

THE FAERIE QUEENE

52 But *Souldamour* for passing great despight
 Staid not to answer, scarcely did refraine,
 But that in all those knights and ladies sight,
 He for reuenge had guiltlesse *Glauce* slaine:
 But being past, he thus began amaine;
 False traitour squire, false squire, of falsest knight,
 Why doth mine hand from thine reuenge abstaine,
 Whose Lord hath done my loue this foule despight?
 Why do I not it wreake, on thee now in my might?

53 Discourteous, disloyall *Britomart*,
 Vnto to God, and vnto man vnjust,
 What vengeance due can equall thy desart,
 That hast with shameful spot of sinfull lust
 Defil'd the pledge committed to thy trust?
 Let vgly shame and endless infamy
 Colour thy name with foule reproaches rust.
 Yet thou false Squire his fault shalt deare aby,
 And with thy punishment his penance shalt supply.

54 The aged *Dance* him seeing so enraged,
 Was dead with feare, nathlesse as neede required,
 His flaming furie sought to haue assuaged
 With sober words, that sufferance desired,
 Till time the tryall of her truth expyred:
 And euermore sought *Britomart* to cleare,
 But he the more with furious rage was fyred,
 And thrise his hand to kill her did vpreare,
 And thrise he drew it backe: so did at last forbear.

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 SPENSER
 THE FAERIE QUEENE CANTO II
 & III
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CANTO II

Blandamour winnes false *Florimell*,
Paridell for her strifes,
 They are accorded: *Agape*
 doth lengthen her sonnes liues.

1 Firebrand of hell first tynd in Phlegeton,
 By thousand furies, and from thence out thrown
 Into this world, to worke confusion,
 And set it all on fire by force vnknownen,
 Is wicked discord, whose small sparkes once blownen
 None but a God or godlike man can slake;
 Such as was *Orpheus*, that when strife was growen
 Amongst those famous ympes of Greece, did take
 His fluter Harpe in hand, and shortly friends them make.

2 Or such as that celestially Psalmist was,
 That when the wicked feend his Lord tormented,
 With heauenly notes, that did all other pas,
 The outrage of his furious fit relented.
 Such Musicke is wise words with time concentered,
 To moderate stiffe minds, disposed to striue:
 Such as that prudent Romane well inuenced,
 What time his people into partes did riue,
 Them reconceyld againe, and to their homes did driue.

3 Such vs'd wise *Glauce* to that wrathfull knight,
 To calme the tempest of his troubled thought:
 Yet *Blandamour* with termes of foule despight,
 And *Paridell* her scorned, and set at nought,
 As old and crooked and not good for ought,
 Both they vnwise, and warelesse of the euill,
 That by themselues vnto themselues is wrought,
 Through that false witch, and that foule aged dreuill,
 The one a feend, the other an incarnate deuill.

- 4 With whom as they thus rode accompanie,
They were encountred of a lustie Knight,
That had a goodly Ladie by his side,
To whom he made great dalliance and delight.
It was to weete the bold Sir *Ferragh* hight,
He that from *Braggadocchio* whilome reft
The snowy *Florimell*, whose beautie bright
Made him seeme happie for so glorious theft;
Yet was it in due triall but a wandring weft.
- 5 Which when as *Blandamour*, whose fancie light
Was alwaies flirting as the wauering wind,
After each beautie, that appeared in sight,
Beheld, eftsounes it prickt his wanton mind
With sting of lust, that reasons eye did blind,
That to Sir *Paridell* these words he sent:
Sir knight why ride ye dumpish thus behind,
Since so good fortune doth to you present
So fayre a spoyle, to make you ioyous meriment?
- 6 But *Paridell* that had too late a tryall
Of the bad issue of his counsell vaine,
List not to hearke, but made this faire denyall;
Last turne was mine, well proued to my paine,
This now be yours, God send you better gaine.
Whose scoffed words he taking halfe in scorne,
Fiercely forth prickt his steed as in disdain,
Against that Knight, ere he him well could tome
By meanes whereof he hath him lightly ouertorne.
- 7 Who with the sudden stroke astonisht sore,
Vpon the ground a while in slomber lay;
The whiles his loue away the other bore,
And shewing her, did *Paridell* vpbraid;
Lo sluggish Knight the victors happie pray:
So fortune friends the bold: whom *Paridell*
Seeing so faire indeede, as he did say,
His hart with secret enuie gan to swell,
And inly grudge at him, that he had sped so well.

- 8 Nathlesse proud man himselfe the other deemed,
Hauing so pcerlesse paragon ygot:
For sure the fayrest *Florimell* him seemed,
To him was fallen for his happie lot,
Whose like aline on earth he weened not:
Therefore he her did court, did serue, did wooue,
With humblest suit that he imagine mot,
And all things did deuise, and all things dooe,
That might her loue prepare, and liking win theretoo.
- 9 She in regard thereof him recompent
With golden words, and goodly countenance,
And such fond fauours sparingly dispenst:
Sometimes him blessing with a light eye-glance,
And coy lookes tempring with loose dalliance;
Sometimes estranging him in sterner wise,
That hauing cast him in a foolish trance,
He seemed brought to bed in Paradise,
And prou'd himselfe most foole, in what he seem'd most wise.
- 10 So great a mistresse of her art she was,
And perfectly practiz'd in womans craft,
That though therein himselfe he thought to pas,
And by his false allurements wylie drafft,
Had thousand women of their loue beraft,
Yet now he was surpriz'd: for that false spright,
Which that same witch had in this forme engraft,
Was so expert in euery subtile slight,
That it could ouerreach the wisest earthly wight.
- 11 Yet he to her did dayly seruice more,
And dayly more deceiued was thereby;
Yet *Paridell* him enuied therefore,
As seeming plast in sole felicity:
So blind is lust, false colours to descry.
But *Ate* soone discouering his desire,
And finding now fit opportunity
To stirre vp strife, twixt loue and spight and ire,
Did priuily put coles vnto his secret fire.

