

# Wife of Bath

The scene I've chosen depicts an argument between WOB and her fifth husband. She is so tired of being indirectly insulted by her husband that she tears leaves out of the insulting book and also strikes him. In return he strikes her and renders her unconscious. WOB pretends to be mortally wounded and when she wakes up, manipulates her husband into giving her governance over him and over their house, thus ensuring a happier marriage.

This scene shows that even in medieval English society women had some power over men. In this case WOB is the richer and more experienced of the two, however her husband has the advantage of the sex – as a man, he has more rights, even in literature ( Bible,...), age – he is younger and more desirable, education – he is a clerk and is well read, and strength – his stroke made her unconscious. Nevertheless, in the end it is him who yields and as a reward he gets a better relationship.



## Even In medieval times women sometimes held the reins

"And when I had got for myself all the sovereignty, through a master-stroke, ..."

"I persuaded him to think that he had enchanted me;...And all of this was false;"

"When my fourth husband lay on his bier, I wept ever and made a sorrowful expression, as wives must,...But since I had been provided with a new mate, I wept rather little."