

OLD FRENCH SERIES • VOLUME 3

THE LAIS OF MARIE DE FRANCE

MARIE DE FRANCE

Lais

The Lais of Marie de France

Twelve Breton Lays

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation
preserving the original word order

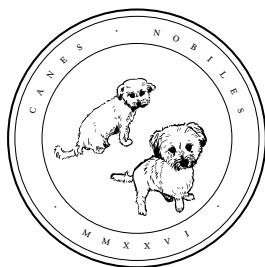


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Volume 3 of the Canes Nobiles Old French interlinear texts

The Old French text follows Karl Warnke's text, *Die Lais der Marie de France*, *Bibliotheca Normannica III*, second edition (Halle, 1900)

Set from the Wikisource keying of Warnke's edition

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The spelling is Warnke's Anglo-Norman, with the acute on a tonic final e and the tréma where two vowels do not form a diphthong; speech stands between single marks, as he sets it, and where he opens a speech with no mark the mark is not supplied. His asterisk marking a reading corrected against the manuscripts, and his marginal references to the leaves of Harley 978, belong to the apparatus and are not reproduced.

CONTENTS

PROLOGUE	7
I • GUIGEMAR	12
The Hind's Curse	17
The Lady in the Tower	27
The Love Declared	40
The Knotted Shirt	50
The Lady's Escape	58
Meriadu	65
II • EQUITAN	75
The Seneschal's Wife	82
The Two Baths	88
III • LE FRAISNE	98
The Child Under the Ash	105
Gurun	114
The Marriage Advised	121
The Coverlet on the Bed	128
IV • BISCLAVRET	137
The Stolen Clothes	146
The Beast at Court	153
V • LANVAL	161
The Gift and the Vow	168
The Queen's Offer	176

The Boast Betrayed	183
The Judgment	191
The Maidens from Avalon	201
VI · THE TWO LOVERS	209
The Drink from Salerno	214
The Climb	220
VII · YONEC	228
The Hawk Knight	236
The Iron Spikes	243
The Silver City	249
The Tomb at the Abbey	260
VIII · LAÛSTIC	268
IX · MILUN	280
The Swan	289
The Son in Northumberland	296
The Peerless Knight	303
Father and Son	307
X · CHAITIVEL	319
The Four Lovers	327
XI · CHIEVREFUEIL	337
XII · ELIDUC	346
Service in Logres	356
Guilliadun	365
The Ring and the Belt	375
The Summons Home	387
The Storm at Sea	400
The Chapel in the Wood	411
The Weasel and the Flower	418
The Three of Them	425

PROLOGUE

Marie opens with the duty of anyone to whom God has given knowledge and eloquence: not to keep silent but to show it. The ancients wrote obscurely on purpose, she says, so that those who came after might gloss the letter and add the surplus of their own sense. She thought first of turning some good story out of Latin, then chose instead the lays she had heard, and offers them to a noble king.

Qui Deus a duné esciënce

To-whom God has given knowledge

e de parler bone eloquence,

and of speaking good eloquence

ne s'en deit taisir ne celer,

not himself-thereof ought to-be-silent nor to-conceal

ainz se deit voluntiers mustrer.

rather himself ought willingly to-show

Quant uns granz biens est mult oïz,

When a great good is much heard

dunc a primes est il fluriz,

then at first is it flowered

e quant loëz est de plusurs,

and when praised it-is by many

dunc a expandues ses flurs.

then has spread its flowers

Custume fu as anciëns,

Custom it-was to-the ancients

ceo testimoine Preciëns,

that testifies Priscian

5

10

es livres que jadis faiseient

in-the books which formerly they-made

assez oscurement diseient

quite obscurely they-spoke

pur cels ki a venir esteient

for those who to come were

e ki aprendre les deveient,

and who to-learn them were-bound

15 que peüssent gloser la letre

that they-might gloss the letter

e de lur sen le surplus metre.

and from their sense the surplus to-put

Li philosophe le saveient,

The philosophers it knew

e par els meïsme entendeient,

and by them themselves understood

cum plus trespasereit de tens,

that-as more would-pass of time

20 plus serreient sutil de sens

more they-would-be subtle of mind

e plus se savreient garder

and more themselves they-would-know-how to-guard

de ceo qu'i ert a trespasser.

from that which-there was to be-transgressed

Ki de vice se vult defendre,

Who from vice himself wishes to-defend

estudiër deit e entendre

to-study ought and to-attend

25 e grevose oevre comencier;

and grievous work to-begin

par ceo s'en puet plus esloignier

by that himself-thereof he-can more to-distance

e de grant dolor delivrer.

and from great grief to-free

Pur ceo començai a penser

For that I-began to think

d'alkune bone estoire faire

of-some good story to-make

e de Latin en Romanz traire;

and from Latin into Romance to-draw

mais ne me fust guaires de pris:

but not to-me it-would-be much of worth

itant s'en sunt altre entremis.

so-many themselves-thereof are others engaged

Des lais pensai qu'oïz aveie.

Of-the lays I-thought that-heard I-had

Ne dutai pas, bien le saveie,

Not I-doubted at-all well it I-knew

que pur remembrance les firent

that for remembrance them they-made

des aventures qu'il oïrent

of-the adventures which-they heard

cil ki primes les comencierent

those who first them began

e ki avant les enveierent.

and who forth them sent

Plusurs en ai oïz conter,

Many thereof I-have heard tell

nes vueil laissier ne obliër.

not-them I-wish to-leave nor to-forget

30

35

40

Rimé en ai e fait ditié,

Rhymed thereof I-have and made a-poem

soventes feiz en ai veillié.

oft times thereat I-have kept-vigil

En l'onur de vus, nobles reis,

In the-honor of you noble king

ki tant estes pruz e curteis,

who so-much are valiant and courteous

45 a qui tute joie s'encline,

to whom all joy itself-bows

e en qui quer tuz biens racine,

and in whose heart all good-things takes-root

m'entremis des lais assembler

myself-I-undertook of-the lays to-assemble

par rime faire e raconter.

by rhyme to-make and to-recount

En mun quer pensoe e diseie,

In my heart I-thought and I-said

sire, ques vos presentereie.

50

lord that-them to-you I-would-present

Se vos les plaist a receveir,

If to-you them it-pleases to receive

mult me ferez grant joie avoir;

much to-me you-will-make great joy to-have

a tuz jurs mais en serrai liee.

for all days more thereby I-shall-be glad

Ne me tenez a surquidiee,

Not me hold for presumptuous

se vos os faire icest present.

55

if to-you I-dare to-make this present

Ore oëz le comencement!

Now hear the beginning

Guigemar

I

Whoever treats good matter is grieved if it is badly made; and where a country holds a man or woman of worth, the envious take up the trade of the cowardly cur that bites by treachery. Marie will tell the tales the Bretons made into lays. In the days of Hoilas, lord of Brittany the Less, his baron Oridial of Liun had a son, Guigemar, whom the king dubbed and armed. He went to Flanders for his name in arms, and nature had so far erred in him that he cared nothing for love.

Ki de bone matire traite,

Who of good matter treats

mult li peise, se bien n'est faite.

much to-him it-grieves if well not-it-is made

Oëz, seignur, que dit Marie,

Hear lords what says Marie

ki en sun tens pas ne s'oblie.

who in her time at-all not herself-forgets

5 Celui deivent la genz loër,

Him ought the people to-praise

ki en bien fait de sei parler.

who in good makes of himself to-speak

Mais quant il a en un païs

But when there is in a country

hume ne femme de grant pris,

man nor woman of great worth

cil ki de sun bien unt envie

those who of his good have envy

10 sovent en diënt vileinie.

often thereof they-say villainy

Sun pris li vuelent abaissier:

His worth to-him they-wish to-lower

pur ceo comencent le mestier

for that they-begin the trade

del malvais chien coart, felun,

of-the bad dog cowardly felonious

ki mort la gent par traïsun.

which bites the people by treachery

Nel vueil mie pur ceo laissier,

Not-it I-wish at-all for that to-leave

se jangleür u losengier

if slanderer or flatterer

le me vuelent a mal turner;

it to-me they-wish to ill to-turn

ceo est lur dreiz de mesparler.

that is their right to speak-ill

Les contes que jo sai verais,

The tales which I know true

dunt li Bretun unt fait les lais,

of-which the Bretons have made the lays

vos conterai assez briefment.

to-you I-shall-tell quite briefly

El chief de cest comencement

At-the head of this beginning

sulunc la letre e l'escriture

according-to the letter and the-writing

vos mosterrai une aventure,

to-you I-shall-show an adventure

15

20

25 ki en Bretaigne la Menur

which in Brittany the Lesser

avint al tens anciënur.

happened in-the time ancient

En cel tens tint Hoilas la terre,

In that time held Hoilas the land

sovent en pais, sovent en guerre.

often in peace often in war

Li reis avait un suen barun,

The king had a his-own baron

30 ki esteit sire de Liün.

who was lord of Liun

Oridials esteit apelez.

Oridial he-was called

De sun seignur ert mult amez;

By his lord he-was much loved

chevaliers ert pruz e vaillanz.

a-knight he-was valiant and worthy

De sa moillier out dous enfanz,

By his wife he-had two children

35 un fiz e une fille bele.

a son and a daughter fair

Noguent ot nun la dameisele;

Noguent had name the damsel

Guigemar noment le dancel:

Guigemar they-name the youth

el reialme nen out plus bel.

in-the realm not was more fair

A merveille l'amot sa mere,

To marvel him-loved his mother

e mult esteit bien de sun pere.

40

and much he-was well with his father

Quant il le pout partir de sei,

When he him could to-part from himself

si l'enveia servir le rei.

so him-she-sent to-serve the king

Li vadlez fu sages e pruz;

The young-man was wise and valiant

mult se faiseit amer de tuz.

much himself he-made to-love by all

Quant fu venuz termes e tens

45

When was come term and time

que il aveit eage e sens,

that he had age and sense

li reis l'adube richement;

the king him-dubs richly

armes li dune a sun talent.

arms to-him he-gives to his desire

Guigemar se part de la curt;

Guigemar himself departs from the court

mult i dona ainz qu'il s'en turt.

50

much there he-gave before that-he himself-thence turns

En Flandres vait pur sun pris querre:

Into Flanders he-goes for his worth to-see

la out tuz jurs estrif e guerre.

there was all days strife and war

En Lohereigne n'en Burguigne

In Lorraine nor-in Burgundy

ne en Anjou ne en Gascoigne

nor in Anjou nor in Gascony

55 a cel tens ne pout hom truver

at that time not could one to-find

si bon chevalier ne sun per.

so good a-knight nor his peer

De tant i out mespris nature

In so-much there had erred nature

que unc de nule amur n'out cure.

that ever of any love not-be-had care

Suz ciel n'out dame ne pucele,

Under heaven not-was lady nor maiden

60 ki tant par fust noble ne bele,

who so very were noble nor fair

se il d'amer la requieist,

if he of-loving her had-besought

que volentiers nel retenist.

that willingly not-him she-would-have-kept

Plusurs l'en requistrent suvent,

Many him-thereof besought often

mais il n'aveit de ceo talent;

but he not-had of that desire

65 nuls ne se pout aparcevoir

any not himself could to-perceive

que il volsist amur avoir.

that he wished love to-have

Pur ceo le tienent a peri

For that him they-hold as lost

e li estrange e si ami.

both the strangers and his friends

THE HIND'S CURSE

Home in Brittany, Guigemar goes hunting and shoots a white hind that carries a stag's antlers. The arrow rebounds into his thigh, and the dying beast lays a fate on him: no herb, root, physician, or draft will heal him until a woman suffers for love of him more than any woman has suffered, and he as much for her. He binds the wound, rides to the shore, and finds a ship with no crew, pegged with ebony, and a bed of cypress and ivory. He lies down, and the ship sails.

En la flur de sun meillur pris

In the flower of his best worth

s'en vait li ber en sun païs

himself-thence goes the baron into his country

veeir sun pere e sun seignur,

to-see his father and his lord

sa bone mere e sa sorur,

his good mother and his sister

ki mult l'aveient desiré.

who much him-had desired

Ensemble od els a sujurné,

Together with them he-has sojourned

ceo m'est a vis, un meis entier.

that to-me-is to seeming a month entire

Talenz li prist d'aler chacier.

Desire to-him took of-going to-hunt

70

75

La nuit somunt ses chevaliers,

The night he-summons his knights

ses veneürs e ses berniers.

his huntsmen and his boundsmen

Al matin vait en la forest;

In-the morning he-goes into the forest

80 kar cil deduiz forment li plest.

for that delight greatly to-him pleases

A un grant cerf sunt aruté,

To a great stag they-are set-on

e li chien furent descuplé.

and the bounds were uncoupled

Li veneür current devant;

The huntsmen run ahead

li dameisels se vait tarjant.

the youth himself goes lingering

85 Sun arc li portot uns vaslez,

His bow to-him carried a young-man

sun hansac e sun berserez.

his hunting-knife and his bound

Traire voleit, se mes eüst,

To-shoot he-wished if occasion he-had

ainz que d'iluec se remeüst.

before that from-there himself he-moved

En l'espeisse d'un grant buissun

In the-thicket of-a great bush

90 vit une bisse od sun foün.

he-saw a bind with her fawn

Tute fu blanche cele beste;

Wholly was white that beast

perches de cerf out en la teste.

antlers of stag she-had on the head

Pur l'abai del brachet sailli.

At the-baying of-the bound she-sprang

Il tent sun arc, si trait a li.

He draws his bow so shoots at her

En l'esclot la feri devant;

In the-forefoot her he-struck in-front

ele chaï demeintenant.

she fell straightway

La saiete resort ariere:

The arrow springs back

Guigemar fiert en tel maniere

Guigemar it-strikes in such manner

en la quisse desqu'al cheval,

in the thigh right-to-the horse

que tost l'estuet descendre a val.

that soon him-it-bebooves to-dismount to ground

A terre chiet sur l'erbe drue

To earth he-falls on the-grass thick

de lez la bisse qu'out ferue.

from side-of the hind which-he-had struck

La bisse, ki nafree esteit,

The hind which wounded was

anguissuse ert, si se plaigneit.

in-anguish she-was so herself complained

Aprés parla en itel guise:

Afterward she-spoke in such manner

'Oï, lasse! Jo sui ocise!

Alas wretched I am slain

95

100

105

E tu, vassal, ki m'as nafree,

And thou vassal who me-hast wounded

tels seit la tue destinee:

such be the thy fate

ja mais n'aies tu medecine!

ever more not-mayest-have thou medicine

110 Ne par herbe ne par racine,

Nor by herb nor by root

ne par mire ne par poisun

nor by physician nor by potion

n'avras tu ja mes guarisun

not-wilt-have thou ever more healing

de la plaie qu'as en la quisse,

of the wound which-thou-hast in the thigh

des i que cele te guarisse,

from there that she thee heal

115 ki suferra pur tue amur

who will-suffer for thy love

si grant peine e si grant dolor,

so great pain and so great grief

qu'unkes femme tant ne sufri;

that-ever woman so-much not suffered

e tu referas tant pur li,

and thou wilt-do-again as-much for her

dunt tuit cil s'esmerveillerunt,

at-which all those will-marvel

ki aiment e amé avrunt

120

who love and loved will-have

u ki puis amerunt après.

or who then will-love after

Va t'en de ci! Lai m'aveir pes!'

Go thee-thence from here Leave me-to-have peace

Guigemar fu forment bleschiez.

Guigemar was greatly wounded

De ceo qu'il ot est esmaiez.

By that which-he heard he-is dismayed

Comença sei a purpenser

125

He-began himself to consider

en quel terre purra aler

into what land he-might go

pur sa plaie faire guarir;

for his wound to-make to-heal

kar ne se volt laissier murir.

for not himself he-wishes to-let to-die

Il set assez e bien le dit

He knows quite and well it says

qu'unkes femme nule ne vit,

130

that-ever woman any not he-saw

a qui il aturnast s'amur

to whom he might-turn his-love

ne kil guaresist de dolor.

nor who-him might-heal of grief

Sun vaslet apela avant.

His young-man he-called forward

'Amis', fait il, 'va tost poignant!

Friend says he go quickly spurring

- 135 **Fai mes compaignuns retourner;**
Make my companions to-return
kar jo voldrai a els parler.'
for I shall-wish to them to-speak
Cil point avant, e il remaint.
He spurs forward and he remains
Mult anguissusement se pleint.
Very anguishedly himself be-laments
De sa chemise estreitement
With his shirt tightly
- 140 **bende sa plaie fermement.**
be-binds his wound firmly
Puis est muntez, d'iluec s'en part;
Then he-is mounted from-there himself-thence departs
qu'esloigniez seit, mult li est tart;
that-far-off be-be much to-him is late
ne vult que nuls des suens i vienge,
not he-wishes that any of-the his there come
kil desturbast ne kil retienge.
who-him might-binder nor who-him might-bold
- 145 **Le travers del bois s'en ala**
The across of-the wood himself-thence he-went
un vert chemin, ki l'en mena
a green path which him-thence led
fors de la landë. En la plaigne
out of the heath In the plain
vit la faleise e la muntaigne
he-saw the cliff and the mountain
d'une ewe ki desuz cureit.
of-a water which below ran

Braz fu de mer; hafne i aveit.

150

An-arm it-was of sea a-harbor there was

El hafne out une sule nef,

In-the harbor there-was a single ship

dunt Guigemar choisi le tref.

of-which Guigemar spied the mast

Mult esteit bien aparilliee;

Much it-was well fitted-out

defors e dedenz fu peice,

outside and inside it-was pitched

nuls huem n'i pout trover jointure.

155

any man not-there could to-find a-joint

N'i out cheville ne closture

Not-there was peg nor fastening

ki ne fust tute d'ebenus;

which not were wholly of-ebony

suz ciel n'a or ki vaille plus.

under heaven not-is gold which is-worth more

La veile fu tute de seie:

The sail was wholly of silk

mult est bele, ki la despleie.

160

very it-is fair whoever it unfurls

Li chevaliers fu mult pensis;

The knight was very pensive

en la cuntree n'el païs

in the region nor-in-the country

n'out unkes mes oï parler

not-he-had ever before heard tell

que nes i peüst ariver.

that ships there might arrive

- 165 Il vait avant, si descent jus;
He goes forward so descends down
 a grant anguisse munta sus.
with great anguish he-climbed up
 Dedenz quida humes truver,
Inside he-thought men to-find
 ki la nef deüssent garder:
who the ship should guard
 n'i aveit nul, ne nul ne vit.
not-there was any nor any not he-saw
- 170 En mi la nef trova un lit,
In middle-of the ship he-found a bed
 dunt li pecol e li limun
of-which the bedposts and the rails
 furent a l'oeuvre Salemun
were in the-work (of-)Solomon
 taillié a or, tut a trifoire,
carved with gold all in openwork
 de ciprés e de blanc ivoire.
of cypress and of white ivory
- 175 D'un drap de seie a or teissu
Of-a cloth of silk with gold woven
 ert la coilte ki desus fu.
was the quilt which above was
 Les altres dras ne sai preisier;
The other cloths not I-know to-appraise
 mes tant vos di de l'oreillier:
but so-much to-you I-say of the-pillow
 ki sus eüst sun chief tenu,
who upon-it had his head held

ja mais le peil n'avreit chanu.

ever more the hair not-would-have white

Li coverturs de sabelin

The coverlet of sable

volz fu de purpre Alexandrin.

lined it-was with purple Alexandrine

Dui chandelabre de fin or

Two candelabra of fine gold

(li pire valeit un tresor)

the worse was-worth a treasure

el chief de la nef furent mis;

at-the head of the ship were set

desus out dous cirges espris.

above there-were two candles lit

De ceo s'esteit il merveilliez.

At that himself-had he marveled

Il s'est sur le lit apuiez;

He himself-is on the bed leaned

repose sei, sa plaie duelt.

he-rests himself his wound pains

Puis est levez, aler s'en vует.

Then he-is risen to-go himself-thence he-wishes

Il ne pout mie returner;

He not could at-all to-return

la nes est ja en halte mer,

the ship is already in high sea

od lui s'en va delivrement.

with him himself-thence it-goes swiftly

Bon oré ot e suëf vent,

Good weather it-bad and gentle wind

180

185

190

- 195 n'i a niënt de sun repaire;
not-there is nothing of his returning
 mult est dolenz, ne set que faire.
much he-is grieving not he-knows what to-do
 N'est merveille se il s'esmaie,
Not-is marvel if he himself-dismays
 kar grant dolor a en sa plaie.
for great pain he-has in his wound
 Sufrir li estuet l'aventure.
To-suffer to-him it-bebooves the-adventure
- 200 A deu prie qu'en prenge cure,
To God he-prays that-thereof he-take care
 qu'a sun poeir l'ameint a port,
that-in his power him-be-bring to harbor
 e sil defende de la mort.
and so-him defend from the death
 El lit se colche, si s'endort.
On-the bed himself he-lays so himself-sleeps
 Hui a trespasé le plus fort;
Today he-has passed the most hard
- 205 ainz la vespree arivera
before the evening he-will-arrive
 la u sa guarisun avra,
there where his healing he-will-have
 desuz une antive cité,
under an ancient city
 ki esteit chiés de cel regné.
which was head of that realm

THE LADY IN THE TOWER

The ship lands under a city whose old lord keeps his wife in a walled enclosure by the sea, in a chamber painted with Venus casting Ovid's book into the fire. Only an old priest and the lord's niece come and go. The two women find the ship and the sleeping knight, take him for dead, then hear his story; they lodge him behind a curtain and wash and bind his thigh. He has forgotten his country, and the lady is wounded in her turn.

Li sire, ki la mainteneit,

The lord who it maintained

mult fu vielz huem e femme aveit,

very was old man and wife he-bad

une dame de halt parage,

a lady of high lineage

franche, curteise, bele e sage.

noble courteous fair and wise

Gelus esteit a desmesure;

Jealous he-was to excess

car ceo purporte la nature

for that carries the nature

que tuit li vieil seient gelus;

that all the old are jealous

mult het chascuns que il seit cus.

much hates each that he be cuckold

Tels est d'eage li trespas!

Such is of-age the passage

Il ne la guardout mie a gas.

He not her guarded at-all in jest

210

215

En un vergier suz le donjun

In an orchard under the keep

220 la out un clos tut environ.

there was an enclosure all around

De vert marbre fu li muralz,

Of green marble was the wall

mult par esteit espés e halz.

very much it-was thick and high

N'i out fors une sule entree;

Not-there was except one single entrance

cele fu nuit e jur gardeee.

that was night and day guarded

225 De l'altre part fu clos de mer;

On the-other side it-was closed by sea

nuls n'i pout eissir ne entrer,

any not-there could to-go-out nor to-enter

se ceo ne fust od un batel,

if that not were with a boat

se busuin eüst al chastel.

if need there-were at-the castle

Li sire out fait dedenz le mur,

The lord had made inside the wall

230 pur metre i sa femme a seür,

for to-put there his wife in safety

chambre; suz ciel n'aveit plus bele.

a-chamber under heaven not-there-was more fair

A l'entree fu la chapele.

At the-entrance was the chapel

La chambre ert peinte tut en tur.

The chamber was painted all in round

Venus, la deuesse d'amur,

Venus the goddess of-love

fu tresbien mise en la peinture;

was right-well set in the painting

les traiz mustrot e la nature

the traits it-showed and the nature

cument hom deit amur tenir

how one ought love to-hold

e leialment e bien servir.

and loyally and well to-serve

Le livre Ovide, u il enseigne

The book (of-)Ovid where he teaches

coment chascuns s'amur estreigne,

how each bis-love should-restrain

en un fu ardant le getout,

into a fire burning it she-cast

e tuz icels escumenjout,

and all those she-excommunicated

ki ja mais cel livre lirreient

who ever more that book would-read

ne sun enseignement fereient.

or its teaching would-do

La fu la dame enclose e mise.

There was the lady enclosed and set

Une pucele a sun service

A maiden for her service

li aveit sis sire bailliee,

to-her had her lord given

ki mult ert franche e enseigniee;

who very was noble and well-taught

235

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sa niece ert, fille sa sorur.

his niece she-was daughter (of-)his sister

250 Entre les dous out grant amur;

Between the two there-was great love

od li esteit quant il errout.

with her she-was when he traveled

De ci la que il repairout,

From here there that he returned

hume ne femme n'i venist

man nor woman not-there would-come

ne fors de cel murail n'issist.

nor out of that wall not-would-go

255 Uns vielz prestre blans e floriz

An old priest white and hoary

guardout la clef de cel postiz;

guarded the key of that postern

les plus bas membres out perduz:

the most low members he-had lost

altrement ne fust pas creüz.

otherwise not he-would-be at-all trusted

Le servise Deu li disoit

The service (of-)God to-her he-said

260 e a sun mangier la servoit.

and at her meal her he-served

Cel jur meïsmes ainz relevee

That day itself before risen

fu la dame el vergier alee.

was the lady into-the orchard gone

Dormi aveit après mangier,

Slept she-had after eating

si s'ert alee esbaneier,

so herself-she-was gone to-take-air

ensemble od li ot la meschine.

together with her had the maid

Guardent a val vers la marine;

They-look to below toward the sea

la nef virent al flot muntant,

the ship they-saw on-the tide rising

ki el hafne veneit siglant;

which into-the harbor came sailing

ne veient rien ki la cunduie.

not they-see anything which it steers

La dame vult turner en fuie:

The lady wishes to-turn in flight

se ele a poür, n'est merveille;

if she has fear not-is marvel

tute en fu sa face vermeille.

all thereat was her face crimson

Mes la meschine, ki fu sage

But the maid who was wise

e plus hardie de curage,

and more bold of heart

la recunforte e aseüre.

her comforts and reassures

Cele part vunt grant aleüre.

That way they-go great pace

Sun mantel oste la pucele,

Her mantle takes-off the maiden

entre en la nef ki mult fu bele.

she-enters into the ship which very was fair

265

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N'i trova nule rien vivant

Not-there she-found any thing living

280 fors sul le chevalier dormant.

except only the knight sleeping

Arestut sei, si l'esguarda;

She-stopped herself so him-looked-at

pale le vit, mort le quida.

pale him she-saw dead him she-thought

Ariere vait la dameisele,

Back goes the damsel

hastivement sa dame apele.

hastily her lady she-calls

285 Tute l'aventure li dit,

All the-adventure to-her she-says

mult pleint le mort que ele vit.

much she-laments the dead-man whom she saw

Respunt la dame: 'Or i aluns!

Answers the lady Now there let-us-go

Se il est morz, nus l'enforruns;

If he is dead we him-shall-bury

nostre prestre nus aidera.

our priest us will-help

290 Se vif le truis, il parlera.'

If alive him I-find he will-speak

Ensemble vunt, ne targent mes,

Together they-go not they-delay more

la dame avant e cele après.

the lady before and she after

Quant ele est en la nef entree,

When she is into the ship entered

devant le lit est arestee.

before the bed she-is stopped

Le chevalier a esguardé;

The knight she-has looked-at

mult pleint sun cors e sa belté.

much she-laments his body and his beauty

Pur lui esteit triste e dolente

For him she-was sad and grieving

e dit que mar fu sa juvente.

and says that ill-starred was his youth

Desur le piz li met sa main;

Upon the breast to-him she-puts her hand

chalt le senti e le quer sein,

warm it she-felt and the heart sound

ki suz les costes li bateit.

which under the ribs to-him beat

Li chevaliers, ki se dormeit,

The knight who himself slept

s'est esveilliez, si l'a veüe.

himself-he-is awakened so her-has seen

Mult en fu liez, si la salue;

Much thereat he-was glad so her greets

bien set qu'il est venuz a rive.

well he-knows that-he is come to shore

La dame, pluranz e pensive,

The lady weeping and pensive

li respundi mult bonement;

to-him answered very graciously

295

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305

demanda li cumfaitement

she-asked to-him how

il est venuz e de quel terre,

he is come and from what land

310 e s'il est eissilliez pur guerre.

and if-be is exiled by war

'Dame', fet il, 'ceo n'i a mie!

Lady says he that not-there is at-all

Mes se vus plest que jeo vus die

But if to-you it-pleases that I to-you tell

m'aventure, vus cunterai;

my-adventure to-you I-shall-tell

niënt ne vus en celerai.

anything not from-you thereof I-shall-conceal

315 De Bretaigne la Menur sui.

From Brittany the Lesser I-am

En bois alai chacier jehui.

Into wood I-went to-hunt today

Une blanche bisse feri,

A white bind I-struck

e la saiete resorti;

and the arrow sprang-back

en la quisse m'a si nafré,

in the thigh me-it-has so wounded

320 ja mes ne quid avoir santé.

ever more not I-think to-have health

La bisse se pleinst e parla,

The bind herself lamented and spoke

mult me maldist e si ura,

much me she-cursed and so prayed

que ja n'eüsse guarisun

that ever not-I-should-have healing

se par une meschine nun.

except by a maid not

Ne sai u ele seit trovee!

Not I-know where she may-be found

Quant jeo oï la destinee,

When I heard the fate

hastivement del bois eissi.

hastily from-the wood I-went-out

En un hafne ceste nef vi;

In a harbor this ship I-saw

dedenz entrai, si fis folie;

inside I-entered so I-did folly

od mei s'en est la nes ravie.

with me itself-thence is the ship swept

Ne sai u jeo sui arivez,

Not I-know where I am arrived

coment a nun ceste citez.

how has name this city

Bele dame, pur deu vus pri,

Fair lady for God you I-pray

cunseilliez mei, vostre merci!

counsel me your mercy

Kar jeo ne sai quel part aler,

For I not know what way to-go

ne la nef ne puis gouverner.'

nor the ship not I-can to-steer

El li respunt: 'Bels sire chiers,

She to-him answers Fair lord dear

325

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335

cunseil vus durrai volentiers.

counsel to-you I-shall-give willingly

Ceste citez est mun seignur

This city is my lord's

340 e la cuntree tut en tur.

and the country all in round

Riches huem est de halt parage,

A-rich man he-is of high lineage

mes mult par est de grant eage.

but very much he-is of great age

Anguissusement est gelus,

Grievously he-is jealous

par cele fei que jeo dei vus.

by that faith which I owe to-you

345 Dedenz cest clos m'a enserree.

Inside this enclosure me-he-has shut

N'i a fors une sule entree;

Not-there is except one single entrance

uns vielz prestre la porte garde:

an old priest the gate guards

ceo doinse deus que mals feus l'arde!

that grant God that evil fire him-burn

Ici sui nuit e jur enclose;

Here I-am night and day enclosed

350 ja nule feiz nen iere si ose

ever any time not I-shall-be so bold

que j'en isse, s'il nel comande,

that I-thence go-out if-he not-it commands

se mis sire ne me demande.

if my lord not me asks-for

Ci ai ma chambre e ma chapele,

Here I-have my chamber and my chapel

ensemble od mei ceste pucele.

together with me this maiden

Se vus i plest a demurer,

If to-you there it-pleases to remain

tant que vus mierz puissiez errer,

until that you better may travel

volentiers vus sojurnerum

willingly you we-shall-lodge

e de bon quer vus servirum.'

and from good heart you we-shall-serve

Quant il a la parole oïe,

When he has the word heard

dulcement la dame en mercie;

sweetly the lady thereof he-thanks

od li sujurnera, ceo dit.

with her he-will-lodge that he-says

En estant s'est dreciez del lit;

Into standing himself-he-is raised from-the bed

celes li aïent a peine.

they to-him help with pain

La dame en sa chambre l'en meine.

The lady into her chamber him-thence leads

Desur le lit a la meschine,

Upon the bed of the maid

triers un dossal ki pur cortine

behind a hanging which for curtain

fu en la chambre apareilliez,

was in the chamber arranged

355

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365

la est li dameisels culchiez;

there is the youth laid

En bacins d'or ewe apporterent:

In basins of-gold water they-brought

370 sa plaie e sa quisse laverent,

his wound and his thigh they-washed

A un bel drap de cheinsil blanc

With a fair cloth of linen white

li osterent en tur le sanc;

from-him they-wiped in round the blood

puis l'unt estreitement bende.

then him-they-have tightly bound

Mult le tienent en grant chierté.

Much him they-hold in great regard

375 Quant lur mangier al vespre vint,

When their meal at-the evening came

la pucele tant en retint,

the maiden so-much thereof kept-back

dunt li chevaliers out asez:

whereof the knight had plenty

bien est peüz e abevrez.

well be-is fed and given-drink

Mes amurs l'ot feru al vif;

But love him-had struck to-the quick

380 ja ert sis quers en grant estrif,

already was his heart in great strife

kar la dame l'a si nafré,

for the lady him-has so wounded

tut a sun païs ublié.

wholly be-has his country forgotten

De sa plaie nul mal ne sent;

Of his wound any pain not he-feels

mult suspire anguissusement.

much he-sighs anguishedly

La meschine, kil deit servir,

The maid who-him ought to-serve

prie qu'ele le laist dormir.

he-begs that-she him let to-sleep

Cele s'en part, si l'a laissié.

She herself-thence departs so him-has left

Puis qu'il li a duné cungié,

Since that-he to-her has given leave

devant sa dame en est alee,

before her lady thence she-is gone

ki alkes esteit reschalfee

who somewhat was warmed

del feu dunt Guigemar se sent

by-the fire whereof Guigemar himself feels

que sis quers alume e esprent.

which his heart kindles and inflames

385

390

THE LOVE DECLARED

Neither of them sleeps. The maiden, who has seen what ails them both, goes between them and comforts each. Guigemar tells the lady that he dies for her and begs her not to refuse him; she answers that the request is hasty. He argues that a woman of sense who finds a man to her liking should not play proud, since the two of them will have their profit before anyone hears of it. She grants her love, and they kiss and take their joy.

Li chevaliers fu remés sous.

The knight was left alone

Pensis esteit e anguissous;

Pensive he-was and anguished

395 ne set uncore que ceo deit;

not he-knows yet what that means

mes nepurquant bien s'aparceit:

but nevertheless well himself-he-perceives

se par la dame n'est guariz,

if by the lady not-he-is healed

de la mort est seürs e fiz.

of the death he-is sure and certain

'A las!' fet il, 'quel le ferai?

Ah wretched says he what it I-shall-do

400 Irai a li, si li dirai

I-shall-go to her so to-her I-shall-say

que ele ait merci e pitié

that she have mercy and pity

de cest chaitif descunseillié.

on this wretch forlorn

S'ele refuse ma preiere

If-she refuses my prayer

e tant seit orgoilluse e fiere,

and so-much be proud and baughty

dune m'estuet il a doel murir

then me-it-behooves it in grief to-die

u de cest mal tuz jurs languir.'

or of this ill all days to-languish

Lors suspira; en poi de tens

Then he-sighed in little of time

li est venuz novels purpens,

to-him is come new thought

e dit que sufrir li estoet;

and says that to-suffer to-him it-behooves

kar issi fait ki mielz ne poet.

for thus does who better not can

Tute la nuit a si veillié

All the night he-has so watched

e suspiré e travaillé;

and sighed and toiled

en sun quer alot recordant

in his heart he-went recalling

les paroles e le semblant,

the words and the look

les uiz vairs e la bele buche,

the eyes bright and the fair mouth

dunt la dolçurs al quer li tuche.

whose the sweetness to-the heart to-him touches

Entre ses denz merci li crie;

Between his teeth mercy to-her he-cries

405

410

415

pur poi ne l'apele s'amie.

for little not her-he-calls his-friend

Se il seüst qu'ele senteit

If he knew what-she felt

420 e cum l'amurs la destreigneit,

and how the-love her constrained

mult en fust liez, mien esciënt;

much thereat he-would-be glad my knowing

un poi de rasuagement

a little of easing

li tolist alques la dolor

from-him would-take somewhat the grief

dunt il ot pale la color.

whereby he had pale the color

425 Se il a mal pur li amer,

If he has ill for her to-love

el ne s'en puet niënt loër.

she not herself-thereof can at-all to-praise

Par matinet einz l'ajurnee

In early-morning before the-daybreak

esteit la dame sus levee.

was the lady up risen

Veillié aveit, de ceo se pleint;

Watched she-had of that herself she-laments

430 ceo fet amurs ki la destreint.

that does love which her constrains

La meschine, ki od li fu,

The maid who with her was

al semblant a apareceü

by-the look has perceived

de sa dame, que ele amout

of her lady that she loved

le chevalier ki sojournout

the knight who lodged

en la chambre pur guarisun;

in the chamber for healing

mes el ne set s'il l'aime u nun.

but she not knows if-he her-loves or not

La dame est entree el mustier,

The lady is entered into-the minster

e cele vait al chevalier.

and she goes to-the knight

Asise s'est devant le lit;

Seated herself-she-is before the bed

e il l'apele, si li dit:

and he her-calls so to-her says

'Amie, u est ma dame alee?

Friend where is my lady gone

Pur quei est el si tost levee?

For what is she so early risen

A tant se tut, si suspira.

At that himself he-bushed so sighed

La meschine l'araisuna.

The maid him-addressed

'Sire', fet ele, 'vus amez!

Lord says she you love

Gardez que trop ne vus celez!

Take-care that too-much not you conceal

435

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445

Amer poëz en itel guise,

To-love you-can in such manner

que bien iert vostre amurs assise.

that well will-be your love placed

Ki ma dame voldreit amer,

Who my lady would-wish to-love

450 mult devrait bien de li penser.

much he-ought well of her to-think

Ceste amurs sereit covenable,

This love would-be fitting

se vus amdui fussiez estable.

if you both were constant

Vus estes bels, e ele est bele!

You are fair and she is fair

Il respondi a la pucele:

He answered to the maiden

455 'Jeo sui de tel amur espris,

I am with such love kindled

bien me purra venir a pis,

well to-me it-may come to worse

se jeo n'ai sucurs e aïe.

if I not-have succor and help

Cunseilliez mei, ma dulce amie!

Counsel me my sweet friend

Que ferai jeo de ceste amur?

What shall-do I with this love

La meschine par grant dulçur

460

The maid with great sweetness

le chevalier a conforté

the knight has comforted

e de s'aïe aseüré,

and of her-help assured

de tuz les biens qu'ele puet faire;

of all the goods that-she can to-do

mult ert curteise e de bon aire.

very she-was courteous and of good breeding

Quant la dame a la messe oïe,

465

When the lady has the mass heard

ariere vait, pas ne s'ublie.

back she-goes at-all not herself-forgets

Saveir voleit que cil faiseit,

To-know she-wished what he did

se il veillout u il dormeit,

whether he watched or he slept

pur qui amur sis quers ne fine.

for whose love her heart not ceases

Avant l'apele la meschine;

470

Forward her-calls the maid

al chevalier la fait venir:

to-the knight her she-makes to-come

bien li purra tut a leisir

well to-him she-may all at leisure

mustrer e dire sun curage,

to-show and to-say her heart

turt li a pru u a damage.

turn to-her to gain or to harm

- 475 Il la salue e ele lui.
He her greets and she him
- En grant esfrei erent amdui.
In great trouble were both
- Il ne l'osot niënt requerre;
He not her-dared at-all to-beseech
- pur ceo qu'il ert d'estrangle terre,
for that that-he was of-foreign land
- aveit poür, s'il li mustrast,
he-had fear if-he to-her showed
- 480 qu'el l'enhaïst e esloignast
that-she him-should-hate and drive-off
- Mes ki ne mustre s'enferté,
But who not shows his-sickness
- a peine puet avoir santé.
with pain can to-have health
- Amurs est plaie dedenz cors,
Love is a-wound inside body
- e si ne piert niënt defors;
and so not appears at-all outside
- 485 ceo est uns mals ki lunges tient,
that is an ill which long holds
- pur ceo que de nature vient.
for that that from nature it-comes
- Plusur le tientent a gabeis,
Many it hold as a-jest
- si cume cil vilain curteis,
even as those churls courteous
- ki jolivent par tut le mund,
who dally through all the world

puis se vantent de ceo que funt;

then themselves they-boast of that which they-do

n'est pas amurs, einz est folie

not-is at-all love rather is folly

e malvaistiez e lecherie.

and wickedness and lechery

Ki en puet un leial trover,

Who thereof can a loyal-one to-find

mult le deit servir e amer

much him ought to-serve and to-love

e estre a sun comandement.

and to-be at his commandment

Guigemar aime durement:

Guigemar loves greatly

u il avra hastif sucurs,

either he will-have swift succor

u li estuet vivre a reburs.

or to-him it-behooves to-live in reverse

Amurs li dune hardement:

Love to-him gives boldness

il li descuevre sun talent.

he to-her discloses his desire

'Dame', fet il, 'jeo muere pur vus;

Lady says he I die for you

mis quers en est mult anguissus.

my heart thereat is very anguished

Se vus ne me volez guarir,

If you not me wish to-heal

dunc m'estuet il en fin murir.

then me-it-behooves it in end to-die

490

495

500

- 505 Jo vus requier de druërie:
I you beseech for love
 bele, ne m'escundites mie!
fair-one not me-refuse at-all
 Quant ele l'a bien entendu,
When she him-has well heard
 avenantment a respundu.
becomingly she-has answered
 Tut en riant li dit: 'Amis,
All in laughing to-him she-says Friend
 510 cist conseilz sereit trop hastis,
this counsel would-be too hasty
 d'otreier vus ceste preiere;
of-granting to-you this prayer
 jeo ne sui mie custumiere.'
I not am at-all accustomed
 'Dame', fet il, 'pur deu merci,
Lady says he for God mercy
 ne vus ennuit, se jol vus di!
not you may-it-vex if I-it to-you say
 515 Femme jolive de mestier
A-woman wanton by trade
 se deit lunc tens faire preier,
herself ought long time to-make to-be-besought
 pur sei cherir, que cil ne quit
for herself to-prize that he not think
 que ele ait usé cel deduit.
that she has practiced that delight
 Mes la dame de bon purpens,
But the lady of good understanding

ki en sei ait valor ne sens,

520

who in herself has worth and sense

s'ele trueve hume a sa maniere,

if-she finds a-man to her liking

ne se fera vers lui trop fiere,

not herself will-make toward him too haughty

ainz l'amera, si'n avra joie.

rather him-she-will-love so-thereof will-have joy

Ainz que nuls le sace ne l'oie,

Before that any it know nor it-bear

avrunt il mult de lur pru fait.

525

will-have they much of their profit made

Bele dame, finum cest plait!

Fair lady let-us-end this parley

La dame entent que veir li dit,

The lady bears that truth to-her he-says

e li otreie senz respit

and to-him grants without delay

l'amur de li, e il la baise.

the-love of her and he her kisses

Des ore est Guigemar a aise.

530

From now is Guigemar at ease

Ensemble juënt e parolent

Together they-play and they-speak

e sovent baisent e acolent;

and often they-kiss and embrace

bien lur covienge del surplus,

well to-them may-it-befit of-the surplus

de ceo que li altre unt en us!

of that which the others have in use

THE KNOTTED SHIRT

After a year and a half the lady fears the parting. She knots the tail of his shirt and gives him leave to love whoever can unfold it without knife or force; he girds her bare flesh with a belt and asks that she love only the one who can open its buckle without breaking it. That same day a chamberlain sees them through a window. The lord breaks the chamber door, and Guigemar takes up a fir pole to meet him; he is put back on his ship, and in Brittany he refuses every marriage.

535 Ceo m'est a vis, an e demi

That to-me-is to seeming a-year and half

fu Guigemar ensemble od li.

was Guigemar together with her

Mult fu delituse la vie.

Very was delightful the life

Mes fortune, ki ne s'oblie,

But fortune which not herself-forgets

sa roe turnë en poi d'ure,

her wheel turns in little of-hour

540 l'un met desuz, l'autre desure.

the-one she-puts below the-other above

Issi est il d'els avenu;

Thus is it of-them befallen

kar tost furent aparceü.

for soon they-were discovered

Al tens d'esté par un matin

In-the season of-summer on a morning

jut la dame lez le meschin.

lay the lady beside the youth

545 La buche li baise e le vis;

The mouth to-him she-kisses and the face

puis si li dit: 'Bels, dulz amis,

then so to-him says Fair sweet friend

mis quers me dit que jeo vus pert;

my heart to-me says that I you lose

veü serum e descobert.

seen we-shall-be and discovered

Se vus murez, jeo vueil murir;

If you die I wish to-die

e se vus en poëz partir,

and if you thence can to-depart

vus recoverrez altre amur,

you will-recover another love

e jeo remeindrai en dolor.'

and I shall-remain in grief

'Dame', fet il, 'nel dites mes!