- 12 By sundry means thereto she prickt him forth,
Now with remembrance of those spightfull speeches,
Now with opinion of his owne more worth,
Now with recounting of like former breaches
Made in their friendship, as that Hag him teaches:
And euer when his passion is allayd,
She it reuiues and new occasion teaches:
That on a time as they together way'd,
He made him open challenge, and thus boldly sayd.
- 13 Too boastfull *Blandamour*, too long I beare
The open wrongs, thou doest me day by day,
Well know'st thou, when we friendship first did sweare,
The couenant was, that euery spoyle or pray
Should equally be shard betwixt vs tway:
Where is my part then of this Ladic bright,
Whom to thy selfe thou takest quite away?
Render therefore therein to me my right,
Or answer for thy wrong, as shall fall out in fight.
- 14 Exceeding wroth therat was *Blandamour*,
And gan this bitter answer to him make;
Too foolish *Paridell*, that fayrest floure
Wouldst gather faine, and yet no paines wouldst take:
But not so easie will I her forsake;
This hand her wonne, this hand shall her defend.
With that they gan their shuering speares to shake,
And deadly points at eithers breast to bend,
Forgetfull each to haue bene euer others friend.
- 15 Their firee Steedes with so vntamed forse
Did beare them both to fell auenges end,
That both their speares with pitillesse remorse,
Through shield and mayle, and haberteon did wend,
And in their flesh a griesly passage rend,
That with the furie of their owne affret,
Each other horse and man to ground did send;
Where lying still a while, both did forget
The perilous present stownd, in which their liues were set.

- 16 As when two warlike Brigandines at sea,
With murderous weapons arm'd to cruell fight,
Doe meeete together on the watry lea,
They stemme ech other with so fell despight,
That with the shocke of their owne heedlesse might,
Their wooden ribs are shaken nigh a sonder;
They which from shore behold the dreadfull sight
Of flashing fire, and heare the ordnance thonder,
Do greatly stand amaz'd at such vnwonted wonder.
- 17 At length they both vpstart in amaze;
As men awak'd rashly out of dreame,
And round about themselues a while did gaze,
Till seeing her, that *Florimell* did seme,
In doubt to whom she victorie should deeme,
Therewith their dulled sprights they edgd anew,
And drawing both their swords with rage extreme,
Like two mad mastiffes each on other flew,
And shields did share, & mailles did rash, and helmes did hew.
- 18 So furiously each other did assayle,
As if their soules they would atonce haue rent
Out of their brests, that streames of bloud did rayle
Adowne, as if their springs of life were spent;
That all the ground with purple bloud was sprent,
And all their armours staynd with bloudie gore,
Yet scarcely once to breath would they relent,
So mortall was their malice and so sore,
Become of fayned friendship which they vow'd afore.
- 19 And that which is for Ladies most befitting,
To stint all strife, and foster friendly peace,
Was from those Dames so farre and so vnfitting,
As that instead of praying them surcease,
They did much more their cruelty encrease;
Bidding them fight for honour of their loue,
And rather die then Ladies cause release.
With which vaine termes so much they did them moue,
That both resolu'd the last extremities to proue.

- 20 There they I weene would fight vntill this day,
Had not a Squire, euen he the Squire of Dames,
By great aduventure trauelled that way;
Who seeing both bent to so bloudy games,
And both of old well knowing by their names,
Drew nigh, to weete the cause of their debate:
And first laide on those Ladies thousand blames,
That did not seeke t'appease their deadly hate,
But gazed on their harmes, not pitying their estate.
- 21 And then those Knights he humbly did beseech,
To stay their hands, till he a while had spoken:
Who lookt a little vp at that his speech,
Yet would not let their battell so be broken,
Both greedie fiers on other to be wroken.
Yet he to them so earnestly did call,
And them coniu'r'd by some well knownen token,
That they at last their wrothfull hands let fall,
Content to heare him speake, and glad to rest withall.
- 22 First he desir'd their cause of strife to see:
They said, it was for loue of *Florimell*.
Ah gentle knights (quoth he) how may that bee,
And she so farre astray, as none can tell.
Fond Squire, full angry then sayd *Paridell*,
Seest not the Ladie there before thy face?
He looked backe, and her aduizing well,
Weend as he said, by that her outward grace,
That fayrest *Florimell* was present there in place.
- 23 Glad man was he to see that ioyous sight,
For none aline but ioy'd in *Florimell*,
And lowly to her lowting thus belight;
Fayrest of faire, that fairenesse doest excell,
This happie day I haue to greette you well,
In which you safe I see, whom thousand late,
Misdoubted lost through mischiefte that befall;
Long may you liue in health and happie state.
She litle answer'd him, but lightly did aggrate.

- 24 Then turning to those Knights, he gan a new;
And you Sir *Blandamour* and *Paridell*,
That for this Ladie present in your vew,
Haue rays'd this cruell warre and outrage fell,
Certes me seemes bene not aduised well,
But rather ought in friendship for her sake
To ioyne your force, their forces to repell,
That seeke perforce her from you both to take,
And of your gotten spoyle their owne triumph to make.

- 25 Threat Sir *Blandamour* with countenance sterne,
All full of wrath, thus fiercely him bespake;
A read thou Squire, that I the man may learne,
That dare fro me thinke *Florimell* to take.
Not one (quoth he) but many doe partake
Herein, as thus. It lately so befell,
That *Satyran* a girdle did vptake,
Well knowne to appertaine to *Florimell*,
Which for her sake he wore, as him becomed well.

