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Senior Tutorial

22 March 2011

The Romance of Legends: Contrasting Dante and Malory

Thomas Malory's *Le Morte D'Arthur* showcases the many characteristics of Arthur and his knights, one of the more prominent characteristics being their treatment of romance. Love prevents the knights from being truly noble and from achieving holiness by leading them into sin. In contrast to the negative repercussions of Malory's version of love, Dante presents an idealized form of love in *The Divine Comedy*. In this work, the love that Dante experiences is not worldly but divine and it allows him to draw closer to God. While the romantic love portrayed in *The Divine Comedy* brings the protagonist closer to God, the romance in *Le Morte D'Arthur* inhibits the lovers from living a holy life and separates them from God.