Lady says he not-it say more

Ja n'aie jeo joie ne pes,

Ever not-may-have I joy nor peace

quant vers nule altre avrai retur!

when toward any other I-shall-have turning

N'aiez de ceo nule poür!'

Not-have of that any fear

'Amis, de ceo m'aseürez!

Friend of that me-assure

Vostre chemise me livrez!

Your shirt to-me deliver

El pan desuz ferai un pleit;

In-the skirt below I-shall-make a knot

cungié vus doins, u que ceo seit,

leave to-you I-give where that that be

550

555

560

d'amer cele kil desfera

of-loving her who-it will-undo

e ki despleier le savra.

and who to-unfold it will-know-how

Il li baille, si l'aseüre;

He to-her hands-it so her-assures

le pleit i fet en tel mesure,

the knot there she-makes in such measure

565 nule femme nel desfereit,

any woman not-it would-undo

se force u cultel n'i meteit.

if force or knife not-there she-put

La chemise li dune e rent.

The shirt to-him she-gives and renders

Il la receit par tel covent,

He it receives on such covenant

qu'el le face seür de li

that-she him make sure of her

570 par une ceinture altresì,

by a girdle likewise

dunt a sa char nue la ceint;

wherewith to her flesh bare her be-girds

par mi les flans alkes restreint,

through middle-of the flanks somewhat be-tightens

Ki la bucle purra ovrir

Who the buckle will-be-able to-open

senz depescier e senz partir,

without breaking and without parting

il li prie que celui aint.

he to-her prays that him she-love

Puis l'a baisé; a tant remaint.

Then her-he-has kissed at that it-rests

Cel jur furent aparceü,

That day they-were discovered

descovert, trouvé e veü

uncovered found and seen

d'un chamberlenc mal vezié,

by-a chamberlain ill crafty

que sis sire i out enveié.

whom his lord there had sent

A la dame voleit parler,

To the lady he-wished to-speak

ne pout dedenz la chambre entrer.

not he-could inside the chamber to-enter

Par une fenestre les vit;

Through a window them he-saw

vait a sun seignur, si li dit.

he-goes to his lord so to-him says

Quant li sire l'a entendu,

When the lord it-has heard

unques mes tant dolenz ne fu.

ever before so grieved not he-was

De ses privez demande treis.

Of his intimates he-asks three

A la chambre vait demaneis;

To the chamber he-goes straightway

il en a fet l'us depescier:

he thereof has made the-door to-be-broken

575

580

585

590 dedenz trova le chevalier.

inside he-found the knight

Pur la grant ire que il a

For the great wrath which he has

a ocire le cumanda.

to slay him he-commanded

Guigemar est en piez levez;

Guigemar is on feet risen

ne s'est de niënt esfreez.

not himself-he-is at nothing frightened

595 Une grosse perche de sap,

A thick pole of fir

u suleient pendre li drap,

where used to-hang the cloths

prist en ses mains, e sis atent.

he-took in his hands and so-them he-awaits

Il en fera alkun dolent:

He thereof will-make some-one sorry

ainz que il d'els seit aprismiez,

before that he by-them be approached

600 les avra il tuz mahaigriez.

them will-have he all maimed

Li sire l'a mult esguardé;

The lord him-has much looked-at

enquis li a e demandé

inquired of-him he-has and asked

ki il esteit, e dunt fu nez,

who he was and whence he-was born

e coment ert laienz entrez.

and how he-was therein entered

Cil li cunte cum il i vint,

He to-him tells how he there came

e cum la dame le retint;

and how the lady him kept

tute li dist la destinee

all to-him he-told the fate

de la bisse ki fu nafree

of the bind which was wounded

e de la nef e de sa plaie.

and of the ship and of his wound

Ore est del tut en sa manaie.

Now he-is of-the all in his power

Il li respunt que pas nel creit,

He to-him answers that at-all not-it he-believes

e s'issi fust cum il diseit,

and if-thus it-were as he said

se il peüst la nef trover,

if he could the ship to-find

il le metreit giers en la mer;

he him would-put back into the sea

s'il guaresist, ceo li pesast,

if-he should-recover that to-him would-grieve

e bel li fust, se il neiaist.

and fair to-him it-would-be if he drowned

Quant il l'a bien aseüré,

When he him-has well assured

al hafne sunt ensemble alé.

to-the harbor they-are together gone

La barge truevent, enz l'unt mis:

The boat they-find within him-they-have put

605

610

615

620 od lui s'en vet en sun païs.

with him itself-thence it-goes into his country

La nes eire, pas ne demure.

The ship sails at-all not it-delays

Li chevaliers suspire e plure;

The knight sighs and weeps

la dame regrete sovent,

the lady he-regrets often

e prie deu omnipotent

and prays God almighty

625 que il li doinst hastive mort

that he to-him grant swift death

e que ja mes ne vienge a port,

and that ever more not he-come to harbor

s'il ne repuet avoir s'amie,

if-he not can-again to-have his-friend

qu'il desire plus que sa vie.

whom-he desires more than his life

Tant a cele dolor tenue,

So-long he-has that grief held

630 que la nes est a port venue

that the ship is to harbor come

u ele fu primes trovee.

where it was first found

Asez ert pres de sa cuntree.

Quite it-was near to his country

Al plus tost qu'il pout s'en issi.

At-the most soon that-he could himself-thence he-went-out

Uns damisels, qu'il ot nurri,

A youth whom-he had reared

errot après un chevalier;

was-traveling after a knight

en sa mein menot un destrier.

in his hand he-led a charger

Il le conut, si l'apela,

He him knew so him-called

e li vaslez se reguarda.

and the young-man himself looked-round

Sun seignur veit, a pié descent;

His lord he-sees on foot he-dismounts

le cheval li met en present.

the horse to-him he-puts in gift

Od lui s'en vait; joius en sunt

With him himself-thence he-goes joyful thereof are

tuit si ami ki trové l'unt.

all his friends who found him-have

Mult fu preisiez en sun païs;

Much he-was esteemed in his country

mes tuz jurs ert maz e pensis.

but all days he-was downcast and pensive

Femme voleient qu'il presist;

A-wife they-wished that-he take

mes il del tut les escundist:

but he of-the all them refused

ja ne prendra femme nul jur,

ever not he-will-take wife any day

ne pur avoir ne pur amour,

nor for wealth nor for love

635

640

645

se ele ne puet despleier

if she not can to-unfold

650 sa chemise senz depescier.

bis shirt without breaking

Par Bretagne vait la novele;

Through Brittany goes the news

il n'i a dame ne pucele

there not-there is lady nor maiden

ki n'i alast pur asaier:

who not-there went for to-try

unc ne la porent despleier.

ever not it they-could to-unfold

THE LADY'S ESCAPE

Her lord shuts the lady in a tower of gray marble, where she passes two years and more. Resolved to drown herself where Guigemar was set to sea, she finds neither key nor lock at the door, and the ship moored to the rock. It carries her to Brittany, to the castle of Meriadu, who takes her in and loves her. She will love only the man who can open her belt; he answers that a knight of that country defends himself the same way, with a knotted shirt, and has every knight try the belt in vain.

655 De la dame vus vueil mustrer,

Of the lady to-you I-wish to-tell

que Guigemar puet tant amer.

whom Guigemar can so-much to-love

Par le conseil d'un sien barun

By the counsel of-a his-own baron

sis sire l'a mise en prisun

her lord her-bas put in prison

en une tur de marbre bis.

in a tower of marble gray

Le jur a mal e la nuit pis.

The day she-has ill and the night worse

Nuls huem el mund ne purreit dire

Any man in-the world not could to-tell

la grant peine ne le martire

the great pain nor the torment

ne l'anguisse ne la dolor

nor the-anguish nor the grief

que la dame suefre en la tur.

which the lady suffers in the tower

Dous anz i fu e plus, ceo quit;

Two years there she-was and more that I-think

une n'i ot joie ne deduit.

ever not-there had joy nor delight

Sovent regrete sun ami:

Often she-regrets her friend

'Guigemar, sire, mar vus vi!

Guigemar lord ill-starred you I-saw

Mielz vueil hastivement murir

Better I-wish hastily to-die

que lungement cest mal sufrir!

than long this ill to-suffer

Amis, se jeo puis eschaper,

Friend if I can to-escape

660

665

670

la u vus fustes mis en mer

there where you were put in sea

me neierai! Dunc lieve sus;

myself I-shall-drown Then she-rises up

tute esbaïe vient a l'us;

all bewildered she-comes to the-door

675 n'i trueve clef ne serreüre:

not-there she-finds key nor lock

fors s'en eissi par aventure.

out herself-thence she-went by chance

Unques nuls ne la disturba.

Ever any not her hindered

Al hafne vint, la nef trova;

To-the harbor she-came the ship she-found

atachiee fu al rochier,

moored it-was to-the rock

680 u ele se voleit neier.

where she herself wished to-drown

Quant el la vit, enz est entree;

When she it saw within she-is entered

mes d'une rien s'est purpensee

but of-one thing herself-she-is bethought

qu'iluec fu sis amis neiez.

that-there was her friend drowned

Dunc ne puet ester sur ses piez:

Then not she-can to-stand on her feet

685 se desqu'al bort peüst venir,

if right-to-the edge she-could to-come

el se laissast defors chaïr!

she herself would-let outside to-fall

Asez suefre travail e peine.

Much she-suffers toil and pain

La nes s'en vet, ki tost l'en meine.

The ship itself-thence goes which soon her-thence carries

En Bretaigne est venue al port

Into Brittany it-is come to-the harbor

suz un chastel vaillant e fort.

under a castle goodly and strong

Li sire qui li chastels fu

The lord whose the castle was

aveit a nun Meriadu.

had for name Meriadu

Il guerreet un suen veisin;

He was-warring-on a his-own neighbor

pur ceo fu levez par matin,

for that he-was risen by morning

sa gent voleit fors enveier

his people he-wished forth to-send

pur sun enemi damagier.

for his enemy to-harm

A une fenestre s'estot

At a window he-stood

e vit la nef ki arivot.

and saw the ship which was-landing

Il descendi par un degré;

He came-down by a stair

sun chamberlein a apelé.

his chamberlain he-has called

Hastivement a la nef vunt;

Hastily to the ship they-go

690

695

700

par l'eschiele muntent a munt.

by the-ladder they-climb to top

Dedenz unt la dame trovee,

Inside they-have the lady found

ki de belté resemble fee.

who in beauty resembles a-fay

705 Il la saisist par le mantel;

He her seizes by the mantle

od lui l'en meine en sun chastel.

with him her-thence he-leads into his castle

Mult fu liez de la troveüre,

Much he-was glad of the finding

kar bele esteit a desmesure;

for fair she-was to excess

ki que l'eüst mise en la barge,

whoever that her-had put in the boat

710 bien set qu'ele est de grant parage.

well he-knows that-she is of great lineage

A li aturna tel amur,

To her he-turned such love

unques a femme n'ot greignur.

ever for woman not-he-had greater

Il out une seurur pucele;

He had a sister maiden

en sa chambre, ki mult fu bele,

in his chamber which very was fair

715 la dame li a comandee.

the lady to-her he-has committed

Bien fu servie e honuree,

Well she-was served and honored

richement la vest e aturne;

richly her be-clothes and adorns

mes tuz jurs est pensive e murne.

but all days she-is pensive and mournful

Il vait sovent a li parler,

He goes often to her to-speak

kar de bon quer la puet amer.

for from good heart her he-can to-love

Il la requiert; el n'en a cure,

He her beseeches she not-thereof has care

ainz li mustre de la ceinture:

rather to-him she-shows of the girdle

ja mes hume nen amera

ever more man not she-will-love

se celui nun ki l'uverra

except him not who it-will-open

senz depescier. Quant il l'entent,

without breaking When he it-hears

si li respunt par maltalent:

so to-her he-answers in ill-humor

'Altresi a en cest païs

Likewise there-is in this country

un chevalier de mult grant pris,

a knight of very great worth

de femme prendre en itel guise

from wife to-take in such manner

se defent par une chemise,

himself he-defends by a shirt

dunt li destre pans est pleiez;

whose the right skirt is knotted

720

725

730

il ne puet estre desliez,

it not can to-be unfastened

force u cultel n'i metreit.

force or knife not-there one-would-put

Vus feïstes, ceo quit, cel pleit!

You made that I-think that knot

735 Quant el l'oï, si suspira,

When she it-heard so she-sighed

pur un petit ne se pasma.

for a little not herself she-swooned

Il la reçut entre ses braz.

He her received between his arms

De sun blialt trencha les laz;

From her tunic he-cut the laces

la ceinture voleit ovrir,

the girdle he-wished to-open

740 mes n'en poeit a chief venir.

but not-thereof he-could to end to-come

Puis n'ot el païs chevalier,

Then not-there-was in-the country knight

que il n'i feïst essaier.

whom he not-there made to-try

Meriadu summons Guigemar to a tournament, and has his sister bring the lady into the hall. Guigemar cannot believe it is she. Meriadu offers her the shirt in play; she unfolds it easily, and the belt at her side settles the rest. Guigemar offers to serve him two or three years with a hundred knights for her; Meriadu refuses. Guigemar defies him, takes with him every knight who had come to tourney, besieges the castle until it starves, kills its lord, and carries his love away.

Issi remest bien lungement

Thus it-remained well long

de ci qu'a un turneiement,

from here that-to a tournament

que Meriadus afia

which Meriadu pledged

cuntre celui qu'il guerreia.

against him whom-he warred-on

Mult i ot semuns chevaliers;

Many there had summoned knights

Guigemar fu tuz li primiers.

Guigemar was all the first

Il l'i manda par gueredun

He him-there sent-for by reward

si cum ami e compaignun,

even as friend and companion

qu'a cel busuin ne li faillist

that-in that need not to-him be-fail

e en s'aïe a lui venist.

and in his-help to him come

Alez i est mult richement;

Gone there he-is very richly

745

750

chevaliers meine plus de cent,
knights be-leads more than hundred

755 Meriadus dedenz sa tur

Meriadu inside his tower

le herberja a grant honor.

him lodged with great honor

Encuntre lui sa serur mande;

Toward him his sister he-sends

par dous chevaliers li comande

by two knights to-her he-commands

qu'ele s'aturt e vienge avant,

that-she herself-adorn and come forward

760 la dame meint qu'il aime tant.

the lady she-bring whom-he loves so-much

Cele a fet sun comandement.

She has done his commandment

Vestues furent richement,

Clothed they-were richly

main a main viennent en la sale;

hand in hand they-come into the hall

la dame fu pensive e pale.

the lady was pensive and pale

765 Ele oï Guigemar nomer:

She heard Guigemar to-be-named

ne pout desur ses piez ester;

not she-could upon her feet to-stand

se cele ne l'eüst tenue,

if she not her-had held

ele fust a terre chaüe.

she would-be to earth fallen

Li chevaliers cuntre els leva;

The knight toward them rose

la dame vit e esguarda

the lady he-saw and looked-at

e sun semblant e sa maniere.

both her look and her manner

Un petitet se traist ariere.

A little himself he-drew back

‘Est ceo’, fet il, ‘ma dulce amie,

Is that says he my sweet friend

m’esperance, mis quers, ma vie,

my-hope my heart my life

ma bele dame ki m’ama?

my fair lady who me-loved

Dunt vient ele? Ki l’amena?

Whence comes she Who her-brought

Ore ai pensé mult grant folie;

Now I-have thought very great folly

bien sai que ceo n’est ele mie:

well I-know that that not-is she at-all

femmes se ressemblent asez.

women themselves resemble much

Pur niënt change mis pensez.

For nothing changes my thought

Mes pur cele qu’ele ressemble,

But for her whom-she resembles

pur qui mis quers suspire e tremble,

for whom my heart sighs and trembles

a li parlerai volentiers!’

to her I-shall-speak willingly

770

775

780

Dunc vet avant li chevaliers.

Then goes forward the knight

785 Il la baisa, lez lui l'asist;

He her kissed beside him her-seated

unques nul altre mot ne dist

ever any other word not he-said

fors tant que secir la rova.

except so-much that to-sit her he-asked

Meriadus les esguarda;

Meriadu them watched

mult li pesa de cel semblant.

much to-him it-grieved of that look

790 Guigemar apele en riant.

Guigemar he-calls in laughing

'Sire', fet il, 'se vus plaiseit,

Lord says he if to-you it-pleased

ceste pucele essaierait

this maiden would-try

vostre chemise a despleier,

your shirt to unfold

s'ele i purreit rien espleitier.'

if-she there might anything accomplish

795 Il li respunt: 'E jeo l'otreil'

He to-him answers And I it-grant

Un chamberlenc apele a sei,

A chamberlain he-calls to himself

ki la chemise ot a guarder;

who the shirt had to keep

il li comande a apporter.

he to-him commands to bring

A la pucele fu bailliee;

To the maiden it-was handed

mes ne l'a mie despleiee.

but not it-she-has at-all unfolded

La dame conut bien le pleit.

The lady knew well the knot

Mult est sis quers en grant destreit;

Much is her heart in great distress

kar volentiers s'i essaiaist,

for willingly herself-there she-would-try

s'ele peüst u ele osast.

if-she could or she dared

Bien s'aparceit Meriadus;

Well himself-perceives Meriadu

dolenz en fu, ainz ne fu plus.

grieved thereat be-was ever not be-was more

'Dame', fait il, 'kar assaiez,

Lady says he now try

se desfaire le purriëz!'

if to-undo it you-might

Quant ele ot le comandement,

When she heard the commandment

le pan de la chemise prent;

the skirt of the shirt she-takes

legierement le despleia.

easily it she-unfolded

Li chevaliers s'esmerveilla.

The knight himself-marveled

800

805

810

Bien la conut; mes nequedent

Well her he-knew but nevertheless

nel poeit creire fermement.

not-it he-could to-believe firmly

815 A li parla en tel mesure:

To her he-spoke in such measure

‘Amie, dulce creature,

Friend sweet creature

estes vus ceo? Dites mei veir!

are you that Tell me truth

Laissiez m’en vostre cors veer

Let me-thereof your body to-see

la ceinture dunt jeo vus ceins!’

the girdle wherewith I you girded

820 A ses costez li met ses meins,

To her sides to-her he-puts his hands

si a trovee la ceinture.

so he-has found the girdle

‘Bele’, fet il, ‘quels aventure

Fair-one says he what adventure

que jo vus ai ici trovee!

that I you have here found

Ki vus a ici amenee?’

Who you has here brought

825 Ele li cunte la dolor,

She to-him tells the grief

les granz peines e la tristur

the great pains and the sadness

de la prisun u ele fu,

of the prison where she was

e coment li est avenu,
and how to-her it-is befallen
 coment ele s'en eschapa,
how she herself-thence escaped
 neier se volt, la nef trova,
to-drown herself she-wished the ship she-found
 dedenz entra, a cel port vint,
inside she-entered to that harbor she-came
 e li chevaliers la retint;
and the knight her kept
 guardee l'a a grant honor,
guarded her-be-has with great honor
 mes tuz jurs la requist d'amur.
but all days her he-besought of-love
 Ore est sa joie revenue.
Now is her joy returned
 'Amis, menez en vostre drue!'
Friend lead thence your lover
 Guigemar s'est en piez levez.
Guigemar himself-is on feet risen
 'Seignur', fet il, 'or m'escultez!
Lords says he now me-hear
 Ci ai m'amie cuneüe
Here I-have my-friend recognized
 que jeo quidoue avoir perdue.
whom I thought to-have lost
 Meriadu requier e pri,
Meriadu I-beseech and pray
 rende la mei, sue merci!
let-him-render her to-me his mercy

830

835

840

Sis huem liges en devendrai;

His man liege thereby I-shall-become

dous anz u treis le servirai

two years or three him I-shall-serve

845 od cent chevaliers u od plus.'

with hundred knights or with more

Dunc respondi Meriadus.

Then answered Meriadu

'Guigemar', fet il, 'bels amis,

Guigemar says he fair friend

jeo ne sui mie si suzpris

I not am at-all so hard-pressed

ne si destreiz pur nule guerre,

nor so distressed by any war

850 que de ceo me deiez requerre.

that of that me you-should beseech

Jeo la trovai, si la tendrai!

I her found so her I-shall-keep

Encuntre vus la defendrai!

Against you her I-shall-defend

Quant il l'oi, hastivement

When he it-heard hastily

comanda a munter sa gent.

he-commanded to mount his people

855 D'iluec se part; celui desfie.

From-there himself he-parts him he-defies

Mult li peise qu'il lait s'amie.

Much to-him it-grieves that-he leaves his-friend

En la vile n'out chevalier,

In the town not-there-was knight

ki fust venuz pur turneier,

who was come for to-tourney

que Guigemar n'en meint od sei.

whom Guigemar not-thence leads with him

Chescuns li afie sa fei:

Each to-him pledges his faith

od lui irunt quel part qu'il alt;

with him they-will-go what way that-he go

mult est huniz ki or li falt.

much is shamed who now to-him fails

La nuit sunt al chastel venu,

The night they-are to-the castle come

ki guerreïout Meriadu.

who was-warring-on Meriadu

Li sire les a herbergiez,

The lord them has lodged

ki mult en fu joius e liez

who much thereat was joyful and glad

de Guigemar e de s'aïe;

of Guigemar and of his-help

bien set que sa guerre est finie.

well he-knows that his war is ended

El demain par matin leverent,

On-the morrow by morning they-rose

par les ostels se cunreerent.

through the lodgings themselves they-equipped

De la vile issent a grant bruit;

From the town they-go-out with great noise

Guigemar primes les conduit.

Guigemar first them leads

860

865

870

Al chastel viennent, si l'asailent;

To-the castle they-come so it-they-assail

mes forz esteit, al prendre faillent.

but strong it-was at-the taking they-fail

875 Guigemar a la vile assise;

Guigemar has the town besieged

n'en turnera, si sera prise.

not-thence he-will-turn until it-will-be taken

Tant li crurent ami e genz,

So-much to-him grew friends and people

que tuz les afama dedenz.

that all them he-starved within

Le chastel a destruit e pris

The castle he-has destroyed and taken

880 e le seignur dedenz ocis.

and the lord within slain

A grant joie s'amie en meine.

With great joy his-friend thence he-leads

Ore a trespassee sa peine.

Now he-has passed-through his pain

De cest cunte qu'oï avez

From this tale which-heard you-have

fu Guigemar li lais trovez,

was Guigemar the lay composed

885 que hum dit en harpe e en rote;

which one says on harp and on rote

bone en est a oïr la note.

good thereof is to hear the tune

Equitan

II

The Bretons made lays of the adventures they heard, and this is one: of Equitan, lord of the men of Nantes, who loved pleasure and love-making and left his land to a good and loyal seneschal. He hears the seneschal's wife praised, sends her his goods, and covets her unseen; then he lodges in her castle while hunting and finds her as fair as the report. Love shoots him. He lies awake arguing that a lord may share his vassal's wife without wronging him.

Mult unt esté noble barun

Very have been noble barons

cil de Bretaigne, li Bretun.

those of Brittany the Bretons

Jadis suleient par pruëse,

Formerly they-used by prowess

par curteisie e par noblesce

by courtesy and by nobility

des aventures que oeient

of-the adventures which they-heard

ki a plusurs genz aveneient,

which to many folk befell

faire les lais pur remembrance,

to-make the lays for remembrance

qu'um nes meist en ubliance.

that-one not-them put in oblivion

Un en firent, ceo oi cunter,

One thereof they-made that I-heard to-be-told

ki ne fet mie a ubliër,

which not is at-all to be-forgotten

5

10

d'Equitan ki mult fu curteis,

of-Equitan who very was courteous

sire des Nans, justise e reis.

lord of-the Nantais judge and king

Equitan fu mult de grant pris

Equitan was very of great worth

e mult amez en sun païs.

and much loved in his country

15 Deduit amout e druërie:

Delight he-loved and love-making

pur ceo maintint chevalerie.

for that he-maintained chivalry

Cil metent lur vie en nuncure,

Those put their life in disregard

ki d'amer n'unt sen ne mesure;

who of-loving not-have sense nor measure

tels est la mesure d'amer

such is the measure of-loving

20 que nuls n'i deit raisun garder.

that any not-there ought reason to-keep

Equitan ot un seneschal,

Equitan had a seneschal

bon chevalier, pru e leial.

a-good knight valiant and loyal

Tute sa terre li guardout

All his land for-him be-guarded

e meinteneit e justisout.

and maintained and governed

25 Ja, se pur osteier ne fust,

Ever if for campaigning not it-were

pur nul busuin ki li creüst

for any need which to-him arose

li reis ne laissast sun chacier,

the king not would-leave his hunting

sun deduire, sun riveier.

his sporting his hawking

Femme espuse ot li seneschals,

A-wife wedded had the seneschal

dunt puis vint el païs granz mals.

whence afterward came in-the country great ill

La dame ert bele durement

The lady was fair greatly

e de mult bon afaitement.

and of very good breeding

Gent cors out e bele faiture.

A-fair body she-had and fair figure

En li former uvra nature.

In her to-form worked nature

Les uiz out vairs e bel le vis,

The eyes she-had bright and fair the face

bele buche, nes bien asis,

a-fair mouth a-nose well set

les chevels blunz e reluisanz.

the hairs blond and shining

Curteise fu e bien parlanz.

Courteous she-was and well speaking

Sa face aveit colur de rose.

Her face had color of rose

Qu'en direie jeo altre chose?

What-thereof should-say I other thing

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El reialme n'aveit sa per.

In-the realm not-there-was her peer

Li reis l'öi sovent loër.

The king her-heard often to-be-praised

Soventes feiz la salua;

Oft times her he-greeted

de ses aveirs li enveia.

of his goods to-her he-sent

45 Senz veüe la coveita,

Without sight her he-coveted

e cum ainz pot, a li parla.

and as soon he-could to her he-spoke

Priveement esbaneier

Privately to-take-his-sport

en la cuntree ala, chacier

into the country he-went to-hunt

la u li seneschals maneit.

there where the seneschal dwelt

50 El chastel u la dame esteit

In-the castle where the lady was

se herberja li reis la nuit,

himself lodged the king the night

quant repairout de sun deduit.

when he-retained from his delight

Asez poeit a li parler,

Much he-could to her to-speak

sun curage e sun bon mustrer.

his heart and his good to-show

55 Mult la trova curteise e sage,

Very her he-found courteous and wise

bele de cors e de visage,

fair of body and of face

de bel semblant e enveisiee.

of fair look and merry

Amurs l'a mis a sa maisniee.

Love him-has put in her household

Une saiete a vers lui traite,

An arrow she-has toward him shot

ki mult grant plaie li a faite:

which very great wound to-him has made

el quer li a lanciee e mise.

in-the heart to-him she-has hurled and set

N'i a mestier sens ne cointise:

Not-there is use sense nor cunning

pur la dame l'a si suzpris,

for the lady him-she-has so overcome

tuz en est murnes e pensis.

wholly thereat he-is mournful and pensive

Or l'i estuet del tut entendre,

Now to-him-there it-behooves of-the all to-attend

ne se purra niënt defendre.

not himself he-will-be-able at-all to-defend

La nuit ne dort ne ne repose,

The night not he-sleeps nor not rests

mes sei meïsme blasme e chose.

but himself same he-blames and chides

'A las', fet il, 'quels destinee

Ab wretched says he what fate

m'amena en ceste cuntree?

me-brought into this country

60

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70

Pur ceste dame qu'ai veüe

For this lady whom-I-have seen

m'est une anguisse el quer ferue,

to-me-is an anguish in-the heart struck

ki tut le cors me fet trembler.

which all the body to-me makes to-tremble

Jeo quit que mei l'estuet amer.

I think that me it-bebooves to-love

75 E se jo l'aim, jeo ferai mal:

And if I her-love I shall-do ill

ceo est la femme al seneschal.

that is the wife of-the seneschal

Guarder li dei amur e fei,

To-keep to-him I-ought love and faith

si cum jeo vueil qu'il face a mei.

even as I wish that-he do to me

Se par nul engin le saveit,

If by any device it he-knew

80 bien sai que mult l'en pesereit.

well I-know that much him-thereof it-would-grieve

Mes nepurquant pis iert asez

But nevertheless worse it-would-be much

que jeo pur li seie afolez.

that I for her be maddened

Si bele dame tant mar fust,

So fair a-lady so ill-starred were

s'ele n'amast u dru n'eüst!

if-she not-loved or lover not-had

85 Que devendreit sa curteisie,

What would-become-of her courtliness

s'ele n'amast de druërie?

if-she not-loved of love

Suz ciel n'a hume, s'el l'amast,

Under heaven not-is man if-she him-loved

ki durement n'en amendast.

who greatly not-thereby would-improve

Li seneschals se l'ot cunter,

The seneschal if it-be-hears to-be-told

ne l'en deit mie trop peser;

not to-him-thereof ought at-all too-much to-grieve

suls ne la puet il pas tenir:

alone not her can be at-all to-hold

certes jeo vueil a li partir!

certainly I wish with her to-share

Quant ceo ot dit, si suspira,

When that he-had said so he-sighed

e puis se jut e si pensa.

and then himself he-lay and so thought

Aprés parla e dist: 'De quei

Afterward he-spoke and said Of what

sui en estrif e en esfrei?

am-I in strife and in trouble

Uncor ne sai ne n'ai seü

Yet not I-know nor not-I-have known

s'ele fereit de mei sun dru;

if-she would-make of me her lover

mes jeol savrai hastivement.

but I-it shall-know hastily

S'ele sentist ceo que jeo sent,

If-she felt that which I feel

90

95

100

jeo perdreie ceste dolur.

I should-lose this grief

E deus! Tant a de ci qu'al jur!

Ab God So-much is from here that-to-the day

Jeo ne puis ja repos avoir.

I not can ever rest to-have

Mult a que jeo culchai ier seir.

Much is that I lay-down yester evening

THE SENESCHAL'S WIFE

The king takes to his chamber, gives out that he is ill, and sends for the lady. He tells her that he dies for her; she answers that love between a king and a vassal's wife cannot be equal, that he would soon abandon her, and that love is worth nothing unless it is level — a loyal poor man is worth more than a king who has no loyalty in him. Equitan puts himself in her hands as her man and her servant, and she grants him her love; they exchange rings and pledge their troth.

105 Li reis veilla tant que jurs fu;

The king watched so-long that day it-was

a grant peine l'a attendu.

with great pain it-be-has awaited

Il est levez, si vet chacier.

He is risen so goes to-hunt

Mes tost se mist el repairier,

But soon himself he-put in-the returning

e dist que mult est deshaitiez.

and says that very he-is ill

110 Es chambres vet, si s'est culchiez.

Into-the chambers he-goes so himself-be-is laid

Dolenz en est li seneschals.

Grieved thereat is the seneschal

Il ne set pas quels est li mals,

He not knows at-all what is the ill

de quei li reis sent les frîçuns:

of what the king feels the shiverings

sa femme en est dreite achaisuns.

his wife thereof is the-true cause

Pur sei deduire e cunforter,

For himself to-solace and to-comfort

la fist venir a li parler.

her he-made to-come to him to-speak

Sun curage li descovri,

His heart to-her he-disclosed

saveir li fet qu'il muert pur li;

to-know to-her he-makes that-he dies for her

del tut li puet faire confort

of-the all she-to-him can to-make comfort

e bien li puet doner la mort.

and well to-him she-can to-give the death

'Sire', la dame li a dit,

Lord the lady to-him has said

'de ceo m'estuet avoir respit.

of that me-it-behooves to-have respite

A ceste premiere feiee

At this first time

n'en sui jeo mie conseillee.

not-thereof am I at-all advised

Vus estes reis de grant noblesce;

You are king of great nobility

115

120

125

ne sui mie de tel richesce,

not I-am at-all of such wealth

qu'a mei vus deiez arester

that-on me you should to-settle

de druërie ne d'amer.

of love-making nor of-loving

S'aviëz fait vostre talent,

If-you-had done your desire

130 jeo sai de veir, n'en dut niënt,

I know of truth not-thereof I-doubt at-all

tost m'avriëz entrelaissie;

soon me-you-would-have abandoned

j'en sereie mult empeiriee.

I-thereby should-be much worsened

Se issi fust que vus amasse

If thus it-were that you I-loved

e vostre requeste otreiasse,

and your request I-granted

135 ne sereit pas uël partie

not would-be at-all equally shared

entre nus dous la druërie.

between us two the love

Pur ceo que estes reis puissanz

For that that you-are king powerful

mis sire est de vus tenanz,

my lord is from you holding

quideriëz a mun espeir

you-would-think to my expectation

140 le dangier de l'amur avoir.

the mastery of the-love to-have

Amurs n'est pruz, se n'est egals.

Love not-is valiant if not-it-is equal

Mielz valt uns povres huem leials,

Better is-worth a poor man loyal

se en sei a sen e valur;

if in himself he-has sense and worth

e graindre joie est de s'amur

and greater joy is of his-love

qu'il n'est de prince ne de rei,

than-it not-is of prince nor of king

quant il n'a leialté en sei.

when he not-has loyalty in himself

S'alcuns aime plus haltement

If-anyone loves more highly

qu'a sa richesce nen apent,

than-to his wealth — belongs

cil se dute de tute rien.

he himself fears of every thing

Li riches huem requide bien

The rich man thinks-again well

que nuls ne li toille s'amie

that any not from-bim take his-friend

qu'il vult amer par seignurie.'

whom-he wishes to-love by lordship

Equitan li respunt après:

Equitan to-her answers afterward

'Dame, merci! Ne dites mes!

Lady mercy Not say more

Cil ne sunt mie fin curteis,

Those not are at-all wholly courteous

145

150

155

ainz est bargaigne de burgeis,

rather it-is bargaining of burghers

ki pur avoir ne pur grant fiu

who for wealth nor for great fief

metent lur peine en malvais liu.

put their pains in an-evil place

Suz ciel n'a dame, s'ele est sage,

Under heaven not-is lady if-she is wise

160 curteise e franche de curage,

courteous and noble of heart

pur quei d'amer se tienge chiere

for which of-loving herself bold dear

qu'el ne seit mie noveliere,

that-she not be at-all fickle

s'ele n'eüst fors sun mantel,

if-she not-had except her mantle

qu'uns riches princes de chastel

that-a rich prince of castle

165 ne se deüst pur li pener

not himself should for her to-labor

e leialment e bien amer.

and loyally and well to-love

Cil ki d'amur sunt novelier

Those who of-love are fickle

e ki s'aturnent al trichier,

and who themselves-set to-the cheating

il sunt gabé e deceü;

they are mocked and deceived

170 de plusurs l'avum nus veü.

of many it-have we seen

N'est pas merveille se cil pert

Not-is at-all marvel if he loses

ki par s'ovraigne le desert.

who by his-doing it deserves

Ma chiere dame, a vus m'otrei!

My dear lady to you myself-I-yield

Ne me tenez mie pur rei,

Not me hold at-all for king

mes pur vostre hume e vostre ami!

but for your man and your friend

Seürement vus jur e di

Surely to-you I-swear and say

que jeo ferai vostre plaisir.

that I shall-do your pleasure

Ne me laissez pur vus murir!

Not me let for you to-die

Vus seiez dame e jeo servanz,

You be lady and I servant

vus orguilluse e jeo preianz.'

you proud and I beseeching

Tant a li reis parlé a li

So-much has the king spoken to her

e tant li a crié merci

and so-much to-her he-has cried mercy

que de s'amur l'aseüra,

that of her-love him-she-assured

e el sun cors li otria.

and she her body to-him granted

Par lur anels s'entresaisirent,

By their rings each-other-seised

175

180

185

lur fiances s'entrepievrent.

their troths each-other-pledged

Bien les tindrent, mult s'entramerent,

Well them they-kept much each-other-loved

puis en mururent e finerent.

then thereof they-died and ended

THE TWO BATHS

They meet long undiscovered, the king giving out that he is being bled while the seneschal holds the court. Fearing he will take a king's daughter to wife, the lady weeps; he swears he would make her queen if her lord were dead, and she names the means. He will come to hunt, be bled, and bathe on the third day with her lord, whose tub she will fill with boiling water. The seneschal comes back and forces the door; the king leaps naked into the tub and dies scalded, and the seneschal throws his wife in after him head first. The harm one plots for another falls back on oneself.

Lung tens dura lur druërie,

Long time lasted their love

190 que ne fu pas de gent oïe.

which not was at-all by folk heard

As termes de lur assembler,

At-the times of their meeting

quant ensemble durent parler,

when together they-had to-speak

li reis faiseit dire a sa gent

the king made to-say to his people

que saigniez ert priveement.

that bled he-was privately

195 Li us des chambres furent clos;

The doors of-the chambers were shut

ne trovissiez hume si os,

not you-would-find man so bold

se li reis pur lui n'enveiaist,

if the king for him not-sent

ja une feiz dedenz entrast.

ever one time within would-enter

De nuiz veneit, de nuiz alout

By nights she-came by nights she-went

veeir celui que ele amout.

to-see him whom she loved

Li seneschals la curt teneit,

The seneschal the court held

les plaiz e les clamurs oeit.

the pleas and the complaints he-beard

Li reis l'ama mult lungement,

The king her-loved very long

que d'autre femme n'ot talent.

that of-other woman not-he-had desire

Il ne voleit nule espuser;

He not wished any to-wed

ja n'en rovast oïr parler.

ever not-thereof he-would-ask to-hear to-speak

Sa genz li tindrent mult a mal,

His people to-him held much for ill

tant que la femme al seneschal

so that the wife of-the seneschal

l'oï suvent; mult l'en pesa,

it-beard often much her-thereof it-grieved

e de lui perdre se duta.

and of him to-lose herself she-feared

200

205

210

Quant ele pout a lui parler

When she could to him to-speak

e el li dut joie mener,

and she to-him was-to joy to-make

baisier, estreindre e acoler,

to-kiss to-clasp and to-embrace

ensemble od lui rire e juër,

together with him to-laugh and to-play

215 forment plura e grant duel fist.

greatly she-wept and great grief made

Li reis demanda e enquist

The king asked and inquired

que ceo deveit e que ceo fu.

what that meant and what that was

La dame li a respundu:

The lady to-him has answered

‘Sire, jo plur pur nostre amur,

Lord I weep for our love

220 ki mei revert a grant dolor.

which for-me turns to great grief

Femme prendrez, fille a un rei,

A-wife you-will-take daughter to a king

e si vus partirez de mei.

and so you will-part from me

Sovent l’oi dire e bien le sai.

Often it-I-heard to-be-said and well it I-know

E jeo lasse! que devendrai?

And I wretched what shall-I-become

225 Pur vus m’estuet avoir la mort;

For you me-it-bebooves to-have the death

car jeo ne sai altre cunfort,'

for I not know other comfort

Li reis li dit par grant amur:

The king to-her says with great love

'Bele amie, n'aiez poür!

Fair friend not-have fear

Certes ja femme ne prendrai,

Certainly ever wife not I-shall-take

ne pur altre ne vus larrai.

nor for another not you I-shall-leave

Saciez de veir e si creez:

Know of truth and so believe

se vostre sire fust finez,

if your lord were dead

reïne e dame vus fereie;

queen and lady you I-would-make

ja pur nul hume nel lenneie.'

ever for any man not-it I-would-leave

La dame l'en a mercié

The lady him-thereof has thanked

e dit que mult l'en set bon gre,

and says that much him-thereof she-knows good thanks

e se de ceo l'aseürast

and if of that him-she-assured

que pur altre ne la laissast,

that for another not her he-would-leave

hastivement purchacereit

hastily she-would-procure

a sun seignur que morz sereit;

for her lord that dead he-would-be

230

235

240

legier sereit a purchacier,

easy it-would-be to procure

pur ceo qu'il l'en volsist aidier.

for that that-be her-thereof would-wish to-help.

Il li respunt que si fera;

He to-her answers that so be-will-do

ja cele rien ne li dirra,

ever that thing not to-her he-will-say

245 que il ne face a sun poeir,

which he not do to his power

turt a folie u a saveir.

turn to folly or to wisdom

'Sire', fet ele, 'se vus plest,

Lord says she if to-you it-pleases

venez chacier en la forest

come to-hunt in the forest

en la cuntree u jeo sujur.

in the country where I dwell

250 Dedenz le chastel mun seignur

Inside the castle (of-)my lord

sujurnez; si serez saigniez,

lodge so you-will-be bled

e al tierz jur si vus baigniez.

and on-the third day so you bathe

Mis sire od vus se saignera

My lord with you himself will-bleed

e avuec vus se baignera.

and with you himself will-bathe

255 Dites li bien, nel laissez mie,

Tell to-him well not-it omit at-all

que il vus tienge compaignie!

that he to-you keep company

E jeo ferai les bains temperer

And I shall-make the baths to-be-tempered

e les dous cuves apporter.

and the two tubs to-be-brought

Sun bain ferai chalt e buillant;

His bath I-shall-make hot and boiling

suz ciel nen a hume vivant,

under heaven not is man living

ne seit eschaldez e mal mis,

not be scalded and ill put

einz que dedenz se seit asis.

before that within himself be seated

Quant morz sera e eschaldez,

When dead be-will-be and scalded

voz humes e les soens mandez;

your men and the his summon

si lur mustrez cumfaitement

so to-them show how

est morz el bain sudeinement.

he-is dead in-the bath suddenly

Li reis li a tut graanté,

The king to-her has all granted

qu'il en fera sa volenté.

that-be thereof will-do her will

Ne demura mie treis meis

Not it-lasting at-all three months

qu'el païs vet chacier li reis.

that-in-the country goes to-hunt the king

260

265

270

Saignier se fet cuntre sun mal,

To-bleed himself he-makes against his ill

ensemble od lui sun seneschal.

together with him his seneschal

Al tierz jur dist qu'il baignereit.

On-the third day he-said that-he would-bathe

Li seneschals mult le voleit.

The seneschal much it wished

275 'Vus baignerez', dist il, 'od mei!'

You will-bathe said he with me

Li seneschals dist: 'Jo l'otrei.'

The seneschal said I it-grant

La dame fet les bains temprer

The lady makes the baths to-be-tempered

e les dous cuves apoter.

and the two tubs to-be-brought

Devant le lit tut a devise

Before the bed all by arrangement

280 a chescune des cuves mise.

she-has each of-the tubs set

L'ewe buillant fait apoter,

The-water boiling she-makes to-be-brought

u li seneschals dut entrer.

where the seneschal was-to enter

Li prozdum esteit sus levez;

The worthy-man was up risen

pur deduire fu fors alez.

for to-take-sport he-was out gone

285 La dame vint parler al rei,

The lady came to-speak to-the king

e il la mist dejuste sei.

and he her put beside himself

Sur le lit al seignur culchierent

On the bed of-the lord they-lay

e deduistrent e enveisierent:

and they-solaced and they-sported

iluec unt ensemble geü,

there they-have together lain

pur la cuve ki devant fu.

because-of the tub which before was

L'us firent tenir e garder;

The-door they-made to-be-held and guarded

une meschine i dut ester.

a maid there was-to stand

Li seneschals ariere vint.

The seneschal back came

A l'us buta, cele le tint.

At the-door he-pushed she it held

Icil le fiert par tel aïr,

He it strikes with such fury

par force li estut ovrir.

by force to-her it-behooved to-open

Le rei e sa femme a trovez

The king and his wife he-has found

el lit gisant entracolez.

in-the bed lying embraced-each-other

Li reis guarda, sil vit venir.

The king looked so-him saw to-come

290

295

- 300 Pur sa vileinie covrir
For his shame to-cover
 dedenz la cuve salt joinz piez,
into the tub he-leaps joined feet
 e il fu nuz e despuilliez;
and he was naked and stripped
 unques garde ne s'en dona.
ever heed not himself-thereof he-gave
 Iluec murut e eschalda.
There he-died and was-scalded
- 305 Sur lui est li mals revertiz,
Upon him is the ill turned-back
 e cil en est sals e guariz.
and he thereof is safe and whole
 Li seneschals a bien veü
The seneschal has well seen
 coment del rei est avenu.
how of-the king it-is befallen
 Sa femme prent demeintenant:
His wife he-takes straightway
- 310 el bain la met, le chief avant.
into-the bath her he-puts the head first
 Issi mururent ambedui,
Thus they-died both
 li reis avant, ele après lui.
the king first she after him
 Ki bien voldreit raisun entendre,
Who well would-wish reason to-hear
 ici purreit ensample prendre:
here might example to-take

tels purchace le mal d'altrui,

315

such-a-one procures the ill of-another

dunt tuz li mals revert sur lui.

whereby all the ill turns upon him

Issi avint cum dit vus ai.

