

HIST 349: Reading Guide – Death and Judgment

1. What does Owein's journey through the afterlife place emphasis on? What is most memorable? What is most important?
2. Are there any differences between Owein's vision of Purgatory and Catherine's? If so, what are they and what do they tell us?
3. What do you think accounts for the popularity of stories like Owein's journey and books like the *Art of Dying Well*? What were medieval people interested in when they thought about death and what came after?
4. How does one die well (and by extension, badly) in the Middle Ages? Are there differences in the way we think about death today and the way medieval people thought about it? To what do we owe these similarities and differences?
5. How are wills and testaments useful in trying to understand medieval attitudes about death and posterity, especially since they are usually quite formulaic?
6. How did the dead keep affecting the living even after their death? Does this in any resemble ancestor worship or is there something else going on?