

Brief Question in “The Nun’s Priest’s Tale”

Writer: Geoffrey Chaucer | Generated: Jan 26, 2026

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- **What is The Nun’s Priest’s Tale?**

Ans:

The Nun’s Priest’s Tale is a story in verse from The Canterbury Tales written by Geoffrey Chaucer.

- **Who told the Nun’s Priest to tell a story?**

Ans:

The Host, Harry Bailey, asked the Nun’s Priest, whom he called Sir John, to tell a story.

- **Where did the widow live?**

Ans:

The widow lived in a small cottage beside a grove of trees in a valley.

- **What type of life did the widow lead?**

Ans

: The widow lived a simple, patient, and humble life with very little property or income.

- **What was the name of the widow’s sheep?**

Ans:

The name of the widow’s sheep was Malle.

- **Name the cock kept by the widow.**

Ans:

The widow kept a beautiful cock named Chauncleer.

- **How was Chauncleer’s bill?**

Ans:

Chaunticleer's bill was black and shone like jet.

- **What did the Nun's Priest say about the cock's comb?**

Ans:

The cock's comb was redder than coral and shaped like the battlement of a castle wall.

- **How was the cock's colour?**

Ans:

The cock's colour was bright and shining like burnished gold.

- **Who was Madame Pertelote?**

Ans:

Madame Pertelote was Chaunticleer's favourite hen, whom he loved deeply.

- **Who was Cato?**

Ans:

Cato was a Roman statesman and philosopher named Marcus Porcius Cato.

- **What is "fevere terciene"?**

Ans:

"Fevere terciene" means a fever that returns every third day, caused by excess choler.

- **Who was Saint Kenlem?**

Ans:

Saint Kenlem was the King of Mercia who was murdered by his aunt Quenedreda.

- **Who was Macrobius?**

Ans:

Macrobius was a Roman writer who lived in the early fifth century.

- **What, according to Chaunticleer, is Macrobius' idea of dreams?**

Ans:

According to Chaunticleer, Macrobius believed that dreams warn men about future events.

- **Who was Croesus?**

Ans:

Croesus was the King of Lydia who dreamt of his own death by hanging.

- **What did Andromache dream?**

Ans:

Andromache dreamt that her husband Hector would die if he went to battle that day.

- **What is a colfox?**

Ans:

A colfox is a fox with black fur, often used to mean a sly and treacherous fox.

- **Who is “Scariot”?**

Ans:

Scariot refers to Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus Christ with a kiss.

- **Who was Sinon?**

Ans:

Sinon was the Greek who tricked the Trojans into bringing the wooden horse into Troy.

- **Who was Genylon?**

Ans:

Genylon was a treacherous officer who betrayed King Charlemagne, causing his defeat.

- **Who is Doctor Augustine?**

Ans:

Doctor Augustine refers to Saint Augustine, one of the great teachers of the Church.

- **What do you know about Boethius?**

Ans:

Boethius was a Roman philosopher best known for his book The Consolation of Philosophy.

- **Who was Bradwardine?**

Ans:

Thomas Bradwardine was the Archbishop of Canterbury and a learned theologian.

- **What is Physiologus?**

Ans:

Physiologus is a medieval book about animals that teaches moral lessons.

- **When did Sir Russell seize Chaunticleer?**

Ans:

Sir Russell seized Chaunticleer when the cock closed his eyes and began to crow.

- **Who was Priam?**

Ans:

Priam was the King of Troy who was killed by Pyrrhus when Troy was destroyed.

- **Who was Hasdrubal?**

Ans:

Hasdrubal was a Carthaginian leader who was killed when the Romans burned Carthage.

- **What moral lesson does Chaunticleer utter?**

Ans:

Chaunticleer teaches that one who keeps his eyes closed when he should be alert will suffer.

- **What moral lesson does Sir Russell utter?**

Ans:

Sir Russell says that people who speak foolishly instead of keeping silent bring misfortune on themselves.

- **What do you know about Reynard the Fox?**

Ans:

Reynard the Fox is a popular trickster in medieval fables who represents cunning and deceit.

- **What is a mock-heroic poem?**

Ans:

A mock-heroic poem treats a small or comic subject in the grand style of an epic.

- **What did Pertelote advise Chaunticleer to take?**

Ans:

Pertelote advised Chaunticleer to take worms and herbs to cure his illness.

- **Who was Andromache?**

Ans:

Andromache was the wife of Hector who dreamt of his death before the Trojan battle.

- **Which incident is The Nun's Priest's Tale based on?**

Ans:

The Nun's Priest's Tale is based on a story from the Reynard the Fox cycle.

- **What is the extraordinary talent of Chaunticleer?**

Ans:

Chaunticleer's greatest talent is his beautiful and accurate crowing.

- **What is the job of a Pardoner?**

Ans:

A Pardoner sold indulgences or pardons from the Pope to forgive people's sins.

- **What is a tale?**

Ans:

A tale is a short narrative or story, either true or imaginative.

- **Why did Chaunticleer pray to God?**

Ans:

Chaunticleer prayed that his dream would bring good fortune and that he would remain safe.

- **Who was Nero?**

Ans:

Nero was a cruel Roman emperor who ruled when Rome was destroyed by fire.

- **What is the moral of The Nun's Priest's Tale?**

Ans:

The moral of the tale is that one should never trust a flatterer.

- **What is a beast fable?**

Ans:

A beast fable is a story where animals talk and act like humans to teach a moral lesson.

- **How many pet animals did the widow have?**

Ans:

The widow had three pigs, three cows, and one sheep.

- **What remedy does Pertelote offer to cure Chauncleer's nightmare?**

Ans:

Pertelote advised Chauncleer to take a laxative to clear his body of choler and bad humours.

- **How many wives does Chauncleer have?**

Ans:

Chauncleer had seven wives, and his favorite was Pertelote.

- **What is Pertelote's theory of dreams?**

Ans:

Pertelote believed that dreams come from overeating and physical disorders, not from fate.

- **What kind of poem is The Nun's Priest's Tale?**

Ans:

The Nun's Priest's Tale is a beast fable written in a mock-heroic style.

- **Who is the Nun's Priest?**

Ans:

The Nun's Priest is one of the three priests who accompany the Prioress.

- **What did Chauncleer dream?**

Ans:

Chauncleer dreamt that a red, beastly fox tried to kill him.

- **Why did Chauncleer love Pertelote most?**

Ans:

Chauncleer loved Pertelote most because she was beautiful, wise, and graceful.

- **What was the name of the Colfox?**

Ans:

The name of the Colfox was Sir Russell.