Thus it-befell as said to-you I-have

Li Bretun en firent un lai,

The Bretons thereof made a lay

d'Equitan, cument il fina

of-Equitan how he ended

e la dame ki tant l'ama.

320

and the lady who so-much him-loved

Fraisne

III • LE FRAISNE

Two neighboring knights: one has twin sons, and the other's wife says before her whole household that no woman bears two children at a birth unless two men have lain with her. The slander goes through Brittany, and the mother of the twins is bated for it. That same year the slanderer conceives and bears twin daughters, and sees her own word turned upon her. Rather than be shamed she says that one of them must be murdered; the women of her chamber will not suffer it.

Le lai del Fraisne vus dirai

The lay of-the Ash to-you I-shall-tell

sulunc le cunte que jeo sai.

according-to the tale which I know

En Bretaigne jadis mancient

In Brittany formerly dwelt

dui chevalier; veisin esteient.

two knights neighbors they-were

5 Riche hume furent e manant,

Rich men they-were and wealthy

e chevalier pru e vaillant.

and knights valiant and worthy

Prochein furent, d'une cuntree.

Near they-were of-one country

Chescuns femme avait espusee.

Each a-wife had wedded

L'une des dames enceinta.

The-one of-the ladies conceived

10 Al terme qu'ele delivra,

At-the term that-she was-delivered

a cele feiz ot dous enfanz.

at that time she-had two children

Sis sire en est liez e joianz.

Her lord thereat is glad and joyful

Pur la joie que il en a,

For the joy which he thereof has

a sun bon veisin le manda,

to his good neighbor it he-sent-word

que sa femme a dous fiz eüz,

that his wife has two sons had

de tanz enfanz esteit creüz;

by so-many children he-was increased

l'un li trametra a lever,

the-one to-him he-will-send to lift

de sun nun le face nomer.

by his name it let-him-have named

Li riches huem sist al mangier;

The rich man sat at-the meal

a tant es vus le messagier!

at that behold to-you the messenger

Devant le deis s'agenoilla,

Before the dais he-knelt

tut sun message li cunta.

all his message to-him he-told

Li sire en a deu mercié;

The lord thereof has God thanked

un bon cheval li a doné.

a good horse to-him he-has given

La femme al chevalier s'en rist,

The wife of-the knight herself-thereat laughed

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ki juste lui al mangier sist;

who beside him at-the meal sat

kar ele ert feinte e orguilluse

for she was false and proud

e mesdisanz e enviüse.

and slandering and envious

Ele parla mult folement,

She spoke very foolishly

30 e dist oant tute sa gent:

and she-said bearing all her household:

'Si m'aüt deus, jo m'esmerveil,

So me-help God I myself-marvel

u cist prozdum prist cest conseil,

where this worthy-man took this counsel

qu'il a mandé a mun seignur

that-he has sent-word to my lord

sa hunte e sa grant deshonor,

his shame and his great dishonor

35 que sa femme a eüz dous fiz.

that his wife has had two sons

E il e ele en sunt huniz.

Both he and she thereby are shamed

Nus savum bien qu'il i afiert:

We know well that-it there belongs

unques ne fu ne ja nen iert

ever not it-was nor ever not it-will-be

ne n'avendra cele aventure,

nor not-it-will-happen that chance,

qu'a une sule porteüre

that-at one single bearing

une femme dous enfanz ait,

a woman two children have

se dui hume ne li unt fait.'

unless two men not to-her have done

Sis sire l'a mult esgardee,

Her lord her-has much looked-at

mult durement l'en a blasmee.

very sternly her-thereof be-has blamed

'Dame', fet il, 'laissez ester!

Lady says he leave to-be

Ne devez mie issi parler!

Not you-ought at-all thus to-speak

Veritez est que ceste dame

Truth it-is that this lady

a mult esté de bone fame.'

has much been of good repute

La genz ki en la maisun erent

The folk who in the house were

cele parole recorderent.

that speech repeated

Asez fu dite e coneüe,

Much it-was said and known

par tute Bretagne seüe.

through all Brittany known

Mult en fu la dame haïe;

Much thereby was the lady hated

puis en dut estre mal baillie.

afterward thereby she-was-to be ill handled

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- 55 Tutes les femmes ki l'oïrent,
All the women who it-heard
 povres e riches, l'en haïrent.
poor and rich her-thereof hated
 Cil ki le message ot porté
He who the message had carried
 a sun seignur a tut cunté.
to his lord has all told
 Quant il l'oï dire e retraire
When he it-heard to-be-said and repeated
- 60 dolenz en fu, ne sot que faire;
grieved thereat he-was not he-knew what to-do
 sa prude femme en enhäi
his worthy wife thereby he-came-to-hate
 e durement la mescreï,
and sternly her he-mistrusted
 e mult la teneit en destreit,
and much her he-held in constraint
 senz ceo qu'ele nel deserveit.
without that that-she not-it deserved
- 65 La dame ki si mesparla
The lady who so spoke-ill
 en l'an meïsmes enceinta.
in the-year same conceived
 De dous enfanz est enceintee:
With two children she-is pregnant
 ore est sa voisine vengiee!
now is her neighbor avenged
 Desqu'a sun terme les porta.
Right-to her term them she-carried

Dous filles ot: mult li pesa.

70

Two daughters she-bad much to-her it-grieved

Mult durement en est dolente;

Very sorely thereat she-is grieved;

a sei meïsmes se demente.

to herself same herself she-laments

‘Lasse’, fet ele, ‘que ferai?’

Wretched says she what shall-I-do

Ja mes pris ne honur n’avrai!

Ever more worth nor honor not-I-shall-have

Hunie sui, c’est veritez.

75

Shamed I-am that-is truth

Mis sire e tuz mis parentez

My lord and all my kindred

certes ja mes ne me crerrunt,

certainly ever more not me they-will-believe

des que ceste aventure orrunt;

from when this chance they-will-hear

kar jeo meïsmes me jujai,

for I same myself I-judged

de tutes femmes mesparlai.

80

of all women I-spoke-ill

Dunc dis jeo que unques ne fu

Then said I that ever not it-was

ne nus ne l’aviüm veü,

nor we not it-had seen

que femme dous enfanz eüst,

that a-woman two children have,

se dous humes ne coneüst.

unless two men not she-knew

- 85 Ore en ai dous; ceo m'est a vis,
Now thereof I-have two that to-me-is to seeming
 sur mei en est turnez li pis.
upon me thereof is turned the worse
 Ki sur altrui mesdit e ment,
Who upon another speaks-ill and lies
 ne set mie qu'a l'ueil li pent;
not knows at-all what-at the-eye to-him hangs
 de tel hume puet l'um parler,
of such man can one to-speak
- 90 ki mierz de lui fet a loër.
who better than him is to be-praised
 Pur mei defendre de hunir
For myself to-defend from to-be-shamed
 un des enfanz m'estuet mürdrir.
one of-the children me-it-behooves to-murder
 Mierz le vueil vers deu amender
Better it I-wish toward God to-atone
 que mei hunir ne vergunder.'
than myself to-shame nor to-disgrace
- 95 Celes ki en la chambre esteient
Those who in the chamber were
 la cunfortouent e diseient
her comforted and said
 qu'eles nel suferreient pas;
that-they not-it would-suffer at-all
 d'enfant ocire n'est pas gas.
of-child to-slay not-is at-all jest

THE CHILD UNDER THE ASH

A maid of the household offers to carry one child away. They wrap her in fine linen and a silk brought from Constantinople, and tie a gold ring with a jacinth on her arm. The maid carries her by night to a town with an abbey and lays her in the fork of a broad ash beside the church door. The porter finds her when he rises early to ring the bells, gives her to his widowed daughter to be suckled, and brings her to the abbess, who keeps her as her niece and names her the Ash.

La dame aveit une meschine,

The lady had a maid

ki mult esteit de franche orine;

who very was of noble origin

lung tens l'ot gardeee e nurrie

long time her-she-had kept and reared

e mult amee e mult cherie.

and much loved and much cherished

Cele oï sa dame plurer,

She heard her lady to-weep

durement pleindre e doluser;

sorely to-complain and to-grieve

anguissusement li pesa.

grievously to-her it-weighed

A li vint, si la cunforta.

To her she-came so her comforted

'Dame', fet ele, 'ne valt rien.

Lady says she not it-avails anything

Laissiez cest duel, si ferez bien!

Leave this grief so you-will-do well

L'un des enfanz me bailliez ja!

The-one of-the children to-me hand now

100

105

- 110 Jeo vus en deliverrai ja,
I you thereof shall-deliver now
 si que honie n'en serez
so that shamed not-thereby you-will-be
 ne que ja mes ne la verrez.
nor that ever more not her you-will-see
 A un mustier la geterai,
At a minster her I-shall-lay
 tut sein e salf l'i porterai.
all sound and safe her-there I-shall-carry
- 115 Alcuns prozdum la trovera,
Some worthy-man her will-find
 se deu plest, nurrir la fera.'
if to-God it-please to-rear her he-will-have
 La dame oï que cele dist.
The lady heard what she said
 Grant joie en out; si li promist,
Great joy thereat she-had so to-her she-promised
 se cel servise li faiseit,
if that service to-her she-did
- 120 bon gueredun de li avreit.
good reward from her she-would-have
 En un chief de mult bon cheinsil
In a piece of very good linen
 envelopent l'enfant gentil
they-wrap the-child noble
 e desus un paile roé;
and above a silk wheel-figured

sis sire li ot aporté

her lord to-her had brought

de Costentinoble u il fu;

from Constantinople where he was

unques si bon n'orent veü.

ever so good not-they-had seen

A une piece d'un suen laz

With a piece of-a her-own lace

un gros anel li lie al braz.

a big ring to-her she-ties to-the arm

De fin or i avait une unce;

Of fine gold there was an ounce

el chastun out une jagunce;

in-the bezel there-was a jacinth

la verge en tur esteit letree.

the hoop in round was lettered

La u la meschine iert trovee,

There where the maid should-be found

bien sacent tuit veraieement

well let-know all truly

qu'ele est nee de bone gent.

that-she is born of good folk

La dameisele prist l'enfant;

The damsel took the-child

de la chambre s'en ist a tant.

from the chamber herself-thence goes at that

La nuit quant tut fu aseri,

The night when all was darkened

fors de la vile s'en eissi.

out of the town herself-thence she-went

125

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135

En un grant chemin est entree,

Into a great road she-is entered

140 ki en la forest l'a menee.

which into the forest her-has led

Par mi le bois sa veie tint.

Through middle-of the wood her way she-held

Od tut l'enfant ultre s'en vint;

With all the-child beyond herself-thence she-came

unques del grant chemin n'eissi.

ever from-the great road not-she-went

Bien loinz sur destre aveit oï

Well far on right she-had heard

145 chiens abaier e cos chanter:

dogs to-bark and cocks to-crow

iluec purra vile trover.

there she-may a-town to-find

Cele part vet a grant espleit,

That way she-goes with great speed

u la noise des chiens oeit.

where the noise of-the dogs she-beard

En une vile riche e bele

Into a town rich and fair

150 est entree la dameisele.

is entered the damsel

En la vile out une abeïe

In the town there-was an abbey

durement riche e bien guarnie;

greatly rich and well furnished

mun esciënt noneins i ot
my knowing nuns there were

e abeesse kis guardot,
and an-abbess who-them kept

La meschine vit le mustier,
The maid saw the minster

les turs, les murs e le clochier.
the towers the walls and the bell-tower

Hastivement est la venue.
Hastily she-is there come

Devant l'us s'est aresteüe.
Before the-door herself-she-is stopped

L'enfant mist jus qu'ele porta;
The-child she-put down which-she carried

mult humblement s'agenuilla.
very humbly she-knelt

Ele comence s'oraisun.
She begins her-prayer

'Deus', fait ele, 'par tun seint nun,
God says she by thy holy name

sire, se te vient a plaisir,
lord if to-thee it-comes to pleasure

cest enfant garde de perir!
this child guard from to-perish

Quant sa preiere aveit finee,
When her prayer she-had finished

ariere sei s'est reguardee.
behind herself she-is looked

155

160

165

Un fraisne vit, le e branchu

An ash she-saw broad and branchy

e mult espés e bien ramu;

and very thick and well branched

en quatre furs esteit quarrez;

in four forks it-was squared

170 pur umbre faire i fu plantez.

for shade to-make there it-was planted

Entre ses braz a pris l'enfant,

Between her arms she-has taken the-child

des i qu'al fraisne vint corant.

from there that-to-the ash she-came running

Desus le mist; puis le laissa;

Above it she-put then it she-left

a deu le veir le comanda.

to God the true it she-commended

175 La dameisele ariere vait;

The damsel back goes

sa dame cunte qu'ele a fait.

to-her lady she-tells what-she has done

En l'abeïe ot un portier;

In the-abbey there-was a porter

ovrir suleit l'us del mustier,

to-open he-used the-door of-the minster

de fors par unt la genz veneient

from outside by which the folk came

180 ki le servise oïr voleient.

who the service to-hear wished

Icele nuit par tens leva.

That night in time he-rose

Chandeiles, lampes aluma,

Candles lamps be-lit

les seins sona e l'us ovri.

the bells be-rang and the-door opened

Sor le fraisne les dras choisi;

On the ash the cloths be-spied

quida qu'alkuns les eüst pris

he-thought that-someone them had taken

en larrecin e iluec mis

in theft and there put

d'altre chose nen ot regard.

of-other thing not be-had regard

Plus tost qu'il pot vint cele part;

More soon than-he could be-came that way

taste, si a l'enfant trové.

he-feels so has the-child found

Il en a deu mult mercié,

He thereof has God much thanked

e puis l'a pris, si ne l'i lait.

and then it-be-has taken so not it-there be-leaves

A sun ostel od tut s'en vait.

To his lodging with all himself-thence he-goes

Une fille ot ki vedve esteit;

A daughter be-had who widow was

sis sire ert morz, enfant aveit

her lord was dead a-child she-had

petit en berz e alaitant.

small in cradle and suckling

Li prozdum l'apela avant.

The worthy-man her-called forward

185

190

195

'Fille', fet il, levez, levez!

Daughter says he rise rise

Fu e chandeile m'alumez!

Fire and candle for-me-light

Un enfant ai ci aporté,

A child I-have here brought

200 la fors el fraisne l'ai trové.

out there in-the ash it-I-have found

De vostre lait le m'alaitiez;

With your milk it for-me-suckle

Eschalfez le e sil baigniez!'

Warm it and so-it bathe

Cele a fet sun comandement.

She has done his commandment

Le feu alume e l'enfant prent,

The fire she-lights and the-child takes

205 eschalfé l'a e bien baignié,

warmed it-she-has and well bathed

puis l'a de sun lait alaitié.

then it-she-has with her milk suckled

En tur sun braz trueve l'anel;

In round its arm she-finds the-ring

le paile virent riche e bel:

the silk they-saw rich and fair

bien sorent cil a esciënt

well knew they of certainty

210 qu'ele est nee de halte gent.

that-she is born of high folk

El demain après le service,

On-the morrow after the service

quant l'abeesse ist de l'eglise,

when the-abbess goes-out of the-church

li portiers vet a li parler.

the porter goes to her to-speak

L'aventure li vult cunter

The-adventure to-her he-wishes to-tell

de l'enfant cum il le trova.

of the-child how he it found

L'abeesse li comanda

The-abbess to-him commanded

que devant li seit apotez

that before her it-be brought

tut issi cum il fu trovez.

all just as it was found

A sa maisun vet li portiers.

To his house goes the porter

L'enfant aporte volentiers,

The-child he-brings willingly

si l'a a la dame mustre,

so it-be-has to the lady shown

e el l'a forment esguardé,

and she it-has greatly looked-at

e dit que nurrir le fera

and says that to-rear it she-will-have

e pur sa niece la tendra.

and for her niece her she-will-bold

Al portier a bien defendu

To-the porter she-has well forbidden

qu'il ne die cument il fu.

that-be not tell how it was

215

220

225

Ele meïsmes l'a levee.

She same her-has lifted

Pur ceo qu'el fraisne fu trovee,

For that that-in-the ash she-was found

Le Fraisne li mistrent a nun,

The Ash to-her they-set for name

230 e Le Fraisne l'apelë hum.

and The Ash her-calls one

GURUN

Reared in the abbey, the Ash grows so fair and so well taught that the rich men come to ask to see her. Gurun, lord of Dol, hears her spoken of, sees her on his way back from a tournament, and gives largely to the abbey so that he may come and go there. He wins her love and warns her that her aunt would take it hard if she were got with child; she leaves with him for his castle, carrying the silk and the ring the abbess had given her.

La dame la tint pur sa niece,

The lady her held for her niece

Issi fu celee grant piece;

Thus was she-concealed great while

dedenz le clos de l'abeïe

inside the close of the-abbey

fu la dameisele nurrie.

was the damsel reared

235 Quant ele aveit passé .vii. anz,

When she had passed seven years

de sun aé fu bele e granz.

of her age she-was fair and tall

Des qu'ele pot raisun entendre,

From that-she could reason to-understand

l'abeesse l'a faite aprendre;

the-abbess her-has made to-learn

car mult l'amout e chersiseit

for much her-she-loved and cherished

e mult richement la vesteit.

and very richly her she-clothed

Quant ele vint en tel eé

When she came into such age

que nature furme belté,

that nature forms beauty

en Bretaine ne fu si bele

in Brittany not was so fair

ne si curteise dameisele.

nor so courteous a-damsel

Franche esteit e de bone escole

Noble she-was and of good schooling

e en semblant e en parole.

both in bearing and in speech

Nuls ne la vit ki ne l'amast

Any not her saw who not her-loved

e merveille ne la preisast.

and marvelously not her prized

Li riche hume veeir l'alouent.

The rich men to-see her-went

A l'abeesse demandouent,

Of the-abbess they-asked

240

245

250

sa bele niece lur mustrast

her fair niece to-them she-show

e que sufrist qu'a els parlast.

and that she-suffer that-to them she-speak

A Dol aveit un bon seignur:

At Dol there-was a good lord

unc puis ne einz n'i ot meillur.

ever since nor before not-there was better

255 Ici vus numerai sun nun:

Here to-you I-shall-name his name

el païs l'apelent Gurun.

in-the country him-they-call Gurun

De la pucele oï parler;

Of the maiden he-beard to-speak

si la cumença a amer.

so her he-began to love

A un turneiement ala;

To a tournament he-went

260 par l'abeïe returna.

by the-abbey he-retuned

La dameisele a demandee;

The damsel he-has asked-for

l'abeesse li a mustree

the-abbess to-him has shown-her

Mult la vit bele e enseigniee,

Very her he-saw fair and well-taught

sage, curteise e afaitiee.

wise courteous and accomplished

265 Se il nen a l'amur de li,

If he not has the-love of her

mult se tendra a mal bailli.

much himself he-will-hold as ill served

Esguarez est, ne set coment;

Bewildered he-is not he-knows how

kar se il repairout sovent,

for if he returned often

l'abeesse s'aparcevreit;

the-abbess herself-would-perceive

ja mes des uiz ne la verreit.

ever more with-the eyes not her he-would-see

D'une chose se purpensa:

Of-one thing himself he-bethought

l'abeïe creistre voldra,

the-abbey to-increase he-will-wish

de sa terre tant i durra,

of his land so-much there he-will-give

dunt a tuz jurs l'amendera;

whereby for all days it-he-will-better

kar il i volt avoir retur

for he there wishes to-have return

e le repaire e le sejur.

both the resort and the sojourn

Pur avoir lur fraternité

For to-have their fraternity

la a grantment del soen doné;

there he-has largely of-the his given

mult i aveit altre achaisun

much there was other cause

que de recevoir le pardun.

than of to-receive the pardon

270

275

280

Soventes feiz i repaira.

Oft times there he-retuned

A la dameisele parla;

To the damsel he-spoke

tant li preia, tant li premist,

so-much to-her he-prayed so-much to-her he-promised

qu'ele otria ceo que il quist.

that-she granted that which he sought

285 Quant a seür fu de s'amur,

When in surety he-was of her-love

si la mist a raisun un jur.

so her he-put to reason one day

'Bele', fet il, 'ore est issi,

Fair-one says he now it-is thus

de mei avez fet vostre ami.

of me you-have made your friend

Venez vus ent del tut od mei!

Come you thence of-the all with me

290 Saveir poëz, jol quit e crei,

To-know you-can I-it think and believe

se vostre ante s'aparceveit,

if your aunt herself-perceived

mult durement li pesereit,

very sorely to-her it-would-grieve

s'en tur li fussiez enceintie;

if-in round her you-were pregnant

durement sereit curucie.

sternly she-would-be angered

295 Se mun conseil creire volez,

If my counsel to-believe you-wish

ensemble od mei vus en vendrez.

together with me you thence will-come

Certes ja mes ne vus faldrai,

Certainly ever more not you I-shall-fail

richement vus conseillearai.'

richly to-you I-shall-provide

Cele ki durement l'amot

She who greatly him-loved

bien otria ceo que li plot.

well granted that which to-him pleased

Ensemble od lui en est alee;

Together with him thence she-is gone

a sun chastel l'en a menee.

to his castle her-thence he-has led

Sun paile en porte e sun anel:

Her silk thence she-carries and her ring

de ceo li puet estre mult bel.

of that to-her it-can to-be very fair

L'abeesse li ot rendu

The-abbess to-her had rendered

e dit coment ert avenu,

and said how it-was befallen

quant primes li fu enveiee.

when first to-her she-was sent

Desus le fraisne fu culchiee;

Above the ash she-was laid

le paile e l'anel li bailla

the silk and the-ring to-her banded

cil ki primes li enveia;

he who first to-her sent

300

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310

plus d'aveir ne receut od li;

more of-goods not she-received with her

come sa niece la nurri,

as her niece her she-reared

La meschine bien les guarda;

The maid well them kept

en un cofre les enferma.

in a coffer them she-shut

315 Le cofre fist od sei porter,

The coffer she-made with her to-be-carried

nel volt laissier ne ubliër.

not-it she-wished to-leave nor to-forget

Li chevaliers ki l'en mena

The knight who her-thence led

mult la cheri e mult l'ama,

much her cherished and much her-loved

e tuit si hume e si servant;

and all his men and his servants

320 n'i out un sul, petit ne grant,

not-there was one single small nor great

pur sa franchise ne l'amast

for her nobleness not her-loved

e ne cherist e honurast.

and not cherished and honored

Gurun's enfeoffed knights press him to take a wife and be rid of his concubine, since they will not serve a lord who has no heir. They name the Hazel, a worthy man's daughter and the fairest in that country — on the hazel are nuts and delight, and the ash bears no fruit. The two are sisters, and nobody knows it. The Ash shows nothing, serves the bride courteously, and, finding the coverlet on the marriage bed poor, spreads her own silk over it.

Lungement ot od lui esté,

Long she-had with him been

tant que li chevalier fiefé

so-long that the knights enfeoffed

a mult grant mal li aturnerent.

to very great ill to-him they-turned-it

325

Soventes feiz a lui parlerent,

Oft times to him they-spoke

qu'une gentil femme espusast

that-a noble woman he-wed

e de cele se delivrast.

and of her himself he-rid

Lié sereient, s'il eüst heir

Glad they-would-be if-be had heir

ki après lui peüst avoir

who after him might to-have

330

sa terre e sun grant heritage

his land and his great heritage

Trop i avreient grant damage,

Too-much there they-would-have great harm

se il laissast pur sa suignant

if he let for his concubine

que d'espuse n'eüst enfant.

that of-wife not-he-had child

335 Ja mes pur seignur nel tendrunt

Ever more for lord not-him they-will-hold

ne volentiers nel servirunt,

nor willingly not-him they-will-serve

se il ne fait lur volenté.

if he not does their will

Li chevaliers a graanté

The knight has granted

qu'a lur conseil femme prendra.

that-by their counsel a-wife he-will-take

340 Ore esguardent u ceo sera.

Now let-them-look where that will-be

'Sire', funt il, 'ci pres de nus

Lord say they here near to us

a uns prozdum parlé a nus.

has a worthy-man spoken to us

Une fille a, si n'a plus d'eir:

A daughter he-has so not-he-has more of-beir

mult poëz terre od li avoir.

much you-can land with her to-have

345 La Coldre a nun la dameisele;

The Hazel has name the damsel

en tut cest païs n'a si bele.

in all this country not-is so fair

Pur le Fraisne que vus larrez

For the Ash whom you will-leave

en eschange la Coldre avrez.

in exchange the Hazel you-will-have

En la coldre a noiz e deduiz,

On the hazel are nuts and delight

li fraisnes ne porte unkes fruiz,

the ash not bears ever fruit

La pucele purchaceruns:

The maiden we-shall-procure

se deu plest, si la vus durruns?

if to-God it-please so her to-you we-shall-give

Cel mariage unt purchacié

That marriage they-have procured

e de tutes parz otrié.

and on all sides granted

A las! cum est mesavenu,

Al wretched how it-is gone-amiss

que li prudume n'unt seü

that the worthy-men not-have known

l'aventure des dameiseles,

the-adventure of-the damsels

ki esteient serurs gemeles.

who were sisters twin

Le Fraisne cele fu celee;

The Ash she was concealed

sis amis a l'autre espusee.

her friend has the-other wedded

Quant ele sot que il la prist,

When she knew that he her took

350

355

360

unkes peiur semblant n'en fist:
ever worse countenance not-thereat she-made

sun seignur sert mult bonement
her lord she-serves very graciously

e honure tute sa gent.
and honors all his household

365 Li chevalier de la maisun
The knights of the house

e li vadlet e li garçun
and the young-men and the lads

merveillus duel pur li faiseient
marvelous grief for her made

de ceo que perdre la deveient.
for that that to-lose her they-were-to

Al jur des noces qu'il unt pris
On-the day of-the wedding which-they have set

370 li sire i mande ses amis,
the lord there summons his friends

e l'erceveskes i esteit,
and the-archbishop there was

cil de Dol ki de lui teneit.
he of Dol who from him held

S'espuse li unt amenee.
His-bride to-him they-have brought

Sa mere i est od li alee.
Her mother there is with her gone

375 De la meschine aveit poür,
Of the maid she-had fear

vers qui li sire ot tel amur,
toward whom the lord had such love

que a sa fille mal tenist

that to her daughter ill she-hold

vers sun seignur, s'ele poïst.

toward her lord if-she could

De sa maisun la getera;

From his house her she-will-cast

a sun gendre cunseillera

to her son-in-law she-will-counsel

qu'a un produme la marit;

that-to a worthy-man her he-marry

si s'en deliverra, ceo dit.

so himself-thereof he-will-rid that she-says

Les noces tindrent richement;

The wedding they-beld richly

mult i out esbaneiement.

much there was merrymaking

La dameisele es chambres fu;

The damsel in-the chambers was

unques de quan qu'ele a veü

ever of whatever that-she has seen

ne fist semblant que li pesast

not she-made show that to-her it-grieved

tant que ele s'en curuçast.

so-far that she herself-thereof angered

En tur la dame bonement

In round the lady graciously

serveit mult afaitieement.

she-served very courteously

380

385

390

A grant merveille le teneient

For great marvel it they-held

cil e celes ki la vecient.

those and those-women who her saw

Sa mere l'a mult esguardée,

Her mother her-has much looked-at

en sun quer preisíe e amee.

in her heart prized and loved

395 Pensa e dist, s'ele seüst

She-thought and said if-she had-known

la maniere e que ele fust,

the manner and what she was

ja pur sa fille ne perdist

ever for her daughter not she-would-lose

ne sun seignur ne li tolist.

nor her lord not from-her she-would-take

La nuit al lit apareillier,

The night at-the bed to-prepare

400 u l'espuse devait culchier,

where the-bride was-to lie

la damisele i est alee.

the damsel there is gone

De sun mantel s'est desfublee.

Of her mantle herself-she-is unclasped

Les chamberleins i apela;

The chamberlains there she-called

la maniere lur enseigna

the manner to-them she-taught

405 cument sis sire le voleit;

how her lord it wished

kar meinte feiz veü l'aveit.

for many-a time seen it-she-had

Quant le lit orent apresté,

When the bed they-had prepared

un covertur unt sus jeté.

a coverlet they-have upon cast

Li dras esteit d'un vieil bofu.

The cloth was of-an old silk-stuff

La dameisele l'a veü.

The damsel it-has seen

N'ert mie bons, ceo li sembla;

Not-it-was at-all good that to-her seemed

en sun curage l'en pesa.

in her heart her-thereof it-grieved

Un cofre ovri, sun paile prist,

A coffer she-opened her silk she-took

sur le lit sun seignur le mist.

on the bed of-her lord it she-put

Pur lui honurer le faiseit:

For him to-honor it she-did

kar l'erceveskes i esteit

for the-archbishop there was

pur els beneïstre e seignier;

for them to-bless and to-sign-with-the-cross

ceo afereit a sun mestier,

that belonged to his office

Quant la chambre fu delivree,

When the chamber was cleared

la dame a sa fille amenee.

the lady has her daughter brought

410

415

420

Ele la volt faire culchier,

She her wished to-make to-lie

si la cumande a despoillier.

so her she-bids to be-undressed

Le paile esgarde sur le lit,

The silk she-looks-at on the bed

que unkes mes si bon ne vit

for ever before so good not she-saw

THE COVERLET ON THE BED

The bride's mother sees the silk, questions the chamberlain and then the girl herself, asks for the ring, and knows them both. She falls swooning, then confesses to her lord the slander and the child she hid, and he is glad the sin was not doubled. On the morrow the archbishop parts Gurun from the Hazel and weds him to the Ash, whose father gives her half his heritage. The Hazel is married richly at home, and the lay was named for the lady.

425 fors sul celui qu'ele dona

except only that which-she gave

od sa fille qu'ele cela.

with her daughter whom-she concealed

Idunc li remembra de li;

Then to-her it-recalled of her

tuz li curages li fremi.

all the heart to-her quivered

Le chamberlenc apele a sei.

The chamberlain she-calls to herself

430 'Di mei', fait ele, 'par ta fei,

Tell me says she by thy faith

u fu cist bons pailes trovez!'

where was this good silk found

'Dame', fait il, 'bien le savez!

Lady says he well it you-will-know

La dameisele l'aporta,

The damsel it-brought

sur le covertur le geta;

on the coverlet it she-cast

kar ne li sembla mie boens.

for not to-her it-seemed at-all good

Jeo quit que li pailes est soens.'

I think that the silk is hers

La dame l'aveit apelee,

The lady her-bad called

e cele est devant li alee.

and she is before her gone

De sun mantel se desfubla,

Of her mantle herself she-unclasped

e la mere l'araisuna:

and the mother her-addressed

'Bele amie, nel me celez!

Fair friend not-it from-me conceal

U fu cist bons pailes trovez?

Where was this good silk found

Dunt vus vint il? Kil vus dona?

Whence to-you came it Who-it to-you gave

Kar me dites kil vus bailla!

Now to-me say who-it to-you handed

La meschine li respondi:

The maid to-her answered

435

440

445

'Dame, m'ante ki me nurri;

Lady my-aunt who me reared

l'abeesse kil me bailla

the-abbess who-it to-me banded

a garder le me comanda.

to keep it to-me she-commanded

Cest e un anel me baillierent

This and a ring to-me they-banded

450 cil ki a nurrir m'enveierent'

those who to be-reared me-sent

'Bele, puis jeo veoir l'anel?'

Fair-one can I to-see the-ring

'Oïl, dame, ceo m'est mult bel.'

Yes lady that to-me-is very fair

L'anel li a dunc aporté,

The-ring to-her she-has then brought

e ele l'a mult esguardé.

and she it-has much looked-at

455 El l'a tresbien reconeü

She it-has right-well recognized

e le paile qu'ele a veü.

and the silk which-she has seen

Ne dute mes, bien set e creit

Not she-doubts more well she-knows and believes

que li Fraignes sa fille esteit.

that the Ash her daughter was

Oiant tuz dit, ne ceile mie:

Hearing all she-says not she-bides at-all

460 'Tu iés ma fille, bele amie!'

Thou art my daughter, fair friend

De la pitié que ele en a

Of the pity which she thereof has

ariere chiet, si se pasma.

backward she-falls so herself she-swooned

E quant de pasmeisuns leva,

And when from swoons she-rose

pur sun seignur tost enveia;

for her lord soon she-sent

e il i vient tuz esfrez,

and he there comes all alarmed

Quant il est en la chambre entrez,

When he is into the chamber entered

la dame li cheï as piez,

the lady to-him fell at-the feet

estreitement li a baisiez:

closely to-him she-has kissed-them

pardun li quiert de sun mesfait.

pardon of-him she-seeks for her misdeed

Il ne sot niënt de cel plait.

He not knew nothing of that matter

‘Dame’, fet il, ‘que dites vus?’

Lady says he what say you

Il n’a se bien nun entre nus!

There not-is except good not between us

Quan que vus plest, seit parduné!

Whatever that to-you pleases be pardoned

Dites mei vostre voluté!’

Tell me your will

‘Sire, quant parduné l’avez,

Lord since pardoned it-you-have

465

470

475

jel vus dirai; si m'escultez!

I-it to-you shall-tell so me-bear

Jadis par ma grant vileinie

Formerly by my great baseness

de ma veisine dis folie.

of my neighbor I-said folly

De ses dous enfanz mesparlai:

Of her two children I-spoke-ill

480 vers mei meïsmes mesdit ai.

against myself same slandered I-have

Veritez est, jeo enceintai,

Truth it-is I conceived

dous filles oi, l'une en celai.

two daughters I-had the-one thereof I-bid

A un mustier la fis geter

At a minster her I-made to-be-laid

e vostre paile od li porter

and your silk with her to-be-carried

485 e l'anel que vus me donastes,

and the-ring which you to-me gave

quant vus primes a mei parlastes.

when you first to me spoke

Ne vus puet mie estre celé:

Not from-you it-can at-all to-be concealed

le drap e l'anel ai trouvé.

the cloth and the-ring I-have found

Nostre fille ai ci coneüe,

Our daughter I-have here recognized

490 que par ma folie oi perdue.

whom by my folly I-had lost

E ja est ceo la dameisele

And indeed is that the damsel

ki tant est pruz e sage e bele,

who so-much is valiant and wise and fair

que li chevaliers a amee,

whom the knight has loved

ki sa serur a espusee.'

who her sister has wedded

Li sire dit: 'De ceo sui liez;

The lord says Of that I-am glad

unkes mes ne fui si haitiez.

ever before not I-was so gladdened

Quant nostre fille avum trovee,

Since our daughter we-have found

grant joie nus a deus donee,

great joy to-us has God given

ainz que li pechiez fust dublez.

before that the sin were doubled

Fille', fet il, 'avant venez!'

Daughter says he forward come

La meschine mult s'esjoï

The maid much rejoiced

de l'aventure qu'ele oï.

at the-adventure which-she heard

Sis pere ne volt plus attendre;

Her father not wishes more to-wait

il meïsmes vet pur sun gendre

he same goes for his son-in-law

e l'erceveske i amena,

and the-archbishop there he-brought

495

500

505

cele aventure li cunta.

that adventure to-him he-told

Li chevaliers quant il le sot,

The knight when he it knew

unkes si grant joie nen ot.

ever so great joy not he-had

L'erceveskes a cunseillié

The-archbishop has counseled

510 que issi seit la nuit laissié;

that thus it-be the night left

el demain les departira,

on-the morrow them he-will-separate

lui e celi espusera.

him and her he-will-wed

Issi l'unt fet e graanté.

Thus it-they-have done and granted

El demain furent desevré.

On-the morrow they-were parted

515 Après a s'amie espusee,

Afterward he-has his-friend wedded

e li pere li a donee,

and the father to-him has given-her

ki mult ot vers li bon curage.

who much had toward her good heart

Par mi li part sun heritage.

Through middle-of her he-shares his heritage

Il e la mere as noces furent

He and the mother at-the wedding were

520 od lur fille si cum il durent.

with their daughter even as they ought

Granz noces refunt de rechief;

Great wedding they-make-again of anew

a un riche hume sereit grief

to a rich man it-would-be grievous

d'esligier ceo qu'il despendirent

of-paying that which-they spent

al grant convive que il firent.

at-the great feast which they made

Pur la joie de la meschine,

For the joy of the maid

ki de belté semble reïne,

who in beauty resembles a-queen

qu'il unt sifaitement trovee,

whom-they have in-such-wise found

unt mult grant joie demenee.

they-have very great joy made

Quant en lur païs s'en alerent,

When into their country themselves-thence they-went

la Coldre, lur fille, en menerent.

the Hazel their daughter thence they-led

Mult richement en lur cuntree

Very richly in their country

fu puis la meschine donee.

was afterward the maid given

525

530

Quant l'aventure fu seüe

When the-adventure was known

coment ele esteit avenue,

how it was befallen

535 le lai del Fraisne en unt trové:

the lay of-the Ash thereof they-have composed

pur la dame l'unt si numé.

for the lady it-they-have so named

Bisclavret

IV

Bisclavret is the Breton name for what the Normans call Garulf: a man who becomes a beast of the woods and lives on prey. A baron of Brittany, close to his lord and loved by his neighbors, is lost to his wife three days in every week. She presses him until he tells her he goes naked as a werewolf, and presses further until he tells her where the clothes are hidden — under a bush by a hollow stone beside an old chapel. She sends a knight who had long loved her to take them, and weds him.

Quant des lais faire m'entremet,

When of-the lays to-make myself-I-undertake

ne vueil ubliër Bisclavret.

not I-wish to-forget Bisclavret

Bisclavret a nun en Bretan,

Bisclavret has name in Breton

Garulf l'apelent li Norman.

Garulf him-call the Normans

Jadis le poeit hum oïr

Formerly it could one to-hear

e sovent suleit avenir,

and often it-used to-happen

hume plusur garulf devindrent

men many werewolves became

e es boscages maisun tindrent.

and in-the thickets dwelling they-held

Garulf, ceo est beste salvage;

Werewolf that is a-beast savage

tant cum il est en cele rage,

so-long as he is in that frenzy

5

10

humes devure, grant mal fait,

men he-devours great ill he-does

es granz forez converse e vait.

in-the great forests he-dwells and goes

Cest afaire les ore ester;

This matter leave now to-be

del Bisclavret vus vueil cunter.

of-the Bisclavret to-you I-wish to-tell

15 En Bretagne maneit uns ber,

In Brittany dwelt a baron

merveille l'ai oï loër.

marvelously him-I-have heard to-be-praised

Beals chevaliers e bons esteit

A-fair knight and good he-was

e noblement se cunteneit.

and nobly himself he-bore

De sun seignur esteit privez

With his lord he-was intimate

20 e de tuz ses veisins amez.

and by all his neighbors loved

Femme ot espuse mult vaillant

A-wife he-had wedded very worthy

e ki mult faiseit bel semblant.

and who much made fair countenance

Il amot li e ele lui;

He loved her and she him

mes d'une chose ert grant ennui,

but of-one thing there-was great vexation

qu'en la semeine le perdeit

that-in the week him she-lost

treis jurs entiers qu'el ne saveit

three days whole that-she not knew

que deveneit ne u alout,

what he-became nor where he-went

ne nuls des soens niënt n'en sout.

nor any of-the his anything not-thereof knew

Une feiz esteit repaireiez

One time he-was returned

a sa maisun joius e liez;

to his house joyful and glad

demandé li a e enquis.

asked to-him she-has and inquired

'Sire', fait el, 'bealz, dulz amis,

Lord says she fair sweet friend

une chose vus demandasse

one thing to-you I-would-ask

mult volentiers, se jeo osasse;

very willingly if I dared

mes jeo criem tant vostre curut

but I fear so-much your anger

que nule rien tant ne redut.'

that any thing so-much not I-dread

Quant il l'oï, si l'acola,

When he it-heard so her-he-embraced

vers lui la traist, si la baisa.

toward him her he-drew so her he-kissed

'Dame', fait il, 'or demandez!

Lady says he now ask

25

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35

- 40 Ja cele chose ne querrez,
Ever that thing not you-will-seek
 se jo la sai, ne la vus die.'
if I it know not it to-you I-tell
 'Par fei', fet ele, 'or sui guarie!
By faith says she now I-am healed
 Sire, jeo sui en tel esfrei
Lord I am in such fright
 les jurs quant vus partez de mei.
the days when you depart from me
- 45 El cuer en ai mult grant dolur
In-the heart thereof I-have very great grief
 e de vus perdre tel poür,
and of you to-lose such fear
 se jeo nen ai hastif cunfort,
if I not have swift comfort
 bien tost en puis avoir la mort.
well soon thereof I-can to-have the death
 Kar me dites u vus alez,
Now to-me tell where you go
- 50 u vus estes e conversez!
where you are and dwell
 Mun esciënt que vus amez,
My knowing that you love
 e se si est, vus meserrez.'
and if so it-is you do-wrong
 'Dame', fet il, 'pur deu merci!
Lady says he for God mercy
 Mals m'en vendra, se jol vus di;
Ill to-me-thereof will-come if I-it to-you say

kar de m'amur vus partirai

for from my-love you I-shall-part

e mei meïsmes en perdrai.'

and myself same thereby I-shall-lose

Quant la dame l'a entendu,

When the lady it-has heard

ne l'a niënt en gab tenu.

not it-she-has at-all in jest held

Suventes feiz li demanda.

Ofte times of-him she-asked

Tant le blandi e losenja

So-much him she-coaxed and flattered

que s'aventure li cunta;

that his-adventure to-her he-told

nule chose ne li cela.

any thing not from-her he-bid

'Dame, jeo deviene bisclavret.

Lady I become werewolf

En cele grant forest me met

Into that great forest myself I-put

al plus espés de la gualdine,

in-the most thick of the woodland

s'i vif de preie e de ravine.'

and-there I-live on prey and on plunder

Quant il li aveit tut cunté,

When he to-her had all told

enquis li a e demandé

inquired to-him she-has and asked

s'il se despueille u vet vestuz.

whether-be himself strips or goes clothed

55

60

65

70 'Dame', fet il, 'jeo vois tuz nuz.'

Lady says he I go all naked

'Di mei pur deu u sunt voz dras!'

Tell me for God where are your clothes

'Dame, ceo ne dirai jeo pas;

Lady that not shall-say I at-all

kar se jes eüsse perduz

for if I-them had lost

e de ceo fusse aparceüz,

and of that I-were perceived

75 bisclavret sereie a tuz jurs.

werewolf I-should-be for all days

Ja nen avreie mes sucurs,

Ever not I-should-have more succor

des i qu'il me fussent rendu.

from there that-they to-me were rendered

Pur ceo ne vueil qu'il seit seü.'

For that not I-wish that-it be known

'Sire', la dame li respunt,

Lord the lady to-him answers

80 'jeo vus eim plus que tut le mund.

I you love more than all the world

Nel me devez niënt celer

Not-it from-me you-ought at-all to-bide

ne mei de nule rien duter;

nor me of any thing to-doubt

ne semblereit pas amistié,

not it-would-seem at-all friendship

Qu'ai jeo forfait, pur quel pechié

What-have I done-wrong for what sin

me dutez vus de nule rien?

me doubt you of any thing

Dites le mei! Si ferez bien.'

Say it to-me So you-will-do well

Tant l'anguissa, tant le suzprist,

So-much him-she-pressed so-much him she-overcame

ne pout el faire, si li dist.

not he-could otherwise to-do so to-her he-said

'Dame', fet il, 'de lez cel bois,

Lady says he from side-of that wood

lez le chemin par unt jeo vois,

beside the road by which I go

une viez chapele i estait,

an old chapel there stands

ki meinte feiz grant bien me fait.

which many-a time great good to-me does

La est la pierre cruese e lee

There is the stone hollow and wide

suz un buissun, dedenz cavee.

under a bush within hollowed

Mes dras i met suz le buissun,

My clothes there I-put under the bush

tant que jeo reviens a maisun.'

until that I come-back to house

La dame oï cele merveille,

The lady heard that marvel

de poür fu tute vermeille.

from fear she-was all crimson

85

90

95

De l'aventure s'esfrea.

At the-adventure she-was-frightened

100 En maint endroit se purpensa

In many-a way herself she-bethought

cum ele s'en peüst partir;

how she herself-thence might to-depart

ne voleit mes lez lui gisir.

not she-wished more beside him to-lie

Un chevalier de la cuntree,

A knight of the country

ki lungement l'aveit amee

who long her-had loved

105 e mult preiee e mult requise

and much besought and much wooed

e mult duné en sun servise,

and much given in her service

(ele ne l'aveit unc amé

she not him-had ever loved

ne de s'amur aseüre),

nor of her-love assured

celui manda par sun message,

him she-summoned by her messenger

110 si li descovri sun curage.

so to-him she-disclosed her heart

'Amis', fet ele, 'seiez liez!