- 26 But when as she her selfe was lost and gone,
Full many knights, that loued her like deare,
Thercat did greatly grudge, that he alone
That lost faire Ladies ornament should weare,
And gan therefore close spight to him to beare:
Which he to shun, and stop vile enuies sting,
Hath lately caus'd to be proclaim'd each where
A solemne feast, with publike turneyng,
To which all knights with them their Ladies are to bring.

- 27 And of them all she that is fayrest found,
Shall haue that golden girdle for reward,
And of those Knights who is most stout on ground,
Shall to that fairest Ladie be prefard.
Since therefore she her selfe is now your ward,
To you that ornament of hers pertaines,
Against all those, that chalenge it to gard,
And sauc her honour with your ventrous paines;
That shall you win more glory, then ye here find gaines.

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28 When they the reason of his words had hard,
 They gan abate the rancour of their rage,
 And with their honours and their loues regard,
 The furious flames of malice to asswage.
 Tho each to other did his faith engage,
 Like faithfull friends thenceforth to ioyne in one
 With all their force, and battell strong to wage
 Gainst all those knights, as their professed fone,
That challeng'd ought in *Florimell*, saue they alone.

29 So well accorded forth they rode together
 In friendly sort, that lasted but a while;
 And of all old dislikes they made faire weather,
 Yet all was forg'd and spred with golden foyle,
 That vnder it hidde hate and hollow guyle.
 Ne certes can that friendship long endure,
 How euer gay and goodly be the style,
 That doth ill cause or euill end enure:
For vertue is the band, that bindeth harts most sure.

30 Thus as they marched all in close disguise,
 Of fayned loue, they chaunst to ouertake
 Two knights, that lincked rode in louely wise,
 As if they secret counsels did partake;
 And each not farre behinde him had his make,
 To weete, two Ladies of most goodly hew,
 That twixt themselues did gentle purpose make,
 Vnmindfull both of that discordfull crew,
The which with speedie pace did after them pursew.

31 Who as they now approched nigh at hand,
 Deeming them doughtie as they did appeare,
 They sent that Squire afore, to vnderstand,
 What mote they be: who viewing them more neare
 Returned readie newes, that those same weare
 Two of the prouest Knights in Faery lond;
 And those two Ladies their two louers deare,
 Courageous *Cambell*, and stout *Triamond*,
With *Camacee* and *Cambine* linckt in louely bond.

32 **Whylome as antique stories tellen vs,**

Those two were foes the fellonest on ground,
 And battell made the dreddedst daungerous,
 That euer shrilling trumpet did resound;
 Though now their acts be no where to be found,
 As that renoumed Poet them compyled,
 With warlike numbers and Heroicke sound,
 Dan *Chaucer*, well of English vudcfyled,
 On Fames eternall beadroll worthie to be fyled.

33 But wicked Time that all good thoughts doth waste,
 And workes of noblest wits to nought out weare,
 That famous monument hath quite defaste,
 And robd the world of threasure endlesse deare,
 The which mote haue enriched all vs heare.
 O cursed Eld the cankerworme of writs,
 How may these rimes, so rude as doth appeare,
 Hope to endure, sith workes of heauenly wits
 Are quite deuour'd, and brought to nought by little bits?

34 Then pardon, O most sacred happie spirit,
 That I thy labours lost may thus reuiue,
 And steale from thee the meede of thy due merit,
 That none durst euer whilst thou wast aliué,
 And being dead in vaine yet many striue:
 Ne dare I like, but through infusion sweete
 Of thine owne spirit, which doth in me suruiue,
 I follow here the footing of thy feete,
 That with thy meaning so I may the rather meete.

35 ***Cambelloes* sister was fayre *Camacee*,**
 That was the learnedst Ladie in her dayes,
 Well seene in euerie science that mote bee,
 And euerie secret worke of natures wayes,
 In wittie riddles, and in wise soothsayes,
 In power of herbes, and tunes of beasts and burds;
 And, that augmented all her other prayse,
 She modest was in all her deedes and words,
 And wondrous chaste of life, yet lou'd of Knights & Lords.

- 36 Full many Lords, and many Knights her loued,
 Yet she to none of them her liking lent,
 Ne euer was with fond affection moued,
 But rul'd her thoughts with goodly gouernement,
 For dread of blame and honours blemishment;
 And eke vnto her lookes a law she made,
 That none of them once out of order went,
 But like to warte Centonels well stayd,
 Still watcht on euery side, of secret foes affrayd.
- 37 So much the more as she refusd to loue,
 So much the more she loued was and sought,
 That oftentimes vnquiet strife did moue
 Amongst her louers, and great quarrels wrought,
 That oft for her in bloudie armes they fought,
 Which whenas *Cambell*, that was stout and wise,
 Perceiu'd would breede great mischiefe, he bethought
 How to prevent the perill that mote rise,
 And turne both him and her to honour in this wise.
- 38 One day, when all that troupe of warlike wooers
 Assembled were, to weet whose she should bee,
 All mightie men and dreadfull derring dooers,
 (The harder it to make them well agree)
 Amongst them all this end he did decree:
 That of them all, which loue to her did make,
 They by consent should chose the stoutest three,
 That with himselfe should combat for her sake,
 And of them all the victour should his sister take.
- 39 Bold was the challenge, as himselfe was bold,
 And courage full of haughtie hardiment,
 Approued oft in perils manifold,
 Which he archieue'd to his great ornament:
 But yet his sisters skill vnto him lent
 Most confidence and hope of happie speed,
 Conceiu'd by a ring, which she him sent,
 That mongst the manie vertues, which we need,
 Had power to staunch al wounds, that mortally did bleed.

