

# The Alliterative Morte Arthure: A Poetic Exploration of King Arthur's Final Days

<meta name="keywords" content="King Arthur, Morte Arthure, Alliterat

The Alliterative Morte Arthure is a 14th-century Middle English poem that narrates the tragic demise of King Arthur and his knights of the Round Table. Composed in alliterative verse, this epic work serves as a powerful exploration of themes such as loyalty, betrayal, and the inevitability of fate.

The poem is divided into 4,346 lines, organized into 101 stanzas. Each stanza consists of four long lines, bound together by a complex alliterative scheme. This intricate structure creates a sense of grandeur and solemnity, appropriate for the weighty subject matter.

The poem opens with Arthur's triumphant return from a Roman campaign. However, his victory is short-lived. Through the treacherous machinations of Mordred, his illegitimate son, Arthur is betrayed and forced into battle against his own knights.



## King Arthur's Death: The Alliterative Morte Arthure

by Michael Smith

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 11258 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 216 pages

Hardcover	: 178 pages
Item Weight	: 12 ounces
Dimensions	: 5.83 x 0.44 x 8.27 inches



The ensuing conflict is a brutal and bloody affair. Arthur fights valiantly, but Mordred's forces are too strong. In a climactic duel, Mordred deals Arthur a fatal blow, fulfilling the prophecy of his demise.

### **Loyalty and Betrayal**

The Alliterative Morte Arthure explores the complexities of loyalty and betrayal. Arthur's knights are torn between their duty to their king and their loyalty to their families and ambitions. Mordred's treachery serves as a stark reminder of the destructive power of betrayal.

### **Fate and Free Will**

The poem also delves into the debate between fate and free will. Arthur's destiny is seemingly predetermined, yet his own decisions and actions play a role in shaping his ultimate fate. The characters struggle with the tension between their personal choices and the forces that seem to control their lives.

### **The Nature of Kingship**

The poem examines the nature and responsibilities of kingship. Arthur is depicted as a wise and just ruler, but he is also a flawed human being. His decision to overlook Mordred's treachery ultimately leads to his downfall.

The Alliterative Morte Arthure is a landmark work of medieval literature. It is one of the earliest and most complete English accounts of the Arthurian legend. Its alliterative verse and vivid imagery have influenced countless later works of literature.

Moreover, the poem offers a nuanced and insightful exploration of themes that continue to resonate today. Its portrayal of loyalty, betrayal, and the nature of kingship make it a timeless work that remains relevant and engaging to readers of all ages.

The Alliterative Morte Arthure is a compelling and thought-provoking work that offers a unique perspective on the Arthurian legend. Through its exploration of universal themes and its masterful use of language, the poem continues to captivate and inspire readers to this day.



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