Friend says she be glad

Ceo dunt vus estes travailliez

That whereof you are troubled

vus otrei jeo senz nul respit;

to-you grant I without any delay

ja n'i avrez nul cuntredit.

ever not-there you-will-have any refusal

M'amur e mun cors vus otrei:

My-love and my body to-you I-grant

vostre drue faites de mei!

your lover make of me

Cil l'en mercie bonement

He her-thereof thanks graciously

e la fiance de li prent,

and the pledge from her takes

e el le met a sairement.

and she him puts to oath

Puis li cunta cumfaitement

Then to-him she-told how

sis sire ala e qu'il devint.

her lord went and what-he became

Tute la veie que il tint

All the way which he held

vers la forest li enseigna;

toward the forest to-him she-taught

pur sa despueille l'enveia.

for his stripped-clothes him-she-sent

Issi fu Bisclavret traïz

Thus was Bisclavret betrayed

e par sa femme mal bailliz.

and by his wife ill served

Pur ceo qu'um le perdeit sovent,

For that that-one him lost often

115

120

125

quidouent tuit comunalment

thought all commonly

que dunc s'en fust del tut alez.

that then himself-thence he-was of-the all gone

130 Asez fu quis e demandez:

Much he-was sought and asked-for

mes n'en porent mie trover,

but not-thereof they-could at-all to-find

si lur estut laissier ester.

so to-them it-behooved to-let to-be

La dame a cil dunc espusee,

The lady has he then wedded

que lungement aveit amee.

whom long he-had loved

THE STOLEN CLOTHES

A year later the king hunts that forest, and the bounds run the beast all day until it takes his stirrup and kisses his foot. The king calls them off, gives it his peace, and takes it home, where it sleeps among the knights and harms nothing. At a court held for his fief-holders, the knight who has the wife comes to the palace; the beast seizes him with its teeth, the king must call it off with a rod, and twice that day it tries to bite him. The household says it has not done that without cause.

135 Issi remest un an entier,

Thus it-remained a year entire

tant que li reis ala chacier.

until that the king went to-hunt

A la forest ala tut dreit

To the forest he-went all straight

la u li Bisclavret esteit.

there where the Bisclavret was

Quant li chien furent descuplé,

When the hounds were uncoupled

le Bisclavret unt encuntré.

the Bisclavret they-have met

140

A lui cururent tutejur

At him they-ran all-day

e li chien e li veneür,

both the hounds and the huntsmen

tant que pur poi ne l'ourent pris

so that for little not him-they-had taken

e tut deciré e mal mis.

and all torn and ill used

Des que il a le rei choisi,

From that he has the king spied

145

vers lui curut querre merci.

toward him he-ran to-seek mercy

Il l'aveit pris par sun estrié,

He him-had taken by his stirrup

la jambe li baise e le pié.

the leg to-him he-kisses and the foot

Li reis le vit, grant poür a;

The king it saw great fear he-has

ses compaignuns tuz apela.

his companions all he-called

150

'Seignur', fet il, 'avant venez!

Lords says he forward come

Iceste merveille esgardez,

This marvel behold

cum ceste beste s'umilie!

how this beast humbles-itself

Ele a sen d'ume, merci crie.

It has sense of-man mercy it-cries

155 Chaciez mei tuz cez chiens ariere,

Drive for-me all these bounds back

si gardez que hum ne la fiere!

and see that one not it strike

Ceste beste a entente e sen.

This beast has understanding and sense

Espleitiez vus! Alum nus en!

Hasten you Let-us-go we thence

A la beste durrai ma pes:

To the beast I-shall-give my peace

160 kar jeo ne chacerai hui mes.'

for I not shall-hunt today more

Li reis s'en est turnez a tant.

The king himself-thence is turned at that

Li Bisclavret le vet siwant;

The Bisclavret him goes following

mult se tint pres, n'en volt partir,

much himself he-kept near not-thence he-wishes to-part

il n'a cure de lui guerpier,

he not-has care of him to-forsake

165 Li reis l'en meine en sun chastel.

The king him-thence leads into his castle

Mult en fu liez, mult li est bel,

Much thereat he-was glad much to-him it-is fair

kar unkes mes tel n'ot veü;

for ever before such not-be-had seen

a grant merveille l'ot tenu

for great marvel it-be-had held

e mult le tint a grant chierté.

and much it be-held in great regard

A tuz les suens a comandé

To all the his be-has commanded

que sur s'amur le guardent bien

that upon his-love it they-keep well

e ne li mesfacent de rien,

and not to-it do-wrong in anything

ne par nul d'els ne seit feruz;

nor by any of-them not it-be struck

bien seit abevrez e peüz.

well let-it-be given-drink and fed

Cil le garderent volentiers

They it kept willingly

tuz jurs entre les chevaliers,

all days among the knights

e pres del rei s'alout culchier.

and near of-the king it-went to-lie

N'i a celui ki ne l'ait chier;

Not-there is one who not it-holds dear

tant esteit frans e de bon aire:

so-much it-was noble and of good breeding

unkes ne volt a rien mesfaire.

ever not it-wished to anything to-do-harm

U que li reis deüst errer,

Wherever that the king should to-travel

170

175

180

il n'out cure de desevrer;

it not-bad care to be-parted

ensemble od lui tuz jurs alout,

together with him all days it-went

bien s'aparceit que il l'amout.

well himself-he-perceives that it him-loved

185 Oëz après cument avint!

Hear afterward how it-befell

A une curt que li reis tint

At a court which the king held

tuz les baruns aveit mandez,

all the barons he-had summoned

cels ki furent de ses chasez,

those who were of his fief-holders

pur aidier sa feste a tenir

for to-help his feast to hold

190 e lui plus bel faire servir.

and himself more fairly to-have served

Li chevaliers i est alez,

The knight there is gone

richement e bien aturnez,

richly and well arrayed

ki la femme Bisclavret ot.

who the wife (of-)Bisclavret had

Il ne saveit ne ne quidot

He not knew nor not thought

195 qu'il le deüst trover si pres.

that-he him should to-find so near

Si tost cum il vint al palais

So soon as he came to-the palace

e li Bisclavret l'aperceut,

and the Bisclavret him-perceived

de plein eslais vers lui curut:

at full career toward him it-ran

as denz le prist, vers lui le trait.

with-the teeth him it-took toward it him it-draws

Ja li eüst mult grant laid fait,

Already to-him it-would-have very great harm done

ne fust li reis ki l'apela,

not were the king who it-called

d'une verge le manaça.

with-a rod it he-threatened

Dous feiz le volt mordre le jur.

Two times him it-wished to-bite the day

Mult s'esmerveillent li plusur;

Much marvel the most

kar unkes tel semblant ne fist

for ever such behavior not it-made

vers nul hume que il veüst.

toward any man whom it saw

Ceo diënt tuit par la maisun

That say all through the house

qu'il nel fet mie senz raisun,

that-it not-it does at-all without reason

mesfait li a, coment que seit,

wronged to-it he-has however that it-be

kar volentiers se vengereit.

for willingly itself it-would-avenge

200

205

210

A cele feiz remest issi,

At that time it-remained thus

tant que la feste departi;

until that the feast broke-up

e li barun unt pris cungié,

and the barons have taken leave

a lur maisun sunt repairié.

to their houses they-are returned

215 Alez s'en est li chevaliers,

Gone himself-thence is the knight

mien esciënt tut as premiers,

my knowing all among-the first

que li Bisclavret asailli;

whom the Bisclavret assailed

n'est merveille s'il le haï.

not-is marvel if-it him bated

THE BEAST AT COURT

The king lodges in that country, and the wife comes to him with a rich present; the beast tears the nose from her face. A wise man observes that it has touched no one else in all this time, and that the lady's own lord has long been lost. Under constraint she tells everything and gives back the clothes. Laid before the beast they are ignored, until it is shut in a chamber with them for shame; the king finds the knight asleep on his own bed and restores his land. The wife is driven from the country, and many women of her line are born noseless.

Ne fu puis guaires lungement,

Not it-was then much long

(ceo m'est a vis, si cum j'entent),

that to-me-is to seeming even as I-understand

qu'a la forest ala li reis,

that-to the forest went the king

ki tant fu sages e curteis,

who so was wise and courteous

u li Bisclavret fu trovez;

where the Bisclavret was found

e il i est od lui alez.

and it there is with him gone

La nuit quant il s'en repaira,

The night when he himself-thence returned

en la cuntree herberja.

in the country he-lodged

La femme Bisclavret le sot.

The wife (of-)Bisclavret it knew

Avenantment s'apareillot.

Becomingly she-arrayed-herself

220

225

Al demain vait al rei parler,

On-the morrow she-goes to-the king to-speak

230 riche present li fait porter.

rich present to-him she-makes to-be-carried

Quant Bisclavret la veit venir,

When Bisclavret her sees to-come

nuls huem nel poeit retenir:

any man not-it could to-bold-back

vers li curut cum enragiez.

toward her it-ran as maddened

Oëz cum il s'est bien vengiez!

Hear how it itself-has well avenged

235 Le nes li esracha del vis.

The nose from-her it-tore of-the face

Que li peüst il faire pis?

What to-her could it to-do worse

De tutes parz l'unt manacié;

From all sides it-they-have threatened

ja l'eüssent tut depescié,

already it-they-would-have all torn

quant uns sages huem dist al rei:

when a wise man said to-the king

240 'Sire', fet il, 'entent a mei!

Lord says he attend to me

Ceste beste a esté od vus;

This beast has been with you

n'i a ore celui de nus

not-there is now one of us

ki ne l'ait veü lungement

who not it-has seen long

e pres de lui alé sovent.

and near to it gone often

Unkes mes hume ne tucha

Ever before man not it-touched

ne felunie ne mustra,

nor felony not it-showed

fors a la dame qu'ici vei.

except to the lady whom-here I-see

Par cele fei que jeo vus dei,

By that faith which I to-you owe

alkun curuz a il vers li

some anger has it toward her

e vers sun seignur altresì.

and toward her lord likewise

Ceo est la femme al chevalier

That is the wife of-the knight

que tant suliëz avoir chier,

whom so-much you-used to-hold dear

ki lung tens a esté perduz,

who long time has been lost

ne seümes qu'est devenuz.

not we-knew what-is become

Kar metez la dame en destreit,

Now put the lady in constraint

s'alcune chose vus direit,

if-any thing to-you she-would-say

245

250

255

pur quei ceste beste la het.

for what this beast her hates

Faites li dire s'el le set!

Make her to-say if-she it knows

Meinte merveille avum veüe

Many-a marvel we-have seen

260 ki en Bretaigne est avenue.'

which in Brittany is befallen

Li reis a sun conseil creü.

The king has his counsel believed

Le chevalier a retenu;

The knight he-has detained

de l'altre part la dame a prise

on the-other side the lady he-has taken

e en mult grant destresce mise.

and in very great distress put

265 Tant par destresce e par poür

So-much by distress and by fear

tut li cunta de sun seignur,

all to-him she-told of her lord

coment ele l'aveit traï

how she him-had betrayed

e sa despueille li toli,

and his stripped-clothes from-him took

l'aventure qu'il li cunta,

the-adventure which-he to-her told

270 e que devint e u ala;

and what he-became and where he-went

puis que ses dras li ot toluz,

since that his clothes from-him she-had taken

ne fu en sun païs veüz;

not he-was in his country seen

tresbien quidot e bien creeit

right-well she-thought and well believed

que la beste Bisclavret seit.

that the beast Bisclavret be

Li reis demande sa despueille.

The king demands his stripped-clothes

U bel li seit u pas nel vueille,

Whether fair to-her it-be or not not-it she-wish

ariere la fet apporter,

back it he-makes to-be-brought

al Bisclavret la fist doner.

to-the Bisclavret it he-had to-be-given

Quant il l'orent devant lui mise,

When they it-had before it laid

ne s'en prist garde en nule guise.

not itself-thereof it-took heed in any wise

Li prozdum le rei apela,

The worthy-man the king called

cil ki primes le cunseilla.

he who first him counseled

‘Sire, ne faites mie bien!

Lord not you-do at-all well

Cist nel fereit pur nule rien,

This-one not-it would-do for any thing

que devant vus ses dras reveste

that before you his clothes he-put-on-again

ne mut la semblance de beste.

nor change the likeness of beast

275

280

285

Ne savez mie que ceo munte.

Not you-know at-all what that amounts-to

Mult durement en a grant hunte.

Very sorely thereof he-has great shame

En tes chambres le fai mener

Into thy chambers it have to-be-led

290 e la despueille od lui porter;

and the stripped-clothes with it to-be-carried

une grant piece l'i laissuns.

a great while it-there let-us-leave

S'il devient huem, bien le verruns.'

If-it becomes man well it we-shall-see

Li reis meïsmes l'en mena

The king himself it-thence led

e tuz les hus sur lui ferma.

and all the doors upon it he-shut

295 Al chief de piece i est alez;

At-the end of while there he-is gone

dous baruns a od lui menez.

two barons he-has with him led

En la chambre entrerent tuit trei.

Into the chamber they-entered all three

Sur le demeine lit al rei

Upon the own bed of-the king

truevent dormant le chevalier.

they-find sleeping the knight

300 Li reis le curut enbracier;

The king him ran to-embrace

plus de cent feiz l'acole e baise.

more than hundred times him-he-clasps and kisses

Si tost cum il pot avoir aise,

As soon as he could to-have leisure

Tute sa terre li rendi,

All his land to-him he-restored

plus li duna que jeo ne di.

more to-him he-gave than I — say

La femme a del païs ostece

The wife he-has from-the country removed

e chaciee de la cuntree.

and driven from the region

Cil s'en ala ensemble od li,

He himself-thence went together with her

pur qui sun seignur ot traï.

for whom her lord she-had betrayed

Enfanz en a asez eüz,

Children thereby she-has plenty had

puis unt esté bien cuneüz

afterward they-have been well known

e del semblant e del visage:

both by-the look and by-the face

plusurs des femmes del lignage,

many of-the women of-the lineage

c'est veritez, senz nes sunt nees

that-is truth without nose are born

e si viveient esnasees.

and so they-lived noseless

305

310

315

L'aventure qu'avez oïe

The-adventure which-you-have heard

veraie fu, n'en dutez mie.

true it-was not-thereof doubt at-all

De Biclavret fu fez li lais

Of Bisclavret was made the lay

pur remembrance a tuz dis mais.

for remembrance for all days more

Lanval

V

Arthur is at Carlisle against the Scots and the Picts, and at Pentecost shares out wives and lands to the Round Table — to all but one. Lanval, a king's son far from his heritage, has spent everything, asks nothing, and is envied rather than helped. He rides out alone, unsaddles his horse in a meadow by a stream, and lies down; two damsels come to fetch him to their lady's tent, which no king under heaven could buy, where she lies uncovered on a bed.

L'aventure d'un altre lai,

The-adventure of-an other lay

cum ele avint, vus cunterai.

how it befell to-you I-shall-tell

Faiz fu d'un mult gentil vassal;

Made it-was of-a very noble vassal

en Bretanz l'apelent Lanval.

in Breton him-they-call Lanval

A Kardoeil surjurnot li reis,

At Carlisle sojourned the king

Artur, li pruz e li curteis,

Arthur the valiant and the courteous

pur les Escoz e pur les Pis

because-of the Scots and because-of the Picts

ki destrueient le païs;

who destroyed the country

en la terre de Loengre entroënt

into the land of Logres they-entered

e mult suvent le damajoënt.

and very often it they-harmed

5

10

A la pentecuste en esté

At the Pentecost in summer

i aveit li reis sujerné.

there had the king sojourned

Asez i duna riches duns.

Much there he-gave rich gifts

E as cuntes e as baruns,

Both to-the counts and to-the barons

15 a cels de la table rouïnde

to those of the table round

(n'ot tant de tels en tut le monde!)

not-there-was so-many of such in all the world

femmes e terres departi,

wives and lands he-shared-out

fors a un sul ki l'ot servi.

except to one only who him-had served

Ceo fu Lanval; ne l'en sovint,

That was Lanval not him-thereof it-remembered

20 ne nuls des soens bien ne li tint.

nor any of-the his good not to-him held

Pur sa valor, pur sa largesce,

For his worth for his largesse

pur sa bealté, pur sa pruësce

for his beauty for his prowess

l'envioënt tuit li plusur;

him-envied all the most

tels li mustrount semblant d'amur,

such to-him showed appearance of-love

25 s'al chevalier mesavenist,

if-to-the knight ill-befell

ja une feiz ne l'en pleinsist.

ever one time not him-thereof he-would-pity

Fiz a rei fu, de halt parage,

Son of king he-was of high lineage

mes luin ert de sun heritage.

but far he-was from his heritage

De la maisniee le rei fu.

Of the household (of-)the king he-was

Tut sun avoir a despendu;

30

All his wealth he-has spent

kar li reis rien ne li dona,

for the king anything not to-him gave

ne Lanval ne li demanda.

nor Lanval not of-him asked

Ore est Lanval mult entrepris,

Now is Lanval much hard-pressed

mult est dolenz, mult est pensis.

much he-is grieved much he-is pensive

Seignur, ne vus en merveilliez:

35

Lords not you thereat marvel

huem estranges, descunseilliez

a-man foreign forlorn

mult est dolenz en altre terre,

much he-is grieved in another land

quant il ne set u sucurs querre.

when he not knows where succor to-see

Li chevaliers dunt jeo vus di,

The knight of-whom I to-you speak

ki tant aveit le rei servi,

40

who so-much had the king served

un jur munta sur sun destrier,

one day mounted upon his charger

si s'est alez esbaneier.

so himself-be-is gone to-take-the-air

Fors de la vile en est eissuz;

Out of the town thence he-is gone

tuz suls est en un pre venuz.

all alone he-is into a meadow come

45 Sur une ewe curant descent;

Beside a water running he-dismounts

mes sis chevaux tremble forment:

but his horse trembles greatly

il le descengle, si s'en vait,

be it ungirths so himself-thence goes

en mi le pre vultrer le fait.

in middle-of the meadow to-roll it be-makes

Le pan de sun mantel plia

The skirt of his mantle be-folded

50 desuz sun chief, si se culcha.

under his head so himself be-laid

Mult est pensis pur sa mesaise,

Much be-is pensive for his distress

il ne veit chose ki li plaise.

be not sees thing which to-him pleases

La u il gist en tel maniere,

There where he lies in such manner

guarda a val lez la riviere,

be-looked to below along the river

55 si vit venir dous dameiseles;

so be-saw to-come two damsels

unc nen ot veües plus beles.

ever not he-had seen more fair

Vestues furent richement

Clothed they-were richly

e lacies estreitement

and laced closely

en dous blialz de purpre bis;

in two tunics of purple dark

mult par aveient bels les vis.

very much they-had fair the faces

L'einznee portout uns bacins

The-elder carried a basin

d'or esmeré, bien faiz e fins:

of-gold refined well made and fine

le veir vus en dirai senz faille;

the truth to-you thereof I-shall-say without fail

l'autre portout une tuaille.

the-other carried a towel

Eles en sunt alees dreit

They thence are gone straight

la u li chevaliers giseit.

there where the knight lay

Lanval, ki mult fu enseigniez,

Lanval who very was well-bred

cuntre eles s'est levez en piez.

toward them himself-he-is risen on feet

Celes l'unt primes salué,

They him-have first greeted

lur message li unt cunté.

their message to-him they-have told

60

65

70

'Sire Lanval, ma dameisele,

Lord Lanval my damsel

ki mult par est curteise e bele,

who very much is courteous and fair

ele nus enveie pur vus:

she us sends for you

kar i venez ensemble od nus!

now there come together with us

75 Salvement vus i cunduiruns.

Safely you there we-shall-lead

Veez, pres est sis paveilluns!'

See near is her pavilion

Li chevaliers od eles vait;

The knight with them goes

de sun cheval ne tient nul plait,

of his horse not he-takes any account

ki devant lui pesseit el pre.

which before him grazed in-the meadow

80 Des i qu'al tref l'unt amené,

From there that-to-the tent him-they-have brought

ki mult fu beals e bien asis.

which very was fair and well set

La reine Semiramis,

The queen Semiramis

quant ele ot unkes plus avoir

when she had ever most wealth

e plus puissance e plus saveir,

and most power and most wisdom

ne l'emperere Octovian

85

nor the-emperor Octavian

n'eslijassent le destre pan.

not-could-buy the right flap

Un aigle d'or ot desus mis;

An eagle of-gold there-was above set

de cel ne sai dire le pris

of that not I-know to-say the price

ne des cordes ne des pessuns

nor of-the cords nor of-the stakes

ki del tref tienent les giruns:

90

which of-the tent hold the panels

suz ciel n'a rei kis eslijast

under heaven not-is king who-them could-buy

pur nul avoir qu'il i donast.

for any wealth that-he there gave

Dedenz cel tref fu la pucele.

Inside that tent was the maiden

Flur de lis e rose nuvele,

Flower of lily and rose new

quant ele pert el tens d'esté,

95

when it appears in-the season of-summer

trespassot ele de bealté.

surpassed she in beauty

Ele jut sur un lit mult bel

She lay upon a bed very fair

(li drap valeient un chastel)

the cloths were-worth a castle

en sa chemise senglement.

in her shift only

100 Mult ot le cors bien fait e gent.

Very she-had the body well made and comely

Un chier mantel de blanc hermine,

A costly mantle of white ermine

covert de purpre Alexandrine,

covered with purple Alexandrine

ot pur le chalt sur li geté;

she-had for the heat over her cast

tut ot descoverte le costé,

all she-had uncovered the side

105 le vis, le col e la peitrine:

the face the neck and the breast

plus ert blanche que flurs d'espine.

more she-was white than flower of-hawthorn

THE GIFT AND THE VOW

She tells him she has come out of her land to seek him and loves him above everything, and he promises to do whatever she commands. She grants her love and a gift with it: however largely he gives and spends, she will find him enough. One thing she forbids — he must never disclose their love to any man, or he has lost her; and whenever he wishes to see her, she will be present where no reproach can reach them. Back in the town he ransoms prisoners, clothes minstrels, and gives to all.

Li chevaliers avant ala,

The knight forward went

e la pucele l'apela.

and the maiden him-called

Il s'est devant le lit asis.

He himself-is before the bed seated

'Lanval', fet ele, 'bels amis,

110

Lanval says she fair friend

pur vus vinc jeo fors de ma terre;

for you came I out of my land

de luinz vus sui venue querre.

from afar you I-am come to-see

Se vus estes pruz e curteis,

If you are valiant and courteous

emperere ne quens ne reis

emperor nor count nor king

n'ot unkes tant joie ne bien;

115

not-had ever so-much joy nor good

kar jo vus aim sur tute rien.'

for I you love above every thing

Il l'esguarda, si la vit bele;

He her-looked-at so her saw fair

amurs le point de l'estencele

love him pricks with the-spark

ki sun quer alume e esprent.

which his heart kindles and inflames

Il li respunt avenantment.

120

He to-her answers becomingly

'Bele', fet il, 'se vus plaiseit

Fair-one says he if to-you it-pleased

e cele joie m'aveneit

and that joy to-me-befell

que vus me volsissiez amer,

that you me should-wish to-love

ne savriëz rien comander

not you-could-know anything to-command

125 que jeo ne face a mun poeir,

which I not do to my power

turt a folie u a saveir.

turn to folly or to wisdom

Jeo ferai voz comandemenz;

I shall-do your commandments

pur vus guerpilai tutes genz.

for you I-shall-forsake all folk

Ja mes ne quier de vus partir:

Ever more not I-seek from you to-part

130 ceo est la riens que plus desir'

that is the thing which most I-desire

Quant la pucele oï parler

When the maiden heard to-speak

celui ki tant la pout amer,

him who so-much her could to-love

s'amur e sun cuer li otreie.

her-love and her heart to-him she-grants

Ore est Lanval en dreite veie!

Now is Lanval in right way

135 Un dun li a duné après:

A gift to-him she-has given afterward

ja cele rien ne vuldra mes

ever that thing not he-will-wish more

que il nen ait a sun talent;

which he not have to his desire

doinst e despende largement,

let-him-give and spend largely

ele li trovera asez.

she for-him will-find enough

Ore est Lanval bien assenez:

Now is Lanval well provided

cum plus despendra richement,

as more he-will-spend richly

e plus avra or e argent.

and more he-will-have gold and silver

'Amis', fet ele, 'or vus chasti,

Friend says she now you I-warn

si vus comant e si vus pri:

so you I-command and so you I-pray

ne vus descovrez a nul hume!

not yourself disclose to any man

De ceo vus dirai jeo la sume.

Of that to-you shall-tell I the sum

A tuz jurs m'avriëz perdue,

For all days me-you-would-have lost

se ceste amurs esteit seüe;

if this love were known

mes ne me purriëz veeir

but not me you-could to-see

ne de mun cors saisine avoir.'

nor of my body possession to-have

Il li respunt que bien tendra

He to-her answers that well he-will-keep

ceo qu'ele li comandera.

that which-she to-him will-command

De lez li s'est el lit culchiez:

From side-of her himself-be-is in-the bed laid

140

145

150

ore est Lanval bien herbergiez

now is Lanval well lodged

155 ensemble od li. La relevee

together with her The afternoon

demura jusqu'a la vespree,

he-stayed until the evening

e plus i fust, se il poïst

and more there he-would-be if he could

e s'amie li cunsentist.

and his-friend to-him consented

'Amis', fet ele, 'levez sus!

Friend says she rise up

160 Vus n'i poëz demurer plus.

You not-here can to-stay more

Alez vus en; jeo remeindrai.

Go you thence I shall-remain

Mes une chose vus dirai:

But one thing to-you I-shall-say

quant vus voldrez a mei parler,

when you will-wish to me to-speak

ja ne savrez cel liu penser,

ever not you-will-know that place to-think

165 u nuls peüst avoir s'amie

where any could to-have his-friend

senz repruece e senz vileinie,

without reproach and without baseness

que jeo ne vus seie en present

that I not to-you be in presence

a faire tut vostre talent;

to do all your desire

nuls huem fors vus ne me verra

any man except you not me will-see

ne ma parole nen orra.'

nor my speech not will-bear

Quant il l'oï, mult en fu liez;

When he it-heard much thereat he-was glad

il la baise, puis s'est dresciez.

he her kisses then himself-is risen

Celes ki al tref l'amenerent

Those who to-the tent him-brought

de riches dras le cunreerent.

with rich clothes him arrayed

Quant il fu vestuz de nuvel,

When he was clothed of anew

suz ciel nen ot plus bel dancel;

under heaven not there-was more fair youth

n'esteit mie fols ne vileins.

not-he-was at-all foolish nor churlish

L'ewe li donent a ses meins

The-water to-him they-give for his hands

e la tuaille a essuier;

and the towel to dry

puis li aportent a mangier.

then to-him they-bring to eat

Od s'amie prist le super;

With his-friend he-took the supper

ne faiseit mie a refuser.

not it-was at-all to be-refused

Mult fu serviz curteisement,

Much he-was served courteously

170

175

180

e il a grant joie le prent.

and he with great joy it takes

185 Un entremés i ot plenier,

A side-dish there was plenteous

ki mult plaiseit al chevalier:

which much pleased to-the knight

kar s'amie baisout sovent

for his-friend he-kissed often

e acolot estreitement.

and embraced closely

Quant del mangier furent levé,

When from-the meal they-were risen

190 sun cheval li unt amené.

his horse to-him they-have brought

Bien li ourent la sele mise;

Well for-him they-had the saddle set

mult a trouvé riche servise.

much he-has found rich service

Il prent cungié, si est muntez,

He takes leave so is mounted

vers la cité en est alez,

toward the city thence he-is gone

195 Suvent reguarde ariere sei.

Often he-looks behind himself

Mult est Lanval en grant esfrei;

Much is Lanval in great trouble

de s'aventure vait pensant

of his-adventure he-goes thinking

e en sun curage dotant.

and in his heart doubting

Esbaïz est, ne set que creire;

Bewildered he-is not he-knows what to-believe

il ne la quide mie a veire.

he not it thinks at-all for true

Il est a sun ostel venuz;

He is to his lodging come

ses humes trueve bien vestuz.

his men he-finds well clothed

Icele nuit bon ostel tint;

That night good lodging he-kept

mes nuls ne sot dunt ceo li vint.

but any not knew whence that to-him came

N'ot en la vile chevalier

Not-there-was in the town knight

ki de surjur ait grant mestier,

who of lodging had great need

que il ne face a lui venir

whom he not made to him to-come

e richement e bien servir.

and richly and well to-be-served

Lanval donout les riches duns,

Lanval gave the rich gifts

Lanval aquitout les prisuns,

Lanval ransomed the prisoners

Lanval vesteit les juleürs,

Lanval clothed the minstrels

Lanval faiseit les granz honurs,

Lanval did the great honors

Lanval despendeit largement,

Lanval spent largely

200

205

210

Lanval donout or e argent:

Lanval gave gold and silver

215 n'i ot estrange ne privé

not-there was stranger nor intimate

a qui Lanval n'eüst doné.

to whom Lanval not-had given

Mult ot Lanval joie e deduit:

Much had Lanval joy and delight

u seit par jur u seit par nuit,

whether be by day or be by night

s'amie puet veer sovent,

his-friend he-can to-see often

220 tut est a sun comandement.

all is at his commandment

THE QUEEN'S OFFER

Gawain, ashamed that Lanval has been left out, brings him to an orchard below the tower. The queen comes down with thirty ladies, seats herself beside him, and offers him her love. He says he has served the king too long to wrong him; she calls him a coward who has no desire for women. Stung, he answers that the poorest maid who serves his love is worth more than the queen in body, face, and breeding. She goes weeping to her bed and will not rise until the king does her right.

Ceo m'est a vis, meïsmes l'an

That to-me-is to seeming same the-year

après la feste Seint Johan

after the feast (of-)Saint John

des i qu'a trente chevalier

from there that-to thirty knights

s'erent alé esbancier

themselves-were gone to-take-the-air

en un vergier desuz la tur

into an orchard under the tower

u la reïne ert a surjur.

where the queen was in residence

Ensemble od els esteit Walwains

Together with them was Walwains

e sis cusins, li beals Ywains.

and his cousin the fair Ywains

Ceo dist Walwains, li frans, li pruz,

That said Walwains the noble the valiant

ki tant se fist amer a tuz:

who so-much himself made to-be-loved by all

'Par deu, seignur, nus faimes mal

By God lords we do ill

endroit nostre cumpain Lanval,

toward our comrade Lanval

ki tant est larges e curteis

who so is generous and courteous

e sis pere est si riches reis,

and his father is so rich (a-)king

que nus ne l'avum amené.'

that we not him-have brought

225

230

235

A tant sunt ariere turné.

At that they-are back turned

A sun ostel revunt ariere,

To his lodging they-go-again back

Lanval ameinent par preiere.

Lanval they-bring by entreaty

A une fenestre entailliee

At a window carved

240 s'esteit la reïne apuice;

herself-was the queen leaned

treis dames ot ensemble od li.

three ladies she-had together with her

La maisniee le rei choisi;

The household (of-)the king she-spied

Lanval conut e esguarda.

Lanval she-knew and looked-at

Une des dames apela;

One of-the ladies she-called

245 par li manda ses dameiseles,

by her she-summoned her damsels

les plus quointes e les plus beles,

the most elegant and the most fair

od li s'irunt esbaneier

with her they-will-go to-take-the-air

la u cil erent el vergier.

there where they were in-the orchard

Trente en mena od li e plus;

Thirty thereof she-led with her and more

250 par les degrez descendent jus.

by the stairs they-descend down

Li chevalier encuntre vunt,

The knights to-meet go

ki pur eles grant joie funt.

who for them great joy make

Il les unt prises par les mains:

They them have taken by the hands

cil parlemenx n'ert pas vilains.

that parley not-was at-all churlish

Lanval s'en vait de l'altre part,

Lanval himself-thence goes to the-other side

luin des altres. Mult li est tart

far from-the others Much to-him it-is late

que s'amie puisse tenir,

that his-friend he-might to-bold

baisier, acoler e sentir;

to-kiss to-embrace and to-feel

l'altrui joie prise petit,

the-others' joy he-prizes little

se il nen a le suen delit.

if he not has the his delight

Quant la reïne sul le veit,

When the queen alone him sees

al chevalier en va tut dreit.

to-the knight thence she-goes all straight

Lez lui s'asist, si l'apela,

Beside him she-sat so him-called

tut sun curage li mustra.

all her heart to-him she-showed

255

260

- 265 'Lanval, mult vus ai honuré
Lanval much you I-have honored
 e mult cheri e mult amé.
and much cherished and much loved
 Tute m'amur poëz avoir:
All my-love you-can to-have
 kar me dites vostre voleir!
now to-me tell your will
 Ma druërie vus otrei;
My love to-you I-grant
- 270 mult devez estre liez de mei!
much you-ought to-be glad of me
 'Dame', fet il, 'laissez m'ester!
Lady says he leave me-to-be
 Jeo n'ai cure de vus amer.
I not-have care to you to-love
 Lungement ai servi le rei,
Long I-have served the king
 ne li vueil pas mentir ma fei.
not to-him I-wish at-all to-belie my faith
- 275 Ja pur vus ne pur vostre amur
Ever for you nor for your love
 ne mesferai a mun seignur!
not I-shall-wrong to my lord
 La reïne se curuça,
The queen herself grew-angry
 iriee fu, si mesparla.
wroth she-was so she-spoke-ill
 'Lanval', fet ele, 'bien le quit,
Lanval says she well it I-think

vus n'amez guaires tel deduit.

280

you not-love much such delight

Asez le m'a hum dit sovent,

Much it to-me-has one said often

que de femme n'avez talent.

that of woman not-you-have desire

Vaslez amez bien afaitiez,

Young-men you-love well trained

ensemble od els vus deduiez.

together with them yourself you-solace

Vileins cuarz, malvais failliz,

285

Base coward wicked craven

mult est mis sire mal bailliz,

much is my lord ill served

ki pres de lui vus a sufert,

who near to him you has suffered

mien esciënt que deu en pert!'

my knowing that God thereby he-loses

Quant il l'oï, mult fu dolenz.

When he it-heard much he-was grieved

Del respundre ne fu pas lenz;

290

Of-the answering not he-was at-all slow

tel chose dist par maltalent,

such thing he-said in ill-humor

dunt il se repentí sovent.

whereof he himself repented often

'Dame', dist il, 'de cel mestier

Lady said he of that craft

ne me sai jeo niënt aidier.

not myself know I at-all to-help

- 295 Mes jo aim e si sui amis
But I love and so am friend
 cele ki deit avoir le pris
her who ought to-have the prize
 sur tutes celes que jeo sai.
above all those whom I know
 E une chose vus dirai:
And one thing to-you I-shall-say
 bien le saciez a descovert,
well it know in openness
- 300 qu'une de celes ki la sert,
that-one of those who her serves
 tute la plus povre meschine,
quite the most poor maid
 valt mielz de vus, dame reïne,
is-worth better than you lady queen
 de cors, de vis e de bealté,
in body in face and in beauty
 d'enseignement e de bunté.
in-breeding and in goodness
- 305 La reïne s'en part a tant;
The queen herself-thence departs at that
 en sa chambre s'en vait plurant.
into her chamber herself-thence she-goes weeping
 Mult fu dolente e curuciee
Much she-was grieved and angered
 de ceo qu'il l'out si avilliee.
for that that-he her-had so debased
 En sun lit malade culcha;
In her bed sick she-lay

ja mes, ceo dit, n'en levera,
ever more that she-says not-thence she-will-rise
 se li reis ne li faiseit dreit
if the king not to-her did right
 de ceo dunt ele se pleindreit.
of that whereof she herself would-complain

310

THE BOAST BETRAYED

The queen tells Arthur that Lanval besought her love and then debased her, and he swears Lanval will burn or hang unless he defends himself in court. Lanval, back at his lodging, has already found his love gone: he calls her, swoons, and cries mercy a hundred times, and she does not come. Before the king he denies having sought the queen's love and acknowledges the boast. The barons rule that he shall have a day and find sureties, and Gawain and his companions pledge their lands for him.

Li reis fu de bois repairiez,
The king was from wood returned
 mult out esté le jur haitiez.
much he-bad been the day gladdened
 Es chambres la reïne entra.
Into-the chambers the queen entered
 Quant el le vit, si se clama,
When she him saw so herself she-complained
 as piez li chiet, merci li crie
at-the feet to-him she-falls mercy to-him she-cries
 e dit que Lanval l'a hunie:
and says that Lanval her-has shamed
 de druërie la requist;
of love her he-besought

315

- 320 pur ceo qu'ele l'en escundist,
for that that-she him-thereof refused
 mult la laidi e avilla:
much her be-reviled and debased
 de tel amie se vanta,
of such a-friend himself be-boasted
 ki tant ert; cuinte, noble e fiere
who so was elegant noble and proud
 que mielz valeit sa chamberiere,
that better was-worth her chambermaid
- 325 la plus povre ki la serveit,
the most poor who her served
 que la reïne ne faiseit.
than the queen — did
 Li reis s'en curuça forment;
The king himself-thereat grew-angry greatly
 juré en a sun sairement:
sworn thereon he-has his oath
 s'il ne s'en puet en curt defendre,
if-be not himself-thereof can in court to-defend
- 330 il le fera ardeir u pendre.
he him will-have to-be-burned or to-be-hanged
 Fors de la chambre eissi li reis;
Out of the chamber went the king
 de ses baruns apela treis,
of his barons he-called three
 il les enveie pur Lanval,
he them sends for Lanval
 ki asez a dolur e mal.
who much has grief and ill

A sun ostel fu revenuz;

To his lodging he-was returned

ja s'esteit bien aparceüz

already himself-be-was well perceived

qu'il aveit perdue s'amie:

that-be had lost his-friend

descoverte ot la druërie.

uncovered he-had the love

En une chambre fu tuz sous,

In a chamber he-was all alone

pensis esteit e anguissous.

pensive he-was and anguished

S'amie apele mult sovent,

His-friend he-calls very often

mes ceo ne li valut niënt.

but that not to-him availed at-all

Il se pleigneit e suspirot,

He himself lamented and sighed

d'ures en altres se pasmot;

from-hours to others himself he-swooned

puis li crie cent feiz merci,

then to-her he-cries hundred times mercy

qu'ele parolt a sun ami.

that-she speak to her friend

Sun quer e sa buche maldit;

His heart and his mouth he-curses

c'est merveille qu'il ne s'ocit.

that-is marvel that-be not himself-slays

335

340

345

Il ne set tant criër ne braire

He not knows so-much to-cry nor to-shout

350 ne debate ne sei detraire,

nor to-beat nor himself to-tear

qu'ele en vueille merci avoir

that-she thereof wish mercy to-have

sul tant qu'il la puisse veer.

only so-much that-he her might to-see

A las, cument se cuntendra!

Ah wretched how himself will-be-bear

Cil que li reis i enveia

Those whom the king there sent

355 i sunt venu, si li unt dit

there are come so to-him they-have said

qu'a la curt vienge senz respit;

that-to the court be-come without delay

li reis l'aveit par els mandé,

the king him-had by them summoned

la reïne l'a encusé.

the queen him-has accused

Lanval i vet od sun grant doel,

Lanval there goes with his great grief

360 il l'eüssent ocis sun voel.

they him-would-have slain his wish

Il est devant le rei venuz.

He is before the king come

Mult fu pensis, taisanz e muz;

Much he-was pensive silent and mute

de grant dolor mustre semblant.

of great grief he-shows appearance

Li reis li dist par maltalant:

The king to-him said in ill-humor

‘Vassal, vus m’avez mult mesfait!

Vassal you to-me-have much done-wrong

Trop començastes vilein plait

Too-far you-began a-base matter

de mei hunir e avillier

of me to-shame and to-debase

e la reïne laidengier.

and the queen to-revile

Vantez vus estes de folie!

Boasted you are of folly

Trop par est noble vostre amie,

Exceedingly much is noble your friend

quant plus est bele sa meschine

when more is fair her maid

e plus vaillanz que la reïne.’

and more worthy than the queen

Lanval defent la deshonor

Lanval denies the dishonor

e la hunte de sun seignur

and the shame of his lord

de mot en mot si cum il dist,

from word to word even as he said

que la reïne ne requist;

that the queen not he-besought

mes de ceo dunt il ot parlé

but of that whereof he had spoken

reconut il la verité,

acknowledged he the truth

365

370

375

de l'amur dunt il se vanta;

of the-love whereof he himself boasted

380 dolenz en est, perdue l'a.

grieved thereat he-is lost her-be-has

De ceo lur dit que il fera

Of that to-them he-says that he will-do

quan que la curz esguardera.

whatever that the court will-adjudge

Li reis fu mult vers lui iriez.

The king was much toward him wroth

Tuz ses humes a enveiez,

All his men he-has sent-for

385 pur dire dreit qu'il en deit faire,

for to-say right what-he thereof ought to-do

qu'um ne li puisse a mal retraire.

that-one not to-him might to ill impute

Cil unt sun comandement fait:

They have his commandment done

u els seit bel, u els seit lait,

whether to-them it-be fair or to-them it-be foul

comunement i sunt alé,

in-common there they-are gone

390 si unt jugié e esguardé

and have judged and adjudged

que Lanval deit avoir un jur,

that Lanval ought to-have a day

mes pleges truisse a sun seignur

but sureties let-him-find for his lord

qu'il atendra sun jugement

that-be will-await his judgment

e revendra en sun present;

and will-return into his presence

si sera la curz enforciee,

so will-be the court reinforced

kar dunc n'i ot fors sa maisniee.

for then not-there was except his household

Al rei revienent li barun,

To-the king return the barons

si li mustrent la raisun.

and to-him they-showed the reasoning

Li reis a pleges demandez.

The king has sureties demanded

Lanval fu suls e esgarez,

Lanval was alone and bewildered

n'i aveit parent ne ami.

not-there he-had kinsman nor friend

Walwains i vait, ki l'a plevi,

Gawain there goes who him-has pledged

e tuit si compaignun après.

and all his companions after

Li reis lur dit: 'E jol vus les

The king to-them says And I-it to-you leave

sur quan que vus tenez de mei,

upon whatever that you hold from me

terres e fieus, chescuns par sei.'

lands and fiefs each for himself

395

400

405

Quant pleviz fu, dunc n'i ot el:

When pledged he-was then not-there was other

alez s'en est a sun ostel.

gone himself-thence he-is to his lodging

Li chevalier l'unt conveié;

The knights him-have escorted

410 mult l'unt blasmé e chastié

much him-they-have blamed and chided

qu'il ne face si grant dolor,

that-he not make so great grief

e maldiënt si fole amur.

and they-curse so mad a-love

Chescun jur l'aloënt veer,

Each day him-they-went to-see

pur ceo qu'il voleient saveir

for that that-they wished to-know

415 u il beüst, u il manjast;

whether he drank or he ate

mult dotouent qu'il s'afolast.

much they-feared that-he himself-should-destroy

THE JUDGMENT

On the day the sureties deliver Lanval and the barons go to judgment, troubled for a stranger so hard-pressed among them, though many would load the case against him to please their lord. The duke of Cornwall gives the finding: none accuses him but the king, and if his love comes forward and what he said of her is true, he shall have mercy for the boast; if not, he loses the king's service. Lanval says no succor will come from her. Then two maidens ride in, and later two more, each pair asking chambers for their lady; he says he does not know them, and the judgment is put off twice.

Al jur que cil orent numé,

On-the day which they had named

li barun furent assemblé.

the barons were assembled

Li reis e la reïne i fu.

