

A detailed painting of a medieval scene. On the left, a woman with long, wavy blonde hair is seated. She wears a pink gown with gold floral patterns and a red cape with a white fur collar. A gold crown with a gemstone sits on her head. She is looking towards the man on her right. The man has short brown hair and is wearing a brown tunic with a fur collar and a patterned sash. He is seated and playing a large, ornate harp. The background shows a stone wall and a large, fluted column. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows.

**Global Grey Ebooks**

**THE ROMANCE OF  
TRISTAN AND ISEULT**

**JOSEPH BÉDIER**

# **THE ROMANCE OF TRISTAN AND ISEULT**

**JOSEPH BÉDIER**



The Romance of Tristan And Iseult by Joseph Bédier.

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“Lady, rise and let me come by him; I have more right to mourn him than have you—believe me. I loved him more.”

And when she had turned to the east and prayed God, she moved the body a little and lay down by the dead man, beside her friend. She kissed his mouth and his face, and clasped him closely; and so gave up her soul, and died beside him of grief for her lover.

When King Mark heard of the death of these lovers, he crossed the sea and came into Brittany; and he had two coffins hewn, for Tristan and Iseult, one of chalcedony for Iseult, and one of beryl for Tristan. And he took their beloved bodies away with him upon his ship to Tintagel, and by a chantry to the left and right of the apse he had their tombs built round. But in one night there sprang from the tomb of Tristan a green and leafy briar, strong in its branches and in the scent of its flowers. It climbed the chantry and fell to root again by Iseult’s tomb. Thrice did the peasants cut it down, but thrice it grew again as flowered and as strong. They told the marvel to King Mark, and he forbade them to cut the briar any more.

The good singers of old time, Beroul and Thomas of Built, Gilbert and Gottfried told this tale for lovers and none other, and, by my pen, they beg you for your prayers. They greet those who are cast down, and those in heart, those troubled and those filled with desire. May all herein find strength against inconstancy and despite and loss and pain and all the bitterness of loving.

THE END

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