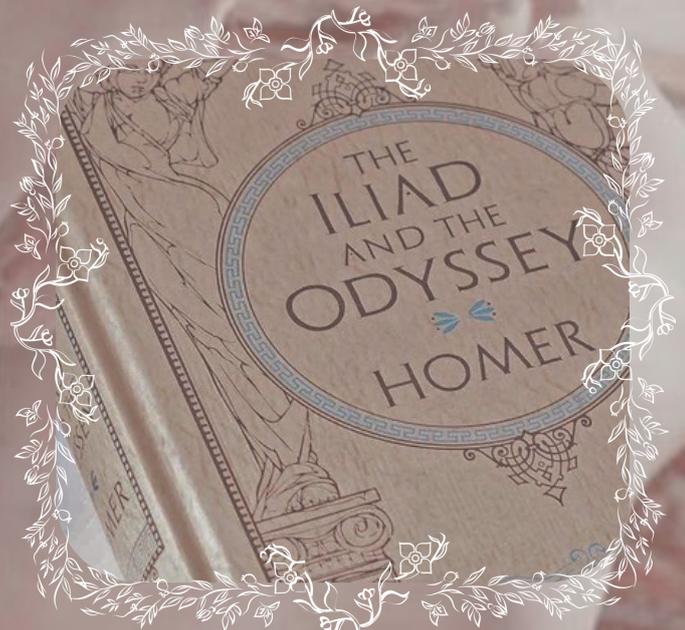
Homer, the legendary ancient Greek poet, is believed to have been born in the 8th century BCE. His exact origins and biographical details remain shrouded in mystery, adding to the enigmatic allure of his epic works, the Iliad and the Odyssey. Homer's poetic genius and storytelling prowess have captivated audiences for centuries, earning him a revered place in the annals of literature.

2. First alphabet, first work...

Homer's first literary work, the epic poems "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey," are considered some of the earliest examples of written literature in Western civilization. While Homer did not invent language, his works played a significant role in the development and evolution of the Greek language.

3. The Iliad and The Odyssey

Homer's "Iliad" and "Odyssey" are considered the oldest works of Western literature and were composed around the 8th century BC. The exact authorship of the texts is still debated among scholars, with some even suggesting that Homer may have been a collection of multiple authors or poets. Additionally, it is believed that these works were part of an oral tradition before being written down.

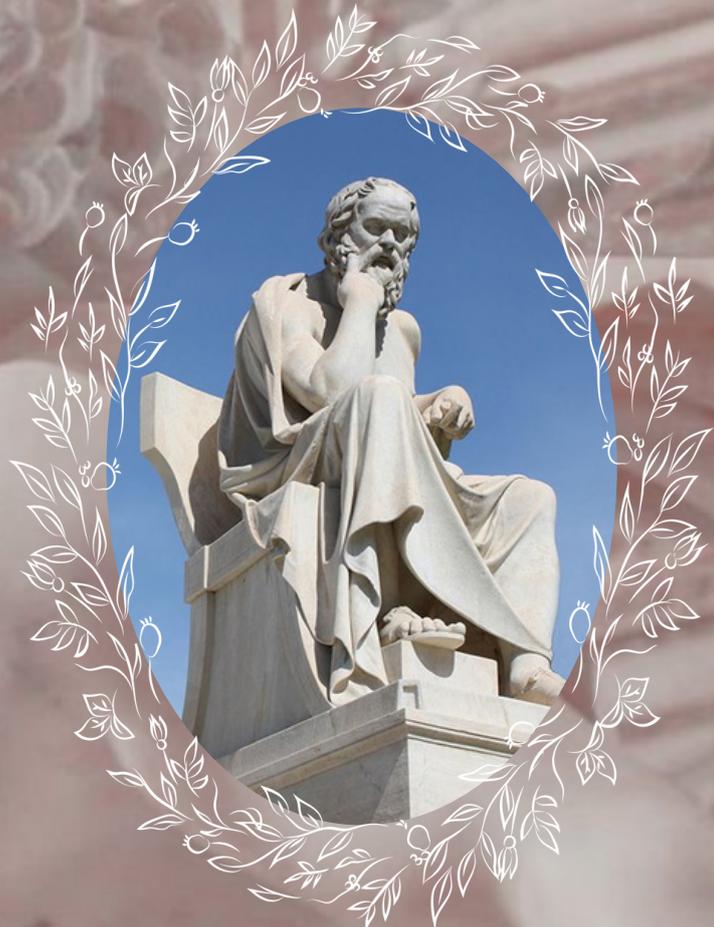


4. Is Homer a real character?

There is debate among historians and scholars about whether Homer actually existed as a single, identifiable person. Some believe that the poems attributed to Homer, such as the Iliad and the Odyssey, were written by an individual poet named Homer, while others argue that the poems were composed by multiple authors over a period of time and were later attributed to a single figure for the sake of tradition. Ultimately, the question of whether or not Homer truly existed remains unresolved. The exact location of Homer's birthplace is unknown, with several cities in Greece laying claim to being his hometown. This includes the Greek island of Chios, Smyrna (modern-day İzmir in Turkey), and the city of Athens. The lack of concrete evidence about his origins adds to the mystery and intrigue surrounding Homer and his works.

