

THE GRAIL

A CASEBOOK

EDITED WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
DHIRA B. MAHONEY

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Comparative Table of Medieval Texts

| Text | Language and Date | Questers | Graill | Fisher King/ Maimed King | Waste Land | Question Test |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chrétien de Troyes, <i>Perceval</i> | Old French verse, 1180-90 | Perceval | Serving dish, holding a Mass wafer | Perceval's cousin, wounded in battle | Land will be in turmoil because of question failure | Perceval fails to ask the healing question |
| Robert de Boron, <i>Joseph</i> | Old French verse, 1191-1202 | None | Vessel from Last Supper and holding Christ's blood | The Rich Fisherman (Bron): not sick or wounded | None | None |
| <i>Perlesvaus</i> | Old French prose, 1200-10 | Perlesvaus; Gauvain, Lancelot, Arrus | Vessel holding Christ's blood | Perlesvaus's uncle, sick but not wounded | Kingdom is in state of war because of question failure before story began | Perlesvaus failed before story began; Gauvain fails, and Lancelot never sees the Graill |
| Wolfram von Eschenbach, <i>Parzival</i> | Middle High German verse, 1200-10 | Parzival | A precious stone | Anfortas, Parzival's uncle, wounded in punishment for sexual sin | None | Parzival fails on the first visit, but succeeds on second visit |
| Peredur | Middle Welsh prose, 13th century | Peredur | Severed head on platter | Peredur's uncle, lame | Land is in state of war because of Peredur's failure to ask question | Peredur fails to ask about the head, but it is identified at end of narrative |
| <i>Vulgate Estoire</i> | Old French prose, 1215-35 | None | Vessel ("vescucle") from Last Supper and holding Christ's blood | Rich fisherman (Alain) -- not sick or wounded | None | None |
| <i>Vulgate Queste</i> | Old French prose, 1215-35 | Chiefly Galahad, Bohort, Perceval; Lancelot | Dish (escuelle) holding Paschal Lamb at Last Supper | Pellehan, Pelles's father, wounded by Lance when he tries to seize the sword on the ship | Caused by Dolorous Stroke (killing of Lancelot by Varian with sword) | None |
| <i>Post-Vulgate Queste</i> | Old French prose, 1230-40 | Chiefly Galahad, Bohort, Perceval | Vessel, never identified | In <i>Suite du Merlin</i> , Pellehan, wounded by Dolorous Stroke (Balaïn) | Caused by Dolorous Stroke (Balaïn wielding Lance) | None |
| Sir Thomas Malory, "Tale of the Sankgreal" | Middle English prose, 1469-70 | Galahad, Bors, Perceval, Lancelot | "Dysche" holding Paschal Lamb at Last Supper | In "Tale of King Arthur," Pellam, wounded by Dolorous Stroke (Balaïn) | Caused by Dolorous Stroke (Balaïn wielding Lance) | None |