

2017

King Arthur's Influence on His Court and the Reestablishment of Servitude After Camelot

Callie Bryant

University of North Georgia, cjbrya@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.northgeorgia.edu/eng_capstone



Part of the [Literature in English, British Isles Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Bryant, Callie, "King Arthur's Influence on His Court and the Reestablishment of Servitude After Camelot" (2017). *Department of English Capstone Abstracts*. 22.

https://digitalcommons.northgeorgia.edu/eng_capstone/22

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Department of English at Nighthawks Open Institutional Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Department of English Capstone Abstracts by an authorized administrator of Nighthawks Open Institutional Repository.

Callie Bryant

Dr. Diana Edelman

Capstone Abstract

King Arthur's Influence on His Court and the Reestablishment of Servitude After Camelot

King Arthur's infamous rule as King of Camelot is a fixture in literature. The code of honor called the Pentecostal Oath created by Thomas Malory in *Le Morte D'Arthur* is an aid that sets the standard for the knight's behavior. Sir Gawain, Sir Bedivere, and Queen Guenevere are primary characters in *Le Morte D'arthur* and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knift* that all break the vows of the Pentecostal Oath, but later demonstrate a shift in servitude from themselves to King Arthur and to God. Sir Gawain wears a distinctive garment to humbly remind him to stay away from disobedience, Sir Bedivere joins a monastery to carry out the king's last request, and Queen Guenevere devotes her life to God and to helping others after Camelot falls. While most scholars choose to argue that King Arthur's hesitancy to punish his disobedient court causes the destruction of Camelot, I argue that Camelot is destroyed because of the desire to benefit themselves. I focus on the idea King Arthur's devotion to God causes a shift in servitude for these characters. In the Middle Ages, order was the explanation for everything in their lives. Disobedience to the king was synonymous with disobeying God. By correcting their inner order and shifting from a self serving attitude to serving others, the knights and queen were able to save their souls.