

Language used to describe the fox

Relationship between Pertelote and Chauntecleer (contrast with earlier description of them)

And so bifel that in a dawaynyng,
 As Chauntecleer among his wyves alle
 Sat on his perche, that was in the halle,
 And next hym sat this faire Pertelote,
 This Chauntecleer gan gronen in his throte,
 As man that in his dreem is drecched soore.
 And whan that Pertelote thus herde hym roore,
 She was agast, and seyde, "Herte deere,
 What eyleth yow, to grone in this manere?
 Ye been a verray sleper; fy, for shame!"

And he answerde, and seyde thus: "Madame,
 I pray yow that ye take it nat agrief.
 By God, me mette I was in swich meschief
 Right now, that yet myn herte is soore afright.
 Now God," quod he, "my swevene recche aright
 And kepe my body out of foul prisoun!
 Me mette how that I romed up and down
 Withinne our yeerd, wheer as I saugh a beest
 Was lyk an hound, and wolde han maad areest
 upon my body, and wolde han had me deed.
 His colour was bitwixe yelow and reed,
 And tipped was his tayl and bothe his eeris
 With blak, unlyk the remenant of his heeris;
 His snowte smal, with glowynge eyen tweye.
 Yet of his look for feere almost I deye;
 This caused me my gronyng, doutelees."

Pertelote's reaction to the dream

How this prepares for the long digression, which ends on 405

Effect of this dream after the opening