5. The blind poet...

The question of whether the ancient Greek poet Homer was blind is a matter of debate among scholars. Some believe that Homer was indeed blind, while others argue that he may have had some visual impairment but was not completely blind. There is evidence in some of his writings that suggests he may have had limited vision or visual problems, but there is no definitive answer to this question.



The Iliad and The Odyssey

Lessons from mythology

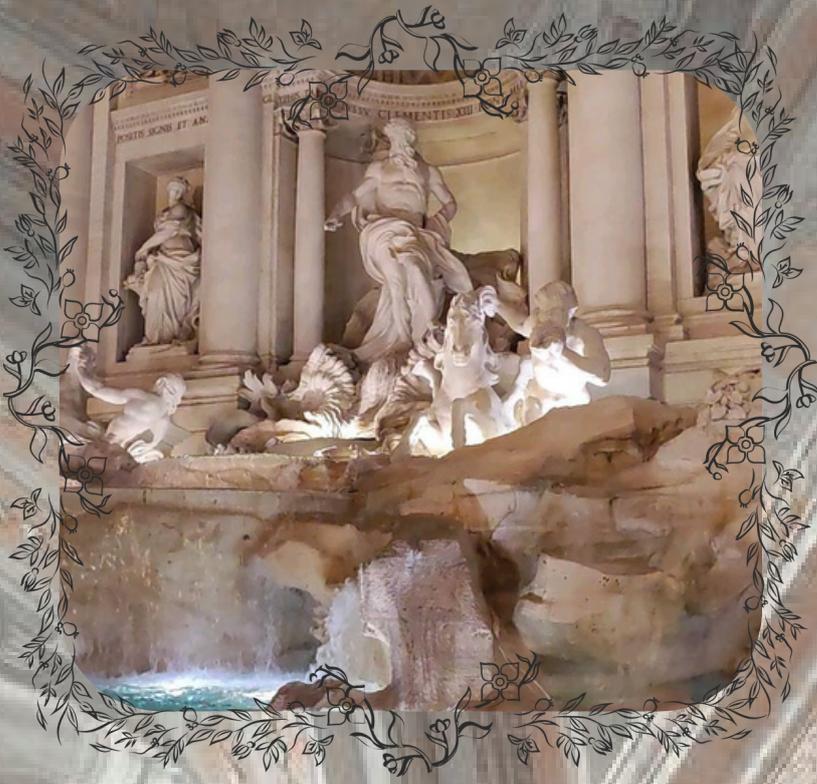
By Shirin Souri
Senior student of English literature

The Iliad and the Odyssey are two of the most famous works of ancient Greek literature written by the poet Homer.

The Iliad is an ancient Greek epic poem attributed to the poet Homer, which tells the story of the Trojan War. The central character is Achilles, a powerful warrior who is driven by his pride and anger. Through his journey, Achilles learns the consequences of letting his emotions control his actions. One of the key moral lessons of the Iliad is the importance of self-control and humility. Achilles' downfall is ultimately caused by his inability to control his anger and pride, leading to tragic consequences for himself and those around him.



The Odyssey is another epic poem by Homer that follows the journey of Odysseus as he tries to return home after the Trojan War. Throughout his adventures, Odysseus demonstrates the importance of perseverance, determination, and cunning in overcoming challenges. The Odyssey teaches readers the value of resourcefulness and resilience in the face of adversity. Odysseus' ability to survive and overcome numerous obstacles on his journey home serves as a powerful lesson in the importance of endurance and adaptability.



both the Iliad and the Odyssey offer valuable moral lessons that continue to resonate with readers today. From the importance of self-control and humility in the face of conflict to the virtues of perseverance and resilience in the face of adversity, these epic poems provide timeless insights into the complexities of human nature and the universal struggles we all face. In the Iliad, the focus is on the Trojan War and the hero Achilles. The story follows the struggle between Achilles and King Agamemnon, highlighting the themes of pride, honor, and vengeance. One of the moral lessons in the Iliad is the consequences of unchecked pride. Achilles' hubris leads to devastating consequences, not only for himself but for his fellow Greeks as well. His refusal to fight in the war out of anger towards Agamemnon ultimately results in the death of his beloved friend Patroclus.