- 40 Well was that rings great vertue knowen to all,
 That dread thereof, and his redoubted might
 Did all that youthly rout so much appall,
 That none of them durst vndertake the fight;
 More wise they weend to make of loue delight,
 Then life to hazard for faire Ladies lookes,
 And yet vncertaine by such outward sight,
 Though for her sake they all that perill tooke,
 Whether she would them loue, or in her liking brooke.
- 41 Amongst those knights there were three brethren bold,
 Three bolder brethren neuer were yborne,
 Borne of one mother in one happie mold,
 Borne at one burden in one happie morne,
 Thrise happie mother, and thrise happie morne,
 That bore three such, three such not to be fond;
 Her name was *Agape* whose children werne
 All three as one, the first hight *Priamond*,
 The second *Dyamond*, the youngest *Triamond*.
- 42 Stout *Priamond*, but not so strong to strike,
 Strong *Diamond*, but not so stout a knight,
 But *Triamond* was stout and strong alike:
 On horsebacke vsed *Triamond* to fight,
 And *Priamond* on foote had more delight,
 But horse and foote knew *Diamond* to wield:
 With curtaxe vsed *Diamond* to smite,
 And *Triamond* to handle speare and shield,
 But speare and curtaxe both vsd *Priamond* in field.
- 43 These three did loue each other dearely well,
 And with so firme affection were allyde,
 As if but one soule in them all did dwell,
 Which did her powre into three parts diuide;
 Like three faire branches budding farre and wide,
 That from one roote deriu'd their vitall sap:
 And like that roote that doth her life diuide,
 Their mother was, and had full blessed hap,
 These three so noble babes to bring forth at one clap.

Each's woman effe and ... to make ... (M. 111)

48 Their mother was a Fay, and had the skill
 Of secret things, and all the powres of nature,
 Which she by art could vse vnto her will,
 And to her seruice bind each liuing creature:
 Through secret vnderstanding of their feature,
 Thereto she was right faire, when so her face
 She list discouer, and of goodly stature;
 But she as Fayes are wont, in priuie place
 Did spend her dayes, and lov'd in forests wyld to space.

44 There on a day a noble youthly knight
 Seeking adventures in the saluage wood,
 Did by great fortune get of her the sight;
 As she sate carelesse by a cristall-flood,
 Combing her golden lockes, as seemd her good:
 And vnawares vpon her laying hold,
 That stroue in vaine him long to haue withstood,
 Oppressed her, and there (as it is told)
 Got these three louely babes, that prov'd three champions bold.

45 Which she with her long fostred in that wood,
 Till that to ripenesse of mans state they grew:
 Then shewing forth signes of their fathers blood,
 They loued armes, and knighthood did ensew,
 Seeking aduentures, where they anie knew.
 Which when their mother saw, she gan to dout
 Their safetie, leas't by searching daungers new,
 And rash prouoking perils all about,
 Their days mote be abridged through their corage stout.

46 Therefore desirous th'end of all their dayes
 To know, and them t'enlarge with long extent,
 By wondrous skill, and many hidden wayes,
 To the three fatall sisters house she went.
 Farre vnder ground from tract of liuing went,
 Downe in the bottome of the deepe *Abyssse*,
 Where *Demogorgon* in dull darknesse pent,
 Farre from the view of Gods and heaucens blis,
 The hideous *Chaos* keeps, their dreadfull dwelling is.

48 There she them found, all sitting round about
 The direfull distaffe standing in the mid,
 And with vnwearied fingers drawing out
 The lines of life, from liuing knowledge hid.
 Sad *Clotho* held the rocke, the whiles the thrid
 By griesly *Lachesis* was spun with paine,
 That cruell *Atropos* efitsoones vndid,
 With cursed knife cutting the twist in twaine:
 Most wretched men, whose dayes depend on thrids so vaine.

49 She them saluting, there by them sate still,
 Beholding how the thrids of life they span:
 And when at last she had beheld her fill,
 Trembling in heart, and looking pale and wan,
 Her cause of comming she to tell began.
 To whom fierce *Atropos*, Bold Fay, that durst
 Come see the secret of the life of man,
 Well worthie thou to be of *Ioue* accurt,
 And eke thy childrens thrids to be asunder burst.

50 Whereat she sore affrayd, yet her besought
 To graunt her boone, and rigour to abate,
 That she might see her childrens thrids forth brought,
 And know the measure of their vtmost date,
 To them ordained by eternall fate.
 Which *Clotho* graunting, shewed her the same:
 That when she saw, it did her much amate,
 To see their thrids so thin, as spiders frame,
 And eke so short, that seemd their ends out shortly came.

51 She then began them humbly to intreate,
 To draw them longer out, and better twine,
 That so their liues might be prolonged late.
 But *Lachesis* thereat gan to repine,
 And sayd, fond dame that deem'st of things diuine
 As of humane, that they may altdred bee,
 And chaung'd at pleasure for those impes of thine.
 Not so; for what the Fates do once decree,
 Not all the gods can change, nor *Ioue* him self can free.

52 Then since (quoth she) the terme of each mans life
 For nought may lessened nor enlarged bee,
 Graunt this, that when ye shred with fatall knife
 His line, which is the eldest of the three,
 Which is of them the shortest, as I seee,
 Eftsoones his life may passe into the next;
 And when the next shall likewise ended bee,
 That both their liues may likewise be annex
 Vnto the third, that his may so be trebly wext.

53 They graunted it; and then that carefull Fay
 Departed thence with full contented mynd;
 And coming home, in warlike fresh aray
 Them found all three according to their kynd:
 But vnto them what destinie was assynd,
 Or how their liues were eekt, she did not tell;
 But euermore, when she fit time could fynd,
 She warned them to tend their safeties well,
 And loue each other deare, what euer them befell.

