**Introduction to The Knight's Tale (Middle English)**

Whylom, as olde stories tellen us,

Ther was a duk that highte Theseus;

Of Athenes he was lord and governour,

And in his tyme swich a conquerour,

That gretter was ther noon under the sonne.

Ful many a riche contree hadde he wonne;

What with his wisdom and his chivalrye,

He conquered al the regne of Femenye,

That whylom was y-cleped Scithia;

And weddede the quene Ipolita,

And broghte hir hoom with him in his contree

With muchel glorie and greet solempnitee,

And eek hir yonge suster Emelye.

And thus with victorie and with melodye

Lete I this noble duk to Athenes ryde,

And al his hoost, in armes, him bisyde.

**Introduction to The Knight's Tale (Modern English)**

Once upon a time, as they say in all the old fairy tales, there was a duke named Theseus whowas the ruler of the kingdom of Athens in present-day Greece. His wisdom and his skill at fighting wars had made him the fiercest warrior of his generation. There was no one greater. He’d fought in many wars and conquered manyother kingdoms, includingeven the women warriors of Amazonia, which used to be called Scythia. After defeatingthe Amazons, Theseus had married their queen, Hippolyta, and took her back to Athens with him along with her little sister, Emily. They travelled back to Athens in a boisterous victory march. And it’s here, on their journey back to Athens, where my story begins.