On the other hand, the Odyssey follows the adventures of Odysseus as he tries to make his way back home after the Trojan War. The story is filled with mythical creatures, gods, and goddesses, testing Odysseus' wit, courage, and perseverance. A key moral lesson in the Odyssey is the importance of loyalty and perseverance. Despite facing numerous obstacles and temptations, Odysseus remains loyal to his wife Penelope and never loses sight of his ultimate goal of returning home to Ithaca. His journey serves as a reminder of the power of determination and faithfulness. One of the key messages found in both works is the importance of understanding and accepting one's fate or destiny. The characters in the epics often face challenges and obstacles that they must overcome in order to fulfill their destinies. Through their struggles, Homer suggests that individuals must rely on their courage, intelligence, and determination to navigate life's uncertainties and fulfill their destinies. Additionally, both texts emphasize the significance of honor, loyalty, and the power of storytelling. The characters in the epics are often driven by their desire for honor and glory, and their actions are shaped by their relationships with others and their commitment to their values. The Iliad and the Odyssey remind readers of the complexities of human nature and the importance of embracing one's strengths and weaknesses. They encourage readers to strive for personal growth, to persevere through adversity, and to value the connections they have with others. Ultimately, these epics can be seen as guides for living a meaningful and fulfilling life, one that is guided by courage, resilience, and a commitment to personal growth and self-discovery.



Demeter

By Shirin Souri
Senior student of English literature

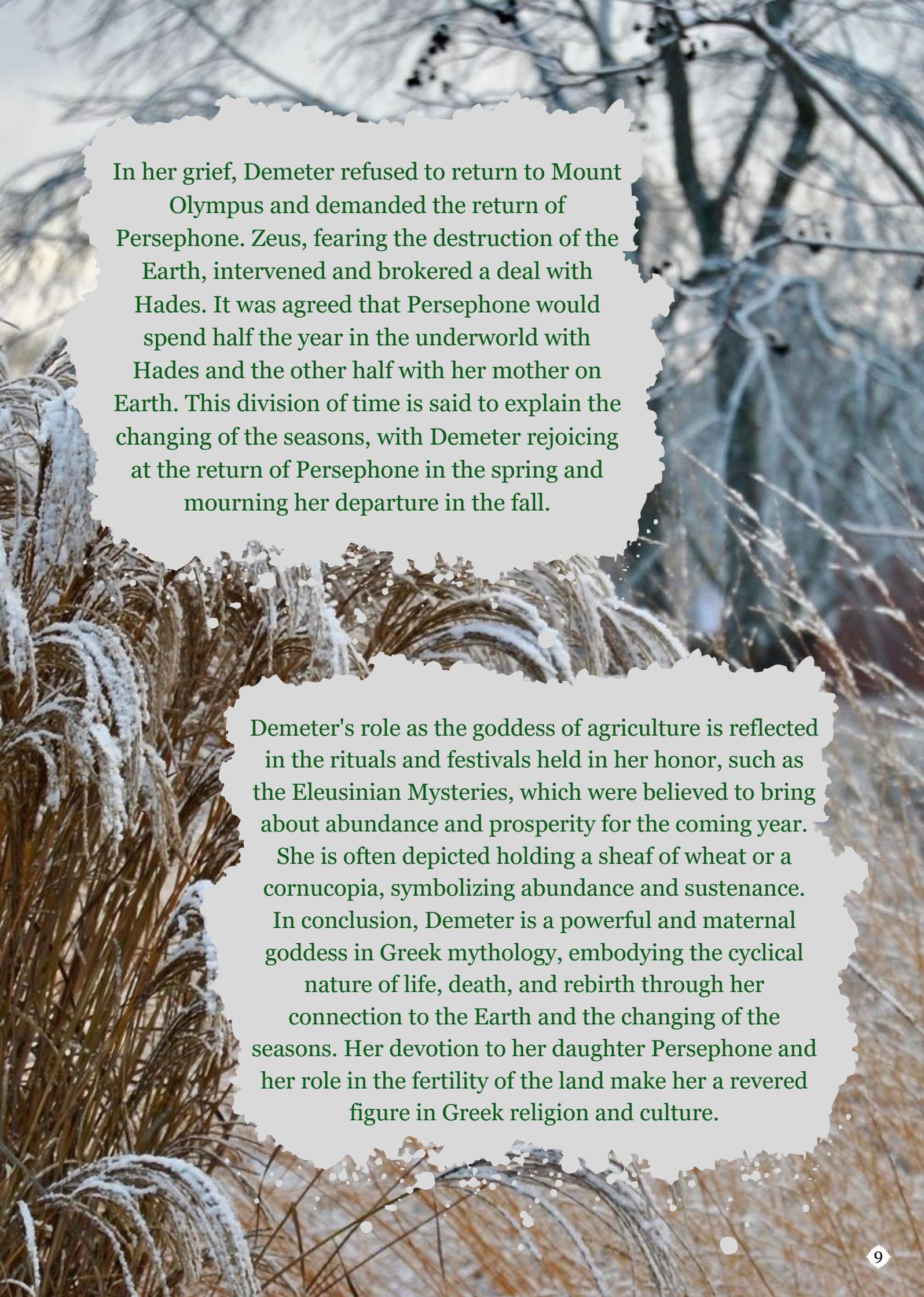
The story of Persephone
How did summer turn into winter?