54 So did they surely during all their dayes,
 And neuer discord did amongst them fall;
 Which much augmented all their other praise.
 And now t'increase affection naturall,
 In loue of *Canacee* they ioyned all:
 Vpon which ground this same great battell grew,
 Great matter growing of beginning small;
 The which for length I will not here pursue,
 But rather will reserue it for a Canto new.

CANTO III

*The battell twixt three brethren with
 Cambell for Canacee
 Cambina with true friendships bond
 doth their long strife agree.*

1 O why doe wretched men so much desire,
 To draw their dayes vnto the vtmost date,
 And doe not rather wish them soone expire,
Knowing the miserie of their estate,
 And thousand perills which them still awate,
 Tossing them like a boate amid the mayne,
 That eury houre they knocke at deathes gate?
 And he that happie seemes and least in payne,
 Yet is as nigh his end, as he that most doth playne.

2 Therefore this Fay I hold but fond and vaine,
 The which in seeking for her children three
 Long life, thereby did more prolong their paine,
 Yet whilst they liued none did euer see
 More happie creatures, then they seem'd to bee,
Nor more ennobled for their courtesie,
 That made them dearely lou'd of each degree;
Ne more renowned for their cheualrie,
 That made them dreaded much of all men farre and nie.

3 These three that hardie challenge tooke in hand,
For Canacee with Cambell for to fight:
 The day was set, that all might vnderstand,
 And pledges pawnd the same to keepe a right,
 That day, the dreddest day that liuing wight
Did euer see vpon this world to shine,
 So soone as heauens window shewed light,
These warlike Champions all in armour shine,
 Assembled were in field, the challenge to define.

- 4 The field with listes was all about enclos'd,
 To barre the prease of people farre away;
 And at th'one side sixe iudges were dispos'd,
 To view and deeme the decdes of armes that day;
 And on the other side in fresh aray,
 Fayre *Canacee* vpon a stately stage
 Was set, to see the fortune of that fray,
 And to be scene, as his most worthie wage,
 That could her purchase with his liues aduentur'd gage.
- 5 Then entred *Cambell* first into the list,
 With stately steps, and fearelesse countenance,
 As if the conquest his he surely wist.
 Soone after did the brethren three aduance,
 In braue aray and goodly amenance,
 With scutchins gilt and banners broad displayd:
 And marching thrise in warlike ordinance,
 Thrise lowted lowly to the noble Mayd,
 The whiles shrill trompets & loud clarions sweetly playd.
- 6 Which doen the doughty challenger came forth,
 All arm'd to point his challenge to abet:
 Gainst whom Sir *Priamond* with equall worth:
 And equall armes himselfe did forward set.
 A trompet blew; they both together met,
 With dreadfull force, and furious intent,
 Carelesse of perill in their fiers affret,
 As if that life to losse they had forelent,
 And cared not to spare, that should be shortly spent.
- 7 Right practicke was Sir *Priamond* in fight,
 And throughly skild in vse of shield and speare;
 Ne lesse approued was *Cambelloes* might,
 Ne lesse his skill in weapons did appeare,
 That hard it was to weene which harder were.
 Full many mightie strokes on either side
 Were sent, that seemed death in them to beare,
 But they were both so watchfull and well eyde,
 That they auoyded were, and vainely by did slyde.
- 8 Yet one of many was so strongly bent
 By *Priamond*, that with vnluckie glaunce
 Through *Cambels* shoulder it vnwarely went,
 That forced him his shield to disaduance,
 Much was he grieved with that gracelesse chaunce,
 Yet from the wound no drop of bloud there fell,
 But wondrous paine, that did the more enhance
 His haughtie courage to aduancement fell:
 Smart daunts not mighty harts, but makes them more to swell.
- 9 With that his poynant speare he fierce auentred,
 With doubled force close vnderneath his shield,
 That through the mayles into his thigh it entred,
 And there arresting, readie way did yield,
 For bloud to gush forth on the grassie field;
 That he for paine himselfe not right vpreare,
 But too and fro in great amazement reel'd,
 Like an old Oke whose pith and sap is seare,
 At puffe of euery storme doth stagger here and there.
- 10 Whom so dismayd when *Cambell* had espide,
 Againe he droue at him with double might,
 That nought mote stay the steele, till in his side
 The mortall point most cruelly empight:
 Where fast infix'd, whilste he sought by slight
 It forth to wrest, the staffe a sunder brake,
 And left the head behind: with which despight
 He all enrag'd, his shiuering speare did shake,
 And charging him afresh thus felly him bespake.
- 11 Lo faitour there thy meede vnto thee take,
 The meede of thy mischallenge and abet:
 Not for thine owne, but for thy sisters sake,
 Haue I thus long thy life vnto thee let:
 But to forbear doth not forgiue the det.
 The wicked weapon heard his wrathfull vow,
 And passing forth with furious affret,
 Pierst through his beuer quite into his brow,
 That with the force it backward forced him to bow.

16 As when two Tygers prickt with hungers rage,
 Haue by good fortune found some beasts fresh spoyle,
 On which they weene their famine to asswage,
 And gaine a feastfull guerdon of their toyle,
 Both falling out doe stirre vp strifefull broyle,
 And cruell battell twixt themselves doe make,
 Whiles neither lets the other touch the soyle,
 But either sdeignes with other to partake:
 So cruelly these Knights strone for that Ladies sake.

17 Full many strokes, that mortally were ment,
 The whiles were enterchaunged twixt them two;
 Yet they were all with so good wariment
 Or warded, or auoyded and let goe,
 That still the life stood fearelesse of her foe:
 Till *Diamond* disdeigning long delay
 Of doubtfull fortune wauering to and fro,
 Resolu'd to end it one or other way;
 And heau'd his murderous axe at him with mighty sway.

