During this time, Chaucer translated the "Roman de la Rose," a French poem written during the 1200s. He also wrote his "Book of the Duchess," an elegiac poem that shared much with contemporary French poetry of the time but also departed from that poetry in important ways. Chaucer's extensive reading of Latin poets such as Boethius also influenced his own work. Italian Period. A journey to Italy in 1372 kicked off what is now widely considered to be Chaucer's Italian period, which lasted from 1372 to 1385. The trip introduced him to the works of contemporary Italian literature, including the series of allegorical descriptions in the Romaunt of the Rose. "Whan that April with his shoures soote The droght of March hath perced to the roote, And bathed every veyne in swych licour Of which vertu engendred is the flour; Whan Zephyr with his sweete breeth Inspired hath in every holt and heeth Tendre croppes, and the yongesonne Hath in the ram his halfe coursyronne, And bathed every veyne in swych licour Of which vertu engendred is the flour; Whan Zephyr with his sweete breeth Inspired hath in every holt and heeth Tendre croppes, and the yongesonne Hath in the ram his halfe coursyronne." Chaucer's Age-Both Medieval and Modern: Chaucer’s age-like most historical ages-was an age of transition. This transition implies a shift from the medieval to the modern times, the emergence of the English nation from the "dark ages" to the age of enlightenment. Though some elements associated with modernity were coming into prominence, yet mostly and essentially the age was medieval-unscientific, superstitious, chivalrous, religious-minded, and "backward" in most respects. Well does Compton-Rickett observe: "Chaucer's world is medieval; but beneath his medievalism the leaven of the Renaissance is already at work."