
Growth Of Chivalry In Sir Gawain And The Green Knight

“Sir Gawain and the Green Knight” is an example of the fourteenth-century metrical and alliterative romance, which forms vital medieval verse relevant in contemporary society. Although there are continuous studies about this work, intellectuals have failed to locate the poet, however, the brilliance of the writer is easily recognized. In this case, the Gawain poet mixes fabulously with mastermind realism, pagan folklore with aspects of the Christian ideal to balance the mood of the narrative based on the premise of the description and wording. Most importantly, since the initial publishing of the poem, it has stimulated many studies and discussions. While some people believe that a good and chivalrous knight is by being brave, loyal, and showing piety, Christian morals dictate that it is also demonstrated by being repentant and showing grace. To be chivalrous and a Christian, you must have grace by asking for and returning forgiveness. In Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Sir Gawain was tested for his courage, piety, and truth, and through this growth, he finally understood that every person falls short of perfection and sins. It is by God’s grace that people can be chivalrous.

Sir Gawain’s test emanated from the offer of the beheading game (Christian game) since it served as a challenge. Using Gawain, many chivalry aspects and requirements are manifested since the character was required to fulfill them. In this case, the plot of the poem brings out an aspect of feudal duty, which seemed to force Gawain to speak up and face the horrifying supernatural giant (Burrow 4). As an exhibition of loyalty, Gawain comes out to safeguard his Lord, body, and pride. Concurrently, the moment the Green Knight made his plea, Gawain and all Arthur’s men remained silent since the chevaliers were astonished by his supernatural look. As a result, Gawain wrestled with the feudal duty and fear of both his life and the mystical, making him remain silent all that time. However, whenever Arthur spoke, Gawain was supposed to respond by executing his feudal role. As a man, this character does not answer this call, while as a knight, he protects his liege. As a result of protecting his Lord, the youthful knight shows feudal loyalty, patriotism, and humility alongside posing as an advocate of good.

As mentioned earlier, Gawain is in the middle of personal conflict brought up by chivalric obligation versus fear. Although fright is the primary factor that made him reluctant to respond to the Green Knight’s test, the feudal duty overpowers his terror. Besides, pride and chivalry come out to be the primary determinants of Gawain.