

**GWEN: A DRAMA  
IN MONOLOGUE IN  
SIX ACTS**

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Gwen: A Drama in Monologue in Six Acts by Sir Lewis Morris

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**SIR LEWIS MORRIS**

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G W E N

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A DRAMA IN MONOLOGUE

IN SIX ACTS

BY THE AUTHOR OF

"THE EPIC OF HADES"

*By Lewis Morris*

"Everything is so wonderful, great and holy, so sad and yet not bitter, so full of Death, and so bordering on Heaven."—JOHN STURLING in Carlyle's Life.

LONDON

C. KEGAN PAUL & CO., 1, PATERNOSTER SQUARE

1879

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# G W E N.

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## PROLOGUE.

Not of old time alone  
Was Life a scene of hopes and fears,  
High joys and bitter tears ;  
Nor Chance nor Fate are done ;  
Nor from our fuller Day  
The fabled gods have wholly fled away ;  
The World and Man to-day are young  
As when blind Homer sung.

What if the old forms change ?  
They were but forms, the things remain.  
What if our fear and pain  
Show not like monsters strange ?  
The self-same path of life  
We tread, who fare beneath the sun to-day ;  
We sink or triumph in the strife  
No otherwise than they.

Compact of good and ill  
Their life of old was, as is ours ;  
The same mysterious Will  
Controlled their finite powers ;  
And to strange thoughts of Fate  
And workings of a fixed Necessity  
Which rules both small and great,  
As they bowed, so bow we.

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✓ And Love, the Lord and King—  
Not Eros, but diviner far—  
Still upon heavenward wing  
Mounts like a shining star.  
Than clouds and thunders stronger,  
He brings a clear ray from the invisible Sun ;  
And when he shines no longer,  
Life's play is done.