18 The dreadfull stroke in case it had arriued,
 Where it was ment, (so deadly it was ment)
 The soule had sure out of his bodie riued,
 And stinted all the strife incontinent.
 But *Cambels* fate that fortune did preuent:
 For seeing it at hand, he swaru'd asyde,
 And so gaue way vnto his fell intent:
 Who missing of the marke which he had eyde,
 Was with the force nigh feld whilst his right foot did slyde.

19 As when a Vulture greedie of his pray,
 Through hunger long, that hart to him doth lend,
 Strikes at an Heron with all his bodies sway,
 That from his force seemes nought may it defend;
 The warie fowle that spies him toward bend
 His dreadfull souse, auoydes it shunning light,
 And maketh him his wing in vaine to spend;
 That with the weight of his owne weeldesse might,
 He falleth nigh to ground, and scarce recouereth flight.

12 Therewith a sunder in the midst it brast,
 And in his hand nought but the troncheon left,
 The other halfe behind yet sticking fast,
 Out of his headpeece *Cambell* fiercely reft,
 And with such furie backe at him it heft,
 That making way vnto his dearest life,
 His weasand pipe it through his gorget cleft:
 Thence streames of purple bloud issuing rife,
 Let forth his wearie ghost and made an end of stife.

13 His wearie ghost assoyld from fleshy band,
 Did not as others wont, directly fly
 Vnto her rest in *Plutoes* griesly land,
 Ne into ayre did vanish presently,
 Ne chaunged was into a starre in sky:
 But through traduction was efsooones deriued,
 Like as his mother prayd the *Destinie*,
 Into his other brethren, that suruiued,
 In whom he liu'd a new, of former life deprived.

14 Whom when on ground his brother next beheld,
 Though sad and sorie for so heauy sight,
 Yet leaue vnto his sorrow did not yeeld,
 But rather stird to vengeance and despight,
 Through secret feeling of his generous spright,
 Rusht fiercely forth, the battell to renew,
 As in reuersion of his brothers right;
 And chalenging the *Virgin* as his dew.
 His foe was soone address: the trompets freshly blew.

15 With that they both together fiercely met,
 As if that each ment other to deuoure;
 And with their axes both so sorely bet,
 That neither plate nor mayle, wheras their powre
 They felt, could once sustaine the hideous stowre,
 But riued were like rotten wood a sunder,
 Whilset through their rifts the ruddie bloud did showre
 And fire did flash, like lightning after thunder,
 That fld the lookers on attonce with ruth and wonder.

- 20 Which faire aduerture when *Cambello* spide,
Full lightly, ere himselfe he could recower,
From daungers dread to ward his naked side,
He can let driue at him with all his power,
And with his axe him smote in euill hower,
That from his shoulders quite his head he reft:
The headlesse tronke, as heedlesse of that stower,
Stood still a while, and his fast footing kept,
Till feeling life to fayle, it fell, and deadly slept.
- 21 They which that piteous spectacle beheld,
Were much amaz'd the headlesse tronke to see
Stand vp so long, and weapon vaine to weld,
Vnweeting of the Fates diuine decree,
For lifes succession in those brethren three.
For notwithstanding that one soule was reft,
Yet, had the bodie not dismembred bee,
It would haue liued, and reuiued eft;
But finding no fit seat, the lifelesse corse it left.
- 22 It left; but that same soule, which therein dwelt,
Streight entring into *Triamond*, him fild
With double life, and griefe, which when he felt,
As one whose inner parts had bene ythrid
With point of steele, that close his hartbloud spild,
He lightly lept out of his place of rest,
And rushing forth into the emptie field,
Against *Cambello* fiercely him adress;
Who him affronting soone to fight was readie prest.
- 23 Well mote ye wonder how that noble Knight,
After he had so often wounded beene,
Could stand on foot, now to renew the fight.
But had ye then him forth aduancing seene,
Some newborne might ye would him surely weene:
So fresh he seemed and so fierce in sight;
Like as a Snake, whom wearie winters teene,
Hath worne to nought, now feeling sommers might,
Casts off his ragged skin and freshly doth him dight.

- 24 All was through vertue of the ring he wore,
The which not onely did not from him let
One drop of bloud to fall, but did restore
His weakned powers, and dulled spirits whet,
Through working of the stone therein yset.
Else how could one of equall might with most,
Against so many no lesse mightie met,
Once thinke to match three such on equall cost,
Three such as able were to match a puissant host.
- 25 Yet nought thereof was *Triamond* adredde,
Ne desperate of glorious victorie,
But sharply him assayld, and sore bestedde,
With heapes of strokes, which he at him let fie,
As thicke as hayle forth poured from the skie:
He stroke, he soust, he foynd, he hewd, he lasht,
And did his yron brond so fast applie,
That from the same the ferie sparkles flasht,
As fast as water-sprinkles gainst a rocke are dasht.
- 26 Much was *Cambello* daunted with his blowes,
So thicke they fell, and forcibly were sent,
That he was forst from daunger of the throwes
Backe to retire, and somewhat to relent,
Till th'heat of his fierce furie he had spent:
Which when for want of breath gan to abate,
He then afresh with new encouragement
Did him assayle, and mightily amate,
As fast as forward erst, now backward to retrate.
- 27 Like as the tide that comes from th'Ocean mayne,
Floues vp the Shenan with contrarie forse,
And ouerruling him in his owne rayne,
Driues backe the current of his kindly course,
And makes it seeme to haue some other fourse:
But when the floud is spent, then backe againe
His borrowed waters forst to redisbourse,
He sends the sea his owne with double gaine,
And tribute eke withall, as to his Soueraine.