The king and the queen there was

e li plege unt Lanval rendu.

and the sureties have Lanval rendered

Mult furent tuit pur lui dolent;

Much were all for him grieved

jeo quid qu'il en i ot tels cent

I think that-there thereof there were such hundred

ki feïssent tut lur poeir

who would-do all their power

pur lui senz plait delivre avoir;

for him without trial free to-have

il ert retez a mult grant tort.

he was accused at very great wrong

420

425

Li reis demande le recort

The king demands the record

sulunc le cleim e le respuns:

according-to the claim and the answer

ore est trestut sur les baruns!

now it-is wholly upon the barons

Il sunt al jugement alé;

They are to-the judgment gone

430 mult sunt pensif e esguaré

much they-are pensive and bewildered

del franc hume d'altre païs,

for-the noble man of-another country

ki entre els ert si entrepris.

who among them was so hard-pressed

Encumbrer le vuelent plusur

To-burden him wish many

pur la volenté lur seignur.

for the will (of-)their lord

435 Ceo dist li dus de Cornuaille:

That said the duke of Cornwall

'Ja endreit nus n'i avra faille;

Ever as-for us not-there will-be failing

kar ki qu'en plurt ne ki qu'en chant,

for whoever thereof weeps nor whoever thereof sings

le dreit estuet aler avant!

the right must to-go forward

Li reis parla vers sun vassal,

The king spoke against his vassal

440 que jo vus oi numer Lanval;

whom I to-you heard to-name Lanval

de felunie le reta

of felony him be-accused

e d'un mesdit l'achaisuna,

and of-a slander him-be-charged

d'une amur dunt il se vanta,

of-a love whereof he himself boasted

e madame s'en curuça.

and my-lady herself-thereat grew-angry

Nuls ne l'apele fors le rei:

Any not him-accuses except the king

par cele fei que jeo vus dei,

by that faith which I to-you owe

ki bien en vult dire le veir,

whoever well thereof wishes to-say the truth

ja n'i deüst respuns avoir,

ever not-there should answer to-be

se pur ceo nun qu'a sun seignur

except for that not that-to his lord

deit um par tut porter honur.

ought one through all to-bear honor

Un sairement l'en guagera,

An oath him-thereof will-pledge

e li reis le nus pardurra.

and the king it to-us will-remit

E s'il puet avoir sun guarant

And if-he can to-have his warrant

e s'amie venist avant

and his-friend came forward

e ceo fust veirs que il en dist,

and that were true which he thereof said

445

450

455

dunt la reïne se marrist,

whereat the queen herself grieved

de ceo avra il bien merci,

of that will-have he well mercy

quant pur vilté nel dist de li.

since for baseness not-it he-said of her

E s'il ne puet guarant avoir,

And if-he not can warrant to-have

460 ceo li devum faire saveir:

that to-him we-must to-make to-know

tut sun servise pert del rei,

all his service he-loses of-the king

e sil deit cungeer de sei.'

and so-him he-ought to-dismiss from himself

Al chevalier unt enveié,

To-the knight they-have sent

e si li unt dit e nuncié

and so to-him they-have said and announced

465 que s'amie face venir

that his-friend let-him-make to-come

pur lui tenses e guarentir.

for him to-protect and to-warrant

Il lur a dit qu'il ne porreit:

He to-them has said that-he not could

ja par li sucurs nen avreit.

ever by her succor not he-would-have

Cil s'en revunt as jugeürs,

They themselves-thence go-back to-the judges

470 qu'il n'i atendent nul sucurs.

that-they not-there they-expect any succor

Li reis les hastot durement

The king them urged sternly

pur la reïne kis atent.

for the queen who-them awaits

Quant il deveient departir,

When they were-about to-separate

dous puceles virent venir

two maidens they-saw to-come

sur dous beals palefreiz amblanz.

upon two fair palfreys ambling

Mult par esteient avenanz;

Very much they-were comely

de cendal purpre sunt vestues

in sendal purple they-are clad

tut senglement a lur chars nues.

quite simply on their flesh bare

Cil les esguardent volentiers.

They them look-at willingly

Walwains, od lui treis chevaliers,

Gawain with him three knights

vait a Lanval, si li cunta;

goes to Lanval so to-him told

les dous puceles li mustra.

the two maidens to-him he-showed

Mult fu haitiez, forment li prie

Much he-was gladdened greatly to-him he-prays

qu'il li deïst se c'ert s'amie,

that-he to-him say if that-was his-friend

475

480

485 Il li a dit: 'Ne sai ki sunt

He to-him has said Not I-know who they-are

ne dunt vienent n'u eles vunt'

nor whence they-come nor-where they go

Celes sunt alees avant

They are gone forward

tut a cheval; par tel semblant

all on horse in such fashion

descendirent devant le deis,

they-dismounted before the dais

490 la u secit Artur li reis.

there where sat Arthur the king

Eles furent de grant belté,

They were of great beauty

si unt curteisement parlé.

and have courteously spoken

'Cil deus ki fet cler e oscur,

That God who makes bright and dark

il salt e guart le rei Artur!

may-be save and keep the king Arthur

495 Reis, faites chambres delivrer

King have chambers to-be-cleared

e de pailles encurtiner,

and with silks to-be-hung

u madame puisse descendre:

where my-lady may to-alight

ensemble od vus vult ostel prendre.'

together with you she-wishes lodging to-take

Il lur otreie volentiers,

He to-them grants willingly

si apela dous chevaliers;

500

and called two knights

as chambres les menerent sus.

to-the chambers them they-led up

A cele feiz ne distrent plus.

At that time not they-said more

Li reis demande a ses baruns

The king demands of his barons

le jugement e le respuns,

the judgment and the answer

e dit que mult l'unt curucié

505

and says that much him-they-have angered

de ceo que tant l'unt delaié.

for that that so-long it-they-have delayed

'Sire', funt il, 'nus departimes.

Lord say they we broke-up

Pur les dames que nus veïmes

Because-of the ladies whom we saw

nen i avum nul esguart fait.

not there we-have any award made

Or recumencerum le plait.'

510

Now we-shall-begin-again the suit

Dunc assemblerent tuit pensif;

Then they-assembled all pensive

asez i ot noise e estrif.

much there was noise and strife

Quant il erent en cel esfrei,

When they were in that turmoil

dous puceles de gent cunrei

two maidens of noble array

515 — vestues de dous pailles freis,

clad in two silks fresh

chevalchent dous muls Espaigneis —

riding two mules Spanish

virent venir la rue a val,

they-saw to-come the street to below

Grant joie en ourent li vassal;

Great joy thereat had the vassals

entre els diënt qu'ore est guariz

among them they-say that-now is saved

520 Lanval, li pruz e li hardiz.

Lanval the valiant and the bold

Walwains en est a lui alez,

Gawain thence is to him gone

ses cumpaignuns i a menez.

his companions there he-has led

'Sire', fet il, 'rehaitiez vus!

Lord says he take-heart you

Pur amur deu, parlez a nus!

For love of-God speak to us

525 Ici vienent dous dameiseles

Here come two damsels

mult acesmees e mult beles.

very adorned and very fair

C'est vostre amie veirement!

That-is your friend truly

Lanval respunt hastivement

Lanval answers hastily

e dit qu'il pas nes avuot

and says that-be at-all not-them acknowledged

n'il nes cunut n'il nes amot.

nor-be not-them knew nor-be not-them loved

530

A tant furent celes venues;

At that were they come

devant le rei sunt descendues.

before the king they-are dismounted

Mult les loërent li plusur

Much them praised the most

de cors, de vis e de color;

for body for face and for color

n'i ot cele mielz ne valsist

not-there was one better not was-worth

535

qu'unkes la reïne ne fist.

than-ever the queen — did

L'ainznee fu curteise e sage,

The-elder was courteous and wise

avenantment dist sun message.

becomingly she-said her message

'Reis, kar nus fai chambres baillier

King now to-us have chambers to-be-given

a oés madame herbergier;

for use-of my-lady to-lodge

540

ele vient ci a vus parler.'

she comes here to you to-speak

Il les cumanda a mener

He them commanded to be-led

od les altres ki anceis vindrent.

with the others who before came

Unkes des muls nul plait ne tindrent:

Ever of-the mules any account not they-took

545 il fu assez ki garde en prist

there was enough who charge thereof took

e ki es estables les mist.

and who in-the stables them put

Quant il fu d'eles delivrez,

When he was of-them freed

puis a tuz ses baruns mandez,

then he-has all his barons summoned

que li jugement seient renduz;

that the judgment be rendered

550 trop a le jur esté tenuz;

too-long has the day been held

la reïne s'en curuçot,

the queen herself-thereat grew-angry

que trop lungement jeünot.

for too long she-fasted

THE MAIDENS FROM AVALON

A maiden comes riding through the town on a white palfrey, a sparrowhawk on her fist and a greyhound behind, and the whole borough goes out to look at her. Lanval says his healing is come. Before Arthur she lets her mantle fall, tells him the queen was in the wrong and that Lanval never besought her, and asks that the barons acquit him of the boast. They do, and she rides away; Lanval leaps onto the palfrey behind her, and the Bretons say he was carried to Avalon.

Ja departissent a itant,

Already they-would-have-parted at that

quant par la vile vint errant

when through the town came riding

tut a cheval une pucele;

all on horse a maiden

en tut le siecle n'ot si bele.

in all the world not-was so fair

Un blanc palefrei chevalchot,

A white palfrey she-rode

ki bien e suëf la portot;

which well and gently her carried

mult ot bien fet e col e teste:

much it-had well made both neck and head

suz ciel nen ot plus gente beste.

under heaven not there-was more comely beast

Riche atur ot el palefrei:

Rich harness there-was on-the palfrey

555

560

suz ciel nen a cunte ne rei

under heaven not is count nor king

ki tut le peüst eslegier

who all it could to-pay-for

senz terre vendre u enguagier.

without land to-sell or to-pledge

565 Ele ert vestue en itel guise

She was clad in such wise

de chainse blanc e de chemise,

in tunic white and in shift

que tuit li costé li pareient,

that all the sides to-her appeared

ki de dous parz lacié esteient.

which on two sides laced were

Le cors ot gent, basse la hanche,

The body she-had comely low the hip

570 le col plus blanc que neif sur branche;

the neck more white than snow on branch

les uiz ot vairs e blanc le vis,

the eyes she-had bright and white the face

bele buche, nes bien asis,

a-fair mouth a-nose well set

les surcilz bruns e bel le frunt

the brows brown and fair the forehead

e le chief cresp e alkes blunt;

and the head curly and somewhat blond

575 fils d'or ne gete tel luur

thread of-gold not casts such gleam

cum si chevel cuntre le jur.

as her hairs against the daylight

Sis mantels fu de purpre bis,

Her mantle was of purple dark

les pans en ot en tur li mis.

the flaps thereof she-had in round her set

Un espervier sur sun poin tint,

A sparrowhawk upon her fist she-held

e uns levriers après li vint.

and a greyhound after her came

Uns genz dameisels l'adestrou,

A noble youth her-attended

un cor d'ivoire od lui portout,

a horn of-ivory with him he-carried

Mult vindrent bel par mi la rue.

Very they-came fair through middle-of the street

Tant granz bealtez ne fu veüe

So great beauty not was seen

en Venus, ki esteit reïne,

in Venus who was queen

ne en Dido ne en Lavine.

nor in Dido nor in Lavinia

Il n'ot el burc petit ne grant,

There not-was in-the borough small nor great

ne li veillard ne li enfant,

nor the old-men nor the children

ki ne l'assent esguarder,

who not her-went to-behold

si cum il la virent errer.

even as they her saw to-travel

De sa bealté n'est mie gas.

Of her beauty not-is at-all jest

580

585

590

Ele veneit meins que le pas.

She came slower than the step

Li jugeür, ki la veeient,

The judges who her saw

a grant merveille le teneient;

for great marvel it held

595 n'i ot un sul ki l'esguardast,

not-there was one single who her-beheld

de dreite joie n'eschalfast.

from sheer joy not-grew-warm

N'i ot tant vieil hume en la curt,

Not-there was so old man in the court

ki volentiers sun uel n'i turt

who willingly his eye not-there turns

e volentiers ne la servist,

and willingly not her would-serve

600 pur ceo que sufrir le volsist.

for that that to-suffer it she-wished

Cil ki le chevalier amoënt,

Those who the knight loved

a lui viennent, si li cuntouent

to him come so to-him they-told

de la pucele ki veneit,

of the maiden who came

se deu plest, kil deliverreit.

if to-God it-please who-him would-deliver

605 'Sire cumpain, ci en vient une,

Lord comrade here thence comes one

mes el n'est pas falve ne brune;

but she not-is at-all tawny nor brown

ceo 'st la plus bele de cest mund,

that is the most fair of this world

de tutes celes ki i sunt.'

of all those who therein are

Lanval l'oi, sun chief dresça;

Lanval it-heard his head he-raised

bien la cunut, si suspira.

well her he-knew so he-sighed

Li sans li est muntez el vis;

The blood to-him is mounted into-the face

de parler fu alkes hastis.

of to-speak he-was somewhat hasty

'Par fei', fet il, 'ceo est m'amie!

By faith says he that is my-friend

Or ne m'est guaires ki m'ocie,

Now not to-me-it-matters much who me-slay

s'ele nen a merci de mei:

if-she not has mercy of me

kar guariz sui, quant jeo la vei.'

for bealed I-am when I her see

La pucele entra el palais;

The maiden entered into-the palace

unkes si bele n'i vint mais.

ever so fair not-there came more

Devant le rei est descendue,

Before the king she-is dismounted

si que de tuz fu bien veüe.

so that by all she-was well seen

Sun mantel a laissié chaeir,

Her mantle she-has let to-fall

610

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620

que mielz la peüssent veeir.

that better her they-might to-see

Li reis, ki mult fu enseigniez,

The king who very was well-bred

s'est tost encuntre li dresciez,

himself-he-is soon toward her risen

625 e tuit li altre l'enurent,

and all the others her-honored

de li servir mult se penerent.

to her to-serve much themselves they-took-pains

Quant il l'orent bien esgardee

When they her-had well beheld

e sa bealté assez loëe,

and her beauty much praised

ele parla en tel mesure,

she spoke in such measure

630 kar de demurer nen ot cure.

for of to-stay not she-had care

'Artur', fet ele, 'entent a mei,

Arthur says she attend to me

e cist barun que jeo ci vei!

and these barons whom I here see

Jeo ai amé un tuen vassal.

I have loved a thy vassal

Veez le ci! Ceo est Lanval!

See him here That is Lanval

635 Achaisunez fu en ta curt,

Accused he-was in thy court

ne vueil mie qu'a mal li turt,

not I-wish at-all that-to ill to-him it-turn

de ceo qu'il dist. Ceo saces tu
of that which-be said That know thou

que la reïne a tort eü:
that the queen has wrong had

unkes nul jur ne la requist,
ever any day not her he-besought

De la vantance que il fist,
Of the boast which he made

se par mei puet estre aquitez,
if by me he-can to-be acquitted

par voz baruns seit delivrez!'
by your barons let-bim-be freed

Ceo qu'il en jugerunt par dreit,
That which-they thereof will-judge by right

li reis otreie que si seit.
the king grants that so it-be

N'i a un sul ki n'ait jugié
Not-there is one single who not-has judged

que Lanval a tut desraisié.
that Lanval has all cleared

Delivrez est par lur esguart,
Freed he-is by their award

e la pucele s'en depart.
and the maiden herself-thence departs

Ne la pot li reis retenir;
Not her could the king to-detain

asez ot gent a li servir.
enough there-were folk to her to-serve

640

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650

Fors de la sale aveit um mis
Outside of the hall had one set
 un grant perrun de marbre bis,
a great mounting-block of marble dark
 u li pesant hume muntoënt,
where the heavy men mounted
 ki de la curt le rei aloënt.
who from the court (of-)the king went

- 655 Lanval esteit muntez desus.
Lanval was mounted upon-it
 Quant la pucele ist fors de l'us,
When the maiden goes out of the-door
 sur le palefrei detriers li
upon the palfrey behind her
 de plein eslais Lanval sailli.
at full leap Lanval sprang
 Od li s'en vait en Avalun,
With her himself-thence he-goes into Avalon

- 660 ceo nus recuntent li Bretun,
that to-us relate the Bretons
 en un isle qui mult est beals;
into an isle which very is fair
 la fu raviz li dameiseals.
there was carried the youth
 Nuls n'en oï puis plus parler,
Any not-thereof heard afterward more to-speak
 ne jeo n'en sai avant cunter.
nor I not-thereof know further to-tell

Les Dous Amanz

VI • THE TWO LOVERS

In Neustria, which we call Normandy, there is a high mount where two children lie. A king of Pistre had one daughter and could not part with her, and gave out that whoever wished to have her must carry her in his arms to the top of that mount without once resting. Many tried; some reached the middle and could go no further, and she stayed long unbetrothed. A count's son of that country served at the court and loved her, and at last she granted him her love.

Jadis avint en Normendie

Formerly it-befell in Normandy

une aventure mult oïe

an adventure much heard

de dous enfanz ki s'entrainerent,

of two children who each-other-loved

par amur ambedui finerent.

through love both died

Un lai en firent li Bretun:

A lay thereof made the Bretons

des Dous Amanz reçut le nun.

of-the Two Lovers it-received the name

Veritez est qu'en Neüstrie,

Truth it-is that-in Neustria

que nus apelum Normendie,

which we call Normandy

a un halt munt merveilles grant:

there-is a high mount marvelously great

la sus gisent li dui enfant.

there above lie the two children

5

10

Pres de cel munt a une part

Near to that mount on one side

par grant conseil e par esguart

by great counsel and by deliberation

une cité fist faire uns reis

a city had to-be-made a king

ki esteit sire des Pistreis,

who was lord of-the men-of-Pistre

15 e des Pistreis la fist numer

and of-the men-of-Pistre it he-had to-be-named

e Pistre la fist apeler.

and Pistre it he-had to-be-called

Tuz jurs a puis duré li nuns;

All days has since lasted the name

uncore i a vile e maisuns.

still there is town and houses

Nus savum bien de la cuntree

We know well of the country

20 que li vals de Pistre est nomee.

that the vale of Pistre is named

Li reis ot une fille, bele

The king had a daughter fair

e mult curteise dameisele.

and very courteous a-damsel

Fiz ne fille fors li n'aveit;

Son nor daughter except her not-he-had

forment ramout e cherisseit.

greatly he-loved-her and cherished

25 De riches humes fu requise,

By rich men she-was sought

ki volentiers l'eüssent prise;

who willingly her-would-have taken

mes li reis ne la volt doner,

but the king not her wished to-give

car ne s'en poeit consirer.

for not himself-thereof he-could to-deprive

Li reis n'aveit altre retur:

The king not-had other resort

pres de li esteit nuit e jur;

near to her he-was night and day

cunfortez fu par la meschine,

comforted he-was by the maid

puis que perdue ot la reïne.

since that lost he-had the queen

Plusur a mal li aturnerent;

Many to ill to-him turned-it

li suen meïsme l'en blasmerent.

the his own him-thereof blamed

Quant il oï qu'um en parla,

When he heard that-one thereof spoke

mult fu dolenz, mult l'en pesa.

much he-was grieved much him-thereof it-weighed

Cumença sei a purpenser

He-began himself to consider

cument s'en purra delivrer

how himself-thereof he-might to-free

que nuls sa fille ne quesist.

that any his daughter not should-seek

E luinz e pres manda e dist:

Both far and near he-sent-word and said

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ki sa fille voldreit avoir,

whoever his daughter would-wish to-have

une chose seüst de veir:

one thing let-him-know of truth

sorti esteit e destiné,

ordained it-was and destined

desur le munt fors la cité

upon the mount outside the city

45 entre ses braz la portereit,

between his arms her he-would-carry

si que ne s'i reposereit.

so that not himself-there he-would-rest

Quant la nuvele en est seüe

When the news thereof is known

e par la cuntree expandue,

and through the country spread

asez plusur s'i asaierent,

quite many themselves-there tried

50 ki nule rien n'i espleitierent.

who any thing not-there accomplished

Tels i ot ki tant s'esforçouent

Such there were who so-much themselves-strove

que en mi le munt la portoënt,

that into middle-of the mount her they-carried

ne poeient avant aler:

not they-could forward to-go

iloec l'estut laissier ester.

there her-it-behooved to-let to-be

Lung tens remest cele a doner,

Long time remained she to be-given

que nuls ne la volt demander.

for any not her wished to-ask-for

El país ot un damisel,

In-the country there-was a youth

fiz a un cunte, gent e bel.

son to a count noble and fair

De bien faire pur avoir pris

Of well to-do for to-have renown

sur tuz altres s'est entremis.

above all others himself-he-has exerted

En la curt le rei conversot,

In the court (of-)the king he-dwelt

asez suvent i surjurnot;

quite often there he-sojourned

la fille le rei aama,

the daughter (of-)the king he-loved

e meinte feiz l'araisuna

and many-a time her-be-addressed

qu'ele s'amur li otriast

that-she her-love to-him grant

e par druërie l'amast.

and by love him-love

Pur ceo que pruz fu e curteis

For that that valiant he-was and courteous

e que mult le preisot li reis,

and that much him prized the king

li otria sa druërie,

to-him she-granted her love

55

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65

They love in secret, and the constraint wears on him; he begs her to go away with him, and she will not grieve her father so. She sends him instead to her kinswoman at Salerno, who has practiced medicine thirty years, with a letter of her own, so that he may be given a drink to restore him however spent he is. The aunt keeps him until she knows his whole case, strengthens him with medicines, and hands him such a drink; he carries it home in a vessel.

70 e cil humblement l'en mercie.

and he humbly her-thereof thanks

Ensemble parlerent sovent

Together they-spoke often

e s'entrainerent leialment,

and each-other-loved loyally

e celerent a lur poeir

and they-concealed to their power

qu'um nes peüst aparceveir.

that-one not-them might to-perceive

75 La sufrance mult lur greva;

The forbearance much to-them grieved

mes li vaslez se purpensa,

but the young-man himself bethought

que mielz en volt les mals sufrir

that better thereof he-wishes the ills to-suffer

que trop haster e dunc faillir.

than too-much to-hasten and then to-fail

Mult fu pur li amer destreiz.

Much he-was for her to-love distressed

Puis avint si qu'a une feiz

Then it-befell so that-at one time

qu'a s'amie vint li danzels,

that-to his-friend came the youth

ki tant esteit e pruz e bels,

who so was both valiant and fair

sa pleinte li mustra e dist.

his plaint to-her he-showed and said

Anguissusement li requist

Anguishedly of-her he-besought

que s'en alast ensemble od lui,

that herself-thence she-go together with him

ne poeit mes souffrir l'enui.

not he-could more to-suffer the-vexation

S'a sun pere la demandot,

If-of her father her he-asked

il saveit bien que tant l'amot

he knew well that so-much her-he-loved

que pas ne li voldreit doner,

that at-all not to-him he-would-wish to-give

se il ne la peüst porter

if he not her could to-carry

entre ses braz en sum le munt.

between his arms to top-of the mount

La damisele li respunt:

The damsel to-him answers

'Amis', fait ele, 'jeo sai bien,

Friend says she I know well

ne m'i porteriez pur rien;

not me-there you-would-carry for anything

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90

95 n'estes mie si vertuus.

not-you-are at-all so strong

Se jo m'en vois ensemble od vus,

If I myself-thence go together with you

mis pere avreit e doel e ire,

my father would-have both grief and wrath

ne vivreit mie senz martire.

not he-would-live at-all without torment

Certes tant l'eim e si l'ai chier,

Certainly so-much him-I-love and so him-I-have dear

100 jeo nel voldreie curucier.

I not-him would-wish to-anger

Altre cunseil vus estuet prendre,

Another counsel to-you it-bebooves to-take

kar cest ne vueil jeo pas entendre.

for this not wish I at-all to-hear

En Salerne ai une parente,

At Salerno I-have a kinswoman

riche femme est, mult a grant rente.

a-rich woman she-is much of great revenue

105 Plus de trente anz i a esté;

More than thirty years there she-has been

l'art de phisike a tant usé

the-art of physic she-has so-much practiced

que mult est saive de mescines.

that very she-is wise in medicines

Tant cunuist herbes e racines,

So-much she-knows herbs and roots

se vus a li volez aler

if you to her wish to-go

e mes lettres od vus porter

and my letters with you to-carry

e mustrer li vostre aventure,

and to-show to-her your case

ele en prendra cunseil e cure,

she thereof will-take counsel and care

Tels letuaires vus durra

Such electuaries to-you she-will-give

e tels beivres vus baillera,

and such drinks to-you she-will-hand

que tut vus recunforterunt

which wholly you will-restore

e bone vertu vus durrunt.

and good strength to-you will-give

Quant en cest païs revendrez,

When into this country you-will-return

a mun pere me requerrez.

of my father me you-will-ask

Il vus en tendra pur enfant,

He you thereof will-hold for a-child

si vus dira le cuvenant

and to-you will-tell the covenant

qu'a nul hume ne me durra,

that-to any man not me he-will-give

ja nule peine n'i metra,

ever any pains not-there he-will-put

110

115

120

s'al munt ne me peüst porter

if-to-the mount not me he-could to-carry

entre ses braz senz reposer;

between his arms without to-rest

125 si li otriëz bonement,

so to-him grant graciously

que il ne puet estre autrement.'

that it not can to-be otherwise

Li vaslez oï la novele

The young-man heard the news

e le conseil a la pucele;

and the counsel of the maiden

mult en fu liez, si l'en mercie.

much thereat he-was glad so her-thereof he-thanks

130 Cungié demandë a s'amie.

Leave he-asks of his-friend

En sa cuntree en est alez.

Into his country thence he-is gone

Hastivement s'est aturnez

Hastily himself-be-is equipped

de riches dras e de deniers,

with rich clothes and with money

de palefreiz e de sumiers,

with palfreys and with packhorses

135 De ses humes les plus privez

Of his men the most intimate

a li danzels od sei menez.

has the youth with himself led

A Salerne vait surjurner

To Salerno he-goes to-sojourn

a l'ante s'amie parler.

to the-aunt (of-)his-friend to-speak

De sa part li duna un brief.

On her behalf to-her he-gave a letter

Quant el l'ot lit de chief en chief,

When she it-had read from end to end

ensemble od li l'a retenu

together with her him-she-has kept

tant que tut sun estre a seü.

until that all his state she-has known

Par mescines l'a enforcié.

By medicines him-she-has strengthened

Un tel beivre li a baillié,

A such drink to-him she-has banded

ja ne sera tant travailliez

ever not he-will-be so wearied

ne si ateinz ne si chargiez,

nor so spent nor so burdened

ne li refreschisse le cors,

that-not to-him it-refresh the body

neïs les vaines ne les os,

even the veins nor the bones

e qu'il nen ait tute vertu,

and that-he not have all strength

si tost cum il l'avra beü.

as soon as he it-will-have drunk

140

145

150

Puis le remeine en sun païs;

Then it he-takes-back into his country

le beivre a en un vessel mis.

the drink he-has into a vessel put

THE CLIMB

He asks for the daughter; the king names a day and summons everyone. She fasts to make herself light and carries the phial in her hand. He climbs to the middle of the mount, and she tells him to drink; he says his heart is strong and will not stop for the crowd's shouting. Two thirds up he nearly falls, and still refuses. At the top he falls and dies. She spills the drink over the mount, which has borne good herbs ever since, lies down beside him, and dies, and they are buried in one marble coffin.

Li damisels joius e liez,

The youth joyful and glad

quant ariere fu repairiez,

when back he-was returned

155 ne surjurna pas en sa terre.

not he-tarried at-all in his land

Al rei ala sa fille querre,

To-the king he-went his daughter to-see

qu'il li donast: il la prendreit,

that-he to-him give-her he her would-take

en sum le munt la portereit.

to top-of the mount her he-would-carry

Li reis ne l'en escundist mie;

The king not him-thereof refused at-all

160 mes mult le tint a grant folie,

but much it he-beld for great folly

pur ceo qu'il ert de juefne eage;

for that that-be was of young age

tant produme vaillant e sage

so-many worthy-men valiant and wise

unt asaïé icel afaire,

have attempted that undertaking

ki n'en porent a nul chief traire.

who not-thereof could to any end to-bring

Terme li a numé e mis.

A-term to-him he-has named and set

Ses humes mande e ses amis

His men he-summons and his friends

e tuz cels qu'il poeit avoir;

and all those whom-be could to-have

n'en i laissa nul remaneir.

not-thereof there he-let any to-remain

Pur sa fille e pur le vaslet,

For his daughter and for the young-man

ki en aventure se met

who into hazard himself puts

de li porter en sum le munt,

of her to-carry to top-of the mount

de tutes parz venu i sunt.

from all sides come there they-are

La dameisele s'aturna;

The damsel herself-prepared

mult se destreinst, mult jeüna

much herself she-constrained much she-fasted

en sun mangier pur alegier,

in her eating for to-lighten

165

170

175

qu'a sun ami voleit aidier.

that-to her friend she-wished to-help

Al jur quant tuit furent venu,

On-the day when all were come

li damisels primiers i fu;

the youth first there was

sun beivre n'i ublia mie.

his drink not-there he-forgot at-all

180 Devers Seigne en la prairie

Toward Seine in the meadow

en la grant gent tute assemblee

in the great crowd all assembled

li reis a sa fille menee.

the king has his daughter led

N'ot drap vestu fors la chemise.

Not-she-had cloth worn except the shift

Entre ses braz l'aveit cil prise.

Between his arms her-had he taken

185 La fiolete od tut sun beivre

The phial with all his drink

(bien set qu'el nel volt pas deceivre)

well he-knows that-she not-him wishes at-all to-deceive

en sa mein a porter li baille;

into her hand to carry to-her he-bands

mes jo criem que poi ne li vaille,

but I fear that little — to-him it-avail

kar n'ot en lui point de mesure.

for not-there-was in him a-whit of moderation

190 Od li s'en vait grant aleüre;

With her himself-thence he-goes great pace

le munt munta des i qu'en mi.

the mount he-climbed from there that-to middle

Pur la joie qu'il ot de li,

For the joy which-he had of her

de sun beivre ne li membra;

of his drink not to-him it-remembered

ele senti qu'il alassa.

she felt that-he grew-weary

'Amis', fet ele, 'kar bevez!

195

Friend says she now drink

Jeo sai bien que vus alassez.

I know well that you grow-weary

Si recuvrez vostre vertu!

So recover your strength

Li damisels a respundu:

The youth has answered

'Bele, jo sent tut fort mun quer!

Fair-one I feel all strong my heart

Ne m'arestereie a nul fuer

200

Not myself-I-would-stop at any price

si lungement que jeo beüsse,

so long that I should-drink

pur quei treis pas aler peüsse.

for which three steps to-go I-might

Ceste genz nus escriëient,

These folk at-us would-cry-out

de lur noise m'esturdireient;

with their noise me-they-would-stun

tost me purreient desturber.

205

soon me they-might to-binder

Jo ne vueil pas ci arester.'

I not wish at-all here to-stop

Quant les dous parz fu muntez sus,

When the two parts he-was climbed up

pur un petit qu'il ne chiet jus.

for a little that-he not falls down

Sovent li prie la meschine:

Oftien to-him prays the maid

210 'Amis, bevez vostre mescine!'

Friend drink your medicine

Ja ne la volt oïr ne creire,

Ever not her he-wishes to-hear nor to-believe

A grant anguisse od tut li eire.

With great anguish with all her he-goes

Sur le munt vint, tant se greva,

Upon the mount he-came so-much himself he-strained

iluec cheï, puis ne leva:

there he-fell then not he-rose

215 li quers del ventre s'en parti.

the heart from-the body itself-thence parted

La pucele vit sun ami,

The maiden saw her friend

quida qu'il fust en pasmeisuns.

she-thought that-he was in swoons

Lez lui se met en genuilluns,

Beside him herself she-puts on knees

Sun beivre li voleit doner;

His drink to-him she-wished to-give

220 mes il ne pout a li parler.

but he not could to her to-speak

Issi murut cum jeo vus di.

Thus he-died as I to-you say

Ele le pleint a mult halt cri.

She him laments with very high cry

Puis a geté e espandu

Then she-has cast and spilled

le vessel u li beivre fu.

the vessel where the drink was

Li munz en fu bien arusez;

The mount thereby was well besprinkled

mult en a esté amendez

much thereby has been bettered

tuz li païs e la cuntree:

all the country and the region

meinte bone herbe i unt trovee,

many-a good herb there they-have found

ki del beivre aveient racine.

which from-the drink had root

Or vus dirai de la meschine!

Now to-you I-shall-tell of the maid

Puis que sun ami ot perdu,

Since that her friend she-had lost

unkes si dolente ne fu.

ever so grieved not she-was

De lez lui se culche e estent,

From side-of him herself she-lays and stretches

entre ses braz l'estreint e prent,

between her arms him-she-clasps and takes

suvent li baise e uiz e buche.

often to-him she-kisses both eyes and mouth

225

230

235

Li duels de lui al quer la tuche.

The grief of him to-the heart her touches

Ilec murut la dameisele,

There died the damsel

ki tant ert pruz e sage e bele.

who so was valiant and wise and fair

Li reis e cil kis atendeient,

The king and those who-them awaited

240 quant unt veü qu'il ne veneient,

when they-have seen that-they not came

vunt après els, sis unt trovez.

go after them so-them they-have found

Li reis chiet a terre pasmez;

The king falls to earth swooned

quant pot parler, grant duel demeine;

when he-could to-speak great grief he-makes

issi firent la genz foreine.

thus did the folk foreign

245 Treis jurs les unt tenuz sur terre.

Three days them they-have kept upon earth

Sarcu de marbre firent querre.

A-coffin of marble they-had to-be-sought

les dous enfanz unt mis dedenz.

the two children they-have put within

Par le conseil de celes genz

By the counsel of those folk

desur le munt les enfüirent,

upon the mount them they-buried

se puis a tant se departirent.

and then at that themselves they-parted

Pur l'aventure des enfanz

For the-adventure of-the children

a nun li munz des Dous Amanz.

has name the mount of-the Two Lovers

Issi avint cum dit vus ai;

Thus it-befell as said to-you I-have

li Bretun en firent un lai.

the Bretons thereof made a lay

Yonec

VII

He who begot Yonec was called Muldumarec. An old rich man of Caerwent took a wife to have heirs of her and, because she was fair, shut her in a paved chamber of his tower with his old widowed sister to keep her. Seven years passed with no child and no going out. One April, left alone, she curses the kin who married her to a jealous man who will never die, and remembers that in this country adventures used to redeem the sorrowful; she prays God to do her will.

Puis que des lais ai comencié,

Since that of-the lays I-have begun

ja n'iert pur nul travail laissié;

ever not-it-will-be for any labor left

les aventures que jeo sai,

the adventures which I know

tut par rime les cunterai.

all in rhyme them I-shall-tell

5 En pensé ai e en talant

In thought I-have and in desire

que d'Yonec vus die avant

that of-Yonec to-you I-tell further

dunt il fu nez, e de sun pere

whence he was born and of his father

cum il vint primes a sa mere.

how he came first to his mother

Cil ki engendra Yonec

He who begot Yonec

10 aveit a nun Muldumarec.

bad for name Muldumarec

En Bretaine maneit jadis
In Brittany dwelt formerly
 uns riches huem, vielz e antis.
a rich man old and ancient
 De Caruënt fu avuëz
Of Caerwent he-was advocate
 e del païs sire clamez.
and of-the country lord proclaimed
 La citez siet sur Duëlas;
The city sits upon Douglas
 jadis i ot de nes trespas.
formerly there was of ships passage
 Mult fu trespassez en eage.
Much he-was advanced in age
 Pur ceo qu'il ot bon heritage,
For that that-he had good heritage
 femme prist pur enfanz avoir,
a-wife he-took for children to-have
 ki après lui fussent si heir.
who after him should-be his heirs
 De halte gent fu la pucele,
Of high folk was the maiden
 sage e curteise e forment bele,
wise and courteous and greatly fair
 ki al riche hume fu donee;
who to-the rich man was given
 pur sa bealté l'a mult amee,
for her beauty her-be-has much loved
 Pur qu'en fereie altre parole?
Why thereof should-I-make other speech

15

20

25

Nen ot sun per desqu'a Nicole

Not there-was her peer right-to Lincoln

ne tresqu'en Yrlande de la.

nor right-to Ireland beyond there

Grant pechié fist ki li dona.

Great sin did-he who her gave

Pur ceo que ele ert bele e gente,

For that that she was fair and comely

30 en li garder mist mult s'entente.

in her to-guard he-put much his-effort

Dedenz sa tur l'a enserree

Inside his tower her-be-has shut

en une grant chambre pavee.

in a great chamber paved

Il ot une sue serur,

He had a his sister

vieille ert e vedve, senz seignur;

old she-was and widow without lord

35 ensemble od la dame l'a mise

together with the lady her-be-has put

pur li tenir plus en justise.

for her to-keep more in control

Altres femmes i ot, ceo crei,

Other women there were that I-believe

en une altre chambre par sei;

in an other chamber by itself

mes ja la dame n'i parlast,

but ever the lady not-there would-speak

40 se la vieille nel comandast.

if the old-woman not-it commanded

Issi la tint plus de set anz
Thus her he-kept more than seven years
 (unques entre els n'ourent enfanz),
ever between them not-they-had children
 ne fors de cele tur n'eissi
nor out of that tower not-she-went
 ne pur parent ne pur ami.
nor for kinsman nor for friend
 Quant li sire s'alot culchier,
When the lord himself-went to-lie
 n'i ot chamberlenc ne huissier,
not-there was chamberlain nor doorkeeper
 ki en la chambre osast entrer
who into the chamber dared to-enter
 ne devant lui cirge alumer.
nor before him a-candle to-light
 Mult ert la dame en grant tristur.
Much was the lady in great sadness
 Od lermes, od suspir e plur
With tears with sighing and weeping
 sa belté pert en tel mesure
her beauty she-loses in such measure
 cume cele ki n'en a cure.
like her who not-thereof has care
 De sei meïsme mierz volsist
Of herself same better she-would-wish
 que morz hastive la presist.
that death swift her should-take

45

50

55 Ceo fu el meis d'avril entrant,

That was in-the month of-April entering

quant cil oisel meinent lur chant.

when those birds lead their song

Li sire fu matin levez;

The lord was in-morning risen

d'aler en bois s'est aturnez.

of-going into wood himself-he-is prepared

La vieille a faite lever sus

The old-woman he-has made to-rise up

60 e après lui fermer les hus.

and after him to-shut the doors

Cele a sun comandement fet.

She has his commandment done

En une altre chambre s'en vet;

Into an other chamber herself-thence she-goes

en sa main portot sun psaltier,

in her hand she-carried her psalter

u ele voleit verseillier.

where she wished to-chant-verses

65 La dame en plur e en esveil

The lady in weeping and in waking

choisi la clarté del soleil.

descried the brightness of-the sun

De la vieille est aparceüe

Of the old-woman she-is aware

que de la chambre esteit eissue.

that from the chamber she-was gone

Mult se pleigneit e suspirot

Much herself she-lamented and sighed

e en plurant se dementot.

and in weeping herself she-bewailed

'Lasse', fait ele, 'mar fui nee!

Wretched says she ill-starred I-was born

Mult est dure ma destinee!

Very is hard my fate

En ceste tur sui en prisun,

In this tower I-am in prison

ja n'en istrai se par mort nun.

ever not-thence I-shall-go except by death not

Cist vielz gelus de quei se crient,

This old jealous-one of what himself fears

ki en si grant prisun me tient?

who in so great prison me holds

Mult par est fols e esbaïz,

Very much he-is mad and bewildered

il crient estre tuz jurs traïz.

he fears to-be all days betrayed

Jeo ne puis al mustier venir

I not can to-the minster to-come

ne le servise deu oïr.

nor the service of-God to-hear

Se jo peüsse a gent parler

If I could to folk to-speak

e en deduit od lui aler,

and in delight with him to-go

jo li mustrasse bel semblant,

I to-him would-show fair countenance

70

75

80

ja n'en eüsse jeo talant.

ever not-thereof should-have I desire

85 Maleeit seient mi parent

Cursed be my kinsfolk

e li altre comunalment,

and the others in-common

ki a cest gelus me donerent

who to this jealous-one me gave

e de sun cors me marièrent!

and to his body me married

A forte corde trai e tir!

At a-strong rope I-pull and haul

90 Il ne purra ja mes murir;

He not will-be-able ever more to-die

quant il dut estre baptiziez,

when he was-to be baptized

si fu el flum d'enfern plongiez;

so he-was into-the river of-hell plunged

dur sunt li nerf, dures les veines,

hard are the sineus hard the veins

ki de vif sanc sunt tutes pleines.

which of live blood are all full

95 Mult ai oï sovent cunter

Much I-have heard often to-be-told

que l'em suleit jadis trover

that one used formerly to-find

aventures en cest païs,

adventures in this country

ki rachatouent les pensis.

which redeemed the sorrowful

Chevalier trovoënt puceles

Knights found maidens

a lur talent, gentes e beles,

to their liking noble and fair

e dames truvoënt amanz

and ladies found lovers

beals e curteis, pruz e vaillanz,

fair and courteous valiant and worthy

si que blasmees n'en esteient

so that blamed not-thereby they-were

ne nul fors eles nes veeient

nor any except them not-them saw

Se ceo puet estre ne ceo fu,

If that can to-be or that was

se unc a nul est avenu,

if ever to any it-is befallen

deus, ki de tut a poësté,

God who of all has power

il en face ma volenté!

let-him thereof do my will

100

105

A goshawk flies in at the narrow window and becomes a fair knight, who tells her he has long loved her and could not come until she asked for him. She will make him her lover if he believes in God; taking her likeness, he receives the host from the chaplain she feigns sickness to summon, and drinks the wine of the chalice. Then he lies beside her, and warns her to keep such measure that the old woman does not perceive them, for if she betrays them he must die.

Quant ele ot fait sa pleinte issi,

When she had made her plaint thus

110 l'umbre d'un grant oisel choisi

the-shadow of-a great bird she-described

par mi une estreite fenestre.

through middle-of a narrow window

Ele ne set que ceo puet estre.

She not knows what that can to-be

En la chambre volant entra.

Into the chamber flying it-entered

Giez ot es piez, ostur sembla;

Jesses it-had on-the feet a-goshawk it-seemed

115 de cinc mues fu u de sis.

of five moultings it-was or of six

Il s'est devant la dame asis.

It itself-is before the lady seated

Quant il i ot un poi esté

When it there had a little been

e ele l'ot bien esguardé,

and she it-had well beheld

chevaliers bels e genz devint.

a-knight fair and comely it-became

La dame a merveille le tint;

The lady for marvel it held

li sans li remue e fremi,

the blood in-her stirs and quivered

grant poür ot, sun chief covri.

great fear she-had her head she-covered

Mult fu curteis li chevaliers,

Very was courteous the knight

il l'en araisuna primiers.

he her-thereon addressed first

‘Dame’, fet il, ‘n’aiez poür,

Lady says he not-have fear

gentil oisel a en ostur,

a-noble bird there-is in a-goshawk

se li segrei vus sunt oscur,

if the secrets to-you are dark

Gardez que seiez a seür,

Take-care that you-be in surety

si faites de mei vostre ami!

and make of me your friend

Pur ceo’, fet il, ‘vinc jeo ici.

For that says he came I here

Jeo vus ai lungement amee

I you have long loved

e en mun quer mult desiree;

and in my heart much desired

unkes femme fors vus n’amai

ever woman except you not-I-loved

ne ja mes altre n’amerai.

nor ever more another not-I-shall-love

120

125

130

- 135 Mes ne poeie a vus venir
But not I-could to you to-come
 ne fors de mun païs eissir,
nor out of my country to-go
 se vus ne m'eüssiez requis.
if you not me-had sought
 Or puis bien estre vostre amis!
Now I-can well to-be your friend
 La dame se raseüra;
The lady herself reassured
- 140 sun chief descovri, si parla.
her head she-uncovered and spoke
 Le chevalier a respundu
To-the knight she-has answered
 e dit qu'ele en fera sun dru,
and says that-she thereof will-make her lover
 s'en deu creïst e issi fust
if-in God he-believed and thus it-were
 que lur amurs estre peüst.
that their love to-be might
- 145 Kar mult esteit de grant bealté;
For very he-was of great beauty
 unkes nul jur de sen eé
ever any day of her age
 si bel chevalier n'esguarda
so fair a-knight not-she-beheld
 ne ja mes si bel ne verra.
nor ever more so fair not she-will-see
 'Dame', fet il, 'vus dites bien!
Lady says he you say well

Ne voldreie pur nule rien

Not I-would-wish for any thing

que de mei i ait achaisun,

that of me there be cause

mescreance ne suspesçun.

misbelief nor suspicion

Jeo crei mult bien al creatur,

I believe very well in-the creator

ki nus geta de la tristur

who us cast from the sorrow

u Adam nus mist, nostre pere,

where Adam us put our father

par le mors de la pume amere;

by the bite of the apple bitter

il est e iert e fu tuz jurs

he is and will-be and was all days

vie e lumiere as pecheürs.

life and light to-the sinners

Se vus de ceo ne me creez,

If you of that not me believe

vostre chapelain demandez!

your chaplain send-for

Dites que mals vus a suzprise,

Say that sickness you has seized

si volez avoir le servise

and you-wish to-have the service

que deus a el mund establi,

which God has in-the world established

dunt li pecheür sunt guari.

whereby the sinners are healed

150

155

160

- 165 La semblance de vus prendrai:
The likeness of you I-shall-take
 le cors dame deu recevrai,
the body (of-)Lord God I-shall-receive
 ma creance vus dirai tute.
my creed to-you I-shall-say all
 Ja ne serez de ceo en dute!
Ever not you-will-be of that in doubt
 El li respunt que bien a dit.
She to-him answers that well he-has said
- 170 De lez li s'est culchiez el lit;
From side-of her himself-be-is laid in-the bed
 mes il ne volt a li tuchier
but he not wished to her to-touch
 ne d'acoler ne de baisier.
nor of-embracing nor of kissing
 A tant la vieille est repairiee.
At that the old-woman is returned
 La dame trova esveilliee,
The lady she-found awake
- 175 dist li que tens est de lever,
she-said to-her that time it-is of to-rise
 ses dras li voleit apporter.
her clothes to-her she-wished to-bring
 La dame dist qu'ele est malade;
The lady said that-she is sick
 del chapelain se prenge garde,
of-the chaplain let-her take heed
 Sil face tost a li venir,
And-him let-her-make soon to her to-come

kar grant poür a de murir.

for great fear she-has of to-die

La vieille dist: 'Or suferrez!

