

Accused

“Of course, everybody knew that the deed with which the accused was charged had been done.”

A person who has been arrested for or formally charged with a crime.

Administer

“This was the king's semi-barbaric method of administering justice. Its perfect fairness is obvious.”

Supervise or be in charge of.

Aesthetic

“No matter how the affair turned out, the youth would be disposed of; and the king would take an aesthetic pleasure in watching the course of events,”

Characterized by an appreciation of beauty or good taste.

Amphitheater

“This vast amphitheater... was an agent of poetic justice, in which crime was punished, or virtue rewarded, by the decrees of an impartial and incorruptible chance.”

An oval or circular building with rising tiers of seats around a central open area.

Anguish

“Her decision had been indicated in an instant, but it had been made after days and nights of anguished deliberation.”

Extreme pain or distress of body or mind.

Appointed

“When every member of his domestic and political systems moved smoothly in its appointed course, his nature was bland and genial,”

Predetermined; arranged; set.

Ardor

“And she loved him with an ardor that had enough of barbarism in it to make it exceedingly warm and strong.”

Feelings of great warmth and intensity.

Aspire

“One of... the damsels of the court... had been selected as the reward of the accused youth, should he be proved innocent of the crime of aspiring to one so far above him”

To seek to attain or accomplish a particular goal.

Barbaric

“This semi-barbaric king had a daughter as blooming as his most florid fancies, and with a soul as fervent and imperious as his own.”

Without civilizing influences; uncivilized; primitive.

Chorister

“Another door opened beneath the king, and a priest, followed by a band of choristers, and dancing maidens... advanced to where the pair stood, side by side;”

A singer in a choir.

Commune

“He was greatly given to self-communing; and, when he and himself agreed upon anything, the thing was done.”

Talk intimately with.

Courtier

“Among his courtiers was a young man of that fineness of blood and lowness of station common to the conventional heroes of romance who love royal maidens”

A member of a royal court.

Cultured

“Among the borrowed notions by which his barbarism had become semified was that of the public arena, in which... minds of his subjects were refined and cultured.”

Having or showing good education, tastes, and manners.

Damsel

“One of... the damsels of the court... had been selected as the reward of the accused youth, should he be proved innocent of the crime of aspiring to one so far above him”

A young unmarried woman of noble birth.

Decree

“This vast amphitheater... was an agent of poetic justice, in which crime was punished, or virtue rewarded, by the decrees of an impartial and incorruptible chance.”

An order usually having the force of law.

Determinate

“The decisions of this tribunal were not only fair, they were positively determinate”

Conclusive; final.

Devour

“He opened either he pleased, without having the slightest idea whether, in the next instant, he was to be devoured or married.”

To eat up hungrily.

Dire

“The vast audience... wended slowly their homeward way, mourning greatly that one so young and fair, or so old and respected, should have merited so dire a fate.”

Causing horror or worry: dreadful.

Doleful

“The moment that the case of the criminal was thus decided, doleful iron bells were clangd,”

Very sad.

Downcast

“The vast audience, with bowed heads and downcast hearts, wended slowly their homeward way,”

Very sad.

Emanate

“For, although its form and plan were borrowed from afar, its purpose emanated solely from the brain of this man,”

To flow out or emit from a source.

Epithalamium

“Another door opened beneath the king, and a priest, followed by... dancing maidens... treading an epithalamic measure, advanced to where the pair stood,”

A poem or song written to celebrate a marriage.

Exuberant

“He was a man of exuberant fancy, and, withal, of an authority so irresistible that, at his will, he turned his varied fancies into facts.”

Joyously unrestrained and enthusiastic.

Fancy

“He was a man of exuberant fancy, and, withal, of an authority so irresistible that, at his will, he turned his varied fancies into facts.”

Notion, whim.

Fate

“When a subject was accused of a crime of sufficient importance to interest the king... the fate of the accused person would be decided in the king's arena,”

A power beyond human control that is believed to determine what happens: destiny.

Fervent

“This semi-barbaric king had a daughter as blooming as his most florid fancies, and with a soul as fervent and imperious as his own.”

Having or showing very strong feelings.

Fervid

“But her intense and fervid soul would not allow her to be absent on an occasion in which she was so terribly interested.”

Having or showing very strong feelings.

Florid

“This semi-barbaric king had a daughter as blooming as his most florid fancies, and with a soul as fervent and imperious as his own.”

Very fancy or flowery in style.

Genial

“When every member of his domestic and political systems moved smoothly in its appointed course, his nature was bland and genial,”

Cheerful and pleasant.

Grievous

“How in her grievous reveries had she gnashed her teeth, and torn her hair, when she saw his start of rapturous delight as he opened the door of the lady!”

Causing sadness, suffering, or pain.

Idealism

“This man, who, every barleycorn a king,... ingrafted on every adopted form of human thought and action the rich growth of his barbaric idealism.”

Belief that the best possible concepts should be pursued.

Impartial

“This vast amphitheater... was an agent of poetic justice, in which crime was punished, or virtue rewarded, by the decrees of an impartial and incorruptible chance.”

Free from undue bias or preconceived opinions: treating all people equally.

Imperious

“This semi-barbaric king had a daughter as blooming as his most florid fancies, and with a soul as fervent and imperious as his own.”

An unpleasant attitude of someone who gives orders and expects other people to obey them.

Incorruptible

“This vast amphitheater... was an agent of poetic justice, in which crime was punished, or virtue rewarded, by the decrees of an impartial and incorruptible chance.”

Very honest: incapable of being corrupted.

Maiden

“Among his courtiers was a young man of that fineness of blood and lowness of station common to the conventional heroes of romance who love royal maidens”

A young girl or woman who is not married.

Majesty

“This, of course, was an especially important occasion, and his majesty, as well as all the people, was greatly interested in the workings and development of this trial.”

Used as a title for a king, queen, emperor, or empress.

Moiety

“Had it not been for the moiety of barbarism in her nature, it is probable that lady would not have been there;”

One of two approximately equal parts.

Parapet

“Her right arm lay on the cushioned parapet before her. She raised her hand, and made a slight, quick movement toward the right.”

A low wall along the edge of a roof or balcony.

Portal

“The king and his court were in their places, opposite the twin doors, those fateful portals, so terrible in their similarity.”

A grand and imposing entrance: door.

Procure

“If he opened the one, there came out of it a hungry tiger, the fiercest and most cruel that could be procured, which... tore him to pieces, as a punishment for his guilt.”

To get possession of (something): to obtain (something) by particular care and effort.

Retribution

“The king allowed no such subordinate arrangements to interfere with his great scheme of retribution and reward.”

Punishment imposed for purposes of repayment or revenge for the wrong committed.

Rhapsody

“The arena of the king was built, not to give the people an opportunity of hearing the rhapsodies of dying gladiators,”

A written or spoken expression of great enthusiasm.

Scheme

“The king allowed no such subordinate arrangements to interfere with his great scheme of retribution and reward.”

An elaborate and systematic plan of action.

Solemnize

“And the wedding was promptly and cheerily solemnized.”

To mark or celebrate (something) officially or formally especially with a religious ceremony.

Valor

“By exhibitions of manly and beastly valor, the minds of his subjects were refined and cultured.”

Courage or bravery.