- 28 Thus did the battell varie to and fro,
 With diuerse fortune doubtfull to be deemed:
 Now this the better had, now had his fo;
 Then he halfe vanquish, then the other seemed,
 Yet victors both them selues alwayes esteemed.
 And all the while the disentrayled blood
 Adowne their sides like litle riuers stremed,
 That with the wasting of his vitall flood,
 Sir *Triamond* at last full faint and feeble stood.
- 29 But *Cambell* still more strong and greater grew,
 Ne felt his blood to wast, ne powres emperishit,
 Through that rings vertue, that with vigour new,
 Still when as he enfeebled was, him cherisht,
 And all his wounds, and all his bruses guarisht,
 Like as a withered tree through husbands toyle
 Is often scene full freshly to haue florishit,
 And fruitfull apples to haue borne awhile,
 As fresh as when it first was planted in the soyle.
- 30 Through which aduantage, in his strength he rose,
 And smote the other with so wondrous might,
 That through the seame, which did his hauberk close,
 Into his throate and life it pierced quight,
 That downe he fell as dead in all mens sight:
 Yet dead he was not, yet he sure did die,
 As all men do, that lose the liuing spright:
 So did one soule out of his bodie flie
 Vnto her natue home from mortall miserie.
- 31 But nathelless whilst all the lookers on
 Him dead behight, as he to all appeared,
 All vnawares he started vp anon,
 As one that had out of a dreame bene reard,
 And fresh assayld his foe, who halfe affeard
 Of th' vncouth sight, as he some ghost had scene,
 Stood still amaz'd, holding his idle swerd;
 Till haung often by him stricken beene,
 He forced was to strike, and saue him selfe from teene.

32 Yet from thenceforth more warily he fought,
 As one in feare the Stygian gods t'offend,
 Ne followd on so fast, but rather sought
 Him selfe to saue, and daunger to defend,
 Then life and labour both in vaine to spend.
 Which *Triamond* perceiuing, weened sure
 He gan to faint, toward the battels end,
 And that he should not long on foote endure,
 A signe which did to him the victorie assure.

33 Whereof full blith, eftswoones his mightie hand
 He hea'd on high, in mind with that same blow
 To make an end of all that did withstand:
 Which *Cambell* seeing come, was nothing slow
 Him selfe to saue from that so deadly throw;
 And at that instant reaching forth his swerd
 Close vnderneath his shield, that scarce did show,
 Stroke him, as he his hand to strike vpreard,
 In th' arm-pit full, that through both sides the wound appeared.

34 Yet still that direfull stroke kept on his way,
 And falling heaueie on *Cambelloes* crest,
 Strooke him so hugely, that in swowne he lay,
 And in his head an hideous wound imprest:
 And sure had it not happily found rest
 Vpon the brim of his brode plated shield,
 It would haue cleft his braine downe to his brest.
 So both at once fell dead vpon the field,
 And each to other seemd the victorie to yield.

35 Which when as all the lookers on beheld,
 They weened sure the warre was at an end,
 And Iudges rose, and Marshals of the field
 Broke vp the listes, their armes away to rend;
 And *Canacee* gan wayle her dearest frend.
 All suddenly they both vpstarted light,
 The one out of the swound, which him did blend,
 The other breathing now another spright,
 And fiercely each assaying, gan afresh to fight.

- 36 Long while they then continued in that wize,
As if but then the battell had begonne:
Strokes, wounds, wards, weapons, all they did despise,
Ne either car'd to ward, or perill shonne,
Desirous both to haue the battell donne;
Ne either cared life to saue or spill,
Ne which of them did winne, ne which were wonne.
So wearie both of fighting had their fill,
That life it selfe seemd loathsome, and long safetie ill.
- 37 Whilst thus the case in doubtfull ballance hong,
Vnsure to whether side it would incline,
And all mens eyes and hearts, which there among
Stood gazing, filled were with rufull tine,
And secret feare, to see their fatall fine,
All suddenly they heard a troublous noyes,
That seemd some perilous tumult to desine,
Confusd with womens cries, and shouts of boyes,
Such as the troubled Theaters oftimes annoyes.
- 38 Thereat the Champions both stood still a-space,
To weeten what that sudden clamour ment;
Lo where they spyde with speedie whirling pace,
One in a charret of strange furniment,
Towards them driuing like a storme out sent.
The charret decked was in wondrous wize,
With gold and many a gorgeous ornament,
After the Persian Monarks antique guise,
Such as the maker selfe could best by art deuize.
- 39 And drawne it was (that wonder is to tell)
Of two grim lyons, taken from the wood,
In which their powre all others did excell;
Now made forget their former cruell mood,
T'obey their riders hest, as seemed good.
And therein sate a Ladie passing faire
And bright, that seemed borne of Angels brood,
And with her beautie bountie did compare,
Whether of them in her should haue the greater share.

40

Thereto she learned was in Magicke leare,
And all the artes, that subtrill wits discover,
Hauing therein bene trained many a yeare,
And well instructed by the Fay her mother,
That in the same she farre exceld all other.
Who vnderstanding by her mightie art,
Of th'euill plight, in which her dearest brother
Now stood, came forth in hast to take his part,
And pacifie the strife, which causd so deadly smart.

41

And as she passed through th'vnruely preace
Of people, thronging thicke her to behold,
Her angrie teame breaking their bonds of peace,
Great heapes of them, like sheepe in narrow fold,
For hast did ouer-runne, in dust enrould,
That thorough rude confusion of the rout,
Some fearing shriekt, some being harmed hould,
Some laught for sport, some did for wonder shout,
And some that would seeme wise, their wonder turnd to dout.

