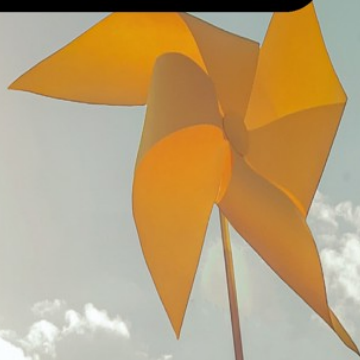


***GEOFFREY
CHAUCER***

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a bright yellow, long-sleeved, ruffled dress, stands on a dark, rocky outcrop. She holds a large, yellow pinwheel on a long wooden stick, reaching up towards the sky. The background is a vast, open landscape with a large, rounded hill under a bright blue sky filled with fluffy white clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow and a lens flare effect on the left side of the image.

***THE BOOK
OF THE DUCHESS***

**GEOFFREY
CHAUCER**



**THE BOOK
OF THE DUCHESS**

Geoffrey Chaucer

The Book of the Duchess

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THE PROEM

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- 1 I have gret wonder, be this lighte,
- 2 How that I live, for day ne nighte
- 3 I may nat slepe wel nigh noght,
- 4 I have so many an ydel thoght
- 5 Purely for defaute of slepe
- 6 That, by my trouthe, I take no kepe
- 7 Of no-thing, how hit cometh or goth,
- 8 Ne me nis no-thing leef nor loth.
- 9 Al is y-liche good to me --
- 10 Ioye or sorowe, wherso hyt be --
- 11 For I have feling in no-thinge,
- 12 But, as it were, a mased thing,
- 13 Alway in point to falle a-doun;
- 14 For sorwful imaginacioun
- 15 Is alway hoolly in my minde.
- 16 And wel ye wite, agaynes kynde
- 17 Hit were to liven in this wyse;

18 For nature wolde nat suffyse
19 To noon erthely creature
20 Not longe tyme to endure
21 Withoute slepe, and been in sorwe;
22 And I ne may, ne night ne morwe,
23 Slepe; and thus melancolye
24 And dreed I have for to dye,
25 Defaute of slepe and hevynesse
26 Hath sleyn my spirit of quiknesse,
27 That I have lost al lustihede.
28 Suche fantasies ben in myn hede
29 So I not what is best to do.
30 But men myght axe me, why soo
31 I may not slepe, and what me is?
32 But natheles, who aske this
33 Leseth his asking trewely.
34 My-selven can not telle why
35 The sooth; but trewely, as I gesse,
36 I holde hit be a siknesse
37 That I have suffred this eight yere,