

The Typology of Knighthood

Adapted from Beverly Kennedy's *Knighthood in the Morte Darthur*

By Bruce Carroll

Type of Knight	Characteristics	Knights
Heroic	<p>The earliest stage of the development of knighthood; he is normally situated in battle; he is both Christian and a fatalist of the ancient warrior variety (2).</p> <p>He is impetuous, and, as seen through Gawain in <i>LMD</i>, he disregards Arthur's Worshipful oaths. This knight is traced back to Beowulf and Roland (6).</p>	<p>Balin Balan Gawain</p>
Worshipful	<p>Anticipates the last stage of the cultural development of knighthood. He is usually situated in the court, and although Christian, he is also 'a rational pragmatist like the courtiers and princes of the early Renaissance' (2).</p> <p>In short, he is only as religious as he needs to be, only as Heroic as it will win him worship to be. He never unnecessarily risks his life. Desire for worship is the <i>sine qua non</i> of his career.</p> <p>Traced back to heroes of 13th c. French Romances, like Lancelot and Tristram (6) and Christine de Pizan's (15th cen) <i>Epistle of Othea to Hector</i> and <i>The Buke of Noblese</i>.</p>	<p>Arthur Gareth Tristram Lancelot (the later)</p>
True	<p>Christian, mystic, providentialist for whom knighthood is a 'High Order' established by God to do 'true justice' in the world (3). Believes that his virtues will make him a better knight.</p> <p>This type is traced back to heraldic manuals and treatises on knighthood, such as Ramon Lull's (13th – 14th cen) treatise <i>Libro del orden de caballeria</i> (6) and Sir Gilbert Hay's (15th cen) <i>Buke of Knychthede</i>.</p>	<p>Percival Galahad Lancelot</p>