

# Sir Gawain and the Loathly Damsel

Retold and illustrated by  
JOANNA TROUGHTON



# Sir Gawain And The Loathly Damsel

**William Price Albrecht, Thomas (the  
Rhymer)**



## Sir Gawain And The Loathly Damsel:

Sir Gawain and the Loathly Damsel, 1972 In order to obtain the answer to a riddle that will save King Arthur's life Sir Gawain must marry the ugliest maiden in the world *The Splendor of the Goddess* Alex MacLeod, 2004 This book describes an encounter of the author with the Goddess The author also tells of some of the events that preceded and followed it In particular he tells of his changed perception of the world He could see then and sometimes can still see the divinity of women They are divine because they are like the Goddess He knows with a intuitive certainty that the Goddess is about to make her advent once again and that when that happens the establishment of a universal matriarchy will be the inevitable result This book is about a goddess of sublime beauty and power and not about the God of our fathers It is about the Goddess the human race first knew the Great Goddess who was worshipped so ardently and for so long by our forebears Now at long last is returning to walk among her children again The signs of her coming are manifold clear as the sun to see for all whose eyes have been opened Our ancestors knew Her intimately She was loved and adored by countless millions of people whole nations worshipped Her vast empires trembled in fear and joy at the slightest manifestation of Her unspeakable potency and magnificence Yet few in these darker ages know anything about Her She is thought to have vanished forever leaving nothing of Her former cult behind save a few references scattered in ancient authors a few statues hidden in museums mere skeletal remains of her former living glory Though what I have to report is immemorably ancient it seems as new to me as it will to many others in this age as if it had been newly born Old does not mean decrepit and what is truly perennial or immortal cannot wither or fade with time Ancient and eternal but forever young and fair the Goddess lives and will never die In all the book possesses great possibilities It's unique and possibly the first to recount a personal experience with the Goddess by a man throughout an entire book The Goddess experience has been alluded to previously by men but not in a whole book and not with the slant provided by Alex MacLeod Rita Robinson *Exploring Native American Wisdom* New Page Books Gawain: a Study of Certain Phases of the Gawain Cycle in Arthurian Legend Jane Feild Baskin, 1909 **Distressing Damsels** Lauren Chochinov, 2010 At the end of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* when Bertilak de Hautdesert reveals Morgan le Fay's involvement in Gawain's quest the Pearl Poet introduces a difficult problem for scholars and students of the text Morgan appears out of nowhere and it is difficult to understand the poet's intentions for including her so late in his narrative The premise for this thesis is that the loathly lady motif helps explain Morgan's appearance and Gawain's symbolic importance in the poem Through a study of the loathly lady motif I argue it is possible that the Pearl Poet was using certain aspects of the motif to inform his story Chapter one of this thesis will focus on the origins of the loathly lady motif and the literary origins of Morgan le Fay In order to understand the connotations of the loathly lady stories it is important to study both the Irish tales and the later English versions of the motif My study of Morgan will trace her beginnings as a pagan healer goddess to her later variations in French and Middle English literature The second chapter will discuss the influential women in *Sir Gawain*

and the Green Knight and their specific importance to the text It will examine Queen Guinevere Bertilak s lady and Morgan le Fay This chapter will also analyze three contemporary Middle English texts John Gower s The Tale of Florent Geoffrey Chaucer s The Wife of Bath s Tale and The Weddyng of Syr Gawen to Dame Ragnell The loathly lady motif was popular at the end of the fourteenth century which lends evidence to the argument that the Pearl Poet was familiar with the motif Finally the third chapter will provide an exploration of Gawain s role as the loathly lady s knight and the symbolism of Gawain s shield and green girdle the setting of Hautdesert and the Green Chapel and the Pearl Poet s emphasis on family relations Ultimately I argue that Sir Gawain and the Green Knight is an untraditional loathly lady story that uses the motif s themes and symbolism to emphasize the poem s feminine landscape and the importance of Morgan le Fay A Dictionary of Medieval Heroes Willem Pieter Gerritsen,A. G. van Melle,1998 The different cultures from which the middle ages drew its inspiration are represented Cu Cuchulainn from the Celtic world Apollonius of Tyre from Greek romance Attila the Hun and Theodoric the Ostrogoth from the struggle of the Roman empire against the Barbarians Each entry gives an outline of the story how it spread through Europe its modern retelling and appearances in art and a selective bibliography Jacket

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Journal of American Folklore ,1892 *The Journal of American Folklore* ,1892 The English "Loathly Lady" Tales S.

Elizabeth Passmore,Susan Carter,2007 Whereas some literary motifs such as the tyrant the beggar and the crone have equivalents in the real world the Loathly Lady is a creature of the imagination Yet she is not merely a whimsical fantasy This volume concentrates on the medieval English Loathly Lady tales which develop the motif as a vehicle for social ideology One of the primary agendas of this collection is to promote the non canonical Loathly Ladies as worthwhile subjects for scholarly consideration The examinations here of the medieval English Loathly Lady tales engage with a myriad of concerns including anxieties about virginity and sex power and assimilation beauty and beastliness These broad examinations of this enigmatic literary motif are an excellent contribution to the field and will be of great interest to scholars

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