Demeter is a prominent figure in Greek mythology, known as the goddess of agriculture, fertility, and the harvest. She is often depicted as a motherly figure, symbolizing the nurturing and life-giving qualities of the Earth. Demeter is the daughter of the Titans Cronus and Rhea, making her the sister of Zeus, Hades, and Poseidon.

One of the most well-known stories involving Demeter is the abduction of her daughter Persephone. Persephone was playing in a meadow when Hades, the god of the underworld, emerged from the ground and seized her, taking her to his realm. Demeter was devastated by the loss of her daughter and wandered the Earth in search of her, neglecting her duties as the goddess of agriculture. As a result, the Earth became barren and crops withered, leading to famine and hardship for humanity.





In her grief, Demeter refused to return to Mount Olympus and demanded the return of Persephone. Zeus, fearing the destruction of the Earth, intervened and brokered a deal with Hades. It was agreed that Persephone would spend half the year in the underworld with Hades and the other half with her mother on Earth. This division of time is said to explain the changing of the seasons, with Demeter rejoicing at the return of Persephone in the spring and mourning her departure in the fall.

Demeter's role as the goddess of agriculture is reflected in the rituals and festivals held in her honor, such as the Eleusinian Mysteries, which were believed to bring about abundance and prosperity for the coming year. She is often depicted holding a sheaf of wheat or a cornucopia, symbolizing abundance and sustenance. In conclusion, Demeter is a powerful and maternal goddess in Greek mythology, embodying the cyclical nature of life, death, and rebirth through her connection to the Earth and the changing of the seasons. Her devotion to her daughter Persephone and her role in the fertility of the land make her a revered figure in Greek religion and culture.

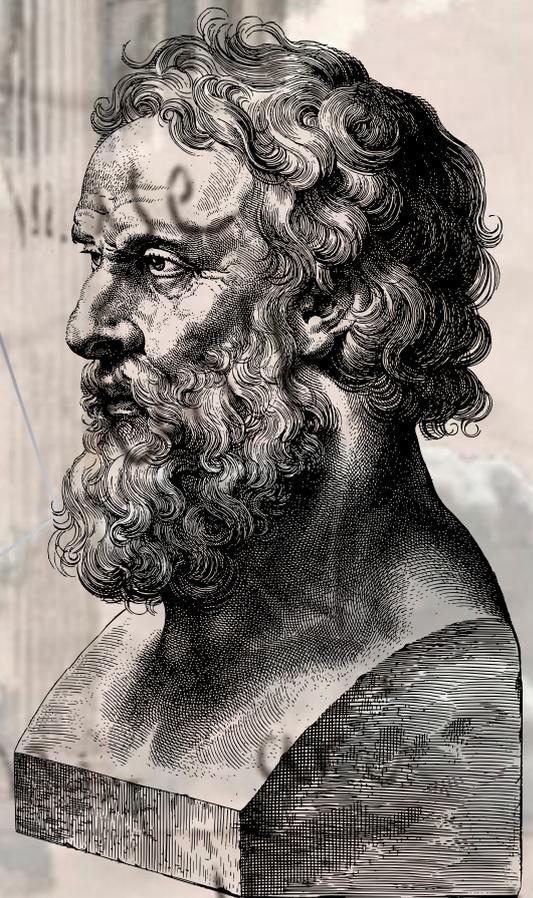
The origin of gender in philosophy

Plato & His idea about gender

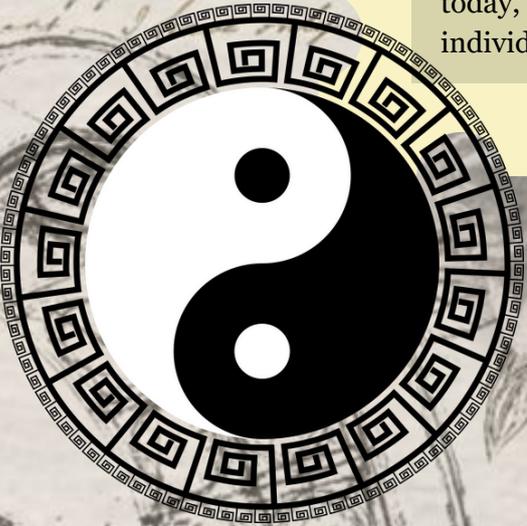
By Alireza Zarghampour
Senior Student of English Literature

