

THE VOICES OF THE FALL OF CAMELOT

By: George Kuku

Creative Retelling of Camelot's Fall, Taken From and Inspired by the Following Works;

1. "Launcet in Hell" by John Ciardi
2. *The Story of King Arthur and His Knight* by Howard Pyle
3. *Le Morte d'Arthur* by Thomas Malory
4. *Launcelot, The Knight of the Cart* by Chrétien de Troyes

CONTEXT:

Years after Sir Gawain's marriage, and weeks after Guinevere has been exposed, Launcelot, Knight of the Round Table, has fled Camelot with a good number of Knights, who have all willingly decided to stand and fight behind him, in his challenge against King Arthur. Arthur, who has left his kingdom in pursuit of Launcelot, has just learned that Mordred has taken the throne for himself in the king's absence. Still, the king persists, and insists on battling Launcelot first, before returning to the fight for his throne.

The two sides are just moments away from meeting each other.

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*And was it worth it, King, that you do fight,
So far away, when your blood of great might,
And valor, opts and ceases to adhere,
To the great ladies, who said, "Given here,
Is the king of all, but human of none,
Whose love will blossom, and mercy will done,
The vast kingdom, of many enemies,
Who shall kneel, see God's light, and give pennies,
For none shall be close to the great worthy,
As Arthur, of Excalibur's country."*

*If like my savior, I be denied thrice,
My sword, my lone, shall do nothing but rise,
But what is once said, never to be known,
As the king's blade stands, fighting for the throne,
Is of the stateless heart, soaked to rage's bone,
Of not the king great, but he that was thrown,
To the old age, causes of the might great,
Which receives, and deceives of might's great mate,
That era of youth, life's first charity,
Of inner peace, love's cleaner clarity,*

*And to you, wielder of tall, new flags,
What says you, who love felt, and holds like bags,*

*If seated on a throne was who I known,
A banner would sleep, for honor runs deep,
But not Thee king sits, but he who best eats,
Of the great fame, name, and beauty's best frame,
That leads the kingdom but lacks in wisdom
That fails to realize, that love can criticize,
For coat is not searched, but that void of dirt,
For name that holds blame, so ask not be tame,
For Arthur must remain, king void of pain,*

*Thou speakest like a man of great purpose,
But of love, did thou say, "Secrecy follows?"
Did thou betray and break oaths for kingdom,
And thought it wise, for the better wisdom?*

*If great might and court, have no strong resort,
Merlin need not say, for all will not stay,
For what is born from lust, always turns dust,
As Mordred now shows, some men do repose,
And unlike Gawain, I labored that pain,
To see love denied, took me behind,
For no king or knight, demands to be light,
In heart or deep soul, that says where to go,
Being not so lame, I would do the same,
As I do now, always for love of thou
As kings don't die twice, or like father, thrice,
But great Arthur's luck, with me is he stuck.*

*And so now, we raise the banners of Knights,
When Mordred, the false king, shows great might,
But I ask, is there any other way,
For lovely men know; when war cannot stay?*

*Though tears drown my eyes, I know my prize,
For to shallow low, I am ready to go,
As what must be done, surely must be done,
Whither stone or heart, Launcelot must depart,*

*But nothing will stop me from saving Christ,
His chosen, shall come out new, greatly dived,
With my sacrifice, which is Heaven's due,
Gone with me, like the Pandemonium few,
I love you and now understand the cost,
Of serving the king, heaviest soul lost,*

Great Queen, why have you brought upon Camelot's doom?

Are love and tainted souls not in God's room?

QUESTION:

- Why does Launcelot choose to fight King Arthur? Why does he fight to lose?