

AP English Notes  
October 29, 2004

Reginald FitzUrse **First Knight**  
**Introduces the Other Knights**

The history from articles:

**Reginald FitzUrse**, snatching at a last chance of pardon, still sought to win the King's favor by capturing the Archbishop alive, even at this eleventh hour. He threw down the hatchet which hampered his shield arm, and as he came within reach launched a swinging blow with the flat of his sword. (Duggan)

The Archbishop's skull cap fluttered to the ground, but the blow had missed its mark. Thomas still stood erect and defiant. (Duggan)

**Reginald Fitz Urse – First Knight**

But, as expected, Becket not only taunted them but offered immense physical resistance. He threw Traci to the floor and in turn was set upon by Fitz Urse, at whom he shouted: 'Let go of me, you pimp!' (Fraley).

Becket calls him a "panderer" or a "pimp."

At this point, Fitz Urse, who had been called 'a pim p' by Thomas in this shoving match drew his sword and threatened The Archbishop.

**Reginald (Fitz Urse)** leaned on his sword, breathing hard. This was not what he had planned, but perhaps it might please the King. Anyway, they were all in it together. Then he recalled that Richard le Breton had not struck a blow; an eyewitness who bore no guilt for the murder might afford inconvenient evidence. "Strike," he murmured, laying a hand on Richard's shoulder; and **Tracy** added, "Strike, or lie with the Archbishop." (Duggan)

Richard le Breton heaved up his sword. It was hard to hate that crumpled figure on the stone pavement, but he summoned up again the grievance which had brought him from Normandy. "Take this," he shouted "for love of the King's brother, who died of grief because you forbade his marriage." (Duggan)

**It is said that the Fitz Urse family was so ashamed for his part in this deed that they changed the family name to Bearham, based on the 'Urse or Ursa' (Bear) part of the name. (Blanche)**

**Baron William De Traci (Tracey) (Tracy)      Third Knight**

**Eldest Member**

**Reason for Murder:**

**Loyal to His King**

**No Personal Gain**

**Goes Against the Grain to Kill an Archbishop**

**Awful Row**

**Live Abroad**

**First to Strike (stabs again and again)**

**(adds a death threat to Breton to strike the archbishop)**

He (Becket) threw Tracey to the floor and in turn was set upon by FitzUrse, at whom he shouted: 'Let go of me, you pimp!' (Fraley).

**De Tracey also drew his sword and called out, "strike! strike!" to the others and delivered**

AP English Notes  
October 29, 2004

**the first blow. (Blanche)**

**Then Tracey swung his sword again and again, and at the third stroke Thomas pitched forward. (Duggan)**

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**Brito delivered an almighty blow which actually severed the top of the cranium, spilling the brains of the priest on the floor. The tip of the sword came off with the strength of the impact. (Blanche)**

**"Only de Tracy seems to have been a man of unblemished character who had won a reputation as an heroic soldier" (Medieval History).**

**Richard Brito Fourth Knight**

**Family Loyal to the Church**

**Most Convincing**

**Asks, "Who killed the Bishop?"**

**Verdict: "Suicide while of unsound mind."**

**Becket was determined to be a martyr.**

**He could have allowed our anger to cool . . . he insisted that the door be unbarred.**

Had not struck a blow

Forced to strike or die by de Traci

Struck a blow that severed the top of the skull and embedded the sword tip the floor

**Sir Hugh De Morville Second Knight**

**Reason for Murder:**

**Requested to Reason with the Crowd**

**Becket was Growing Too Powerful**

**Save the State the Expense of a Trial**

**Sometimes Violence is the Only Answer**

**Guarded the door**

Farley retells the story that

**de Moreville, whose name meant City of Death, had reputedly boiled alive a man alleged to have made improper advances to de Moreville's wife (Medieval History) .**

Knights escaped

(to) an estate of Hugh de Moreville's, and there remained for awhile until they were considered vile by compatriots of that province. Truly everyone avoided their company, nor did anyone wish to eat or drink with them. They ate and drank alone, and they were banished to the scraps of food with their dogs. And when they had tasted from that dish, even the dogs no longer wished to eat anything from there. **(Medieval History) .**

AP English Notes  
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**Edward Grim's wounding (Priest who carries the cross)**

**With a sob of sheer misery Henry of Auxerre pushed the cross from him and took to his heels. As it swayed, the silver pole flashed in the candlelight, and Grim of Cambridge caught it before it could touch the ground. (Duggan)**

**And one Sir Edward Grim, that was his crossier** put forth his arm with the cross to bear off the stroke, and the stroke smote the cross asunder and his arm almost off, wherefore he fled for fear (Golden Legend).

The first blow, struck by **fitzUrse**, had failed because Grim interposed the metropolitan cross to parry it; but the English clerk was not a trained swordsman, and he held the cross aslant; the sword glanced down the staff to bury itself in his arm. Grim fell to the ground, still grasping the cross with a hand from which blood spouted. (Duggan)

**Choose one knight and construct Essay 5.**

Show the Eliot's character's excuse for the murder while persuading your reader to see this re-adjustment of truth while exposing the facts from historical evidence.

**Take a position on the death of Becket**

**Persuade the reader to see the event with a well construct persuasive paper**

**Contrast with evidence from history that supports or refutes the knight's excuses**

**The essay must have three proofs of the chosen position.**

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