Discourses on Fantasy: A Narrative Allegory

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Abstract
This project, though officially designated by the English Department as a creative thesis, is really a hybrid work that combines creative writing with literary criticism. The work is structured as a “dream vision,” a literary genre popular in the Middle Ages in which a narrator receives some form of instruction or wisdom through an allegorical dream. Examples include The Pearl, The Romance of the Rose, and Chaucer’s House of Fame. In this thesis, the allegorical space of the dream vision provides a platform for a series of essays structured as dialogues. These dialogues explore the aesthetics and politics of modern fantasy and supernatural literature, focusing particularly on the opposition of this literature, which often draws on ancient and medieval source material, to modern capitalist society. The discourses themselves are not strictly critical, but incorporate subjectivity, metaphor, and symbolism in their investigation of cultural texts.

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