

## The Lady of Shalott

— Alfred Lord Tennyson.

The Lady of Shalott is a poem written by Alfred Lord Tennyson, the poet laureate during the reign of Queen Victoria. He remains one of the most popular British poet. Above all he is considered as the chief representative of the Victorian age. This poem is written in four parts. All these four stanzas contain nine lines comprising a rhyme scheme of a a a b c c c b.

This poem consists a medieval reference to King Arthur. Tennyson portrays a mysterious woman who lives all alone on an island of Shalott. The poem opens with a pastoral description of a river and a road that leads to the town of Camelot, the legendary castle of King Arthur. On both sides of the river lies a long field of barley and rye. The Lady of Shalott is imprisoned in the castle at the centre of Camelot. The castle in which the young lady was in captivity was surrounded by varieties of beautiful flowers like lilies, aspens and willows.

The description of the river where the 'heavy barges' and light open boats sail along the edge of the river of Camelot and the rose fence around the castle captures the attention of the readers. Even though there were passers by to the Camelot, no one has ever seen the young lady of Shalott. But near the field the reapers who come early to the field busily reap till evening. Even those reapers have not met her. The tired reapers have only heard singing voice that floats over the stream of

'Camelot. Listening to her song they whispered among themselves that 'Tis the fairy, Lady of Shalott.' The part I of the poem ends with the description of the lady whose head is garlanded with a string of pearls. She is described as a woman royally apparelled who is leaning over a bed made up of velvet.