The old-woman said Now you-will-endure

Mis sire en est el bois alez;

My lord thence is into-the wood gone

nuls n'enterra ça enz fors mei.'

any not-will-enter hither within except me

Mult fu la dame en grant esfrei;

Much was the lady in great fright

semblant fist qu'ele se pasma.

sign she-made that-she herself swooned

Cele le vit, mult s'esmaia.

She it saw much she-was-dismayed

L'us de la chambre a desfermé,

The-door of the chamber she-has unbarred

si a le prestre demandé;

and has the priest sent-for

e cil i vint cum plus tost pot,

and he there came as more soon he-could

corpus domini aportot.

corpus domini he-carried

Li chevaliers l'a receü,

The knight it-has received

le vin del chalice a beü.

the wine of-the chalice he-has drunk

Li chapeleins s'en est alez,

The chaplain himself-thence is gone

e la vieille a les us fermez.

and the old-woman has the doors shut

180

185

190

- 195 La dame gist lez sun ami:
 The lady lies beside her friend
 unkes si bel cuple ne vi.
 ever so fair a-couple not I-saw
 Quant unt asez ris e jué
 When they-have much laughed and played
 e de lur priveté parlé,
 and of their intimacy spoken
 li chevaliers a cungié pris;
 the knight has leave taken
 200 raler s'en vult en sun país.
 to-go-back himself-thence he-wishes into his country
 Ele le prie dulcement
 She him prays sweetly
 que il la reveie sovent.
 that he her see-again often
 'Dame', fet il, 'quant vus plaira,
 Lady says he when to-you it-will-please
 ja l'ure ne trespasera.
 ever the-hour not will-pass
 205 Mes tel mesure en esgardez,
 But such measure therein observe
 que nus ne seium encumbrez.
 that we not be encumbered
 Ceste vieille nus traïra
 This old-woman us will-betray
 e nuit e jur nus guaitera.
 both night and day us she-will-watch
 Ele parcevra nostre amur,
 She will-perceive our love

sil cuntera a sun seignur.

210

and-it will-tell to her lord

S'issi avient cum jeo vus di

If-thus it-happens as I to-you say

e nus sumes issi traï,

and we are thus betrayed

ne m'en puis mie departir

not myself-thence I-can at-all to-part

que mei n'en estuece murir.'

that me not-thereof it-behoove to-die

THE IRON SPIKES

The lady recovers her beauty and cares for nothing but staying in, and her lord sees the change in her face. He sets his sister to make a show of going out and to watch from a hiding place; she sees how the lover comes and goes, a man and then a goshawk, and tells him. He has iron spikes forged and steeled in front, sharper than any razor, and set in the window the bird passes through.

Li chevaliers a tant s'en vait;

215

The knight at that himself-thence goes

a grant joie s'amie lait.

in great joy his-friend he-leaves

El demain lieve tute seine;

On-the morrow she-rises all whole

mult fu haitiee la semeine.

very she-was gladdened the week

Sun cors teneit en grant chierté:

Her body she-held in great regard

tute recuevre sa bealté.

220

wholly she-recovers her beauty

Or li plect plus a surjurner

Now to-her it-pleases more to stay-in

qu'en nul altre deduit aler.

than-into any other delight to-go

Sun ami vult suvent veeir

Her friend she-wishes often to-see

e sa joie de lui avoir;

and her joy of him to-have

225 des que sis sire s'en depart,

from that her lord himself-thence departs

e nuit e jur e tost e tart

both night and day both early and late

ele l'a tut a sun plaisir.

she him-has all at her pleasure

Or l'en duinst deus lunges joïr!

Now her-thereof grant God long to-enjoy

Pur la grant joie u ele fu,

For the great joy in-which she was

230 que sovent puet veeir sun dru,

that often she-can to-see her lover

esteit tuz sis semblanz changiez.

was all her look changed

Sis sire esteit mult veziëz;

Her lord was very crafty

en sun curage s'aparceit

in his heart himself-he-perceives

qu'altrement ert qu'il ne suleit,

that-otherwise it-was than-it — used

235 Mescrance a vers sa serur.

Mistrust he-has toward his sister

Il la met a raisun un jur

He her puts to reason one day

e dit que mult a grant merveille

and says that much he-has great marvel

que la dame si s'apareille;

that the lady so herself-adorns

demanda li que ceo deveit.

he-asked of-her what that meant

La vieille dist qu'el ne saveit

The old-woman said that-she not knew

(kar nuls ne pot parler a li

for any not could to-speak to her

ne ele n'ot dru ne ami)

nor she not-had lover nor friend

fors tant que sule remaneit

except so-much that alone she-remained

plus volentiers qu'el ne suleit;

more willingly than-she — used

de ceo s'esteit aparceüe.

of that herself-she-was aware

Dunc l'a li sire respundue.

Then her-has the lord answered

'Par fei', fet il, 'ceo quit jeo bien.

By faith says he that think I well

Or vus estuet faire une rien!

Now to-you it-behooves to-do one thing

Al matin quant jeo ierc levez

In-the morning when I shall-be risen

e vus avrez les hus fermez,

and you will-have the doors shut

240

245

250

faites semblant de fors eissir,

make show of outside to-go

si la laissez sule gisir,

and her leave alone to-lie

En un segrei liu vus estez

In a secret place you stand

e si veez e esguardez,

and so see and observe

255 que ceo puet estre e dunt ceo vient

what that can to-be and whence that comes

ki en si grant joie la tient.'

which in so great joy her holds

De cel conseil sunt departi.

From that counsel they-are parted

A las! cum ierent mal bailli

Ab wretched how they-will-be ill served

cil que l'um vult si aguaitier

those whom one wishes so to-waylay

260 pur els traïr e engignier!

for them to-betray and to-ensnare

Tierz jur après, ceo oi cunter,

Third day after that I-heard to-be-told

fet li sire semblant d'errer.

makes the lord show of-traveling

A sa femme a dit e cunté

To his wife he-has said and told

que li reis l'a par brief mandé,

that the king him-has by letter summoned

265 mes hastivement revendra.

but hastily he-will-return

De la chambre ist e l'us ferma.

From the chamber he-goes and the-door he-shut

Dunc s'esteit la vieille levee,

Then herself-was the old-woman risen

triers une cortine est alee;

behind a curtain she-is gone

bien purra oïr e veoir

well she-will-be-able to-bear and to-see

ceo qu'ele cuveite a savoir.

that which-she covets to know

270

La dame jut, pas ne dormi,

The lady lay at-all not she-slept

kar mult desire sun ami.

for much she-desires her friend

Venuz i est, pas ne demure,

Come there he-is at-all not he-delays

ne trespasse terme ne hure.

nor he-oversteps term nor hour

Ensemble funt joie mult grant

Together they-make joy very great

275

e par parole e par semblant,

both by speech and by look

des i que tens fu de lever,

from there that time it-was of to-rise

kar dunc l'en estuveit aler.

for then him-thence it-behooved to-go

Cele le vit, si l'esguarda,

She him saw so him-beheld

coment il vint e il ala.

how he came and he went

280

De ceo ot ele grant poür

Of that had she great fear

qu'ume le vit e puis ostur,

that-a-man him she-saw and then a-goshawk

Quant li sire fu repairiez,

When the lord was returned

ki n'esteit guaires esluigniez,

who not-was much gone-far

285 cele li a dit e mustré

she to-him has said and shown

del chevalier la verité,

of-the knight the truth

e il en est forment pensis.

and he thereat is greatly pensive

Des engins faire fu hastis

Of-the engines to-make he-was hasty

a ocire le chevalier.

to slay the knight

290 Broches de fer fist granz furgier

Spikes of iron he-had great to-be-forged

e acerer les chiés devant:

and to-steel the heads in-front

suz ciel n'a rasur plus trenchant.

under heaven not-is razor more cutting

Quant il les ot apareilliees

When he them had prepared

e de tutes parz enfurchiees,

and on all sides forked

295 sur la fenestre les a mises,

upon the window them he-has set

bien serrees e bien asises,
well fastened and well placed
 par unt li chevaliers passot,
by which the knight passed
 quant a la dame repairot.
when to the lady he-returned
 Deus, qu'il ne set la traïsun
God that-he not knows the treachery
 que apareillent li felun!
which prepare the felons

300

THE SILVER CITY

The knight comes to the window and the spikes go through his body. He alights bleeding on the bed, tells her that her countenance has killed him, and says she carries a son, Yōnec, who will avenge them both. She leaps twenty feet from the window in her shift and follows the blood into a hill and out to a city all of silver. In the third chamber she finds him dying. He gives her a ring that will keep her lord from remembering, and a sword for their son, and tells her what to do at the abbey.

El demain a la matinee
On-the morrow at the morning
 li sire lieve a l'ajurnee
the lord rises at the-daybreak
 e dit qu'il vult aler chacier.
and says that-he wishes to-go to-hunt
 La vieille le vait cunveier;
The old-woman him goes to-escort
 puis se reculche pur dormir,
then herself she-lies-again for to-sleep

305

kar ne poeit le jur choisir.

for not she-could the day to-descri

La dame veille, si atent

The lady wakes and awaits

celui qu'ele eime leialment,

him whom-she loves loyally

e dit qu'or purreit bien venir

and says that-now he-might well to-come

310 e estre od li tut a leisir.

and to-be with her all at leisure

Si tost cum el l'ot demandé,

As soon as she him-had asked-for

n'i a puis guaires demuré.

not-there has since much delayed

En la fenestre vint volant;

At the window he-came flying

mes les broches furent devant.

but the spikes were in-front

315 L'une le fiert par mi le cors,

The-one him strikes through middle-of the body

li sans vermeilz en sailli fors.

the blood crimson thereof sprang out

Quant il se sent a mort nafrez,

When he himself feels to death wounded

desferre sei, enz est entrez.

he-frees himself within he-is entered

Devant la dame el lit descent,

Before the lady on-the bed he-alights

320 que tuit li drap furent sanglent.

so-that all the sheets were bloody

Ele veit le sanc e la plaie,

She sees the blood and the wound

mult anguissusement s'esmaie.

very anguishedly she-is-dismayed

Il li a dit: 'Ma dulce amie,

He to-her has said My sweet friend

pur vostre amur pert jeo la vie!

for your love lose I the life

Bien le vus dis qu'en avendreit,

Well it to-you I-said what-thereof would-come

vostre semblanz nus ocireit'

your countenance us would-slay

Quant el l'ö, dunc chiet pasmee;

When she it-beard then she-falls swooned

tute fu morte une loëe.

quite she-was dead a while

Il la cunforte dulcement

He her comforts sweetly

e dit que duels n'i valt niënt.

and says that grief not-there avails nothing

De lui est enceinte d'enfant,

By him she-is pregnant with-child

un fiz avra pruz e vaillant.

a son she-will-have valiant and worthy

Icil la recunfortera;

He her will-comfort

Yonec numer le fera.

Yonec to-name him she-will-have

Il vengera e lui e li,

He will-avenge both him and her

325

330

335

il oscira sun enemi.

he will-slay his enemy

Il n'i puet dunc demurer mes,

He not-there can then to-stay more

kar sa plaie seignot adés.

for his wound bled continually

A grant dolor s'en est partiz,

With great grief himself-thence he-is parted

340 Ele le siut a mult halz criz.

She him follows with very loud cries

Par une fenestre s'en ist;

Through a window herself-thence she-goes

c'est merveille qu'el ne s'ocist,

that-is marvel that-she not herself-killed

kar bien aveit vint piez de halt

for well there-was twenty feet of height

iloecc u ele prist le salt

there where she took the leap

345 Ele esteit nue en sa chemise.

She was bare in her shift

A la trace del sanc s'est mise,

To the trail of-the blood herself-she-is set

ki del chevalier decureit

which from-the knight ran-down

sur le chemin u ele esteit.

upon the road where she was

Icel sentier erra e tint,

That path she-traveled and held

350 des i qu'a une hoge vint.

from there that-to a bill she-came

En cele hoge ot une entree,

In that hill there-was an entrance

de cel sanc fu tute arusee;

with that blood it-was all besprinkled

ne pot niënt avant veeir.

not she-could nothing ahead to-see

Dunc quidot ele bien saveir

Then thought she well to-know

que sis amis entrez i seit.

that her friend entered there be

Dedenz se met a grant espleit.

Within herself she-puts with great speed

El n'i trova nule clarté.

She not-there found any light

Tant a le dreit chemin erré,

So-far she-has the straight road traveled

que fors de la hoge est eissue

that out of the hill she-is gone

e en un mult bel pre venuee.

and into a very fair meadow come

Del sanc trova l'erbe moilliee,

With-the blood she-found the-grass wet

dunc s'est ele mult esmaiee.

then herself-is she much dismayed

La trace en siut par mi le pre.

The trail thereof she-follows through middle-of the meadow

Asez pres vit une cité.

Quite near she-saw a city

De mur fu close tut en tur.

With wall it-was closed all in round

355

360

365

N'i ot maisun, sale ne tur

Not-there was house hall nor tower

ki ne parust tute d'argent.

which not appeared all of-silver

Mult sunt riche li mandement.

Very are rich the buildings

Devers le burc sunt li mareis

Toward the town are the marshes

370 e les forez e li defeis.

and the forests and the preserves

De l'altre part vers le dunjun

On the-other side toward the keep

curt une ewe tut environ;

runs a water all around

iloecc arivoënt les nes,

there landed the ships

plus i aveit de treis cenx tres.

more there were than three hundred masts

375 La porte a val fu desfermee;

The gate to below was unbarred

la dame est en la vile entree

the lady is into the town entered

tuz jurs après le sanc novel

all the-while after the blood fresh

par mi le burc desqu'al chastel.

through middle-of the town right-to-the castle

Unkes nuls a li ne parla,

Ever any to her not spoke

380 n'ume ne femme n'i trova.

nor-man nor woman not-there she-found

El palais vient al pavement,

Into-the palace she-comes to-the pavement

de sanc le trueve tut sanglent.

with blood it she-finds all bloody

En une bele chambre entra;

Into a fair chamber she-entered

un chevalier dormant trova.

a knight sleeping she-found

Nel cunut pas, si vet avant

Not-him she-knew at-all so she-goes forward

en une altre chambre plus grant.

into an other chamber more great

Un lit i trueve e niënt plus,

A bed there she-finds and nothing more

un chevalier dormant desus;

a knight sleeping upon-it

ele s'en est ultre passee.

she herself-thence is beyond passed

En la tierce chambre est entree;

Into the third chamber she-is entered

le lit sun ami a trové.

the bed (of-)her friend she-has found

Li pecol sunt d'or esmeré;

The bedposts are of-gold refined

ne sai mie les dras preisier;

not I-know at-all the cloths to-appraise

li cirgë e li chandelier,

the candles and the candlesticks

ki nuit e jur sunt alumé,

which night and day are lit

385

390

395

valent tut l'or d'une cité.

are-worth all the-gold of-a city

Si tost cum ele l'a veü,

As soon as she him-has seen

le chevalier a cuneü.

the knight she-has recognized

Avant ala tute esfreee;

Forward she-went all frightened

400 par desus lui cheï pasmee.

over upon him she-fell swooned

Cil la receit ki forment l'aime,

He her receives who greatly her-loves

maleürus sovent se claime.

unhappy often himself he-calls

Quant del pasmer fu respassee,

When from-the swooning she-was recovered

il l'a dulcement cunfortee.

he her-has sweetly comforted

405 'Bele amie, pur deu vus pri,

Fair friend for God you I-pray

alez vus en! Fuez de ci!

go you thence Flee from here

Sempres murrai en mi le jur;

Presently I-shall-die in middle-of the day

ça enz avra si grant dolor,

hither within there-will-be so great grief

se vus i esteiez trovee,

if you there were found

410 mult en seriëz turmentee;

much thereby you-would-be tormented

bien iert entre ma gent seü

well it-will-be among my folk known

qu'il m'unt pur vostre amur perdu.

that-they me-have for your love lost

Pur vus sui dolenz e pensis!

For you I-am grieved and pensive

La dame li a dit: 'Amis,

The lady to-him has said Friend

mielz vueil ensemble od vus murir

better I-wish together with you to-die

qu'od mun seignur peine sufrir!

than-with my lord pain to-suffer

S'a lui revois, il m'ocira.'

If-to him I-go-back he me-will-slay

Li chevaliers l'aseüra.

The knight her-assured

Un anelet li a baillié,

A little-ring to-her he-has banded

si li a dit e enseignié,

and to-her he-has said and taught

ja, tant cum el le guardera,

ever so-long as she it will-keep

a sun seignur n'en memberra

to her lord not-thereof it-will-remember

de nule rien ki faite seit,

of any thing which done be

ne ne l'en tendra en destreit.

nor not her-thereof he-will-hold in constraint

S'espee li cumande e rent;

His-sword to-her he-commends and renders

415

420

425

puis la cunjure e li defent

then her be-conjures and to-her forbids

que ja nuls huem n'en seit saisiz,

that ever any man not-thereof be seised

mes bien la quart a oés sun fiz.

but well it let-her-keep for use-of her son

Quant il sera creüz e granz

When he will-be grown and great

430 e chevaliers pruz e vaillanz,

and a-knight valiant and worthy

a une feste u ele irra

to a feast where she will-go

sun seignur e lui amerra.

her lord and him she-will-bring

En une abeüe vendrunt;

Into an abbey they-will-come

par une tumbe qu'il verrunt

by a tomb which they-will-see

435 orrunt renoveler sa mort

they-will-hear to-be-renewed his death

e cum il fu ocis a tort.

and how he was slain by wrong

Iluec li baillera l'espee.

There to-him she-will-hand the-sword

L'aventure li seit cuntee

The-adventure to-him let-it-be told

cum il fu nez, ki l'engendra;

how he was born who him-begot

440 asez verrunt qu'il en fera.

well they-will-see what-he thereof will-do

Quant tut li a dit e mustré,

When all to-her he-has said and shown

un chier blialt li a doné;

a costly tunic to-her he-has given

si li cumanda a vestir.

and to-her he-commanded to put-on

Puis l'a faite de lui partir.

Then her-he-has made from him to-part

Ele s'en vet: l'anel en porte

She herself-thence goes the-ring thence she-carries

e l'espee ki la cunforte,

and the-sword which her comforts

A l'eissue de la cité

At the-going-out of the city

n'ot pas demie liwe alé,

not-she-had at-all half league gone

quant ele oï les seins suner

when she heard the bells to-ring

e le doel el chastel lever

and the mourning in-the castle to-rise

pur lur seignur ki se moreit.

for their lord who himself was-dying

Ele set bien que morz esteit;

She knows well that dead he-was

de la dolur que ele en a

from the grief which she thereof has

quatre fiées se pasma.

four times herself she-swooned

E quant de pasmeisuns revint,

And when from swoons she-came-back

445

450

455

vers la hoge sa veie tint.

toward the hill her way she-held

Dedenz entra, ultre est passee,

Within she-entered beyond she-is passed

si s'en revait en sa cuntree.

and herself-thence she-goes-back into her country

Ensemblement od sun seignur

Together with her lord

460 demura meint di e meint jur,

she-stayed many-a day and many-a day

ki de cel fet ne la reta

who of that deed not her accused

ne ne mesdist ne ne gaba.

nor not slandered nor not mocked

THE TOMB AT THE ABBEY

Yonec is born, reared, and dubbed. Going to the feast of Saint Aaron at Caerleon, the household is lodged at an abbey, and in the chapter-house they find a great tomb with twenty candles about it: the best knight in the world, king of that land, surprised at Caerwent and killed for the love of a lady, whose son the country has awaited. The lady tells her son whose tomb it is, gives him the sword, and dies upon the tomb. Yonec strikes off his stepfather's head and is made their lord.

Sis fiz fu nez e bien nurriz

Her son was born and well reared

e bien gardez e bien cheriz.

and well guarded and well cherished

465 Yonec le firent numer.

Yonec him they-had to-be-named

El regne ne pot um trover

In-the realm not could one to-find

si bel, si pru ne si vaillant,

so fair so valiant nor so worthy

si large ne si despendant.

so generous nor so free-spending

Quant il fu venuz en eé,

When he was come into age

a chevalier l'unt adubé.

to knight him-they-have dubbed

En l'an meïsmes que ceo fu,

In the-year same that that was

oëz cument est avenu!

hear how it-is befallen

A la feste seint Aaron,

At the feast (of-)saint Aaron

qu'on celebrot a Karlion

which-one celebrated at Caerleon

e en plusurs altres citez,

and in many other cities

li sire aveit esté mandez,

the lord had been summoned

qu'il i alast od ses amis

that-be there go with his friends

a la custume del païs;

according-to the custom of-the country

sa femme e sun fiz i menast

his wife and his son there let-him-bring

e richement s'apareillast.

and richly let-him-array-himself

470

475

480

Issi avint, alé i sunt.

Thus it-befell gone there they-are

Mes il ne sevent u il vunt;

But they not know where they go

ensemble od els ot un meschin,

together with them there-was a youth

kis a menez le dreit chemin,

who-them has led the straight road

485 tant qu'il vindrent a un chastel;

until that-they came to a castle

en tut le siecle n'ot plus bel.

in all the world not-was more fair

Une abeïe aveit dedenz

An abbey there-was within

de mult religiüses genz.

of very religious folk

Li vaslez les i herberja,

The young-man them there lodged

490 ki a la feste les mena.

who to the feast them led

En la chambre ki fu l'abé

In the chamber which was (of-)the-abbot

bien sunt servi e honuré.

well they-are served and honored

El demain vunt la messe oïr;

On-the morrow they-go the mass to-hear

puis s'en voleient departir.

then themselves-thence they-wished to-depart

495 Li abes vet a els parler;

The abbot goes to them to-speak

mult les prie de surjurner,

much them he-prays to stay

si lur musterra sun dortur,

and to-them he-will-show his dormitory

sun chapitre e sun refeitur;

his chapter-house and his refectory

e cum il sunt bien herbergié,

and how they are well lodged

li sire lur a otrié.

the lord to-them has granted

500

Le jur quant il orent digné,

The day when they had dined

as officines sunt alé.

to-the offices they-are gone

El chapitre vindrent avant.

Into-the chapter-house they-came forward

Une tumbre troverent grant,

A tomb they-found great

coverte d'un paile roé,

covered with-a silk wheel-figured

505

d'un chier or freis par mi bendé.

with-a costly gold fresh through middle banded

Al chief, as piez e as costez

At-the head at-the feet and at-the sides

aveit vint cirges alumez.

there-were twenty candles lit

D'or fin erent li chandelier,

Of-gold fine were the candlesticks

d'ametiste li encensier,

of-amethyst the censers

510

dunt il encensouent le jur

wherewith they censured the day

cele tumber par grant honor.

that tomb with great honor

Il unt demandé e enquis

They have asked and inquired

a cels ki erent del païs

of those who were of-the country

515 de la tumber qui ele esteit,

of the tomb whose it was

e quels huem fu ki la giseit.

and what man he-was who there lay

Cil comencierent a plurer

They began to weep

e en plurant a recunter,

and in weeping to relate

que c'ert li mielldre chevaliers

that that-was the best knight

520 e li plus forz e li plus fiers,

and the most strong and the most fierce

li plus beals e li plus amez

the most fair and the most loved

ki ja mes seit el siecle nez.

who ever more be in-the world born

'De ceste terre ot esté reis;

Of this land he-had been king

unques ne fu nuls si curteis.

ever not was any so courteous

525 A Caruënt fu entrepris,

At Caerwent he-was surprised

pur l'amur d'une dame ocis.

for the-love of-a lady slain

Unques puis n'eümes seignur,

Ever since not-we-had lord

ainz avum attendu meint jur

rather we-have awaited many-a day

un fiz qu'en la dame engendra,

a son whom-on the lady he-begot

si cum il dist e cumanda,'

even as he said and commanded

Quant la dame oï la novele,

When the lady heard the news

a halte voiz sun fiz apele.

with high voice her son she-calls

'Beals fiz', fet ele, 'avez oï

Fair son says she you-have heard

cum deus nus a amenez ci!

how God us has brought here

C'est vostre pere ki ci gist,

That-is your father who here lies

que cist villarz a tort ocist.

whom this old-man by wrong slew

Or vus comant e rent s'espee;

Now to-you I-commend and render his-sword

jeo l'ai asez lung tens gardeee.'

I it-have quite long time kept

Oianz tuz li a coneü

Hearing all to-him she-has made-known

qu'il l'engendra e sis fiz fu,

that-he him-begot and his son he-was

530

535

540

cum il suleit venir a li,

how he used to-come to her

e cum sis sire le traï;

and how her lord him betrayed

l'aventure li a cuntee.

the-adventure to-him she-has told

Sur la tumber cheï pasmee;

Upon the tomb she-fell swooned

545 en la pasmeisun devia:

in the swoon she-died

unc puis a hume ne parla.

ever after to man not she-spoke

Quant sis fiz veit que morte fu,

When her son sees that dead she-was

sun parastre a le chief tolu.

of-his stepfather he-has the head taken

De l'espee ki fu sun pere

With the-sword which was (of-)his father

550 a dunc vengié lui e sa mere.

he-has then avenged him and his mother

Puis que si fu dunc avenu

Since that so it-was then befallen

e par la cité fu seü,

and through the city it-was known

a grant honur la dame unt prise

with great honor the lady they-have taken

e el sarcu posee e mise

and in-the coffin laid and set

555 de lez le cors de sun ami;

from side-of the body of her friend

deus lur face bone merci!

God to-them do good mercy

Lur seignur firent d'Yonec,

Their lord they-made of-Yonec

ainz que il partissent d'ilec.

before that they departed from-there

Cil ki ceste aventure oïrent

Those who this adventure heard

lunc tens après un lai en firent,

long time after a lay thereof made

de la peine e de la dolur

of the pain and of the grief

que cil sufrirent pur amur.

which they suffered for love

560

Laüstic

VIII

Two knights' houses stand side by side at Saint Malo with one gray wall between. The bachelor loves his neighbor's wife, and since they can have no more they speak from window to window and throw their gifts across. Her husband asks why she rises at night; she says nobody who has not heard the nightingale knows what joy is. He has the orchard limed until the bird is taken, breaks its neck before her, and throws it on her breast. She sends it wrapped in embroidered samite to her friend, who has a gold casket made for it.

Une aventure vus dirai,

An adventure to-you I-shall-tell

dunt li Bretun firent un lai.

whereof the Bretons made a lay

Laüstic a nun, ceo m'est vis,

Laüstic it-has name that to-me-is seeming

si l'apelent en lur païs;

so it-they-call in their country

5 ceo est russignol en Franceis

that is nightingale in French

e nihtegale en dreit Engleis.

and nightingale in right English

En Seint Malo en la cuntree

In Saint Malo in the region

ot une vile renume.

there-was a town renowned

Dui chevalier ilec maneient

Two knights there dwelt

10 e dous fortes maisuns aveient.

and two strong houses they-had

Pur la bunté des dous baruns

For the goodness of-the two barons

fu de la vile bons li nuns.

was of the town good the name

Li uns aveit femme espusee,

The one had a-wife wedded

sage, curteise e acesmee;

wise courteous and adorned

a merveille se teneit chiere

to marvel herself she-beld dear

sulunc l'usage e la maniere.

according-to the-usage and the manner

Li altre fu uns bachelers,

The other was a bachelor

bien coneüz entre ses pers

well known among his peers

de pruësce, de grant valur,

of prowess of great worth

e volentiers faiseit honur.

and willingly he-did honor

Mult turneiot e despendeit

Much he-tourneyed and spent

e bien donot ceo qu'il aveit.

and well he-gave that which-he had

La femme sun veisin ama.

The wife (of-)his neighbor be-loved

15

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Tant la requist, tant la preia

So-much her he-besought so-much her he-prayed

25 e tant par ot en lui grant bien

and so much there-was in him great good

qu'ele l'ama sur tute rien,

that-she him-loved above every thing

tant pur le bien qu'ele en oï,

so-much for the good which-she thereof heard

tant pur ceo qu'il ert pres de li.

so-much for that that-he was near to her

Sagement e bien s'entrainerent.

Wisely and well each-other-loved

30 Mult se covrirent e garderent

Much themselves they-covered and guarded

qu'il ne fussent aparceü

that-they not be perceived

ne desturbé ne mescreü.

nor disturbed nor suspected

E il le poeient bien faire,

And they it could well to-do

kar pres esteient lur repaire,

for near were their dwellings

35 preceines furent lur maisuns

neighboring were their houses

e lur sales e lur dunjuns;

and their halls and their keeps

n'i aveit barre ne devise

not-there was barrier nor partition

fors un halt mur de pierre bise.

except a high wall of stone gray

Des chambres u la dame jut,

From-the chambers where the lady lay

quant a la fenestre s'estut,

when at the window she-stood

poeit parler a sun ami,

she-could to-speak to her friend

e il de l'autre part a li,

and he on the-other side to her

e lur aveirs entrechangier

and their gifts to-exchange

e par geter e par lancier.

both by throwing and by casting

N'unt guaires rien ki lur desplaie.

Not-they-have much anything which to-them displeases

Mult esteient amdui a aise,

Much they-were both at ease

fors tant qu'il ne poeent venir

except so-much that-they not could to-come

del tut ensemble a lur plaisir;

of-the all together at their pleasure

kar la dame ert estreit gardeee.

for the lady was closely guarded

quant cil esteit en la cuntree.

when he was in the country

Mes de tant aveient retur,

But of so-much they-had recourse

u fust par nuit, u fust par jur,

whether it-were by night or it-were by day

qu'ensemble poeient parler;

that-together they-could to-speak

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nuls nes poeit de ceo garder

any not-them could of that to-binder

55 qu'a la fenestre ne venissent

that-to the window not they-come

e iloc ne s'entreveïssent.

and there not each-other-saw

Lungement se sunt entramé,

Long themselves they-are loved-each-other

tant que ceo vint a un esté,

until that that came to a summer

que bruil e pre sunt reverdi

when copse and meadow are green-again

60 e li vergier erent fluri.

and the orchards were in-flower

Cil oiselet par grant dulçur

Those little-birds with great sweetness

maintent lur joie en sum la flur.

lead their joy upon top-of the flower

Ki amur a a sun talent,

Who love has to his desire

n'est merveille s'il i entent.

not-is marvel if-he thereto attends

65 Del chevalier vus dirai veir:

Of-the knight to-you I-shall-say truth

il i entent a sun poeir

he thereto attends to his power

e la dame de l'altre part

and the lady on the-other side

e de parler e de reguart.

both in speaking and in looking

Les nuiz quant la lune luseit

The nights when the moon shone

e sis sire culchiez esteit,

and her lord laid was

de juste lui sovent levot

from beside him often she-rose

e de sun mantel s'afublot.

and with her mantle she-wrapped-herself

A la fenestre ester veneit

To the window to-stand she-came

pur sun ami qu'el i saveit,

for her friend whom-she there knew

ki altel vie demenot

who such life led

e le plus de la nuit veillot.

and the most of the night he-watched

Delit aveient al veeir,

Delight they-had at-the seeing

quant plus ne poeient avoir.

when more not they-could to-have

Tant i estut, tant i leva

So-much there she-stood so-much there she-rose

que sis sire s'en curuça

that her lord himself-thereat grew-angry

e meinte feiz li demanda

and many-a time of-her he-asked

pur quei levot e u ala.

for what she-rose and where she-went

'Sire', la dame li respunt,

Lord the lady to-him answers

70

75

80

'il nen a joie en icest mund,

there not is joy in this world

85 ki n'ot le laüstic chanter;

who not-bears the nightingale to-sing

pur ceo me vois ici ester.

for that myself I-go here to-stand

Tant dulcement l'i oi la nuit

So sweetly it-there I-hear the night

que mult me semble grant deduit;

that much to-me it-seems great delight

tant m'en delit e tant le vueil

so-much myself-thereof I-delight and so-much it I-wish

90 que jeo ne puis dormir de l'ueil'

that I not can to-sleep with the-eye

Quant li sire ot que ele dist,

When the lord heard what she said

d'ire e de maltalent en rist.

with-wrath and with ill-humor thereat he-laughed

D'une chose se purpensa:

Of-one thing himself he-bethought

le laüstic engignera.

the nightingale he-will-ensnare

95 U n'ot vaslet en sa maisun

There not-was young-man in his house

ne face engin, reiz u laçon;

who-not makes engine net or snare

puis les metent par le vergier.

then them they-set through the orchard

N'i ot coldre ne chastaignier

Not-there was hazel nor chestnut

u il ne metent laz u glu,

where they not set noose or lime

tant que pris l'unt e retenu.

until that taken it-they-have and held

100

Quant le laüstic orent pris,

When the nightingale they-had taken

al seignur fu renduz tuz vis.

to-the lord it-was rendered all alive

Mult en fu liez, quant il le tint.

Much thereat he-was glad when he it held

As chambres a la dame vint.

To-the chambers of the lady he-came

'Dame', fet il, 'u estes vus?

Lady says he where are you

105

Venez avant! Parlez a nus!

Come forward Speak to us

J'ai le laüstic engignié,

I-have the nightingale ensnared

pur quei vus avez tant veillié.

for which you have so-much watched

Des or poëz gisir en pais;

From now you-can to-lie in peace

il ne vus esveillera mais!'

it not you will-wake more

110

Quant la dame l'a entendu,

When the lady it-has heard

dolente e cureçuse fu.

grieved and wrathful she-was

A sun seignur l'a demandé,

Of her lord it-she-has asked

e il l'ocist par engresté.

and he it-killed in fury

115 Le col li runt a ses dous meins:

The neck to-it he-breaks with his two hands

de ceo fist il que trop vileins.

of that did he what-was too base

Sur la dame le cors geta,

Upon the lady the body he-cast

si que sun chainse ensanglenta

so that her tunic he-bloodied

un poi desur le piz devant.

a little upon the breast in-front

120 De la chambre s'en ist a tant.

From the chamber himself-thence he-goes at that

La dame prent le cors petit.

The lady takes the body little

Durement plure e si maldit

Sorely she-weeps and so curses

cels ki le laüstic traïrent

those who the nightingale betrayed

e les engins e les laz firent,

and the engines and the nooses made

125 kar mult li unt toleit grant hait.

for much from-her they-have taken great gladness

'Lasse', fet ele, 'mal m'estait!

Wretched says she ill for-me-it-stands

Ne purrai mes la nuit lever

Not I-shall-be-able more the night to-rise

n'aler a la fenestre ester,

nor-to-go to the window to-stand

u jeo sueil mun ami veeir.

where I am-wont my friend to-see

Une chose sai jeo de veir,

One thing know I of truth

il quidera que jeo me feigne.

he will-think that I myself feign

De ceo m'estuet que conseil preigne:

Of that me-it-behooves that counsel I-take

le laüstic li trametraï,

the nightingale to-him I-shall-send

l'aventure li manderai!

the-adventure to-him I-shall-tell

En une piece de samit,

In a piece of samite

a or brusdé e tut escrit,

with gold embroidered and all written

a l'oiselet envelopé.

she-has the-little-bird wrapped

Un suen vaslet a apelé.

A her-own young-man she-has called

Sun message li a chargié,

Her message to-him she-has charged

a sun ami l'a enveié.

to her friend it-she-has sent

Cil est al chevalier venuz.

He is to-the knight come

130

135

140

De part sa dame dist saluz,

On behalf-of his lady he-says greetings

tut sun message li cunta,

all her message to-him he-told

le laüstic li presenta.

the nightingale to-him he-presented

145 Quant tut li a dit e mustré

When all to-him he-has said and shown

e il l'aveit bien esculté,

and he it-had well listened-to

de l'aventure esteit dolenz;

of the-adventure he-was grieved

mes ne fu pas vileins ne lenz.

but not he-was at-all base nor slow

Un vaisselet a fet forgier.

A little-vessel he-has had to-be-forged

150 Unkes n'i ot fer ne acier:

Ever not-there was iron nor steel

tuz fu d'or fin od bones pieres,

all it-was of-gold fine with good stones

malt preciüses e mult chieres;

very precious and very costly

covercle i ot tresbien asis.

a-lid there was right-well fitted

Le laüstic a dedenz mis.

The nightingale he-has within put

155 Puis fist la chasse enseeler,

Then he-had the casket to-be-sealed

tuz jurs l'a faite od lui porter.

all days it-he-has made with him to-be-carried

Cele aventure fu cuntee,

That adventure was told

ne pot estre lunges celee.

not it-could to-be long concealed

Un lai en firent li Bretun,

A lay thereof made the Bretons

le Laüstic l'apelë hum.

the Laüstic it-calls one

Milun

IX

Milun of South Wales had never been cast from his horse. A baron's daughter who has heard him praised sends word that she will love him, and he sends his gold ring. She conceives, and tells him what must be done: the child is to be carried to her married sister in Northumberland with the ring at his neck and a letter naming his father, to be given him when he is old enough to understand it. Her old nurse hides the birth, and the boy is carried north and received.

Ki divers cuntes vult traitier,

Who diverse tales wishes to-treat

diversement deit comencier

diversely he-ought to-begin

e parler si raisnablement

and to-speak so reasonably

que il seit plaisible a la gent.

that it be pleasing to the folk

5 Ici comenceraï Milun

Here I-shall-begin Milun

e musterrai par brief sermun

and I-shall-show in short discourse

pur quei e coment fu trovez

for what and how was composed

li lais ki issi est numez.

the lay which thus is named

Milun fu de Suhtwales nez.

Milun was of South-Wales born

Puis le jur qu'il fu adubez

Since the day that-he was dubbed

ne trova un sul chevalier

not he-found one single knight

ki l'abatist de sun destrier.

who him-cast from his charger

Mult par esteit bons chevaliers,

Very much he-was a-good knight

frans e hardiz, curteis e fiers.

noble and bold courteous and fierce

Mult fu coneüz en Irlande

Much he-was known in Ireland

e en Norweie e en Guhtlande;

and in Norway and in Gotland

en Loengres e en Albanie

in Logres and in Albany

ourent plusur de lui envie.

had many of him envy

Pur sa pruësce ert mult amez

For his prowess he-was much loved

e de mulz princes honurez.

and by many princes honored

En sa cuntree ot un barun,

In his country there-was a baron

mes jeo ne sai numer sun nun.

but I not know to-name his name

10

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Il aveit une fille, bele

He had a daughter fair

e mult curteise dameisele.

and very courteous a-damsel

25 Ele ot oï Milun nomer;

She had heard Milun to-be-named

mult le cumença a amer.

much him she-began to love

Par sun message li manda

By her messenger to-him she-sent-word

que, se li plaist, el l'amera.

that if to-him it-pleases she him-will-love

Milun fu liez de la novele,

Milun was glad of the news

30 s'en mercia la dameisele;

and-thereof he-thanked the damsel

volentiers otria l'amur,

willingly he-granted the-love

n'en partira ja mes nul jur.

not-thereof he-will-part ever more any day

Asez li fait curteis respuns.

Much to-her he-makes courteous answer

Al message dona granz duns

To-the messenger he-gave great gifts

35 e grant amistié li premet.

and great friendship to-him he-promises

'Amis', fet il, 'or t'entremet

Friend says he now bestir-thyself

qu'a m'amie puisse parler,

that-to my-friend I-may to-speak

e de nostre conseil celer!

and of our counsel to-conceal

Mun anel d'or li porterez

My ring of-gold to-her you-will-carry

e de meie part li direz:

and on my behalf to-her you-will-say

quant li plaira, si vien pur mei,

when to-her it-will-please so come for me

e jeo irai ensemble od tei.'

and I shall-go together with thee

Cil prent cungié, a tant le lait.

He takes leave at that him be-leaves

A sa dameisele revait.

To his damsel he-goes-back

L'anel li dune, si li dist

The-ring to-her he-gives and to-her he-said

que bien a fet ceo que li quist.

that well he-has done that which of-him she-asked

Mult fu la dameisele liee

Much was the damsel glad

de l'amur issi otriée.

at the-love thus granted

De lez sa chambre en un vergier

From side-of her chamber in an orchard

u ele alout esbaneier,

where she went to-take-the-air

la justouent lur parlement

there they-held their meeting

Milun e ele bien suvent.

Milun and she well often

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Tant i vint Milun, tant l'ama
So-often there came Milun so-much her-be-loved
 que la dameisele enceinta.
that the damsel conceived

- 55 Quant aparçut qu'ele est enceinte,
When she-perceived that-she is pregnant
 Milun manda, si fist sa plainte.
Milun she-summoned and she-made her complaint
 Dist li cument est avenu,
She-said to-him how it-is befallen
 s'onur e sun bien a perdu,
her-honor and her good she-has lost
 quant de tel fet s'est entremise;
since of such deed herself-she-has undertaken

- 60 de li iert faite granz justise:
of her will-be made great justice
 a glaive sera turmentee
by sword she-will-be tormented
 u vendue en altre cuntree.
or sold into another country
 Ceo fu custume as anciëns,
That was custom to-the ancients
 e s'i teneient en cel tens.
and themselves-thereto they-held in that time

- 65 Milun respunt que il fera
Milun answers that he will-do
 quan que ele conseilera.
whatever that she will-counsel
 'Quant li enfes', fait ele, 'iert nez,
When the child says she will-be born

a ma seur l'en porterez,

to my sister him-thence you-will-carry

ki en Norhumbre est mariée,

who in Northumbria is married

riche dame, pruz e senee,

a-rich lady valiant and wise

si li manderez par escrit

and to-her you-will-send-word in writing

e par paroles e par dit

both by words and by speech

que c'est li enfes sa seur,

that that-is the child (of-)her sister

s'en a sufert meinte dolor.

and-thereof she-has suffered many-a grief

Or guarit que il seit bien nurritz,

Now let-her-see that it be well reared

quels que ço seit, u fille u fiz!

whichever that it be either daughter or son

Vostre anel al col li pendrai

Your ring at-the neck to-it I-shall-hang

e un brief li enveierai;

and a letter to-her I-shall-send

escriz i iert li nuns sun pere

written there will-be the name (of-)its father

e l'aventure de sa mere.

and the-story of its mother

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80

Quant il sera granz e creüz

When it will-be great and grown

e en tel eage venuz

and into such age come

que il sace raisun entendre,

that it know reason to-understand

le brief e l'anel li deit rendre,

the letter and the-ring to-it she-must to-render

85 si li cumant tant a garder

and to-it let-her-command so-much to keep

que sun pere puisse trover.'

that its father it-may to-find

A cel conseil se sunt tenuz,

To that counsel themselves they-are beld

tant que li termes est venuz

until that the term is come

que la dameisele enfanta.

that the damsel gave-birth

90 Une vieille ki la guarda,

An old-woman who her tended

a qui tut sun estre geï,

to whom all her state she-confessed

tant la cela, tant la covri,

so-much her she-bid so-much her she-covered

unques n'en fu aparceance

ever not-thereof was perceiving

en parole ne en semblance,

in speech nor in appearance

95 La meschine ot un fiz mult bel.

The maid had a son very fair

Al col li pendirent l'anel

At-the neck to-him they-hung the-ring

e une almosniere de seie

and a purse of silk

avuec le brief que nuls nel veie.

with the letter that any not-it see

Puis le culchent en un berçuel,

Then him they-lay in a cradle

envelopé d'un blanc linçuel.

wrapped in-a white sheet

De desuz la teste a l'enfant

From under the head of the-child

mistrent un oreillier vaillant

they-put a pillow costly

e desus lui un covertur,

and above him a coverlet

urlé de martre tut en tur.

bordered with marten all in round

La vieille l'a Milun baillié,

The old-woman him-has to-Milun banded

ki l'a atendue el vergier.

who her-has awaited in-the orchard

Il le comanda a tel gent

He him committed to such folk

ki l'en portèrent leialment.

who him-thence carried loyally

Par les viles u il errouent

Through the towns where they traveled

set feiz le jur se repositoënt;

seven times the day themselves they-rested

100

105

110

l'enfant faiseient alaitier,

the-child they-had to-be-suckled

culchier de nuvel e baignier.

to-be-laid of anew and bathed

Tant unt le dreit chemin erré

So-far they-have the straight road traveled

qu'a la dame l'unt comandé.

that-to the lady him-they-have committed

115 El le receut, si l'en fu bel.

She him received and to-her-thereof it-was fair

Le brief reçut e le seel;

The letter she-received and the seal

quant ele sot ki il esteit,

when she knew who he was

a merveille le cherisseit.

to marvel him she-cherished

Cil ki l'enfant orent porté

Those who the-child had carried

120 en lur païs sunt returné.

into their country are returned

THE SWAN

Milun goes abroad for his renown, and her father marries her to a rich man of the country. She grieves that she is no maiden and has keepers over her, old and young. Home again, Milun looks for a way to send to her: he takes a swan he loves, ties his letter at its neck under the plumage, and sends a squire to present it at the castle as a gift. The porter brings him in, the swan is given to the lady, and handling its neck she feels the letter.

