

Context
genre

to the old woman as 'my lady and my love and my wyf so deere', we see a reflection of the love that the Wife inevitably wants from Jankyn. By making use of this triplet, we may connect such love to the holy trinity and the goodness of love seen through God. Even though the Wife may wrongly refer to religion, it is obviously evident within her life. Thus by having this pairing of love and religion, such a story may be a way of further portraying her desire for love after all. The tale takes on many traits of a Breton Lais, such as being short and containing spectacular content (such as the metamorphosis of the old lady into a beautiful women). This perhaps can be linked to the Prologue as it could be said that we see a metamorphosis in the Wife's attitude. We do not truly see elements of her vulnerable or loving side until Jankyn appears. As such, when he does, her view on the importance of love quickly ascends, making way for the romance within the Tale. good

For the Wife to express aspects of sexuality and romance, her dominance must be felt in both the Prologue and the Tale. It is in this way we could say that the two sections of the narrative poem are truly similar. The Wife makes her dominance felt particularly when considering the views of women. Within the Prologue, we see the Wife take control by mocking the argument of men against women. For example, the use of a simile comparing them to 'wilde fyr' shows how men see them as destructive both mentally and physically. One could also link the idea of 'fyr' with the passion of the Wife, which is seen spontaneously throughout the Prologue. This shows the Wife's dominance as women of the time were expected to accept men's views and not speak against them. By making a mockery of this, we see her strong character, furthering her passionate personality. As a result, taking on this dominance allows her to talk of sexuality far more openly. Though feminism was not present at the time, one could see her as a woman before her time, taking on the ideas of control within women's favour. The Tale can be seen to link with this through the fact that the Queen is given the decision whether to 'save or spille' the Knight. The Wife obviously manipulates the content of the story so as to show women given more power. This can link to the dominance of sexuality seen in the Wife in the Prologue. Although the Tale has attributes of a Romance, the old woman requests that the Knight 'take thou me take unto thy wyf'. For her to be his 'wyf' inevitably leads to sexual intercourse between the two of them. Therefore, the Wife gives the old lady dominance over the Knight's body, as well as his feelings. Feminists would therefore support the dominance the Wife gives to other women of her time. Though using it as a manipulative device, the Wife could therefore be seen to use her dominance in sexual ways both in the Prologue and the Tale, linking them together. It could therefore be argued that these similar connections make the Prologue and the Tale less different than originally thought. cannot
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Though there are similarities and differences between the Prologue and the Tale, both hold inconsistencies, making us question the extent of the romance of the Tale. Within the Prologue, the Wife expresses that 'the dart is set up for virginitee'. This metaphor suggests that one should ideally strive to stay a virgin. The 'dart' reflects what we should aim for in life. However, even though the Wife explains that not everyone can do this, she does not show any attempt of trying. By seeking out pleasure from her sexual desires, completely straying from religious views of the time, she goes against what she sets out as our purpose in life. Her inability to show any attempt of trying therefore shows a key flaw in her arguments, making her seem more realistic through taking on such flaws. This is also the case within her Tale, good