



## Introduction

Impartial discourse on fake news is hard to come by because it becomes so emotional. The distant past can provide the emotional distance in a way that even fiction and recent history cannot offer. What will be examined is a crude crusader epic called *Richard Coeur de Lion*, an English poem that tells the story of Richard the Lionheart's battles against his counterpart Sultan Saladin during the Third Crusade (1189-1192). A careful look at the details reveals that the poem follows the older mold of Alexander the Great's conquests of the Persian Empire--showcasing that the creation of false narratives is not random but follows certain narrative patterns. This study can guide us in understanding the motivations behind the fake news of today.

## Background Information

The key text for this research is a primary medieval source called *Richard Coeur de Lion* (hereto called *Richard* that is a long poem translated into modern English. This is an anonymous text that has been found in seven different manuscripts, leading researchers to believe the text was popular. The