Cantebury tales VS. Decameron

Fonte: RAI cultura

Despite huge differences in plot and subject matter, there are many striking similarities between “The Canterbury Tales” and “The Decameron” by Geoffrey Chaucer and Giovanni Boccaccio respectively. Both of these 14th century stories, The Decameron, by Giovanni Boccaccio, and “The Canterbury Tales”, by Geoffrey Chaucer, are strikingly similar in many ways, leading the reader to notice a significant amount of “borrowing” from some tales of Boccaccio by Chaucer in select Canterbury Tales.

A group of people who narrates each one a tale.

Thirty people of different social class

Background: pilgrimage to Canterbury which means the allegory of human life.

The Canterbury tales is composed of twenty-two novels written in verses and two long narrations in prose

The narrator interacts with listeners.

The writer at the beginning of the stories describes the narrator or speaks about the situation of him with a prologue

There are personifications.

There are references to Greek mythology

Supernatural events like transformations.

There are wonderful creatures.

There are Christian elements.

In the tales is reflected the contemporary English society

The Canterbury tales is incomplete.

The pilgrims’ names often are refereed to their work or to a particular character of their personality

The time of the story is indefinite because the narration is incomplete.

Each character speaks in a different way according to the social class.

- At the end there is a prize for the best story; this prize consists in a lunch

This work is social critic to the clergy, to the education and the social institutions like the marriage.

The difference 2 (Decameron)

Geoffrey Chaucer

The Canterbury Tales is a collection of stories written in Middle English by Geoffrey Chaucer at the end of the 14th century. The tales are presented as part of a story-telling contest by a group of pilgrims as they travel together on a journey from Southwark to the shrine of Saint Thomas Becket at Canterbury Cathedral. The prize for this contest is a free meal at the Tabard Inn at Southwark on their return. There are 83 known manuscripts of the work from the late medieval and early Renaissance period. Fifty-five of these manuscripts are thought to have been complete at one time, while 28 are so fragmentary that it is difficult to ascertain whether they were copied individually or as part of a set.
Canterbury Tales and Decameron

Giovanni Boccaccio

Geoffrey is known as the Father of English literature, is widely considered the greatest English poet of the Middle Ages and was the first poet to have been buried in Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey. While he achieved fame during his lifetime as an author, philosopher, alchemist and astronomer, composing a scientific treatise on the astrolabe for his ten year-old son Lewis, Chaucer also maintained an active career in the civil service as a bureaucrat, courtier and diplomat. Among his many works, which include The Book of the Duchess, the House of Fame, the Legend of Good Women and Troilus and Criseyde, he is best known today for The Canterbury Tales. Chaucer is a crucial figure in developing the legitimacy of the vernacular, Middle English, at a time when the dominant literary languages in England were French and Latin.

Decameron

by G. Boccaccio

Giovanni Boccaccio was an Italian author and poet, a friend, student, and correspondent of Petrarch, an important Renaissance humanist and the author of a number of notable works including the Decameron, On Famous Women, and his poetry in the Italian vernacular. Boccaccio is particularly notable for his dialogue, of which it has been said that it surpasses in verisimilitude that of virtually all of his contemporaries, since they were medieval writers and often followed formulaic models for character and plot.

Canterbury Tales

by G. Chaucer

The Decameròn, with the subtitle of Prince Galehaut (Italian: Il Decameron, cognominato Prencipe Galeotto), is a 14th-century medieval allegory by Giovanni Boccaccio, told as a frame story encompassing 100 tales by ten young people. Boccaccio probably began composing the work in 1350, and finished it in 1351 or 1353. The various tales of love in The Decameron range from the erotic to the tragic. Tales of wit, practical jokes, and life lessons contribute to the mosaic. In addition to its literary import, it documents life in 14th-century Italy.

The difference

The difference 3 (CanterburyT.)

- A group of people who narrates each one a tale.
- Ten people: seven men and three women of the same social class.
- Background: pest in Florence in 1348.
- The Decameron is composed of one hundred novels in prose.
- The narrator doesn’t interacts with listeners.
- The writer at the beginning of the stories describes the narrator or speaks about the situation of him in a little prologue.
- There aren’t personifications.
- There aren’t references to Greek mythology.
- There aren’t supernatural events like transformations.
There aren’t wonderful creatures.

There are Christian elements.

In the tales is reflected the contemporary Italian society

The Decameron is complete

The personages’ names often are refereed to their work or to a particular character of their personality

The total narration occupies the time of ten days.

The characters speak all in the same way although they are member of different social class.

At the end there is a prize for the best story: this prize consist in the decision of the following theme.