C.S. Lewis' The Great Divorce and the Medieval Dream Vision

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Abstract
Discusses the genre of the medieval dream vision, with summaries of some of the best known (and their precursors). Analyzes The Great Divorce as "a Medieval Dream Vision in which [Lewis] redirects the concerns of the entire genre."

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Much of Lewis's literary context for his fantasies is ancient and medieval poetry--the epic and the dream vision, to cite two examples. The Divorce is not an allegory but a fantasy and a dream vision as well, the latter explaining the final sentences of the book. There the narrator realizes that he has fallen asleep and imagined the entire story. The Final Judgment of the redeemed and the unredeemed (see ch. 9) dramatizes the great divorce and the most pointed rebuke of Blake. There the MacDonald character explains the situation to the Lewis in the story, a comment with allusions to Matthew's Gospel [Authorized Version]: "There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, in the end, 'Thy will be done.'"