

1380

CANTERBURY TALES

THE SQUIRE'S PROLOGUE

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 Squire's Prologue - Introduces the Knight's young courteous son.

THE SQUIRE'S PROLOGUE

Squire, come nearer, if your will it be,
And speak to us of love; for certainly
You know thereof as much as any man."
"Nay, sir," said he, "but I'll do what I can
With hearty will; for I will not rebel
Against your wishes, but a tale will tell.
Hold me excused if I say aught amiss,
My aim is good, and lo, my tale is this."

THE END