

Timeless Tree of Chivalry

Floating free on
Vert and argent
The Fir, in bends
As does the man

a thousand freshened breezes
the angled cross moline
unbending, stands
whose mantled arms these are.

He has strode a thousand
Stood in mail and
At Hastings, Harold's
Standing fast in

tangled warfields
martial helm with linden board
hauberkerd host he strengthened
face of Norman war-foes.

Hard 'fore Jerusalem's
In Crusader host with Lee
There to turn aside
There, restore the Cross

giant walls he stood
he lifts his standard
the Saracen usurpers
and Church to glory.

He has stood the test
Here beside Llyn Dylan's
Turned aside each foe
Hoisted on the shoulders

of Thrones in combat
darkling waters
from tourney's triumph
of the shouting subjects.

In his Arts of War
Learn by his example
His the straightest line,
Students of his house

all warriors study
exhausting all his teachings
learned leanest warcraft
and hosts of others.

Chivalric flower
Bearer of the Argent Lily,
Kingly in his court
Strength in silence

founder of a war-host
lambent torch of grace
and courts of lesser Kings
sounding board for leaders.

Chain of gold and
Master of the horse
Destrier and man
Move as one

gilded spurs, his armour
he holds their life-trust
make foemen tremble
on war-fields without number.

Likewise, forest master
Tree-friend of the arching
Steward of the ancient,
Guide through copses

minding greensward
arbol green-host
ageless plant-Realm
cold and ramparts leafy.

In his mead-hall
Strong-handed father,
Firm as life-friend
All speak of his heart,

his family hail him
founder, and husband
fierce in his defending
hold fast his friendship.

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AEdwardus fecit

For the Crown's delight, and with love to an old friend

1.27.13, A.S. XLVII

Notes

This is a companion piece to *Healing Hands*, again in the Anglo-Saxon style, celebrating the gentle chivalry of Richard of Rae Fen, Madoc's own, and once a King of Meridies.