

43. *hest*. Behest, command.
45. *shrine*. See lines 8 and 9.
46. *athwart*. Across.
56. *haft*. Handle.
57. *topaz*. A rich gem, generally of a yellowish colour.
- jacinth*. Another form of the word "hyacinth"; a gem of a red colour.
58. *subtlest jewellery*. Most cunning workmanship.
60. Looking swiftly now on one side of the question, now on the other.
63. *many-knotted water-flags*. The common iris, growing in tangled confusion. Or "many-knotted" may refer to the joints in the stalk.
- 74-5. *as besecm'd thy fealty*. As became thy loyalty.
80. *lief*. Beloved.
86. *chased*. Engraved with an inlaid pattern.
94. Obedience is what binds the subject to the ruler.
99. *empty breath*. Idle words.
102. *joust* (pronounced *jüst*). A tilt-at-arms, a tournament.
104. *the lonely maiden of the Lake*. A mystical being who dwelt in a wonderful cave in a rock within a lake. In the story of the Round Table she symbolizes religion.
110. *clouded with his own conceit*. His idea that the sword should be preserved as a relic prevented him from clearly seeing his duty.
- conceit*. A quaint fancy.
- 121-3. The dying king loses his authority because he has lost the ability to control the will of his subjects by "the power in his eye."
125. In whom the services of all my knights should be combined.
128. *giddy*. Light, frivolous.
139. *a streamer of the northern morn*. A trail of light from the Aurora Borealis (literally "The Northern Dawn").
140. *the moving isles of winter*. Icebergs.
170. *As in a picture*. With no change in the expression.
171. *Remorsefully*. With pity.
177. *nightmare*. A dream accompanied by a sensation of stifling. *Mare* is derived from a verb meaning to crush, to bruise.