



Comedy in the Works of the *Gawain* Poet and in Henri Bergson

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Abstract: This essay explores the sources of comedy in the four works of the Gawain poet. In *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, the ceremonies of courtly life provide a rich vein of comedy. In *Patience* and *Cleanness*, dramatic irony comes to the fore, while in *Pearl* the poet derives humour from the reversal of roles between parent and child. This essay combines close reading of selected passages with some philosophical reflections inspired by Henri Bergson.

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