

**STORY OF THE GLITTERING  
PLAIN, WHICH HAS ALSO BEEN  
CALLED THE LAND OF LIVING  
MEN, OR THE ACRE OF THE  
UNDYING**

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Story of the Glittering Plain, Which Has Also Been Called the Land of Living Men, or the Acre of the Undying by William Morris

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**WILLIAM MORRIS**

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OR THE LAND OF LIVING MEN.

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ING PLAIN WHICH HAS BEEN  
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LIVING MEN OR THE ACRE OF  
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BY WILLIAM MORRIS



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THE  
STORY OF THE GLITTERING PLAIN;  
OR,  
THE LAND OF LIVING MEN.

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CHAPTER I.

OF THOSE THREE WHO CAME TO THE HOUSE  
OF THE RAVEN.

**I**T has been told that there was once a young man of free kindred and whose name was Hallblithe: he was fair, strong, and not untried in battle; he was of the House of the Raven of old time.

This man loved an exceeding fair damsel called the Hostage, who was of the House of the Rose, wherein it was right and due that the men of the Raven should wed.

She loved him no less, and no man of the kindred gainsaid their love, and they were to be wedded on Midsummer Night.

But one day of early spring, when the days were yet short and the nights long, Hallblithe

sat before the porch of the house smoothing an ash stave for his spear, and he heard the sound of horse-hoofs drawing nigh, and he looked up and saw folk riding toward the house, and so presently they rode through the garth gate; and there was no man but he about the house, so he rose up and went to meet them, and he saw that they were but three in company: they had weapons with them, and their horses were of the best; but they were no fellowship for a man to be afraid of; for two of them were old and feeble, and the third was dark and sad, and drooping of aspect: it seemed as if they had ridden far and fast, for their spurs were bloody and their horses all a-sweat.

Hallblithe hailed them kindly and said: "Ye are wayworn, and maybe ye have to ride further; so light down and come into the house, and take bite and sup, and hay and corn also for your horses; and then if ye needs must ride on your way, depart when ye are rested; or else if ye may, then abide here night-long, and go your ways to-morrow, and meantime that which is ours shall be yours, and all shall be free to you."

Then spake the oldest of the elders in a high piping voice and said: "Young man, we thank thee; but though the days of the springtide are