

Appendix 1: occurrences of 'couenaunt' in *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

Fitt 1:

'Bigog,' quop þe grene knyōt, 'Sir Gawan, me lykes
þat I schal fange at þy fust þat I haf frayst here.
And þou hatz redily rehersed, bi resoun ful trwe,
Clanly al þe **couenaunt** þat I þe kynge asked,
Saf þat þou schal seche siker me, segge, bi þi trawþe,
þat þou schal seche me þiself, whereso þou hopes
I may be funde vpon folde, and foch þe such wages
As þou deles me today bifore þis douþe ryche.' (I.390-
97)

Fitt II: immediately after Bercilak has made 'a forwarde' with Gawain (1105-12), the fitt ends with the following bobbe.

To bed ȝet er þay ȝede,
Recorded **couenauntez** ofte;
þe olde lorde of þat leude
Cowþe wel halde layk alofte. (II.1122-25)

Fitt III: the exchange of gifts

And al I gif yow, Gawayn,' quop þe gome þenne,
'For by acorde of **couenaunt** ðe craue hit as your
awen.' (III.1383-84)

Gawain and Bercilak sit 'by þe chymné in chamber' (1402) and agree to 'fyller þe same forwardez þat þey byfore maden' (1404-5). Then:

þay acorded of þe **couenauntez** byfore þe court alle -
þe beuerage watz broȝt forth in bourde at þat tyme -
þenne þay louelych leȝten leue at þe last;
Vche burne to his bedde busked bylyue. (III.1408-11)

After the third exchange, Bercilak specifically mentions covenant, and the privileging of 'bi lawe' on a new line prepares us for the penance that Gawain will have to pay for failing to keep this law.

'Now ar we euen,' quop þe hapel, 'in þis euentide,
Of alle þe **couenauntes** þat we knyht syþen I com hider,
Bi lawe.' (III.1641-43)

Fitt IV. While welcoming Gawain, the Green Knight reminds him of the covenant made a year earlier:

And þou hatz tyled þi trauayl as truee mon schulde;
And þou knowez þe **couenauntez** kest vus bytwene:
At þis tyme twelmonyth þou toke þat þe falled
And I schulde at þis Nwe ðere ðeþly þe quyte.
(IV.2241-44)

After the third swipe of the axe, the green knight explains himself to Gawain:

Bot on stroke here me fallez -
þe **couenaunt** schop ryōt so,
Festned in Arþurez hallez -
And þerfore, hende, now hoo!' (IV. 2327-30)

In the midst of Gawain's self-accusations, Bercilak reassures him:

'Bolde burne, on þis bent be not so gryndel.
No mon here vnmanerly þe mysboden habbez,
Ne kynd bot as **couenaunde** at kyngez kort schaped.
I hyōt þe a strok and þou hit hatz - halde þe wel
payed.
I relece þe of þe remnaunt of ryōtes alle oþer.
(IV.2338-42)