

Describe the Paladin's "narrative gift" (81). What tale does he exaggerate and why? How is this exaggeration like the varied historical constructions about Joan's life? In light of this, how might we characterize the Paladin's symbolic role in Twain's narrative?

The Paladin's "narrative gift" is that of polishing up a story so keenly that each second and third time it is heard, the story grows more captivating and extravagant. ~~and~~ The people love this, and more come to hear the wonderful stories each night. However, put simply, this "gift" is lying.

The Paladin exasperates ~~and~~ as he tells the tale of their audience with the Dauphin. As to why, we might say for attention and fame, and his tongue never stops even though those who know him claim his head is empty.

The Paladin's narrative is similar to histories of Joan of Arc that constantly change, because the stories do the same. The Paladin is constantly changing and making things up in his stories. In history, conflicting events mirror this.

Therefore, we might conclude that the Paladin is symbolic to these false, wavering histories of Joan of Arc. Mark Twain is trying to send us a message through this. ~~That~~ He makes the Paladin dislikeable so that we decide (either subconsciously or consciously) that we should stay away from these histories. Twain is trying to make us trust him, and his story, especially Sieur Louis's credibility as a narrator.