



The Decameron

Giovanni Boccaccio (as translated by J.

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The Decameron is a narrative that takes place during the Bubonic Plague (or Black Death) that occurred in the mid-14th century. The book follows a group of seven women and three men who are fleeing an outbreak of the plague in Florence, Italy. They all stay together in a large villa away from danger of sickness. While they stay, they devise a plan to make time go faster: each tells one story each of the ten nights. The Decameron consists, then, of 100 stories. Many of the evening's stories are given a theme or specific topic. The first day, the storytellers are allowed to choose their own topic. The second day, the stories are all about misadventures that end well. The third day, the narrators tell stories about people who gain something they greatly wished for, and the fourth day's topic is love stories that have unhappy endings. The remaining topics include love that endures hardships, eluding danger, women who deceive their spouses, men and women who deceive one another, and those who make sacrifices for love or other causes. The stories are at times darkly comic, bawdy, and even profane. Boccaccio weaves major themes throughout the stories, unifying the book as a whole and reflecting his Boccaccio's humanist philosophies. The Decameron touches upon the ideas of good fortune being bestowed upon those who are good and charitable. The stories are also often critical of the Catholic faith, and poking fun at the church is rampant through the book. Finally, The Decameron is of great historical significance; it gives insight into the fears and psychological torment that those who lived during the Black Death endured. Title: The Decameron Author: Giovanni Boccaccio ISBN: 9781775420392 Version: Unabridged Language: English Reader: Various Format: MP3 Audio DVD Tracks / Chapters: 121 Chapters Total running time: 32:41:24

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