

Sir AEdward, on 25 Years of Knighthood

In the elder days, did animal kind
speak in one tongue; teaching old lore
and time-sifted truths, the treasures of wisdom.
Listen you well, to words of honor;
a hero's lineage from here descends.

First the dragon, fatherless, rose,
roared its might, red as the dawn,
and raised its talon. Tiny but fierce,
a chimney swift, swooping, silvered,
lit upon claw. It listened to lore
til, rested and ready, it raised its wings
and soared singing, skyward wheeling.
When time was ripe, it rode down the wind,
found a new perch, on paw uplifted
by a hound of grey. Regarding the visitor,
the canine listened to council of songbird
til lessons were learned. Then lean and swift,
the hound went forth, to find one worthy
to share the wisdom. Wandering far,
it found a beast, most fearsome in mein:
a manticore terrible, with teeth as keen
as the sword it bore in blood-red claws.
Then spoke the hound, its hoard of truth
passed down from the dragon, of duty and honor.
The manticore heard, and heeded the call.

So cast your thoughts back, to when kingdom was younger,
five years and twenty: when fighter knelt;
received his spurs, the chivalry's token;
received his belt, a sign of his oath;
received his chain, to champion justice;
received the sword, soft against shoulders;
received the blow. Now certain, his path!

For his many achievements, remember and honor
this knight of the realm, this noble servant,
Of Madoc's folk, the first to bear
the pearled coronet; this pelican impious,
this maker of kings, this keeper of memory.
Honor him now: AEdward of Glastonburh!

—Ld. Dyfn Pencerdd, 9/2012

Notes

Anglo-Saxon style poetry is alliterative style rather than a rhyming one; that is, the structure is based on repeating consonant sounds. Lines are divided into two half-lines separated by a slight pause (often shown either as an exaggerated space or two lines).

For more information, download the Anglo Saxon Poetry Guide located here:

<http://www.gemyndeseld.net/stories-by-the-hearth.html>

This poem was written in honor of Master Sir Ædward's 25 year as a knight. It was performed in court at Danelaw in 2012.

Each animal mentioned is represented on the arms of a knight in Sir Ædward's lineage.

Fatherless dragon: Sir Sven of Vandelaven, who was elevated without being squired.

Swift: Sir John of Ean Airgead, called The Mad Celt. Like the swift, he is...more formidable than his...diminutive stature would suggest.

Italian greyhound: Sir Orlando Cavalcanti

Manticore: Sir Ædward of Glastonburh

Final descriptors:

Ædward was founding baron of Bryn Madoc (pearled coronet), a somewhat outspoken member of the Order of the Pelican, and a keeper of history. His kingmaking... is a tale for another time.