Plato believed in the equality of men and women, arguing that women should be allowed to participate fully in society and politics. He believed that women were just as capable as men of achieving wisdom and leading virtuous lives. Plato wrote that the ideal society would be one in which women were given equal opportunities to fulfill their potential and contribute to the common good. He also believed that women should be educated in the same way as men, in order to cultivate their intellectual abilities and develop their rational faculties. Overall, Plato's ideas about man and woman were progressive for his time, advocating for gender equality and the empowerment of women in society.

Plato, an ancient Greek philosopher, believed that gender was not simply a physical characteristic but rather a reflection of the soul. In his work "The Symposium," he introduces the idea that human beings were originally created with both male and female traits. According to Plato, each person's gender was determined by the combination of these traits and their ultimate purpose in life was to find their other half, or soulmate, to become whole again. This concept of gender as a reflection of the soul's characteristics and the search for unity and harmony has had a lasting influence on Western philosophy and understanding of gender.



One of Plato's key beliefs in gender is the idea that women should be allowed to participate in all aspects of society, including politics and education. Plato believed that women were just as capable as men in these areas, and that excluding them from participation was a disservice to society as a whole. In "The Republic," Plato argues that women should be able to hold positions of power and influence, and that their voices should be heard in matters of government and policy-making. Furthermore, Plato believed in the importance of education for women. He argued that women should have access to the same educational opportunities as men, and that they should be taught the same subjects and skills. Plato believed that education was essential for developing the intellect and moral character of individuals, regardless of gender, and that women should be given the same opportunities to excel and succeed. Additionally, Plato believed in the importance of the family unit and the role of women in shaping and maintaining a just and harmonious society. Plato believed that women should be equal partners in marriage and in raising children, and that they should be respected and valued for their contributions to the family and society as a whole. Plato believed that a society that disregards or oppresses women is doomed to fail, as women are an essential part of the social fabric and contribute greatly to the well-being and prosperity of society. In conclusion, Plato's beliefs in gender are evident in his writings and teachings, where he argues for the equality of women in all aspects of society. Plato believed that women were just as capable and deserving as men of rights and opportunities, and that a just and harmonious society could only be achieved through the full participation and inclusion of women. Plato's ideas on gender continue to resonate today, as we strive for a more equitable and just society for all individuals, regardless of gender.



LOVE YOURSELF W
TOO MUCH, WHEN
WRONG THING, W
UP, WHEN YOUR

Persia

Folk etymology of perseus
Mohammad Bakhshi, Junior student of English literature

Perseus is known as the legendary Greek hero who slayed the Gorgon Medusa and saved Princess Andromeda from a sea monster. His name has been linked to several folk etymologies over the centuries, each one offering a unique explanation for its origins.

One popular folk etymology of Perseus derives his name from the Greek word "pertho," meaning "to destroy." This interpretation stems from Perseus's role as a hero who defeats monsters and triumphs over evil, making it a fitting explanation for his name.

By associating Perseus with destruction, this folk etymology emphasizes his bravery and strength in battle.

Another folk etymology of Perseus connects his name to the Greek word "peras," meaning "end" or "limit." In this interpretation, Perseus is seen as a figure who pushes boundaries and achieves the impossible, symbolizing the idea of reaching beyond one's limits. This explanation highlights the hero's determination and perseverance in his quest to fulfill his destiny.

The mythology of Perseus and the name of Persia share a fascinating relationship that highlights the interconnectedness of history, culture, and mythology. Perseus, a hero of Greek mythology, is known for his legendary feats, including slaying the Gorgon Medusa, rescuing the princess Andromeda, and founding the city of Mycenae. On the other hand, Persia is an ancient civilization that once ruled a vast empire in the Middle East, known for its rich history, art, and culture.

The connection between the two lies in the etymology of the name "Persia." The name Persia is derived from the ancient Greek name for the region, "Persis," which in turn is believed to have originated from the name of Perseus, the hero of Greek mythology. This fascinating connection between a mythical figure and a historical civilization raises questions about the influence of mythology on ancient cultures and the ways in which stories and legends shape our understanding of history.