Milun eissi fors de sa terre

Milun went out of his land

en soldees pur sun pris querre.

into service for his renown to-seek

S'amie remest a maisun.

His-friend remained at home

Sis pere li duna barun,

Her father to-her gave a-husband

un mult riche hume del païs,

a very rich man of-the country

mult esforcible e de grant pris.

very powerful and of great worth

Quant ele sot cele aventure,

When she knew that turn

mult est dolente a desmesure

much she-is grieved to excess

e suvent regrete Milun.

and often she-regrets Milun

Car mult dute la mesprisun

For much she-fears the reproach

de ceo qu'ele ot eü enfant;

of that that-she had had a-child

125

130

il le savra demeintenant.

he it will-know straightway

'Lasse', fet ele, 'que ferai?

Wretched says she what shall-I-do

Avrai seignur! Cum le prendrai?

shall-I-have a-husband How him shall-I-take

135 Ja ne sui jeo mie pucele;

Indeed not am I at-all a-maiden

a tuz jurs mes serai ancele!

for all days more I-shall-be a-handmaid

Jeo ne soi pas que fust issi,

I not knew at-all that it-would-be thus

ainz quidouie avoir mun ami;

rather I-thought to-have my friend

entre nus celissum l'afaire,

between us we-would-hide the-matter

140 ja ne l'oïsse aillurs retraire.

ever not it-I-should-bear elsewhere repeated

Mielz me vendreit murir que vivre;

Better to-me it-would-come to-die than to-live

mes jeo ne sui mie a delivre,

but I not am at-all at liberty

ainz ai asez sur mei gardeins

rather I-have plenty over me keepers

vielz e juefnes, mes chamberleins,

old and young my chamberlains

145 ki tuz jurs heent bone amur

who all days hate good love

e se delitent en tristur.

and themselves delight in sorrow

Or m'estuvra issi sufrir,

Now me-it-will-behoove thus to-suffer

lasse, quant jeo ne puis murir.'

wretched since I not can to-die

Al terme qu'ele fu donee,

At-the term that-she was given

sis sire l'en a amenee.

her lord her-thence has brought

150

Milun revint en sun païs.

Milun came-back into his country

Mult fu dolenz, mult fu pensis,

Much he-was grieved much he-was pensive

grant doel fist, grant doel demena;

great grief he-made great grief he-led

mes de ceo se recunforta

but of that himself he-comforted

que pres esteit de sa cuntree

that near she-was of his region

155

cele qu'il tant aveit amee.

she whom-he so-much had loved

Milun se prist a purpenser

Milun himself took to consider

coment il li purra mander,

how he to-her might to-send-word

si qu'il ne seit aparceüz,

so that-he not be perceived

qu'il est el païs revenuz.

that-he is into-the country come-back

160

Ses letres fist, sis seela.

His letters he-made so-them be-sealed

Un cisne aveit qu'il mult ama;

A swan he-had which-he much loved

le brief li a al col lié

the letter to-it he-has at-the neck tied

e dedenz la plume muscié.

and within the plumage hidden

165 Un suen esquiër apela,

A his-own squire he-called

sun message li encharja.

his message to-him he-charged

'Va tost', fet il, 'change tes dras!

Go quickly says he change thy clothes

Al chastel m'amie en irras.

To-the castle (of-)my-friend thence thou-wilt-go

Mun cisne porteras od tei.

My swan thou-wilt-carry with thee

170 Garde que en prenges cunrei,

See that thereof thou-take order

u par servant u par meschine,

either by servant or by maid

que presentez li seit li cisne.'

that presented to-her be the swan

Cil a fet sun comandement.

He has done his commandment

A tant s'en vet; le cigne prent.

At that himself-thence he-goes the swan he-takes

175 Tut le dreit chemin que il sot

All the straight road which he knew

al chastel vint, si cum il pot.

to-the castle he-came even as he could

Par mi la vile est trespassez,

Through middle-of the town he-is passed

a la mestre porte est alez.

to the main gate he-is gone

Le portier apela a sei.

The porter he-called to himself

‘Amis’, fet il, ‘entent a mei!

Friend says he attend to me

Jeo sui uns huem de tel mestier,

I am a man of such craft

d’oisels prendre me sai aidier.

of-birds to-take myself I-know to-help

En un pre desuz Karliün

In a meadow below Caerleon

un cisne pris od mun laçon.

a swan I-took with my snare

Pur force e pur meintenement

For protection and for maintenance

la dame en vueil faire present,

to-the lady thereof I-wish to-make a-present

que jeo ne seie desturbez

that I not be hindered

en cest päis n’achaisunez.’

in this country nor-accused

Li bachelers li respundi:

The young-man to-him answered

‘Amis, nuls ne parole a li;

Friend any not speaks to her

mes nepurec j’irai saveir.

but nevertheless I-shall-go to-learn

180

185

190

Se jeo poeie liu veeir

If I could a-place to-see

que jeo t'i peüsse mener,

where I thee-there might to-lead

jeo te fereie a li parler.'

I thee would-make to her to-speak

195 En la sale vint li portiers,

Into the hall came the porter

n'i trova fors dous chevaliers;

not-there he-found except two knights

sur une grant table seeient,

at a great table they-sat

od uns eschés se dedueient.

with a chess-set themselves they-amused

Hastivement returne ariere.

Hastily he-returns back

200 Celui ameine en tel maniere

Him he-brings in such manner

que de nului ne fu seüz,

that by any not he-was known

desturbez ne aparceüz.

hindered nor perceived

A la chambre vient, si apele;

To the chamber he-comes and he-calls

l'us lur ovri une pucele.

the-door for-them opened a maiden

205 Cil sunt devant la dame alé,

They are before the lady gone

si unt le cigne presenté.

and have the swan presented

Ele apela un suen vaslet.

She called a her-own young-man

Puis si li dit: 'Or t'entremet

Then so to-him she-says Now bestir-thyself

que mis cignes seit bien gardez

that my swan be well tended

e que il ait viande asez!'

and that it have food enough

'Dame', fet cil ki l'aporta,

Lady says he who it-brought

'ja nuls fors vus nel recevra.

ever any except you not-it will-receive

E ja est ceo presenz reials;

And indeed is that a-present royal

veez cum il est bons e beals!'

see how it is good and fair

Entre ses mains li baille e rent.

Between her hands to-her he-hands and renders

El le receit mult bonement.

She it receives very graciously

Le col li manie e le chief,

The neck to-it she-handles and the head

desuz la plume sent le brief.

under the plumage she-feels the letter

Li sans li remue e fremit:

The blood in-her stirs and quivered

bien sot qu'il vint de sun ami.

well she-knew that-it came from her friend

210

215

220

Celui a fet del suen doner,

To-him she-has had of-the hers to-be-given

si l'en cumanda a aler.

and him-thence she-bade to go

THE SON IN NORTHUMBERLAND

She reads it, kisses it a hundred times, and writes back with the device the letter has taught her: let the swan be well fed, then made to fast three days with the letter at its neck, and let go, and it will fly back to where it first dwelt. For twenty years the bird is their only messenger. Meanwhile her sister has dubbed their son knight and given him the ring and the letter; hearing what his father is, he resolves to go abroad and make a renown of his own.

Quant la chambre fu delivree,

When the chamber was cleared

une meschine a apelee.

a maid she-has called

225 Le brief aveient deslié;

The letter they-had untied

ele en a le seel bruisié.

she thereof has the seal broken

Al primier chief trova 'Milun'.

At-the first head she-found Milun

De sun ami cunut le nun;

Of her friend she-knew the name

cent feiz le baisë en plurant,

hundred times it she-kisses in weeping

230 ainz qu'ele puisse dire avant.

before that-she can to-say further

Al chief de piece veit l'escrit,

At-the end of while she-sees the-writing

ceo qu'il ot cumandé e dit,

that which-he had commanded and said

les granz peines e la dolor

the great pains and the grief

que Milun suefre nuit e jur.

which Milun suffers night and day

Ore est del tut en sun plaisir

Now it-is of-the all in her pleasure

de lui ocire u del guarir.

of him to-slay or of-the to-heal

S'ele seüst engin trover

If-she could a-device to-find

cum il peüst a li parler,

how he might to her to-speak

par ses letres li remandast

by her letters to-him let-her-send-back-word

e le cisne li renveiaist.

and the swan to-him let-her-send-back

Primes le face bien garder,

First it let-her-have well to-be-tended

puis si le laist tant jeüner

then so it let-her-let so-long to-fast

treis jurs que il ne seit peüz;

three days that it not be fed

li briés li seit al col penduz;

the letter to-it be at-the neck hung

235

240

- 245 laist l'en aler: il volera
let-her-let it-thence to-go it will-fly
 la u il primes conversa.
there where it first dwelt
 Quant ele ot tut l'escrit veü
When she had all the-writing seen
 e ceo qu'ele i ot entendu,
and that which-she therein had understood
 le cigne fet bien surjurner
the swan she-has well to-be-lodged
 250 e forment pestre e abevrer.
and greatly to-be-fed and to-be-watered
 Dedenz sa chambre un meis le tint.
Inside her chamber a month it she-kept
 Mes ore oëz cum l'en avint!
But now hear how one befell
 Tant quist par art e par engin
So-much she-sought by art and by contrivance
 que ele ot enke e parchemin.
that she had ink and parchment
 255 Un brief escrist tel cum li plot,
A letter she-wrote such as to-her pleased
 od un anel l'enseelot.
with a ring it-she-sealed
 Le cigne ot laissié jeüner;
The swan she-had let to-fast
 al col li pent, sil lait aler.
at-the neck to-it she-hangs so-it she-lets to-go

Li oisels esteit fameillus

The bird was hungry

e de viande coveitus;

and of food covetous

hastivement est revenuz

hastily it-is come-back

la dunt il primes fu meüz.

there whence it first was moved

En la vile e en la maisun

Into the town and into the house

descent devant les piez Milun.

it-aliases before the feet (of-)Milun

Quant il le vit, mult en fu liez;

When he it saw much thereat he-was glad

par les eles le prent haitiez.

by the wings it he-takes gladdened

Il apela sun despensier,

He called his steward

si li fet doner a mangier.

and to-it he-has to-be-given to eat

Del col li a le brief osté.

From-the neck to-it he-has the letter taken

De chief en chief a esguardé

From end to end he-has examined

les enseignes qu'il i trova,

the tokens which-he therein found

e des saluz se rehaita:

and at-the greetings himself he-gladdened

'ne puet senz lui nul bien avoir;

not she-can without him any good to-have

260

265

270

or li remant tut sun voleir

now to-her let-him-send-back-word all his will

275 par le cigne sifaitement!’

by the swan in-such-wise

Si fera il hastivement.

So will-do he hastily

Vint anz menerent cele vie

Twenty years they-led that life

Milun entre lui e s’amie.

Milun between him and his-friend

Del cigne firent messagier,

Of-the swan they-made a-messenger

280 n’i aveient altre enparlier,

not-there they-had other go-between

e sil faiseient jeüner

and so-it they-made to-fast

ainz qu’il le laissassent voler;

before that-they it let to-fly

cil a qui li oisels veneit,

he to whom the bird came

ceo saciez, que il le paisseit.

that know that he it fed

285 Ensemble vindrent plusurs feiz.

Together they-came several times

Nuls ne puet estre si destreiz

Any not can to-be so constrained

ne si tenuz estreitement

nor so held closely

que il ne truisse liu sovent.

that he not find occasion often

La dame ki lur fiz nurri,
The lady who their son reared
 (tant ot esté ensemble od li
so-long he-had been together with her
 qu'il esteit venuz en eé),
that-he was come into age
 a chevalier l'a adubé.
to knight him-she-has dubbed
 Mult i aveit gent dameisel.
Very there was a-noble youth
 Le brief li rendi e l'anel.
The letter to-him she-rendered and the-ring
 Puis li a dit ki est sa mere,
Then to-him she-has said who is his mother
 e l'aventure de sun pere,
and the-adventure of his father
 e cum il est bons chevaliers,
and how he is a-good knight
 tant pruz, tant hardiz e tant fiers,
so valiant so bold and so fierce
 n'ot en la terre nul meillur
not-there-was in the land any better
 de sun pris ne de sa valor.
of his renown nor of his worth
 Quant la dame li ot mustré
When the lady to-him had shown
 e il l'aveit bien esculté,
and he it-had well listened-to
 del bien sun pere s'esjoï;
at-the good (of-)his father he-rejoiced

290

295

300

liez fu de ceo qu'il ot oï.

glad he-was of that which-be had heard

305 A sei meïsmes pense e dit:

To himself same he-thinks and says

'Mult se deit huem preisier petit,

Much himself ought a-man to-prize little

quant il issi fu engendrez

when he thus was begotten

e sis pere est si alosez,

and his father is so renowned

s'il ne se met en greignur pris

if-be not himself puts into greater renown

310 fors de la terre e del päis.'

outside of the land and of-the country

Asez aveit sun estuveir.

Enough he-bad his needful

Il ne demure fors le seir;

He not stays except the evening

el demain aveit pris cungié.

on-the morrow he-bad taken leave

La dame l'a mult chastié

The lady him-has much admonished

315 e de bien faire amonesté;

and of well to-do exhorted

asez li a avoir doné.

plenty to-him she-has wealth given

He crosses at Southampton, lands at Barfleur, and tourneys through Brittany, giving to the poor knights what he wins from the rich, until those who cannot name him call him Without Peer. Milun hears him praised and grieves that any man born of his own country should be prized while he himself can still bear arms. He resolves to cross and joust with him and shame him, and afterward to look for the son who left the country. He sends word by the swan, and his love does not hinder him.

A Suhthamptune vait passer;

To Southampton he-goes to-cross

cum il ainz pot, se mist en mer.

as he soon could himself be-put to sea

A Barbefluet est arivez;

At Barfleur he-is landed

dreit en Bretagne en est alez.

straight into Brittany thence he-is gone

La despendi e turneia;

There he-spent and tourneyed

as riches humes s'acuinta.

with-the rich men he-acquainted-himself

Unques ne vint en nul estur

Ever not he-came into any encounter

que l'en nel tenist al meillur.

that one not-him held for-the best

Les povres chevaliers amot;

The poor knights he-loved

320

325

ceo que des riches guaaignot

that which from-the rich he-won

lur donout e sis reteneit,

to-them he-gave and so-them he-retained

e mult largement despendeit.

and very largely he-spent

Unques sun voel ne surjurna.

Ever his wish not he-tarried

330 De tutes les terres de la

Of all the lands beyond there

porta le pris e la valor;

he-bore the prize and the worth

mult fu curteis, mult sot d'onur.

much he-was courteous much he-knew of-honor

De sa bunté e de sun pris

Of his goodness and of his renown

vait la novele en sun païs

goes the news into his country

335 que uns damisels de la terre,

that a youth of that land

ki passa mer pur sun pris querre,

who crossed sea for his renown to-see

puis a tant fet par sa pruësce,

has since so-much done by his prowess

par sa bunté, par sa largesce,

by his goodness by his largesse

que cil ki nel sevent numer

that those who not-him know to-name

340 l'apelouent partut Senz Per.

him-called everywhere Without Peer

Milun oï celui loër

Milun heard him to-be-praised

e les biens de lui recunter.

and the goods of him to-be-told

Mult ert dolenz, mult se pleigneit

Much he-was grieved much himself he-lamented

del chevalier ki tant valeit,

of-the knight who so-much was-worth

que, tant cum il peüst errer

that so-long as he could to-travel

ne turneier n'armes porter,

nor to-tourney nor-arms to-bear

ne deüst nuls del païs nez

not should any of-the country born

estre preisiez ne alosez.

to-be prized nor renowned

D'une chose se purpensa.

Of-one thing himself he-bethought

Hastivement mer passera,

Hastily sea he-will-cross

si justera al chevalier

and he-will-joust with-the knight

per lui laidir e empeirier.

for him to-injure and to-impair

Par ire se voldra cumbatre;

Through wrath himself he-will-wish to-fight

s'il le puet del cheval abatre,

if-he him can from-the horse to-cast

dunc sera il en fin honiz.

then will-be he in end shamed

345

350

355

Aprés irra querre sun fiz

Afterward he-will-go to-seek his son

ki fors del païs est eissuz,

who out of-the country is gone

mes ne saveit qu'ert devenuz.

but not he-knew what-was become

A s'amie le fet saveir,

To his-friend it he-makes to-know

360 cungié voleit de li avoir.

leave he-wished from her to-have

Tut sun curage li manda,

All his heart to-her he-sent-word

brief e seel li enveia

letter and seal to-her he-sent

par le cigne mun esciënt:

by the swan my knowing

or li remandast sun talent!

now to-him let-her-send-back-word her mind

365 Quant ele oï sa volenté,

When she heard his will

mercie l'en, si li sot gre,

she-thanks him-thereof and to-him knew thanks

quant pur lur fiz trover e querre

since for their son to-find and to-seek

voleit eissir fors de la terre

he-wished to-go out of the land

e pur le bien de lui mustrer;

and for the good of him to-show

370 nel voleit mie desturber.

not-him she-wished at-all to-binder

Milun oï le mandement.

Milun heard the message

Il s'apareille richement.

He arrays-himself richly

En Normendie en est passez;

Into Normandy thence he-is crossed

puis est despu'en Bretagne alez.

then he-is right-into Brittany gone

Mult s'aquointa a plusurs genz,

Much he-acquainted-himself with many folk

mult cercha les turneiementz;

much he-sought the tournaments

riches ostels teneit sovent

rich lodgings he-kept often

e si dunot curteisement.

and so he-gave courteously

375

FATHER AND SON

They meet at the tournament by Mont Saint-Michel. The young man's blow throws Milun from his horse; seeing the white beard under the ventail he takes the rein and offers the horse back. Milun sees his own ring on the young man's finger and asks his father's name, and bears it. The son offers to kill his mother's lord and marry her to his father, and on the way home they meet a messenger who says the lord is dead. He joins his parents himself, and the ancients made a lay of it.

Tut un yver, ceo m'est a vis,

All a winter that to-me-is to seeming

conversa Milun el païs.

dwelt Milun in-the country

380

Plusurs bons chevaliers retint,

Many good knights be-retained

des i qu'après la paske vint,

from there that-after the Easter came

qu'il recument les turneiz

that-they begin-again the tourneys

e les guerres e les desreiz.

and the wars and the frays

385 El Munt Seint Michiel s'assemblerent;

At-the Mount Saint Michael they-assembled

Norman e Bretun i alerent

Normans and Bretons there went

e li Flamenc e li Franceis;

and the Flemings and the French

mes n'i ot guaires des Engleis.

but not-there were much of-the English

Milun i est alez premiers,

Milun there is gone first

390 ki mult esteit hardiz e fiers.

who very was bold and fierce

Le bon chevalier demanda,

The good knight be-asked-after

Asez i ot ki li mustra

Enough there were who to-him showed

de quel part il esteit venuz

from what side he was come

e ses armes e ses escuz.

and his arms and his shields

395 Tuit l'orent a Milun mustré,

All it-bad to Milun shown

e il l'aveit bien esguardé.

and he him-had well beheld

Li turneiemenz s'asembla.

The tournament assembled

Ki juste quist, tost la trova;

Who a-joust sought soon it found

ki alkes volt les rens cerchier,

who somewhat wished the ranks to-search

tost i pout perdre u gaaaignier

soon there he-could to-lose or to-win

en encuntrer un cumpaignun.

in to-meet a companion

Tant vus vueil dire de Milun:

So-much to-you I-wish to-say of Milun

mult le fist bien en cel estur

much it he-did well in that encounter

e mult i fu preisiez le jur.

and much there he-was prized the day

Mes li vaslez dunt jeo vus di

But the young-man of-whom I to-you speak

sur tuz les altres ot le cri,

above all the others had the cry

ne s'i pot nuls acumparer

not himself-to-him could any to-compare

de turneier ne de juster.

in to-tourney nor in to-joust

Milun le vit si cuntenir,

Milun him saw so to-bear-himself

si bien puindre e si bien ferir:

so well to-spur and so well to-strike

400

405

410

par mi tut ceo qu'il l'enviot,

through middle-of all that that-he him-envied

mult li fu bel e mult li plot.

much to-him it-was fair and much to-him it-pleased

El renc se met encuntre lui,

Into-the lists himself he-puts against him

ensemble justerent amdui.

together they-jousted both

415 Milun le fiert si durement,

Milun him strikes so sternly

l'anste depiece veirement,

the-shaft he-shatters truly

mes ne l'aveit mie abatu.

but not him-be-had at-all unborsed

Cil raveit si Milun feru

He had-in-turn so Milun struck

que jus del cheval l'abati.

that down from-the horse him-be-cast

420 Desuz la ventaille choisi

Under the ventail he-described

la barbe e les chevels chanuz:

the beard and the hairs white

mult li pesa qu'il fu cheüz.

much to-him it-grieved that-he was fallen

Par la resne le cheval prent,

By the rein the horse he-takes

devant lui le tient en present.

before him it he-holds in offering

425 Puis li a dit: 'Sire, muntez!

Then to-him he-has said Lord mount

Mult sui dolenz e trespensez

Much I-am grieved and dismayed

que nul hume de vostre eage

that to-any man of your age

deüsse faire tel ultrage.’

I-should to-do such outrage

Milun salt sus, mult li fu bel:

Milun leaps up much to-him it-was fair

el dei celui cunuist l’anel,

on-the finger (of-)him he-knows the-ring

quant il li rendi sun cheval.

when he to-him rendered his horse

Il araisune le vassal.

He addresses the vassal

‘Amis’, fet il, ‘a mei entent!

Friend says he to me attend

Pur amur deu omnipotent

For love of-God almighty

di mei cument a nun tis pere!

tell me how has name thy father

Cum as tu nun? Ki est ta mere?

How hast thou name Who is thy mother

Saveir en vueil la verité!

To-know thereof I-wish the truth

Mult ai veü, mult ai erré,

Much I-have seen much I-have traveled

mult ai cerchiees altres terres

much I-have searched other lands

par turneiemenz e par guerres:

by tournaments and by wars

430

435

440

unques par colp de chevalier

ever by blow of knight

ne chaï mes de mun destrier!

not I-fell more from my charger

Tu m'as abatu al juster:

Thou me-hast unhorsed at-the jousting

a merveille te puis amer!'

to marvel thee I-can to-love

445 Cil li respunt: 'Jo vus dirai

He to-him answers I to-you shall-say

de mun pere tant cum jeo'n sai.

of my father so-much as I-thereof know

Jeo quid qu'il est de Guals nez

I think that-he is of Wales born

e si est Milun apelez.

and so is Milun called

Fille a un riche hume aama;

A-daughter to a rich man be-loved

450 celeement m'i engendra.

secretly me-there he-begot

En Norhumbre fui enveiez;

Into Northumbria I-was sent

la fui nurriz e enseigniez,

there I-was reared and taught

Une meie ante me nurri.

A my aunt me reared

Tant me guarda ensemble od li,

So-long me she-kept together with her

455 cheval e armes me dona,

horse and arms to-me she-gave

en ceste terre m'enveia.

into this land me-she-sent

Ci ai lungement conversé.

Here I-have long dwelt

En talent ai e en pensé,

In desire I-have and in thought

hastivement mer passerai,

hastily sea I-shall-cross

en ma cuntree m'en irrai.

into my country myself-thence I-shall-go

Saveir vueil l'estre de mun pere

To-know I-wish the-state of my father

cum il se cuntient vers ma mere.

how he himself bears toward my mother

Tel anel d'or li musterrai

Such ring of-gold to-him I-shall-show

e tels enseignes li dirai,

and such tokens to-him I-shall-say

ja ne me voldra reneier,

ever not me he-will-wish to-disown

ainz m'amera e tendra chier.'

rather me-he-will-love and bold dear

Quant Milun l'ot issi parler,

When Milun him-beard thus to-speak

il ne poeit plus esculter:

he not could more to-listen

avant sailli hastivement,

forward he-sprang hastily

par le pan del halberc le prent.

by the skirt of-the hauberk him he-takes

460

465

470

'E deus!' fait il, 'cum sui guariz!

Ab God says he how I-am saved

Par fei, amis, tu iés mis fiz.

By faith friend thou art my son

Pur tei trover e pur tei querre,

For thee to-find and for thee to-seek

eissi uan fors de ma terre.'

I-went this-year out of my land

475 Quant cil l'oi, a pié descent,

When he it-heard on foot he-alights

sun pere baise dulcement.

his father he-kisses sweetly

Mult bel semblant entre els faiseient

Very fair countenance between them they-made

e itels paroles diseient,

and such words they-said

que li altre kis esguardouent

that the others who-them beheld

480 de joie e de pitié plurouent.

for joy and for pity wept

Quant li turneiemenz depart,

When the tournament breaks-up

Milun s'en vet; mult li est tart

Milun himself-thence goes much to-him it-is late

qu'a sun fiz parolt a leisir

that-with his son he-speak at leisure

e qu'il li die sun plaisir.

and that-he to-him tell his pleasure

485 En un ostel furent la nuit.

In a lodging they-were the night

Asez ourent joie e deduit;

Much they-had joy and delight

de chevaliers a grant plenté.

of knights in great plenty

Milun a a sun fiz cunté

Milun has to his son told

de sa mere cum il l'ama,

of his mother how he her-loved

e cum sis pere la duna

and how her father her gave

a un barun de sa cuntree,

to a baron of his region

e cument il l'a puis amee

and how he her-has since loved

e ele lui de bon curage,

and she him with good heart

e cum del cigne fist message,

and how of-the swan he-made a-messenger

ses letres li faiseit porter,

his letters to-her he-had to-be-carried

ne s'osot en nului fiër.

not himself-be-dared in anybody to-trust

Li fiz respunt: 'Par fei, bels pere,

The son answers By faith fair father

assemblerai vus e ma mere.

I-shall-join you and my mother

Sun seignur qu'ele a ocirai

Her lord whom-she has I-shall-slay

e espuser la vus ferai.'

and to-wed her to-you I-shall-make

490

495

500

Cele parole dunc laissierent

That speech then they-left

e el demain s'apareillierent.

and on-the morrow they-arrayed-themselves

Cungié pernent de lur amis,

Leave they-take of their friends

si s'en revunt en lur païs.

and themselves-thence they-go-back into their country

505 Mer passerent hastivement,

Sea they-crossed hastily

bon oré orent e fort vent.

good weather they-had and strong wind

Si cum il eirent le chemin,

Even as they traveled the road

si encuntrenterent un meschin.

so they-met a youth

De l'amie Milun veneit,

From the-friend (of-)Milun he-came

510 en Bretaigne passer voleit;

into Brittany to-cross he-wished

ele l'i aveit enveié.

she him-there had sent

Ore a sun travail acurcié.

Now he-has his labor shortened

Un brief li baille enseelé.

A letter to-him he-hands sealed

Par parole li a cunté

By speech to-him he-has told

515 que s'en venist, ne demurast;

that himself-thence he-come not he-tarry

morz est sis sire, or s'en hastast!
dead is her lord now himself-thence let-him-basten

Quant Milun oï la novele,
When Milun heard the news

a merveille li sembla bele.
to marvel to-him it-seemed fair

A sun fiz l'a mustré e dit.
To his son it-he-has shown and said

N'i ot essuigne ne respit;
Not-there was excuse nor delay 520

tant eirent que il sunt venu
so-far they-travel that they are come

al chastel u la dame fu.
to-the castle where the lady was

Mult par fu liee de sun fiz
Very much she-was glad of her son

ki tant esteit pruz e gentiz.
who so was valiant and noble

Unc ne demanderent parent:
Ever not they-asked kinsman 525

senz conseil de tute altre gent
without counsel of any other folk

lur fiz amdous les assembla,
their son both them joined

la mere a sun pere dona.
the mother to his father be-gave

En grant bien e en grant dulçur
In great good and in great sweetness

vesquirent puis e nuit e jur.
they-lived after both night and day 530

De lur amur e de lur bien

Of their love and of their good

furent un lai li anciën;

made a lay the ancients

e jeo ki l'ai mis en escrit

and I who it-have put in writing

el recunter mult me delit.

in-the retelling much myself I-delight

Chaitivel

x

At Nantes a lady of great worth was besought by every knight who saw her, and four barons of Brittany — young, fair, worthy, and free-spending — each served her, and each thought himself the one who sped best. She would not lose three to take one, gave each of them fair countenance and love-tokens, and each wore hers at the tournament proclaimed before the city. At evening they rode out and unhorsed two Flemings and two Hainaulters, while the lady watched from a tower and could not tell which of hers to prize most.

Talenz me prist de remembrer

Desire me took to recall

un lai dunt jo oï parler.

a lay whereof I heard to-speak

L'aventure vus en dirai

The-adventure to-you thereof I-shall-tell

e la cité vus numerai

and the city to-you I-shall-name

u il fu nez, e cum ot nun.

where it was born and how it-had name

‘Le Chaitivel’ l’apelë hum,

The Wretched-One it-calls one

e si i a plusurs de cels

and so there are many of those

ki l’apelent ‘Les Quatre Doels.’

who it-call The Four Griefs

5

En Bretaigne a Nantes maneit

In Brittany at Nantes dwelt

10 une dame ki mult valeit

a lady who much was-worth

de bealté e d'enseignement

in beauty and in-breeding

e de tut bon afaitement.

and in all good accomplishment

N'ot en la terre chevalier

Not-there-was in the land knight

ki alkes feïst a preisier,

who somewhat was to be-prized

15 pur ceo qu'une feiz la veïst,

for that that-one time her be-saw

que ne l'amast e requëist.

who not her-loved and besought

El nes pot mie tuz amer,

She not-them could at-all all to-love

n'el nes volt mie reüser.

nor-she not-them wished at-all to-refuse

Tutes les dames d'une terre

All the ladies of-a land

20 vendreit mielz amer e requerre,

it-would-come better to-love and to-court

que un fol de son pan tolir,

than a fool of his skirt to-strip

kar cil vult en eire ferir.

for he wishes at once to-strike

La dame fait a tuz lur gre

The lady does to all their pleasure

desuz la bone volunté;

under the good will

purquant, s'ele nes vult oïr,

nevertheless if-she not-them wishes to-hear

nes deit de paroles laidir,

not-them she-ought with words to-revile

mes tenir chier e enurer,

but to-bold dear and to-honor

a gre servir e merciër.

with pleasure to-serve and to-thank

La dame dunt jo vueil cunter

The lady of-whom I wish to-tell

tant esteit requise d'amer,

so-much she-was sought of-love

pur sa bealté, pur sa valur

for her beauty for her worth

s'en entremistrent li plusur.

themselves-thereat busied-themselves the most

En Bretagne ot quatre baruns,

In Brittany there-were four barons

mes jeo ne sai numer lur nuns.

but I not know to-name their names

Il n'aveient guaires d'ée,

They not-had much of-age

mes mult erent de grant bealté

but very they-were of great beauty

e chevalier pruz e vaillant,

and knights valiant and worthy

25

30

35

large, curteis e despendant;

generous courteous and free-spending

mult par esteient de grant pris

very much they-were of great worth

40 e gentil hume del país.

and noble men of-the country

Icil quatre la dame amoënt

Those four the lady loved

e de bien faire se penoënt;

and of well to-do themselves took-pains

pur li e pur s'amur aveir

for her and for her-love to-have

i meteit chescuns sun poeir.

there put each his power

45 Chescuns par sei la requereit

Each for himself her besought

e tute sa peine i meteit;

and all his pains therein put

n'i ot celui ki ne quidast

not-there was one who not thought

que mielz d'altre n'i espleitast.

that better than-another there he-sped

La dame fu de mult grant sens.

The lady was of very great sense

50 En respit mist e en purpens

In respite she-put and in deliberation

pur saveir e pur demander

for to-learn and for to-ask

li quels sereit mielz a amer.

the which would-be best to love

Tant furent tuit de grant valor,

So-much were all of great worth

ne pot eslire le meillur.

not she-could to-choose the best

Ne volt les treis perdre pur l'un:

Not she-wished the three to-lose for the-one

bel semblant faiseit a chescun,

fair countenance she-made to each

ses drueries lur donout,

her love-tokens to-them she-gave

ses messages lur enveioit.

her messages to-them she-sent

Li uns de l'autre ne saveit,

The one of the-other not knew

mes departir nuls nes poeit;

but to-part any not-them could

par bel servir e par preier

by fair to-serve and by to-pray

quidot chescuns mielz espleitier.

thought each better to-speed

A l'assembler des chevaliers

At the-assembling of-the knights

voleit chescuns estre premiers

wished each to-be first

de bien faire, se il peüst,

of well to-do if he could

pur ceo qu'a la dame pleüst.

for that that-to the lady it-please

Tuit la teneient pur amie,

All her held for friend

55

60

65

tuit portouent sa druërie,

all carried her love-token

anel u manche u gumfanun,

ring or sleeve or gonfanon

70 e chescuns escriot sun nun.

and each cried her name

Tuz quatre les ama e tint,

All four them she-loved and held

tant qu'après une paske vint,

until that-after an Easter came

que devant Nantes la cité

that before Nantes the city

ot un turneiement crié.

there-was a tournament proclaimed

75 Pur aquointier les quatre druz,

For to-meet the four lovers

mulz ot d'altre païs venuz,

many there-were from-other country come

e li Franceis e li Norman

both the French and the Normans

e li Flemenc e li Breban,

and the Flemings and the Brabanters

li Buluigneis, li Angevin

the men-of-Boulogne the Angevins

80 e cil ki pres furent veisin,

and those who near were neighbors

tuit i sunt volentiers alé.

all there are willingly gone

Lunc tens aveient surjurné.

Long time they-had sojourned

Al vespre del turneiment

At-the evening of-the tournament

s'entreferirent durement.

each-other-struck sternly

Li quatre dru furent armé

The four lovers were armed

e eissirent de la cité;

and went-out of the city

lur chevalier vindrent après,

their knights came after

mes sur els quatre fu li fes.

but upon them four was the burden

Cil de fors les unt coneüz

Those from outside them have known

as enseignes e as escuz.

by-the ensigns and by-the shields

Cuntre els enveient chevaliers,

Against them they-send knights

dous Flamens e dous Henoiers,

two Flemings and two Hainaulters

apareilliez cume de puindre;

arrayed as for to-spur

n'i a celui ne vueille juindre.

not-there is one who-not wishes to-close

Cil les virent vers els venir,

They them saw toward them to-come

n'aveient talent de fuür.

not-they-had desire to flee

85

90

95

Lance baissiee, a esperun

Lance lowered at spur

choisi chescuns sun cumpaignun.

chose each his opponent

Par tel aïr s'entreferirent

With such fury each-other-struck

100 que li quatre de fors cheirent.

that the four from outside fell

Il n'ourent cure des destriers,

They not-had care of-the chargers

ainz les laissierent estraiers;

rather them they-let stray

sur les abatuz se resturent.

over the unborsed themselves they-stood

Lur chevalier les succurent.

Their knights them succored

105 A la rescusse ot grant medlee,

At the rescue there-was great melee

meint colp i ot feru d'espee.

many-a blow there was struck with-sword

La dame fu sur une tur,

The lady was upon a tower

bien choisi les suens e les lur.

well she-descried the hers and the theirs

Ses druz i vit mult bien aidier:

Her lovers there she-saw very well to-help

110 ne set le quel deit plus preisier.

not she-knows the which she-ought most to-prize

THE FOUR LOVERS

Next day the four keep the prize until, toward evening, they press too far from their own people: three are killed, and the fourth is run through the thigh into the body. The city carries all four to the lady on their shields. She buries the three and gives the wounded man physicians. She would call the lay the Four Griefs; the survivor would call it the Wretched One, since the others are out of their pain while he sees what he most loves and has nothing of her. She agrees; both names are used.

Li turneiemenz cumença,

The tournament began

li reng crurent, mult espessa.

the ranks grew much it-thickened

Devant la porte meinte feiz

Before the gate many-a time

fu le jur meslez li turneiz.

was the day joined the tourney

Si quatre dru bien le faiseient,

Her four lovers well it did

si que de tuz le pris aveient,

so that of all the prize they-had

tant que ceo vint a l'avesprer

until that that came to the-evening

que il deveient deseverer.

when they were-to separate

Trop folement s'abandonerent

Too rashly themselves-they-exposed

luinz de lur gent, sil cumparerent:

far from their folk so-it they-paid-for

115

120

kar li trei i furent ocis

for the three there were slain

e li quarz nafrez e mal mis

and the fourth wounded and ill used

par mi la quisse e enz el cors

through middle-of the thigh and within in-the body

si que la lance parut fors.

so that the lance appeared out

125 A traverse furent feru

At traverse they-were struck

e tuit quatre furent cheü.

and all four were fallen

Cil ki a mort les unt nafrez,

Those who to death them have wounded

lur escuz unt es chans getez;

their shields have in-the fields cast

mult esteient pur els dolent,

much they-were for them grieved

130 nel firent pas a esciënt.

not-it they-did at-all with knowledge

La noise leva e li criz,

The noise rose and the cry

unques tels doels ne fu oïz.

ever such grief not was heard

Cil de la cité i alerent,

Those of the city there went

unques les altres ne duterent;

ever the others not they-feared

pur la dolur des chevaliers

135

for the grief of-the knights

i aveit itels dous milliers

there were such two thousands

ki lur ventaille deslaçoient

who their ventails unlaced

chevels e barbes detirouent.

hairs and beards they-tore

Entre els esteit li doels comuns.

Among them was the grief common

Sur un escu fu mis chescuns;

140

Upon a shield was put each

en la cité les unt portez

into the city them they-have carried

a la dame kis ot amez.

to the lady who-them had loved

Des qu'ele sot cele aventure,

As-soon as-she knew that chance

pasmee chiet a terre dure.

swooned she-falls on earth hard

Quant ele vient de pasmeisun,

145

When she comes from swoon

chescun regrete par sun nun.

each she-laments by his name

'Lasse', fet ele, 'que ferai?

Wretched says she what shall-I-do

Ja mes haitiee ne serai!

Ever more gladdened not I-shall-be

Cez quatre chevaliers amoue

These four knights I-loved

150 e chescun par sei cuveitoue;

and each for himself I-coveted

mult par avait en els grant bien.

very much there-was in them great good

Il m'amoënt sur tute rien.

They me-loved above every thing

Pur lur bealté, pur lur pruësce,

For their beauty for their prowess

pur lur valor, pur lur largesce

for their worth for their largesse

155 les fis a mei amer entendre;

them I-made to me to-love to-attend

nes voil tuz perdre pur l'un prendre.

not-them I-wish all to-lose for the-one to-take

Ne sai le quel jeo dei plus pleindre;

Not I-know the which I ought most to-lament

mes ne m'en puis covrir ne feindre.

but not myself-thereof I-can to-cover nor to-feign

L'un vei nafré, li trei sunt mort:

The-one I-see wounded the three are dead

160 n'ai rien el mund ki me confort!

not-I-have anything in-the world which me comforts

Les morz ferai ensevelir,

The dead I-shall-have to-be-buried

e se li nafrez puet guarir,

and if the wounded-one can to-beal

volentiers m'en entremetrai

willingly myself-thereof I-shall-busy

e bons mires li bailleraï.

and good physicians to-him I-shall-give

En ses chambres le fet porter.

Into her chambers him she-has to-be-carried

Puis fist les altres cunreer;

Then she-had the others to-be-arrayed

a grant amur e noblement

with great love and nobly

les aturna e richement.

them she-adorned and richly

En une mult riche abeïe

In a very rich abbey

fist grant offrendre e grant partie

she-made great offering and great largess

la u il furent enfüi:

there where they were buried

deus lur face bone merci!

God to-them do good mercy

Sages mires avait mandez,

Wise physicians she-had summoned

sis a al chevalier livrez,

so-them she-has to-the knight delivered

ki en sa chambre jut nafrez,

who in her chamber lay wounded

tant qu'a guarisun est turnez.

until that-to healing he-is turned

165

170

175

Ele l'alot veoir sovent

She him-went to-see often

e cunfortout mult bonement;

and she-comforted very graciously

mes les altres treis regretot

but the other three she-lamented

180 e grant dolor pur els menot.

and great grief for them she-led

Un jur d'esté après mangier

One day of-summer after eating

parlot la dame al chevalier.

spoke the lady to-the knight

De sun grant doel li remembrot

Of her great grief to-her it-remembered

e le suen chief jus en baissot;

and the her head down thereat she-lowered

185 forment comença a penser.

greatly she-began to think

E il la prist a reguarder;

And he her took to gaze-at

bien aparceit qu'ele pensot.

well he-perceives that-she thought

Avenantment l'araisunot:

Becomingly he-addressed-her

'Dame, vus estes en esfrei!

Lady you are in trouble

190 Que pensez vus? Dites le mei!

What think you Tell it to-me

Laissiez vostre dolor ester,

Leave your grief to-be

bien vus devriëz conforter!'

well yourself you-ought to-comfort

'Amis', fet ele, 'jeo pensoue

Friend says she I was-thinking

e voz cumpaignuns remembreue.

and your companions I-was-recalling

Ja mes dame de mun parage

Ever more lady of my lineage

tant nen iert bele, pruz ne sage,

so-much not will-be fair valiant nor wise

tels quatre ensemble n'amera

such four together not-will-love

ne en un jur si nes perdra,

nor in one day so not-them will-lose

fors vus tut sul ki nafrez fustes,

except you all alone who wounded you-were

grant poür de mort en eüstes.

great fear of death thereof you-bad

Pur ceo que tant vus ai amez,

For that that so-much you I-have loved

vueil que mis doels seit remembrez.

I-wish that my grief be remembered

De vus quatre ferai un lai

Of you four I-shall-make a lay

e Quatre Doels le numerai.'

and Four Griefs it I-shall-name

Li chevaliers li respundi

The knight to-her answered

hastivement, quant il l'oï:

hastily when he it-heard

195

200

205

'Dame, faites le lai novel,

Lady make the lay new

si l'apelez Le Chaitivel!

and it-call The Wretched-One

E jeo vus vueil mustrer raisun

And I to-you wish to-show reason

210 que il deit issi avoir nun.

that it ought thus to-have name

Li altre sunt pieç'a finé

The others are long-since ended

e trestut le siecle unt usé

and all the world have spent

en la grant peine qu'il sufreient

in the great pain which-they suffered

de l'amur qu'il vers vus aveient.

of the-love which-they toward you had

215 Mes jo ki sui eschapez vis,

But I who am escaped alive

tuz esguarez e tuz chaitis,

all bewildered and all wretched

ceo qu'el siecle puis plus amer

that which-in-the world I-can most to-love

vei sovent venir e aler,

I-see often to-come and to-go

parler a mei matin e seir,

to-speak to me morning and evening

si n'en puis nule joie avoir

220

yet not-thereof I-can any joy to-have

ne de baisier ne d'acoler

neither of kissing nor of-embracing

ne d'altre bien fors de parler,

nor of-other good except of speaking

Tels cent mals me faites souffrir,

Such hundred ills to-me you-make to-suffer

mielz me valdreit la mort tenir.

better to-me it-would-be-worth the death to-hold

Pur c'iert li lais de mei nomez:

225

For that-will-be the lay after me named

'Le Chaitivel' iert apelez.

