

WOMEN & PASTORAL
ELEMENTS IN *THE*
DECAMERON

Components of the Pastoral Addressed

- ▣ Pleasure and hardy elements
- ▣ Portrays women in The Decameron as being hardier than men.
- ▣ Significant social standing (Allen 1)
- ▣ Storytelling/Community
- ▣ Tolerate more than men
- ▣ Women as the better sex in terms of both good and evil.

Picture showing women as social elements



Medieval Women & Allegory

- ❑ Women are majorly victimized by the author Boccaccio.
- ❑ In the introductory part, he dedicated his work for the ladies by not revealing the names of victimized women.
- ❑ He portrays them as being lovable and has been dedicated to since his youth.
- ❑ The Decameron's tales suggest that what gave women this power was their sexual allure.
- ❑ They are depicted more realistically via social stereotypes which lower social status of women.

Realistic phenomena by bridging the gap

- ▣ Realistic view about the social status of women as compared to men.
- ▣ Differences between the aristocratic class as well as the lower class revealed and bridging the gap.
- ▣ As per the exemplary notion: Introduction to Day 6 (not assigned) i.e. the argumentative aspect between Licisca and Tindaro.

Storytelling as a symbol

- ▣ Storytelling is correlated with community as well as comradery along with mutual respect.
- ▣ The story telling activity advocates hot weather as well as community building.
- ▣ Also, it highlights the birds build nests along with spiders weave their webs(.
- ▣ It correlates with humans and their daily activities.

Example of story telling

- ❑ The story correlates with hot weather and playing games along narrating stories.
- ❑ The game decided by the community people and how they chose new king and new queen pair every day.
- ❑ Also, the story narrating included ten days within the next two weeks in which 10 youths tell one story a day and work on it every day. In order to tell it by night which were majorly random stories (Gittes 147-174).
- ❑ But together, they form a compendium of the kinds of stories people tell.
- ❑ This is a clearly depiction of thorough symbolic depiction of storytelling as the art of mankind.

LITERARY THEME

- ▣ **THEME:**
- ▣ Analyzing the subtler powers of women.
- ▣ Women portrayed as they do not enjoy any real power in the social hierarchy of the 14th century.
- ▣ Women regarded as more superior sex than men



Use of literary devices

- ▣ Yes, the portrayed the personalities but by revealing their identity. But the literature utilized various literary devices such as metaphors and simile along with various pastoral conventions.
- ▣ The narrator of the intrinsic stories utilized a simile to emphasize how the news of Ruggieri burgling the money-lenders' house spread quickly. The narrator notes: "During the course of the morning, the news that Ruggieri had been caught red-handed burgling the money-lenders' house spread like wildfire through the whole of Salerno." The simile thus enhances the reader's understanding of how quickly and rapidly the news spread throughout the town.
- ▣ Narrator and Point of View via an anonymous third-person narrator who is omniscient and provides access to the characters' inner thoughts.
- ▣ The author presents the belief that he's doing in the "Prologue" or "Introduction" to The Decameron (Migiel.)
- ▣ The technique utilized was from the Ovid.
- ▣ His introduction to this is a form of a retraction really does is to frame the naughtiness as something moral – as a help for others who are suffering in love and want to know the proper way out of it.
- ▣ Death and humor: The imagery of the stories is clearly deathly, because the people who are telling the stories are surrounded by death and gruesome illness.

REFERENCES

- ▣ Allen, Shirley S. "The Griselda Tale and the Portrayal of Women in the "Decameron"." *Philological Quarterly* 56.1 (1977): 1.
- ▣ Gittes, Tobias Foster. "Boccaccio's "Valley of Women": Fetishized Foreplay in Decameron VI." *Italica* 76.2 (1999): 147-174.
- ▣ Migiel, Marilyn. *A Rhetoric of the Decameron*. University of Toronto Press, 2016.