

ANALYTICAL OUTLINES OF *LE ROMAN DE LA ROSE*

(from: Luria, Maxwell. *A Reader's Guide to the Roman de la Rose*. Hamden, Conn. 1982)

OUTLINE OF PRIMARY SECTIONS: Prologue: The dreamer introduces his dream. 1-44 (1-44)

- I. The young man becomes a vassal of the God of Love. 45-4,190 (45-4,220)
(Jean de Meun's part of the poem begins with 4,029 (4,059).
- II. The discourse of Reason to the young man. 4,191-7,200 (4,221-7,230)
- III. The discourse of Friend to the young man. 7,201-9,972 (7,231-10,002)
- IV. The conquest of the rose. 9,973-21,750 (10,003-21,780)

DETAILED OUTLINE: Prologue: The dreamer introduces his dream. 1-44 (1-44)

- I. The young man becomes a vassal of the God of Love. 45-4,190 (45-4,220)
 - A. He sees and enters the garden of *Dedit*.
45-688 (45-690)
 - B. He describes the contents of the garden.
699-1 621 (691-1,614)
 - C. He falls in love with a rose.
1,613-1,878 (1,615-1,880)
 - D. He becomes a vassal of the God of Love, and receives his commandments.
1,879-2,762 (1,881-1,778)
 - E. He is unable to approach the rose.
2,763-2,934 (2,779-2,950)
 - F. In despair, he receives advice from Reason and Friend.
2,935-3,338 (2,951-3,356)
 - G. The intervention of Venus enables him to kiss the rose.
3,339-3,492 (3,357-3,510)
 - H. Angered by this, Jealousy erects a fortress around the roses, and a tower in which to imprison Fair Welcome.
3,493-3,908 (3,511-3,936)
 - I. The young man despairs, but remains faithful to his amorous quest.
3,909-4,190 (3,937-4,220)
- II. The discourse of Reason to the young man. 4,191-7,200 (4,221-7,230)
 - A. Reason analyzes the young man's problem.
4,191-4,598 (4,221-4,628)
 - B. She explains the nature of friendship, fortune, and wealth.
4,599-5,428 (4,629-5,458)
 - C. She discusses justice.
5,429-5,666 (5,459-5,696)
 - D. She urges him to abandon the God of Love and Fortune, and to follow her.
5,667-6,870 (5,697-6,900)
 - E. He rejects her proposal, and criticizes her use of indecorous language; she explains his error in this matter, and departs.
6,871-7,200 (6,901-7,230)
- III. The discourse of Friend to the young man. (7,231-10,002)
 - A. Friend advises the young man how to outwit his enemies.
7,201-7,764 (7,231-7,794)
 - B. He explains the importance of wealth to a lover's quest, and describes his own impoverishment.
7,765-8,226 (7,795-8,256)
 - C. The corruption of love since the Golden Age.
8,227-8,424 (8,257-8,454)
 - D. How a modern Jealous Husband might address his wife.
8,425-9,330 (8,455-9,360)
 - E. More about the jealous Husband, and the bad effect of domination upon marriage.
9,331-9,462 (9,361-9,492)
 - F. More about the Golden Age, and the decline which has followed it.
9,463-9,648 (9,493-9,678)
 - G. Some rules for a lover to follow.
9,649-9,972 (9,679-10,002)
- IV: The conquest of the rose. 9,973-21,750 (10,003-21,780)

- A. The young man, though pleased with Friend's advice, is still frustrated in his quest, and is rejected by Wealth.
9,973-10,237 (10,003-10,267)
- B. He mollifies Foul Mouth, and receives a promise of help from the God of Love.
10,238-10,408 (10,268-10,438)
- C. Love assembles his forces, including False Seeming.
10,409-10,921 (10,439-10,951)
- D. The discourse of False Seeming to the company of Love.
10,922-11,984 (10,952-12,014)
- E. The assault begins; False Seeming kills Foul Mouth.
11,985-12,350 (12,015-12,380)
- F. Love's forces capture the Old Woman, guardian of Fair Welcome, and induce her to give her ward the young man's gift.
12,351-12,709 (12,381-12,739)
- G. The discourse of the Old Woman to Fair Welcome.
12,710-14,516 (12,740-14,546)
- H. With the help of the Old Woman and Fair Welcome, the young man is admitted to the fortress and approaches the rose, but he is repulsed by *Dangier*, Fear, and Shame.
14,517-15,104 (14,547-15,134)
- I. The "author" digresses, and defends his poem against charges of obscurity, indecorous language, and ecclesiastical satire.
15,105-15,272 (15,135-15,302)
- J. The forces of Love are defeated, and Love calls upon his mother, Venus, for help.
15,273-15,860 (15,303-15,890)
- K. Nature enters the conflict.
15,861-16,292 (15,891-16,322)
- L. Genius's discourse to Nature.
16,293-16,698 (16,323-16,728)
- M. The "confession" of Nature to Genius.
1. God's creation of the world.
16,699-16,918 (16,729-16,948)
 2. The effects of celestial bodies upon the earth and its inhabitants.
16,919-17,070 (16,949-17,100)
 3. Necessity and free will.
17,071-17,844 (17,101-17,874)
 4. The weather.
17,845-17,999 (17,875-18,029)
 5. Illusions, phantoms, and dreams.
18,000-18,504 (18,030-18,534)
 6. Comets do not announce the death of kings.
18,505-18,558 (18,535-18,588)
 7. True nobility is the result of virtue.
18,559-18,866 (18,589-18,896)
 8. More on comets and other incorruptible celestial bodies.
18,867-18,936 (18,897-18,966)
 9. Of all God's corruptible creation beneath the sphere of the moon, only man ignores Nature's laws, especially the law of procreation.
18,937-19,304 (18,967-19,334)
 10. Nature sends Genius to the God of Love.
19,305-19,375 (19,335-19,405)
- N. Genius's sermon to the host of Love.
1. Genius is welcomed by Love and Venus.
19,376-19,474 (19,406-19,504)
 2. Genius excommunicates the enemies of procreation, and encourages the others to procreate.
19,475-19,808 (19,505-19,838)
 3. Genius urges his hearers to live virtuously, so as to enter the beautiful park of the Lamb.
19,809-20,006 (19,839-20,036)
 4. Saturn's castration and the end of the Golden Age.
20,007-20,236 (20,037-20,266)
 5. Genius contrasts the park of the Lamb with the garden of *Deduit*.
20,237-20,637 (20,267-20,667)
- O. Venus shoots a firebrand at the tower, and routs the enemies of Love.
20,638-21,315 (20,668-21,345)
- P. The young man finally has his pleasure with the rose; the dreamer awakes.
21,316-21,750 (21,346-21,780)