



SIR GAWAIN AND THE GREEN KNIGHT

**KENNETH G. T. WEBSTER
AND W. A. NEILSON**

Global Grey ebooks

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GREEN KNIGHT**

**TRANSLATED
BY
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Sir Gawain and the Green Knight by Kenneth G. T. Webster and W. A. Neilson.

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Fytte the First

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and Samson also, Delilah dealt him his weird;
and David thereafter was deceived by Bathsheba,
who suffered much sorrow.

Since these men were plagued by their wiles,
it were a huge gain to love them well and believe them not —
if a person but could;
for these men were of old the best,
and the most fortunate,
excellent above all others under the heavens;
and all they were beguiled by women whom they had to do with.⁹²
If I be now deceived, meseems I might be excused.

19.

“But your girdle,” quoth Gawain,
“God reward you for it!
That will I keep with good will;
not for the precious gold,
nor the samite nor the silk,
nor the wide pendants,
for its wealth nor for its beauty
nor for its fine work;
but in sign of my fault I shall behold it oft;
when I ride in renown I shall lament to myself
the fault and the deceit of the crabbed flesh,
how tender it is to catch stains of filth;
and thus when pride shall prick me for prowess of arms,
a look on this love-lace shall moderate my heart.
But one thing I would pray you —
may it displease you not —
since ye are lord of the land yonder
where I have stayed worshipfully with you —
may the Being who upholds the heaven
and sits on high repay you for it! —
how name ye your right name? and then no more.”

⁹² This passage is none too clear.

