

♥ The Art of Courtly Love ♥

In the early 12th century, nobles celebrated courtly love, an ideal form of spiritual love in which a knight of courtier completely devoted himself to a noblewoman. Andreas Capellanus, a member of the clergy who served Marie of Champagne, wrote The Art of Courtly love in about 1174. His manual included the following rules:

2. He who is jealous cannot love
4. It is well known that love is always increasing or decreasing
6. Boys do not love until they arrive at the age of maturity
12. A true lover does not desire to embrace in love anyone except his beloved.
16. When a lover suddenly catches sight of his beloved his heart palpitates
17. A new love puts flight to an old one
24. Every act of a lover ends in the thought of his beloved
30. A true lover is constantly and without intermission possessed by the thought of his beloved.

Directions: You will be assigned to a group. Your group will have 1–2 rules of Courtly Love. For EACH rule, you must answer the following questions. Prepare to present your answers to the class:

1. What do your rules mean?
2. Two rules you agree with – explain
3. Two rules you disagree – explain
4. Do your rules apply to romance today? Why or why not?
5. Define the underlined words