One possible explanation for this link is the cultural exchange that took place between the ancient Greeks and Persians. Historically, the Greeks and Persians had interactions through trade, diplomacy, and warfare. It is plausible that during these exchanges, Greek stories and myths, including the tale of Perseus, were transmitted to the Persians, who may have adopted or adapted these stories to suit their own cultural narratives.

Another interpretation is that the name "Persia" was chosen deliberately as a nod to the legendary hero Perseus. Just as Perseus was a revered figure in Greek mythology, the name Persia may have been selected to invoke the heroic qualities associated with the legendary hero. By aligning themselves with the mythical hero, the Persians may have sought to establish a connection to the heroic legacy of the Greeks and project a sense of grandeur and power.

Regardless of the exact origins of the name "Persia," the relationship between the mythology of Perseus and the historical civilization of Persia highlights the fluidity of cultural boundaries and the ways in which stories and legends can transcend time and geography. It serves as a reminder of the enduring power of mythological narratives to shape our understanding of the past and influence the course of history.



Review: The first comedy in English literature

Ralph Roister Doister

By Amir Raoufi, English literature junior student

The first comedy in English literature is believed to be "Ralph Roister Doister" written by Nicholas Udall in the 16th century.

This play follows the misadventures of Ralph Roister Doister, a wealthy but foolish man who becomes infatuated with a widow named Dame Christian Custance.

The comedy is characterized by its use of witty dialogue, humorous situations, and slapstick humor, making it a precursor to the modern comedy genre.

One unique aspect of "Ralph Roister Doister" is its use of rhymed verse, which adds a musical quality to the dialogue and enhances the comedic effect of the play.

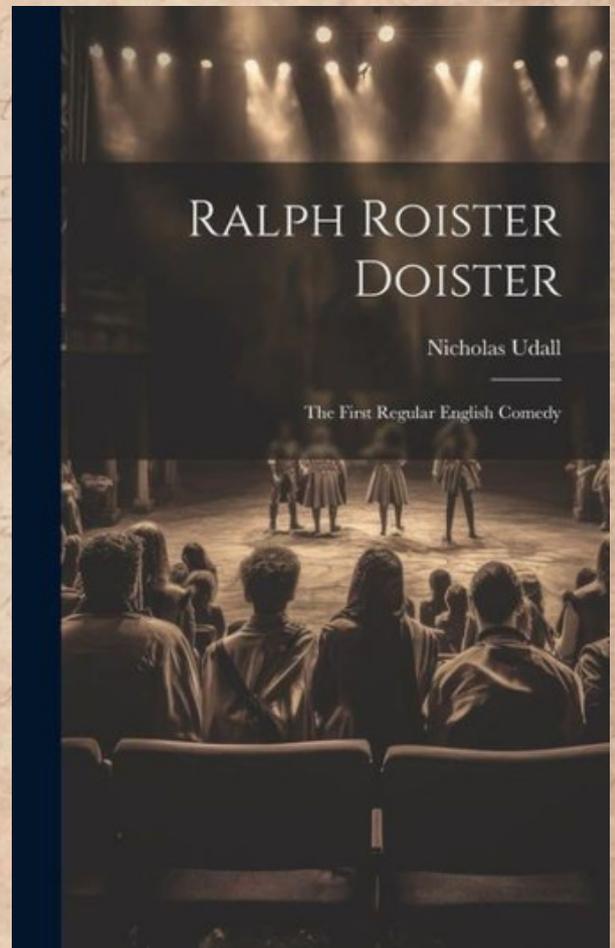
Another unique feature of the play is its focus on the theme of courtship and marriage, which was a popular topic in early English literature.

One of the most unique aspects of Ralph Roister Doister is its use of rhyme and verse, which gives the play a lyrical and musical quality. The characters frequently speak in rhyming couplets, creating a lively and rhythmic tone that sets the play apart from other works of the time.

In addition to its clever wordplay, Ralph Roister Doister is also notable for its humor and satire. The play pokes fun at the conventions of courtship and romance, as Ralph's over-the-top attempts to woo Dame Custance often end in disaster. The characters in the play are exaggerated and larger-than-life, but their struggles and failures are all too relatable.

While the play may be nearly 500 years old, its themes of love, friendship, and the follies of human nature are still relevant today. Ralph Roister Doister may be a product of its time, but its enduring appeal lies in its timeless humor and wit.

Ralph Roister Doister is a charming and witty comedy that continues to entertain audiences with its clever wordplay, lively verse, and satirical take on the foibles of love. Nicholas Udall's play may be a classic of English literature, but its humor and insight into human relationships are as fresh and engaging as ever.





