

1380

CANTERBURY TALES

EPILOGUE TO THE NUN'S PRIEST'S TALE

Geoffrey Chaucer

Chaucer, Geoffrey (1343-1400) - English poet, known as the most important writer of Middle English. His Canterbury Tales (~1380) are told by traveling pilgrims who meet at a tavern and have a storytelling contest to pass the time. Each tale is preceded by an introductory prologue. The Epilogue to the Nun's Priest's Tales - The narrator hopes for a happy ending for Chauntecleer and the Fox.

EPILOGUE TO THE NUN'S PRIEST'S TALE

“Sir nun’s priest,” said our host, and that anon,
“Now blessed be your breech and every stone!
This was a merry tale of Chanticleer.
But, truth, if you were secular, I swear
You would have been a hen-hopper, all right!
For if you had the heart, as you have might,
You’d need some hens, I think it will be seen,
And many more than seven times seventeen.
For see what muscles has this noble priest,
So great a neck and such a splendid chest!
He’s got a hawk’s fierce fire within his eye;
And certainly he has no need to dye
His cheeks with any stain from Portugal.
Sir, for your tale, may blessings on you fall!”
And after that he, with right merry cheer,
Spoke to another one, as you shall hear.

THE END