42

In her right hand a rod of peace shee bore,
About the which two Serpents weren wound,
Entrayled mutually in louely lore,
And by the tailes together firmly bound,
And both were with one oliue garland crownd
Like to the rod which *Maia*s some doth wield,
Wherewith the hellishfiends he doth confound.
And in her other hand a cup she hild,
The which was with Nepenthe to the brim vpfil'd.

43

Nepenthe is a drinck of souerayne grace,
Deuized by the Gods, for to asswage
Harts grief, and bitter gall away to chace,
Which stirs vp anguish and contentious rage:
In stead thereof sweet peace and quiet age
It doth establish in the troubled mynd.
Few men, but such as sober are and sage,
Are by the Gods to drinck thereof assynd;
But such as drinck, eternall happinesse do fynd.

44 Such famous men, such worthies of the earth,
 As *Loue* will haue aduanced to the skie,
 And there made gods, though borne of mortall berth,
 For their high merits and great dignitie,
 Are wont, before they may to heauen flie,
 To drincke hereof, whereby all cares forepast
 Are washt away quite from their memorie.
 So did those olde Heroes hereof taste,
 Before that they in blisse amongst the Gods were plaste.

45 Much more of price and of more gracious powre
 Is this, then that same water of *Ardenne*,
 The which *Rinaldo* drunck in happie howre,
 Described by that famous *Tuscane* penne:
 For that had might to change the hearts of men
 Fro loue to hate, a change of euill choise:
 But this doth hatred make in loue to brenne,
 And heauy heart with comfort doth reioyce.
 Who would not to this vertue rather yeeld his voice?

46 At last arriuing by the listes side,
 Shee with her rod did softly smite the raile,
 Which straight flew ope, and gaue her way to ride.
 Eftsoones out of her *Coch* she gan auaille,
 And pacing fairely forth, did bid all haile,
 First to her brother, whom she loued deare,
 That so to see him made her heart to quaille:
 And next to *Cambell*, whose sad ruefull cheare
 Made her to change her hew, and hidden loue t'appeare.

47 They lightly her requit (for small delight
 They had as then her long to entertaine,
 And eft them turned both againe to fight,
 Which when she saw, downe on the bloudy plaine
 Her selfe she threw, and teares gan shed amaine;
 Amongst her teares immixing prayers meeke,
 And with her prayers reasons to restraine,
 From bloudy strife, and blessed peace to seeke,
 By all that vnto them was deare, did them beseeke.

48 But when as all might nought with them preuaile,
 Shee smote them lightly with her powrefull wand.
 Then suddenly as if their hearts did faile,
 Their wrathfull blades downe fell out of their hand,
 And they like men astonisht still did stand.
 Thus whilst their minds were doubtfully distraught,
 And mighty spirites bound with mightier band,
 Her golden cup to them for drinke she raught,
 Whereof full glad for thirst, ech drunk an harty draught.

49 Of which so soone as they once tasted had,
 Wonder it is that sudden change to see:
 Instead of strokes, each other kissed glad,
 And louely haulst from feare of treason free,
 And plighted hands for euer friends to be.
 When all men saw this sudden change of things,
 So mortall foes so friendly to agree,
 For passing ioy, which so great maruaile brings,
 They all gan shout aloud, that all the heauen rings.

50 All which, when gentle *Canacee* beheld,
 In hast she from her lofty chaire descended,
 Too weet what sudden tidings was befel:
 Where when she saw that cruell war so ended,
 And deadly foes so faithfully affrended,
 In louely wise she gan that *Lady* greet,
 Which had so great dismay so well amended,
 And entreaining her with curt'sies meet,
 Profest to her true friendship and affection sweet.

51 Thus when they all accorded goodly were,
 The trumpets sounded, and they all arose,
 Thence to depart with glee and gladsome chere.
 Those warlike champions both together chose,
 Homeward to march, themselves there to repose,
 And wise *Cambina* taking by her side
 Faire *Canacee*, as fresh as morning rose,
 Vnto her *Coch* remounting, home did ride,
 Admir'd of all the people, and much glorified.

THE FAERIE QUEENE

52 Where making ioyous feast their daies they spent
In perfect loue, deuoid of hatefull strife,
Allide with bands of mutuall complement;
For *Triamond* had *Canacee* to wife,
With whom he ledd a long and happie life;
And *Cambel* tooke *Cambina* to his lets,
The which as life were each to other lief.
So all alike did loue, and loued were,
That since their days such louers were not found elswere.

CANTO IV

*Satyrae makes a Turneyment
For loue of Florimell:
Britomart winnes the prize from all,
And Artegall doth quell.*

- 1 It often fals, (as here it earst befell)
That mortall foes doe turne to faithfull frends,
And friends profest are chaungd to foemen fell:
The cause of both, of both their minds depends;
And th'end of both likewise of both their ends.
For enmitie, that of no ill proceeds,
But of occasion, with th'occasion ends;
And friendship, which a faint affection breeds
Without regard of good, dyes like ill grounded seeds.
- 2 That well (me seemes) appears, by that of late
Twixt *Cambell* and Sir *Triamond* befell,
As els by this, that now a new debate
Stird vp twixt *Blandamour* and *Paridell*,
The which by course befals me here to tell:
Who hauing those two other Knights espide
Marching afore, as ye remember well,
Sent forth their Squire to haue them both descride,
And eke those masked Ladies riding them beside.
- 3 Who backe returning, told as he had seene,
That they were doughtie knights of dreaded name;
And those two Ladies, their two loues vnseene;
And therefore wisht them without blot or blame,
To let them passe at will, for dread of shame.
But *Blandamour* full of vainglorious spright,
And rather stird by his discordfull Dame,
Vpon them gladly would haue prov'd his might,
But that he yet was sore of his late lucklesse fight.