Canterbury Tales

by

Geoffrey Chaucer

By Shirin Souri, Senior student of English literature

In the Middle Ages, when knightly honor and courtly love reigned supreme, Geoffrey Chaucer emerged as a literary luminary, capturing the essence of this era in his masterful *Canterbury Tales*. Among the diverse collection of stories within this epic piece of literature, there exists a subset known as the counterberly tales.

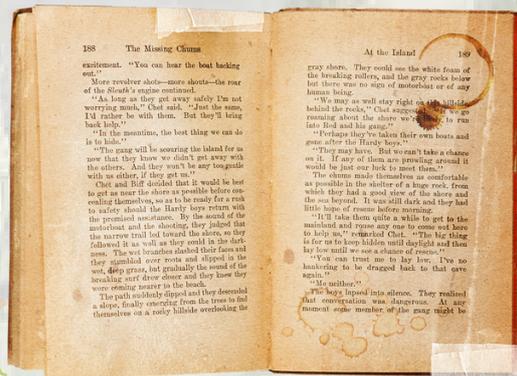
These counterberly tales serve as a subversion of the traditional themes and tropes found in the other *Canterbury Tales*. Rather than lionizing chivalry and courtly love, they offer a satirical and often irreverent take on the societal norms of the time. Through these tales, Chaucer challenges the conventions of his day and questions the legitimacy of the values upheld by the nobility and clergy.

One such example of a counterberly tale is that of the Wife of Bath. Unlike the demure and submissive women often portrayed in medieval literature, the Wife of Bath is a bold and assertive character who unapologetically asserts her sexual agency and independence. Through her tale of marriage and power dynamics, Chaucer exposes the hypocrisy and double standards that pervade the patriarchal society of his time.



What sets the counterbery tales apart from the rest of the Canterbury Tales is their subversive nature and willingness to challenge the established order. While the other tales may reinforce the ideals of knighthood and courtly love, the counterbery tales offer a more nuanced and critical perspective on the social hierarchies and power structures of the time. Overall, the counterbery tales by Geoffrey Chaucer are a fascinating and unique aspect of the Canterbury Tales. Through their satirical and irreverent take on the norms and values of medieval society, these tales offer a fresh and provocative perspective on the conventions of the time. Chaucer's willingness to challenge the established order and question the legitimacy of traditional values makes these tales a vital and enduring part of his literary legacy.

Another notable counterbery tale is that of the Pardoner. In a society where the church wielded immense power and influence, the Pardoner's tale serves as a scathing critique of the clergy's corruption and greed. Through the character of the Pardoner, Chaucer shines a light on the hypocrisy and moral bankruptcy of those who claim to be the moral arbiters of society.



Beowulf

By Taha Jassempour
Senior student of English literature

The tale of Beowulf is one that has been passed down through generations, captivating audiences with its themes of heroism, bravery, and the eternal struggle between good and evil. The protagonist, Beowulf, is a larger-than-life figure, a legendary warrior whose exploits are legendary. His story is one of battles against monstrous foes, cunning villains, and the constant quest for glory and honor.

What sets Beowulf apart from other heroes of mythology and legend is his uncompromising dedication to his mission. He is a man of action, a fearless warrior who risks life and limb to protect his people from the forces of darkness. Beowulf's courage and strength are unmatched, and his victories in battle are the stuff of legend.

But Beowulf is more than just a fearless warrior. He is also a complex character, capable of empathy and compassion. His relationships with his comrades, his king, and the people he protects are as important to him as his victories in battle. Beowulf is a leader who inspires loyalty and respect, not just through his bravery, but through his integrity and honor.





The language of Beowulf is both powerfully evocative and intricately detailed. The poet's use of alliteration and kennings creates a sense of rhythm and flow that draws the reader in, immersing them in the world of the story. The descriptions of battle scenes are vivid and visceral, allowing the reader to experience the thrill and the terror of combat alongside the characters.

The world of Beowulf is a dark and dangerous place, filled with monsters and malevolent spirits. But it is also a world of honor and heroism, where deeds of valor are remembered for generations. Beowulf's battles against Grendel, Grendel's mother, and the dragon are not just physical conflicts, but symbolic struggles between good and evil, light and darkness.

In conclusion, Beowulf is a timeless tale of bravery, honor, and sacrifice. It is a story that speaks to the eternal qualities of heroism and the enduring power of courage in the face of adversity. Beowulf's legacy lives on in the hearts and minds of all who hear his story, inspiring us to face our own challenges with strength and determination.



