

The Art of Preaching and Pastoral Care in *The Faerie Queene*: The Education of a Christian Knight in the House of Holiness*

Chih-Hsin Lin

Department of English, National Chengchi University
E-mail: chl202@nccu.edu.tw

Abstract

This paper examines how the pastor figures in Book I, Canto X of *The Faerie Queene* respond to the concerns about the art of rhetoric used in sermons and pastoral counseling at Spenser's time by showing Redcrosse's Christian education in a world of confusing signs and false preachers. This paper points out that by focusing on the emotional balance and spiritual strength of the students, Spenser emphasizes that effective pastors depend not on rhetoric, not on building their own authority verbally or pleasing the students, as classical orators were instructed to. Spenser believes pastors should teach balanced lessons on the doctrine of salvation and discipline the students physically to help them become strong enough to face the pain in understanding and following the

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truth and the shame at sensing their insufficiency. This paper also argues that by presenting how these pastor figures follow the model of Christ in history and use their holy lives to inspire Redcrosse to live a life of holiness in a harsh world with the eternal glory in sight, Spenser shows that only the pastors' holy lives can bring to the students an eternal perspective that is built in as well as helps redefine history, enabling the students to redefine and realign their lives from such a perspective above time.

Key Words: the art of pastoral care, preaching, *The Faerie Queene*, rhetoric, Christian education