Concepts Of Chivalry In Sir Gawain And The Green Knight

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The Green Knight's challenge is thus a challenge not just to each individual knight but to the entire Arthurian chivalric code, and that code is shown to be hollow when none of the knights accept the challenge until Gawain, who identifies himself as the weakest of the knights, finally does. The terms of the Green Knight's game then force Gawain to seek out the Green Knight somewhere in the wilderness of Britain. As such, the quest presents another test of both Gawain and the chivalric code outside the confines of Arthur's court. The ThemeTracker below shows where, and to what degree, the theme of Chivalry appears in each section of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight. Click or tap on any chapter to read its Summary & Analysis. How often theme appears This is evident in Sir Gawain and the Green Knight by the Gawain's act of putting his trust in a pagan charm and not in the Virgin Mary. Chivalry itself is a conflicting concept since it consists of both pagan and Christian principles. Although on one hand, chivalry promoted virtuous actions towards others such as kindness and compassion, but chivalry also promoted the sin of infidelity. The test of chivalry placed on Sir Gawain was administered in two parts; the first is to behead the Green Knight and let him retaliate a year later at the Green Chapel, and the second was being tempted by Lord Bercilak's wife into committing adultery. Although these events seem unrelated, they are joined by the fact that, unknown to Sir Gawain, Lord Bercilak is the Green Knight. The world of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight is governed by well-defined codes of behavior. The code of chivalry, in particular, shapes the values and actions of Sir Gawain and other characters in the poem. The ideals of chivalry derive from the Christian concept of morality, and the proponents of chivalry seek to promote spiritual ideals in a spiritually fallen world. The ideals of Christian morality and knightly chivalry are brought together in Gawain's symbolic shield. The pentangle represents the five virtues of knights: friendship, generosity, chastity, courtesy, and piety. Gawain's adher