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Making Arthur Protestant: Translating Malory's Grail Quest into Spenser's Book of Holiness

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Abstract

Book 1 of the *Faerie Queene* is a sustained response to the Grail quest in *Le*

Morte Darthur. Redcrosse gets seduced into a distorted version of the Grail quest, ending with his 'achievement' of Duessa and her golden cup, and then is led back to true Protestant holiness. The deliberate contrasts with Malory underscore not only theological differences but also political ones: while Malory presents the pursuit of holiness as incompatible with national service, Spenser links them.

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