The Red Lion

By Shirin Souri
Senior student of English literature

In the heart of London's bustling theater district, stands a historic building that holds a special place in the annals of English theatrical history. The Red Lion, the first theater in English, has been a beacon of creativity and entertainment for centuries.

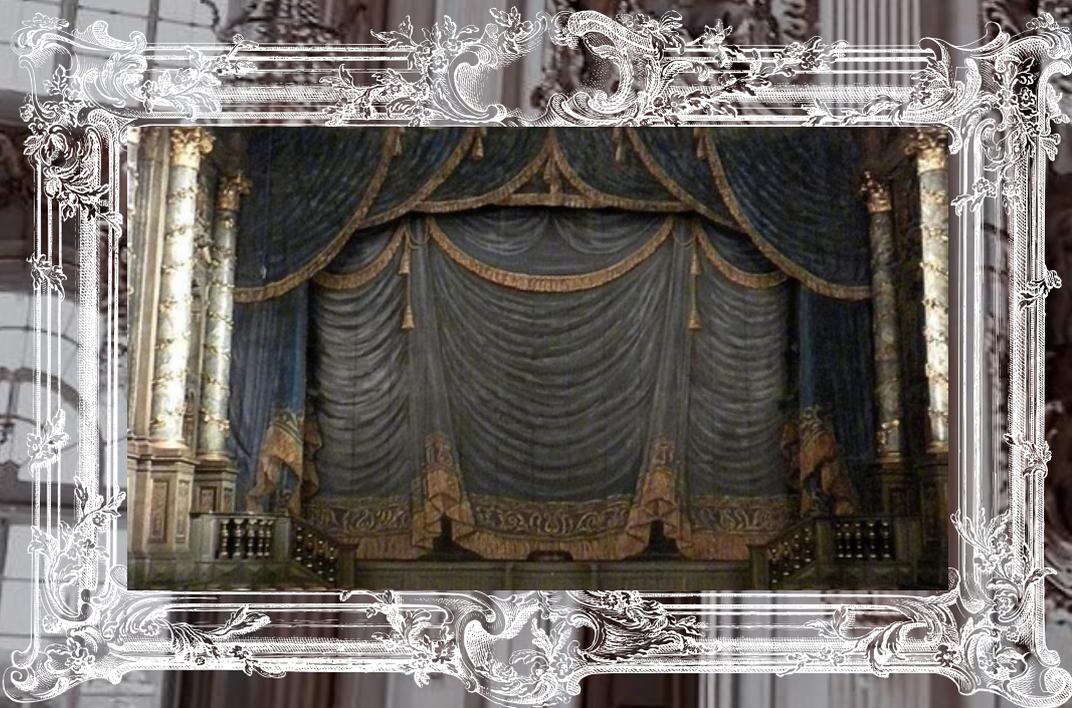
Stepping into the Red Lion is like stepping back in time, with its intimate setting and traditional décor transport visitors to a bygone era. The dimly lit auditorium, with its rows of wooden seats and rich red curtains, exudes a sense of nostalgia and elegance. The theater's history dates back to the late 16th century, when it was built by a group of enterprising actors looking for a place to showcase their talents. The Red Lion quickly became a popular destination for Londoners seeking entertainment and culture, attracting patrons from all walks of life.

The plays performed at the Red Lion were a mix of classical tales, comedies, and tragedies, catering to a diverse audience with a range of tastes. The actors, who were often members of traveling troupes, brought their own unique flair and style to each performance, creating a vibrant and dynamic atmosphere within the theater walls.

One of the most famous productions to grace the stage of the Red Lion was Christopher Marlowe's "Tamburlaine," a groundbreaking play that revolutionized English theater and garnered critical acclaim. The Red Lion became known as a hub for innovation and experimentation, pushing the boundaries of what was thought possible in the realm of performance art. Despite its humble beginnings, the Red Lion quickly established itself as a cornerstone of London's cultural scene, attracting esteemed playwrights and actors from around the country. The theater's enduring legacy is a testament to the enduring power of art and storytelling, and it continues to inspire generations of theatergoers to this day.



As I sit in the hushed glow of the Red Lion's auditorium, I am filled with a sense of reverence and awe for the history and artistry that has unfolded within these walls. The theater's legacy is a reminder of the enduring power of creativity and imagination, and serves as a testament to the boundless possibilities of the human spirit. In conclusion, the Red Lion stands as a testament to the enduring power of theater and the arts. Its rich history and vibrant atmosphere continue to inspire and captivate audiences, making it a cherished landmark in the tapestry of English culture. The Red Lion's legacy will continue to shine bright, illuminating the path for future generations of theater lovers and creatives.





"The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing."

Socrates