The Wretched-One it-will-be called

Ki 'Quatre Doels' le numera,

Who Four Griefs it will-name

sun propre nun li changera.'

its own name to-it he-will-change

'Par fei', fet ele, 'ceo m'est bel,

By faith says she that to-me-is fair

Or l'apelum Le Chaitivel!'

230

Now it-let-us-call The Wretched-One

Issi fu li lais comenciez

Thus was the lay begun

e puis parfaiz e anunciez,

and then completed and made-known

Icil kil porterent avant,

Those who-it carried forward

'Quatre Doels' l'apelent alquant.

Four Griefs it-call some

235 Chescuns des nuns bien i afiert,

Each of-the names well thereto belongs

kar la matire le requiert;

for the matter it requires

Le Chaitivel a nun en us.

The Wretched-One has name in use

Ici finist, n'en i a plus:

Here it-ends not-thereof there is more

plus n'en oï ne plus n'en sai

more not-thereof I-heard nor more not-thereof I-know

240 ne plus ne vus en cunterai.

nor more not to-you thereof I-shall-tell

Chievrefueil

XI

Mark has banished Tristram; after a year in South Wales he goes back to Cornwall and hides in the forest. Hearing that the court will keep Pentecost at Tintagel, he cuts a hazel and writes his name on it for the road the queen must pass; he cannot live without her, and they are as honeysuckle and hazel, which die if parted. She sees the staff, halts, and finds him in the wood; she tells him how the king will take him back, they part in tears, and he makes the lay, Gotelefor Chievrefueil.

Asez me plest e bien le vueil

Much to-me it-pleases and well it I-wish

del lai qu'um nume Chievrefueil

of-the lay which-one names Honeysuckle

que la verité vus en cunt

that the truth to-you thereof I-tell

coment fu fez, de quei e dunt.

how it-was made of what and whence

Plusur le m'unt cunté e dit

Many it to-me-have told and said

e jeo l'ai trouvé en escrit

and I it-have found in writing

de Tristram e de la reïne,

of Tristram and of the queen

de lur amur ki tant fu fine,

of their love which so was perfect

dunt il ourent meinte dolor;

whereof they had many-a grief

puis en mururent en un jur.

then thereof they-died in one day

5

10

Li reis Mars esteit curuciez,

The king Mark was angered

vers Tristram, sun nevu, iriez;

toward Tristram his nephew wroth

de sa terre le cungea

from his land him he-banished

pur la reïne qu'il ama.

for the queen whom-he loved

15 En sa cuntree en est alez.

Into his country thence he-is gone

En Suhtwales u il fu nez

Into South-Wales where he was born

un an demura tut entier,

a year he-stayed all entire

ne pot ariere repairier;

not he-could back to-return

mes puis se mist en abandun

but then himself he-put in abandon

20 de mort e de destructiün.

of death and of destruction

Ne vus en merveilliez niënt:

Not you thereat marvel at-all

kar cil ki eime leialment

for he who loves loyally

mult est dolenz e trespensez,

much is grieved and dismayed

quant il nen a ses volentez.

when he not has his desires

25 Tristram est dolenz e pensis:

Tristram is grieved and pensive

pur ceo s'esmut de sun país.

for that himself-he-moved from his country

En Cornuaille vait tut dreit

Into Cornwall he-goes all straight

la u la reïne maneit.

there where the queen dwelt

En la forest tuz suls se mist,

Into the forest all alone himself he-put

ne voleit pas qu'um le veïst.

not he-wished at-all that-one him should-see

En la vespree s'en eisseit,

In the evening himself-thence he-went-out

quant tens de herbergier esteit.

when time of to-lodge it-was

Od paï sanz, od povre gent

With peasants with poor folk

perneit la nuit herbergement.

he-took the night lodging

Les noveles lur enquireit

The news of-them he-inquired

del rei cum il se cunteneit.

of-the king how he himself bore

Cil li diënt qu'il unt oï

They to-him say that-they have heard

que li barun erent bani,

that the barons were summoned

a Tintagel deivent venir,

to Tintagel they-must to-come

li reis i vuelt feste tenir,

the king there wishes feast to-bold

30

35

40

a pentecuste i serunt tuit;

at Pentecost there will-be all

mult i avra joie e deduit,

much there will-be joy and delight

e la reïne od lui sera.

and the queen with him will-be

Tristram l'oï, mult s'en haita.

Tristram it-beard much himself-thereat gladdened

45 Ele n'i purra mie aler

She not-there will-be-able at-all to-go

qu'il ne la veie trespasser.

that-he not her see to-pass

Le jur que li reis fu meüz

The day that the king was set-out

est Tristram el bois revenuz

is Tristram into-the wood come-back

sur le chemin que il saveit

upon the road which he knew

50 que la rute passer deveit.

that the company to-pass was-to

Une coldre trencha par mi,

A hazel he-cut through middle

tute quarree la fendi.

all squared it he-split

Quant il a paré le bastun,

When he has trimmed the staff

de sun cultel escrit sun nun.

with his knife he-writes his name

55 Se la reïne s'aparceit,

If the queen herself-perceives

ki mult grant garde s'en perneit,

who very great heed herself-thereof took

de sun ami bien conuistra

of her friend well she-will-know

le bastun quant el le verra;

the staff when she it will-see

altre feiz li fu avenu

another time to-her it-was befallen

que si l'aveit aparceü.

that so it-she-had perceived

Ceo fu la sume de l'escrit

That was the sum of the-writing

qu'il li aveit mandé e dit,

which-he to-her had sent-word and said

que lunges ot ilec esté

that long he-had there been

e atendu e surjurné

and waited and sojourned

pur espier e pur saveir

for to-spy and for to-learn

coment il la peüst veeir,

how he her might to-see

kar ne poeit vivre senz li.

for not he-could to-live without her

D'els dous fu il tut altresì

Of-them two it-was it wholly likewise

cume del chievrefueil esteit

as of-the honeysuckle it-was

ki a la coldre se perneit:

which to the hazel itself clung

60

65

70

quant il s'i est laciez e pris

when it itself-thereon is twined and caught

e tut en tur le fust s'est mis,

and all in round the trunk itself-it-is set

ensemble poeent bien durer;

together they-can well to-last

mes ki puis les vult desevrer,

but who afterward them wishes to-sunder

75 la coldre muert hastivement

the hazel dies hastily

e li chievrefueilz ensemement.

and the honeysuckle likewise

'Bele amie, si est de nus:

Fair friend so it-is of us

ne vus senz mei ne jeo senz vus!

neither you without me nor I without you

La reïne vint chevalchant.

The queen came riding

80 Ele esguarda un poi avant,

She looked a little ahead

le bastun vit, bien l'aparceut,

the staff she-saw well it-she-perceived

tutes les letres i conut.

all the letters therein she-knew

Les chevaliers, ki la menoënt

The knights who her led

e ki ensemble od li erroënt,

and who together with her rode

85 cumanda tost a arester:

she-commanded soon to halt

descendre vult e reposer.

to-alight she-wishes and to-rest

Cil unt fait sun comandement.

They have done her commandment

Ele s'en vet luinz de sa gent;

She herself-thence goes far from her folk

sa meschine apela a sei,

her maid she-called to herself

Brenguein, ki mult ot bone fei.

Brangain who very had good faith

Del chemin un poi s'esluigna.

From-the road a little herself-she-withdrew

Dedenz le bois celui trova

Inside the wood him she-found

que plus amot que rien vivant.

whom more she-loved than anything living

Entre els meinent joie mult grant.

Between them they-lead joy very great

A li parla tut a leisir,

To her he-spoke all at leisure

e ele li dist sun plaisir;

and she to-him said her pleasure

puis li mustra cumfaitement

then to-him she-showed how

del rei avra acordement,

of-the king he-will-have reconciliation

e que mult li avait pesé

and that much to-her it-had grieved

de ceo qu'il l'ot si cungeé,

of that that-he him-had so banished

90

95

100

par encusement l'aveit fait.

by accusation it-he-had done

A tant s'en part, sun ami lait;

At that herself-thence she-parts her friend she-leaves

mes quant ceo vint al desevrer,

but when that came to-the parting

dunc comencierent a plurer.

then they-began to weep

105 Tristram en Wales s'en rala,

Tristram into Wales himself-thence went-back

tant que sis uncles le manda.

until that his uncle him summoned

Pur la joie qu'il ot eüe

For the joy which-he had had

de s'amie qu'il ot veüe

of his-friend whom-he had seen

par le bastun qu'il ot escrit,

by the staff which-he had written

110 si cum la reïne l'ot dit,

even as the queen it-had said

pur les paroles remembrer,

for the words to-remember

Tristram, ki bien saveit harper,

Tristram who well knew to-harp

en aveit fet un nuvel lai.

thereof had made a new lay

Asez briefment le numerai:

Quite briefly it I-shall-name

115 'Gotelef' l'apelent Engleis,

Goatleaf it-call the-English

‘Chievrefueil’ le nument Franceis.

Honeysuckle it name the-French

Dit vus en ai la verité,

Said to-you thereof I-have the truth

del lai que j’ai ici cunté.

of-the lay which I-have here told

Eliduc

XII

The lay was first called Eliduc and is now named for the two ladies, Guildeluëc and Guilliadun. Eliduc, a knight of Brittany with a wife of high lineage, kept his lord's land and hunted his forests until envy of his good turned the king against him, and he was banished with no charge laid. Leaving his wife in the care of his men, he crosses with ten knights and lands at Totnes, where an old king near Exeter is besieged by the peer he would not give his daughter to. Eliduc offers his help.

D'un mult anciën lai Bretun

Of-a very ancient lay Breton

le cunte e tute la raisun

the tale and all the argument

vus dirai, si cum jeo entent

to-you I-shall-tell even as I understand

la verité mun esciënt.

the truth my knowing

5 En Bretaigne ot un chevalier

In Brittany there-was a knight

pruz e curteis, hardi e fier.

valiant and courteous bold and fierce

Eliduc ot nun, ceo m'est vis,

Eliduc he-had name that to-me-is seeming

n'ot si vaillant hume el païs.

not-there-was so worthy a-man in-the country

Femme ot espuse, noble e sage,

A-wife he-had wedded noble and wise

10 de halte gent, de grant parage.

of high folk of great lineage

Ensemble furent lungement,

Together they-were long

mult s'entrainerent leialment;

much each-other-loved loyally

mes puis avint par une guerre

but then it-befell through a war

que il ala soldees querre:

that he went pay to-seek

iluec ama une meschine,

there he-loved a maid

fille ert a rei e a reïne.

a-daughter she-was to king and to queen

Guilliadun ot nun la pucele,

Guilliadun had name the maiden

el reialme nen ot plus bele.

in-the realm not was more fair

La femme resteit apelee

The wife was-in-turn called

Guildeluëc en sa cuntree.

Guildeluëc in his country

D'eles dous a li lais a nun

From-them two has the lay for name

Guildeluëc ha Guilliadun.

Guildeluëc and Guilliadun

'Eliduc' fu primes nomez,

Eliduc it-was first named

mes ore est li nuns remuëz,

but now is the name changed

15

20

- 25 kar des dames est avenu
for of-the ladies is befallen
 l'aventure dunt li lais fu.
the-adventure whereof the lay was
 Si cum avint, vus cunterai,
Even as it-befell to-you I-shall-tell
 la verité vus en dirrai.
the truth to-you thereof I-shall-say
 Elidus avait un seignur,
Eliduc had a lord
- 30 rei de Bretaigne la Menur,
king of Brittany the Lesser
 ki mult l'amot e cherisseit,
who much him-loved and cherished
 e il leialment le serveit.
and he loyally him served
 U que li reis deüst errer,
Wherever that the king should to-travel
 Il avait la terre a garder;
He had the land to keep
- 35 pur sa pruësce le retint.
for his prowess him he-retained
 Purtant de mieulz mult li avint!
Therefore of better much to-him it-came
 Par les forez poeit chacier;
Through the forests he-could to-hunt

n'i ot si hardi forestier

not-there was so bold a-forester

ki cuntredire li osast

who to-gainsay to-him dared

ne ja une feiz en gruscast.

nor ever one time thereat murmured

Pur l'envie del bien de lui,

For the-envy of-the good of him

si cum avient sovent d'altrui,

even as happens often of-another

esteit a sun seignur medlez

he-was with his lord embroiled

e empeiriez e encusez,

and disparaged and accused

que de la curt le cungea

so-that from the court him he-banished

senz ceo qu'il ne l'araisuna.

without that that-he not him-arraigned

Elidus ne saveit pur quei.

Eliduc not knew for what

Soventes feiz requist le rei

Oft times he-besought the king

qu'il escundit de lui preïst

that-he a-defense from him take

e que losenge ne creïst,

and that flattery not he-believe

mult l'aveit volentiers servi;

much him-be-bad willingly served

mes li reis ne li respundi.

but the king not to-him answered

40

45

50

Quant il nel volt de rien oïr,
When he not-him wished of anything to-hear

si l'en covint idunc partir;
so him-thence it-behooved then to-depart

55 A sa maisun en est alez,

To his house thence he-is gone

si a tuz ses amis mandez.

and has all his friends summoned

Del rei, sun seignur, lur mustra

Of-the king his lord to-them he-showed

e de l'ire que vers lui a

and of the-wrath which toward him he-has

Mult le servi a sun poeir,

Much him he-served to his power

60 ja ne deüst mal gre avoir.

ever not he-should ill thanks to-have

Li vileins dit par reprovier,

The peasant says by proverb

quant tencë a sun charuier,

when he-quarrels with his plowman

qu'amurs de seignur n'est pas fiez.

that-love of lord not-is at-all a-fief

Cil est sages e veziëz,

He is wise and prudent

65 ki leialté tient sun seignur,

who loyalty keeps to-his lord

envers ses bons veisins amur.

toward his good neighbors love

Ne volt el païs arester,

Not he-wished in-the country to-stay

ainz passera, ceo dit, la mer:

rather he-will-cross that he-says the sea

el reialme de Loengre ira,

into-the realm of Logres he-will-go

une piece s'i deduira.

a while himself-there he-will-solace

Sa femme en la terre larra;

His wife in the land he-will-leave

a ses humes cumandera

to his men he-will-command

que il la guardent leialment

that they her guard loyally

e tuit si ami ensement.

and all his friends likewise

A cel conseil s'est arestez,

To that counsel himself-he-is settled

si s'est richement aturnez.

and himself-he-is richly equipped

Mult furent dolent si ami

Much were grieved his friends

pur ceo que d'els se departi.

for that that from-them himself he-parted

Dis chevaliers od sei mena,

Ten knights with himself he-led

e sa femme le cunveia.

and his wife him escorted

Forment demeine grant dolor

Greatly she-makes great grief

al departir de sun seignur;

at-the departing of her lord

70

75

80

mes il l'aseüra de sei

but he her-assured of himself

qu'il li portera bone fei.

that-he to-her will-bear good faith

85 De lui se departi a tant.

From him herself she-parted at that

Il tient sun chemin tut avant,

He holds his road all forward

a la mer vient, si est passez;

to the sea he-comes and is crossed

en Toteneis est arivez.

at Totnes he-is landed

Plusurs reis ot en cele terre,

Several kings there-were in that land

90 entre els ourent estrif e guerre.

among them they-had strife and war

Vers Excestre en icel païs

Toward Exeter in that country

maneit uns huem mult poëstis.

dwelt a man very powerful

Vielz huem e anciëns esteit

An-old man and ancient he-was

ne nul heir madle nen aveit.

and any heir male not he-had

95 Une fille ot a marier.

A daughter he-had to marry

Pur ceo qu'il ne la volt doner

For that that-he not her wished to-give

a sun per, cil le guerreiot,

to his peer he him warred-on

tute sa terre li guastot.

all his land to-him he-wasted

En un chastel l'aveit enclos.

In a castle him-be-had shut

N'ot el chastel hume si os

Not-there-was in-the castle man so bold

ki cuntre lui osast eissir,

who against him dared to-go-out

estur ne meslee tenir.

encounter nor melee to-hold

Elidus en oï parler.

Eliduc thereof heard to-speak

Ne voleit mes avant aler:

Not he-wished more forward to-go

quant iluec a guerre trovee,

since there he-has war found

remaneir volt en la cuntree.

to-remain he-wished in the country

Le rei ki plus esteit grevez

The king who most was aggrieved

e damagiez e encumbrez

and damaged and encumbered

voldra aidier a sun poeir

he-will-wish to-help to his power

e en soldees remaneir.

and in pay to-remain

100

105

110

Ses messages i enveia

His messengers there he-sent

e par ses letres li manda

and by his letters to-him he-sent-word

que de sun païs ert eissuz

that from his country he-was gone

e en s'aïe esteit venuz;

and in his-help he-was come

115 mes li remandast sun plaisir,

but to-him let-him-send-back-word his pleasure

e s'il nel voleit retenir,

and if-be not-him wished to-retain

cunduit li donast par sa terre,

safe-conduct to-him let-him-give through his land

avant ireit soldees querre.

further he-would-go pay to-seek

Quant li reis vit les messagiers,

When the king saw the messengers

120 mult les ama, mult les ot chiers.

much them he-loved much them he-held dear

Sun cunestable a apelé,

His constable he-has called

e hastivement comandé

and hastily commanded

que cunduit li apareillast

that safe-conduct for-him he-prepare

e que le barun amenast,

and that the baron he-bring

si face ostels apareillier

125

and let-him-have lodgings to-be-made-ready

u il peüssent herbergier;

where they might to-lodge

tant lur face livrer e rendre

so-much to-them let-him-have to-be-delivered and rendered

cum il voldrunt le meis despendre.

as they will-wish the month to-spend

Li cunduiz fu apareilliez

The safe-conduct was made-ready

e pur Eliduc enveiez.

130

and for Eliduc sent

A grant honur fu receüz:

With great honor he-was received

mult par fu bien al rei venuz.

very much he-was well to-the king come

Sis ostels fu chiés un burgeis,

His lodging was at-the-house-of a burgher

ki mult fu sages e curteis;

who very was wise and courteous

sa bele chambre encurtinee

135

his fair chamber hung-with-curtains

li a li ostes delivree.

to-him has the host given-up

Elidus se fist bien servir.

Eliduc himself had well to-be-served

A sun mangier faiseit venir

To his meal he-had to-come

les chevaliers mesaaaisiez

the knights ill-at-ease

140 ki el burc erent herbergiez.

who in-the borough were lodged

A tuz ses humes defendi

To all his men he-forbade

que n'i eüst nul si hardi

that not-there be any so bold

ki des quarante jurs premiers

who of-the forty days first

preïst livreisan ne deniers.

should-take allowance nor pence

SERVICE IN LOGRES

On the third day the enemy comes up to the gates. Eliduc arms, and the fourteen knights lodged in the town go out with him. He asks whether anyone knows a defile where the enemy may be hampered as they come back with their booty, and is shown a narrow cart-track by the wood. They ambush it, scatter the returning company, and take the constable and twenty-nine more. They come back so laden that the king, who had feared treachery, is ordering the gates shut when a squire brings him the news.

Al tierz jur qu'il ot surjurné

145

On-the third day that-he had sojourned

li criz leva en la cité

the cry rose in the city

que lur enemî sunt venu

that their enemies are come

e par la cuntree espandu:

and through the country spread

ja voldrunt la vile asaillir

already they-will-wish the town to-assail

e des i qu'as portes venir.

150

and from there that-to-the gates to-come

Elidus a la noise oïe

Eliduc has the noise heard

de la gent ki est esturdie.

of the folk which is dismayed

Il s'est armez, plus n'i atent,

He himself-is armed more not-there he-waits

e si cumpaignun ensement.

and his companions likewise

Quatorze chevaliers muntanz

155

Fourteen knights mounted

ot en la vile surjurnanz

there-were in the town sojourning

(plusurs en i aveit nafrez

several thereof there were wounded

e des prisuns i ot asez).

and of-the prisoners there were enough

Cil virent Eliduc munter.

They saw Eliduc to-mount

160 Par les ostels se vunt armer;

Through the lodgings themselves they-go to-arm

fors de la porte od lui eissirent,

out of the gate with him they-went

que sumunse n'i atendirent.

for summons not-there they-awaited

'Sire', funt il, 'od vus irum

Lord say they with you we-shall-go

e ceo que vus ferez ferum!'

and that which you will-do we-shall-do

165 Il lur respunt: 'Vostre merci!

He to-them answers Your thanks

Avreit i nul de vus ici

Would-be there any of you here

ki mal pas u destreit seüst,

who a-bad pass or defile knew

u l'um encumbrer les peüst?

where one to-hamper them might

Se nus ici les atenduns,

If we here them await

170 puet cel estre, nus justeruns;

may that be we shall-joust

mes ceo n'ateint a nul espleit,

but that not-attains to any advantage

ki altre conseil en savreit.'

for-whoever other counsel thereof would-know

Icil li diënt: 'Sire, par fei,

They to-him say Lord by faith

pres de cel bois en cel rosei

near to that wood in that reed-bed

la a une estreite charriere,

there is a narrow cart-track

par unt il repairent ariere.

by which they return back

Quant il avrunt fet lur eschec,

When they will-have made their booty

si returnerunt par ilec;

so they-will-return by there

desarmé sur lur palefreiz

unarmed upon their palfreys

s'en revunt il soventes feiz,

themselves-thence go-back they oft times

si se metent en aventure

so themselves they-put into hazard

cume de murir a dreiture.'

as of to-die to directness

Bien tost les purreit damagier

Well soon them one-might to-harm

e els laidir e empeirier.

and them to-injure and to-impair

Elidus lur a dit: 'Amis,

Eliduc to-them has said Friends

la meie fei vus en plevis:

the my faith to-you thereon I-pledge

ki en tel liu ne va suvent

who into such place not goes often

u quide perdre a esciënt,

where he-thinks to-lose with knowledge

175

180

185

ja guaires ne guaaignera

ever much not he-will-win

190 ne en grant pris ne muntera.

nor into great renown not he-will-rise

Vus estes tuit hume le rei,

You are all men (of-)the king

si li devez porter grant fei.

so to-him you-ought to-bear great faith

Venez od mei la u j'irai,

Come with me there where I-shall-go

si faites ceo que jeo ferai!

and do that which I shall-do

195 Jo vus asseür leialment,

I to-you assure loyally

ja n'i avrez encumbrement,

ever not-there you-will-have hindrance

pur tant cume jo puis aidier.

for so-much as I can to-help

Se nus poüm rien guaaignier,

If we can anything to-win

ceo nus iert turné a grant pris

that to-us will-be turned to great renown

200 de damagier noz enemis.'

of to-harm our enemies

Icil unt pris la seürte,

They have taken the assurance

si l'unt des i qu'al bois mené.

and him-they-have from there that-to-the wood led

Pres del chemin sunt enbuschié,

Near of-the road they-are ambushed

tant que cil se sunt repairié.

until that they themselves are returned

Elidus lur a tut mustré

Eliduc to-them has all shown

e enseignié e devisé,

and taught and set-out

de quel maniere a els puindrunt

in what manner at them they-will-spur

e cum il les escriërun.

and how they them will-cry-upon

Quant al destreit furent venu ...

When to-the defile they-were come —

Elidus les a escriëz.

Eliduc them has cried-upon

Tuz apela ses cumpaignuns,

All he-called his companions

de bien faire les a sumuns.

of well to-do them he-has summoned

Il i ferirent durement

They there struck sternly

ne nes espargnierent niënt.

nor not-them they-spared at-all

Cil esteient tuit esbaï:

They were all bewildered

tost furent rut e departi,

soon they-were broken and scattered

en poi d'ure furent vencu.

in little of-hour they-were vanquished

205

210

215

Lur cunestable unt retenu

Their constable they-have taken

e tant des altres chevaliers:

and so-many of-the other knights

220 tuit en chagent lur esquiërs.

all thereof they-load their squires

Vint e cinc furent cil de ça,

Twenty and five were they of hither

trente en pristrent de cels de la.

thirty thereof they-took of those of thither

Del harneis pristrent a espleit:

Of-the harness they-took in plenty

merveillus guaaïn i aveit.

marvelous gain there was

225 Ariere s'en revunt tuit lié:

Back themselves-thence they-go all glad

mult aveient bien espleitié,

much they-had well sped

Li reis esteit sur une tur.

The king was upon a tower

De ses humes a grant poür;

For his men he-has great fear

d'Eliduc forment se pleigneit,

of-Eliduc greatly himself he-lamented

230 kar il quidout e si cremeit

for he thought and so feared

que il ait mis en abandun

that he has put in abandon

ses chevaliers par traïsun.

his knights by treachery

Cil s'en viennent tuit aruté

They themselves-thence come all in-order

e tuit chargié e tuit trussé.

and all laden and all packed

Mult furent plus al revenir

Much they-were more at-the returning

qu'il n'esteient al fors eissir;

than-they were at-the out to-go

pur ceo les descunut li reis,

for that them mistook the king

si fu en dute e en suspeis.

so he-was in doubt and in suspense

Les portes cumande a fermer

The gates be-commands to be-shut

e les genz sur les murs munter

and the folk upon the walls to-climb

pur traire a els e pur lancier;

for to-shoot at them and for to-cast

mes il n'en avrunt nul mestier.

but they not-thereof will-have any need

Cil ourent enveié avant

They had sent ahead

un esquiër esperunant,

a squire spurring

ki l'aventure li mostra

who the-adventure to-him showed

e del soldeier li cunta,

and of-the mercenary to-him told

235

240

245

cum il ot cels de la vencuz

how he had those of thither vanquished

e cum il s'esteit cuntenuz;

and how he himself-had borne

unkes tels chevaliers ne fu:

ever such a-knight not was

250 lur cunestable a retenu

their constable he-has taken

e vint e noef des altres pris

and twenty and nine of-the others taken

e mulz nafrez e mulz ocis.

and many wounded and many slain

Li reis quant la novele oï,

The king when the news he-beard

a merveille s'en esjoï.

to marvel himself-thereat he-rejoiced

255 Jus de la tur est descenduz

Down from the tower he-is come

e encuntre Eliduc venuz.

and to-meet Eliduc come

De sun bien fait le mercia,

For his good deed him he-thanked

e il les prisuns li livra.

and he the prisoners to-him delivered

As altres depart le harneis;

To-the others he-shares-out the harness

260 a sun ués ne retient que treis

for his own-use not he-keeps but three

chevals ki li erent loé;

horses which to-him were allotted

tut a departi e duné
all he-has shared-out and given
 la sue part comunement
the his share in-common
 as prisuns e a l'autre gent.
to-the prisoners and to the-other folk

GUILLIADUN

The king keeps him a year as warden of his land. His daughter Guilliadun sends her chamberlain to ask why he has never come to her; he comes, they talk on a bed, and she is taken, while he goes home troubled, remembering his faith to his wife. She lies awake all night, tells the chamberlain in the morning that she loves the new mercenary, and asks how a present will tell her whether he wants her love. He says to send a girdle and a ring, and goes; she nearly calls him back, lets him go, and blames her own haste.

Aprés cel fet que jeo vus di,
After that deed which I to-you say
 mult l'ama li reis e cheri.
much him-loved the king and cherished
 Un an entier l'a retenu
A year entire him-he-has retained
 e cels ki sunt od lui venu,
and those who are with him come
 la fiance de lui en prist;
the pledge from him thereof he-took
 de sa terre gardein en fist.
of his land warden thereof he-made

265

270

Elidus fu curteis e sages,

Eliduc was courteous and wise

beals chevaliers e pruz e larges.

a-fair knight and valiant and generous

La fille al rei l'oï numer

The daughter of-the king him-heard to-be-named

e les biens de lui recunter.

and the goods of him to-be-told

275 Par un suen chamberlenc privé

By a her-own chamberlain private

l'a requis, preié e mandé

him-she-his asked prayed and summoned

qu'a li venist esbaneier

that-to her he-come to-take-his-ease

e parler e bien acuintier;

and to-speak and well to-become-acquainted

mult durement s'esmerveillot

very sorely she-marveled

280 que il a li ne repairot.

that he to her not resorted

Elidus respunt qu'il irra,

Eliduc answers that-he will-go

volentiers s'i acuintera.

willingly himself-there he-will-acquaint

Il est muntez sur sun destrier,

He is mounted upon his charger

od lui mena un chevalier;

with him he-led a knight

285 a la pucele vait parler.

to the maiden he-goes to-speak

Quant en la chambre dut entrer,

When into the chamber he-was-to enter

le chamberlenc enveie avant;

the chamberlain he-sends ahead

cil s'ala alkes atarjant,

he himself-went somewhat delaying

de ci que cil revint ariere.

from here that he came back

Od dulz semblant, od simple chiere,

With sweet countenance with modest face

od mult noble cuntenement

with very noble bearing

parla mult afaitieement

he-spoke very courteously

e mercia la dameisele,

and thanked the damsel

Guilliadun, ki mult fu bele,

Guilliadun who very was fair

de ceo que li plot a mander

for that that to-her it-pleased to send-word

que il venist a li parler.

that he come to her to-speak

Cele l'aveit par la mein pris,

She him-had by the hand taken

desur un lit erent asis.

upon a bed they-were seated

De plusurs choses unt parlé.

Of several things they-have spoken

Icele l'a mult esguardé,

She him-has much beheld

290

295

300

sun vis, sun cors e sun semblant;

his face his body and his look

dit: en lui n'a mesavenant,

she-says in him not-is anything-unseemly

Forment le prise en sun curage.

Greatly him she-prizes in her heart

Amurs i lane sun message

Love thither casts his message

305 ki la somunt de lui amer;

which her summons of him to-love

palir la fist e suspirer.

to-pale her it-made and to-sigh

Mes el nel volt metre a raisun,

But she not-him wisbed to-put to speech

qu'il ne li turt a mesprisun.

lest-he not to-her turn to reproach

Une grant piece i demura;

A great while there he-stayed

310 puis prist cungié, si s'en ala.

then he-took leave and himself-thence went

El li duna mult a enviz;

She to-him gave very with unwillingness

mes nepurquant s'en est partiz.

but nevertheless himself-thence he-is parted

A sun ostel s'en est alez.

To his lodging himself-thence he-is gone

Tuz est murnes e trespensez;

All he-is mournful and dismayed

315 pur la bele est en grant esfrei,

for the fair-one he-is in great trouble

la fille sun seigneur le rei,

the daughter (of-)his lord the king

que tant dulcement l'apela

who so sweetly him-called

e de ceo qu'ele suspira.

and of that that-she sighed

Mult par se tient a entrepris

Very much himself he-holds as caught

que tant a esté el païs

that so-long he-has been in-the country

que ne l'a veüe sovent.

that not her-be-has seen often

Quant ceo ot dit, si se repent:

When that he-had said so himself he-repents

de sa femme li remembra,

of his wife to-him it-remembered

e cum il li asseüra

and how he to-her assured

que bone fei li portereit

that good faith to-her he-would-bear

e leialment se cuntendreit.

and loyally himself he-would-bear

La pucele ki l'ot veü

The maiden who him-had seen

voldra de lui faire sun dru.

will-wish of him to-make her lover

Unkes mes tant nul ne preisa;

Ever before so-much any not she-prized

se ele puet, sil retendra.

if she can so-him she-will-keep

320

325

330

Tote la nuit veilla issi,

All the night she-watched thus

ne reposa ne ne dormi.

not she-rested nor not slept

El demain est matin levee;

On-the morrow she-is in-morning risen

a une fenestre est alee.

to a window she-is gone

335 Sun chamberlenc a apelé,

Her chamberlain she-has called

tut sun estre li a mustré.

all her state to-him she-has shown

‘Par fei’, fet ele, ‘mal m’estait!

By faith says she ill for-me-it-stands

Jo sui cheüe en malvés plait:

I am fallen into an-evil case

jeo eim le novel soldeier,

I love the new mercenary

340 Eliduc, le bon chevalier!

Eliduc the good knight

Unkes anuit nen oi repos

Ever tonight not I-had rest

ne pur dormir les uiz ne clos.

nor for to-sleep the eyes not I-closed

Se par amur me vult amer

If by love me he-wishes to-love

e de sun cors asseürer,

and of his body to-assure

345 jeo ferai trestut sun plaisir,

I shall-do wholly his pleasure

si l'en puet granz biens avenir,
and to-him-thereof can great goods to-come

de ceste terre sera reis.

of this land he-will-be king

Tant par est sages e curteis,

So much he-is wise and courteous

que, s'il ne m'aime par amur,

that if-he not me-loves by love

murir m'estuet a grant dolur.'

to-die me-it-behooves in great grief

Quant ele ot dit ceo que li plot,

When she had said that which to-her pleased

li chamberlens qu'ele apelot

the chamberlain whom-she called

li a duné conseil leial;

to-her has given counsel loyal

ne li deit hum turner a mal.

not to-him ought one to-turn to ill

'Dame', fet il, 'quant vus l'amez,

Lady says he since you him-love

enveiez i, si li mandez.

send thither and to-him send-word

U ceinture u laz u anel

Either girdle or lace or ring

enveiez li, si li iert bel.

send to-him and to-him it-will-be fair

Se il le receit bonement

If he it receives graciously

e joius seit del mandement,

and joyful be of-the message

350

355

360

seüre seiez de s'amur!

sure be of his-love

Il n'a suz ciel empereür,

There not-is under heaven emperor

se vus amer le voliëz,

if you to-love him wished

ki mult n'en deüst estre liez.'

who much not-thereof ought to-be glad

365 La dameisele respondi,

The damsel answered

quant le cunseil de lui oï:

when the counsel from him she-heard

'Coment savrai par mun present

How shall-I-know by my present

s'il a de mei amer talent?

if-he has of me to-love desire

Jeo ne vi unkes chevalier

I not saw ever knight

370 ki se feïst de ceo preier,

who himself made of that to-be-prayed

se il amast u il haïst,

whether he loved or he hated

que volentiers ne retenist

who willingly not would-keep

cel present qu'um li enveïast.

that present which-one to-him sent

Mult harreie qu'il me gabast.

Much I-should-hate that-he me mocked

Mes nepurquant par les semblanz

But nevertheless by the looks

puet l'um conuistre les alquanz.

can one to-know the some

Aturnez vus e si alez!

Array yourself and so go

'Jeo sui', fet il, 'tuz aturnez.'

I am says he all arrayed

'Un anel d'or li porterez

A ring of-gold to-him you-will-carry

e ma ceinture li durrez!

and my girdle to-him you-will-give

Mil feiz le me saluërez!

Thousand times him for-me you-will-greet

Li chamberlens s'en est turnez,

The chamberlain himself-thence is turned

Ele remeint en tel maniere,

She remains in such manner

pur poi ne l'apele ariere,

for little not him-she-calls back

e nequedent le lait aler,

and nevertheless him she-lets to-go

si se cumence a dementer:

and herself she-begins to lament

'Lasse! cum est mis quers suzpris

Wretched how is my heart taken

pur un hume d'altre païs!

for a man of-another country

Ne sai s'il est de halte gent,

Not I-know if-he is of high folk

375

380

385

- 390 si s'en ira hastivement,
so himself-thence he-will-go hastily
 jeo remeindrai cume dolente.
I shall-remain as grieved
 Folement ai mise m'entente.
Foolishbly I-have set my-mind
 Unkes mes n'i parlai fors ier
Ever before not-there I-spoke except yesterday
 e or le faz d'amer preier.
and now him I-make of-love to-be-prayed
- 395 Jeo quid que il me blasmera;
I think that he me will-blame
 s'il est curteis, gre me savra.
if-he is courteous thanks to-me he-will-know
 Ore est del tut en aventure,
Now it-is of-the all in hazard
 e se il n'a de m'amur cure,
and if he not-has of my-love care
 mult me tendrai a mal baillie;
much myself I-shall-bold as ill served
- 400 ja mes n'avrai joie en ma vie.'
ever more not-I-shall-have joy in my life

Eliduc puts the ring on his finger and girds himself with the belt, says nothing, and offers the chamberlain a gift he will not take. The king, at chess in his daughter's chamber, bids her make the knight welcome, and the two sit apart: she tells him she will have no man living but him, and he answers that he is pledged to the king for a year and will not break it, and asks her leave to go home after. Meanwhile his own lord, losing castle after castle, sends three messengers to summon him by his homage.

Tant cum ele se dementa,

So-long as she herself lamented

li chamberlens mult se hasta.

the chamberlain much himself hastened

A Eliduc esteit venuz.

To Eliduc he-was come

A conseil li a dit saluz

In private to-him he-has said greetings

que la pucele li mandot,

which the maiden to-him sent

e l'anelet li presentot,

and the-little-ring to-him he-presented

la ceinture li a donee.

the girdle to-him he-has given

Li chevaliers l'a merciëe.

The knight her-has thanked

L'anelet d'or mist en sun dei,

The-little-ring of-gold be-put on his finger

la ceinture ceinst en tur sei;

the girdle he-girt in round himself

ne li vadlez plus ne li dist,

nor the young-man more not to-him said

ne il niënt ne li requist,

nor he anything not of-him asked

fors tant que del suen li offri.

except so-much that of-the his to-him be-offered

Cil n'en prist rien, si s'en parti.

He not-thereof took anything so himself-thence parted

415 A sa dameisele reva;

To his damsel he-goes-back

dedenz sa chambre la trova.

inside her chamber her be-found

De part celui la salua

On behalf-of him her be-greeted

e del present la mercia.

and for-the present her be-thanked

'Di va', fet el, 'nel me celer!

Say come says she not-it from-me conceal

420 Vuelte il mei par amurs amer?'

Wishes he me by love to-love

Il li respunt: 'Ceo m'est a vis.

He to-her answers That to-me-is to seeming

Li chevaliers n'est pas jolis;

The knight not-is at-all wanton

jeol tienc a curteis e a sage,

I-him hold for courteous and for wise

que bien set celer sun curage.

who well knows to-hide his heart

425 De vostre part le saluai

On your behalf him I-greeted

e voz aveirs li presentai.

and your gifts to-him I-presented

De vostre ceinture se ceinst

With your girdle himself he-girt

e par mi les flans bien s'estreinst

and through middle-of the flanks well himself-be-drew

e l'anelet mist en sun dei.

and the-little-ring he-put on his finger

Ne li dis plus ne il a mei.'

Not to-him I-said more nor he to me

'Nel receut il pur druërie?

Not-it received he for love

Puet cel estre, jeo sui traïe.'

May that be I am betrayed

Cil li a dit: 'Par fei, ne sai.

He to-her has said By faith not I-know

Ore oëz ceo que jeo dirai!

Now hear that which I shall-say

S'il ne vus volsist mult grant bien,

If-he not to-you wished very great good

il ne volsist del vostre rien.'

he not would-wish of-the yours anything

'Tu paroles', fet ele, 'en gas.

Thou speakest says she in jest

Jeo sai bien qu'il ne me het pas:

I know well that-be not me hates at-all

unc ne li forfis de niënt,

ever not to-him I-did-wrong in anything

fors tant que jeo l'aim durement;

except so-much that I him-love greatly

e se purtant me vuelt haïr,

and if therefore me he-wishes to-hate

430

435

440

dunc est il dignes de murir.

then is he worthy of to-die

Ja mes par tei ne par altrui,

Ever more by thee nor by another

des i que jeo parolge a lui,

from there that I speak to him

445 ne li voldrai rien demander;

not of-him I-shall-wish anything to-ask

jeo meïsmes li vueil mustrer

I same to-him wish to-show

cum l'amurs de lui me destreint.

how the-love of him me constrains

Mes jeo ne sai se il remeint.'

But I not know whether he remains

Li chamberlens a respundu:

The chamberlain has answered

450 'Dame, li reis l'a retenu

Lady the king him-has retained

desqu'a un an par sairement,

right-to a year by oath

qu'il le servira leialment.

that-he him will-serve loyally

Asez purrez avoir leisir

Enough you-will-be-able to-have leisure

de mustrer lui vostre plaisir.'

of to-show to-him your pleasure

455 Quant ele oï qu'il remaneit,

When she heard that-he was-remaining

mult durement s'en esjoeit;

very greatly herself-thereat she-rejoiced

mult esteit liee del sujur.

much she-was glad of-the stay

Ne saveit rien de la dolor

Not she-knew anything of the grief

u il esteit, puis qu'il la vit.

in-which he was since that-he her saw

Unkes n'ot joie ne delit,

Ever not-he-had joy nor delight

fors tant cum il pensa de li.

except so-much as he thought of her

Mult se teneit a mal bailli,

Much himself he-held as ill served

kar a sa femme aveit premis,

for to his wife he-had promised

ainz qu'il turnast de sun país,

before that-he turned from his country

que il n'amereit se li nun.

that he not-would-love except her not

Ore est sis quers en grant friçun.

Now is his heart in great shuddering

Sa leialté voleit garder;

His loyalty he-wished to-keep

mes ne s'en puet niënt oster

but not himself-thereof he-can at-all to-remove

que il nen eint la dameisele,

that he not love the damsel

Guilliadun, ki tant fu bele,

Guilliadun who so was fair

460

465

470

de li veeir e de parler

of her to-see and of to-speak

e de baisier e d'acoler;

and of to-kiss and of-to-embrace

mes ja ne li querra amur,

but ever not from-her he-will-seek love

que ne li turt a deshonor,

that not to-him it-turn to dishonor

475 tant pur sa femme garder fei,

as-much for his wife to-keep faith

tant pur ceo qu'il est od le rei.

as-much for that that-he is with the king

En grant peine fu Elidus.

In great pain was Eliduc

Il est muntez, ne targe plus;

He is mounted not he-delays more

ses compaignuns apele a sei.

his companions he-calls to himself

480 Al chastel vet parler al rei.

To-the castle he-goes to-speak to-the king

La pucele verra s'il puet:

The maiden he-will-see if-he can

c'est l'achaisuns pur quei s'esmuet.

that-is the-cause for which himself-be-stirs

Li reis est del mangier levez,

The king is from-the meal risen

es chambres sa fille est entrez.

into-the chambers (of-)his daughter he-is entered

As eschés cumence a juër

485

At-the chess he-begins to play

a un chevalier d'ultre mer;

with a knight from-beyond sea

de l'autre part de l'eschekier

on the-other side of the-chessboard

sa fille deveit enseigner.

his daughter he-was-to instruct

Elidus est alez avant.

Eliduc is gone forward

Li reis li fist mult bel semblant,

490

The king to-him made very fair countenance

de juste lui seoir le fist.

from beside him to-sit him he-made

Sa fille apele, si li dist:

His daughter he-calls and to-her said

'Dameisele, a cest chevalier

Damsel with this knight

vus devriëz bien aquintier

you ought well to-become-acquainted

e faire lui mult grant honur;

495

and to-do to-him very great honor

entre cinc cenx nen a meillur.'

among five hundred not is better

Quant la meschine ot esculté

When the maid had listened

ceo que sis sire ot cumandé,

to-that which her lord had commanded

mult en fu liee la pucele.

much thereat was glad the maiden

- 500 Dresciee s'est, celui apele;
Risen herself-she-is him she-calls
 luinz des altres se sunt asis.
far from-the others themselves they-are seated
 Amdui erent d'amur espris.
Both were with-love kindled
 El ne l'osot araisuner,
She not him-dared to-address
 e il dutot a li parler,
and he feared to her to-speak
- 505 fors tant que il la mercia
except so-much that he her thanked
 del present qu'el li enveia,
for-the present which-she to-him sent
 unkes mes n'ot avoir si chier.
ever before not-be-had a-gift so dear
 Ele respunt al chevalier
She answers to-the knight
 que de ceo li esteit mult bel;
that of that to-her it-was very fair
- 510 pur ceo li enveia l'anel
for that to-him she-sent the-ring
 e la ceinturete altresì,
and the little-girdle likewise
 que de sun cors l'aveit saisi;
for of her body him-she-had seised
 ele l'ama de tel amur,
she him-loved with such love
 de lui volt faire sun seignur;
of him she-wished to-make her lord

e s'ele ne puet lui avoir,

and if-she not can him to-have

une chose sace de veir:

one thing let-him-know of truth

ja mes n'avra hume vivant.

ever more not-she-will-have man living

Or li redie sun talant!

Now to-her let-him-tell-back his mind

'Dame', fet il, 'grant gre vus sai

Lady says he great thanks to-you I-know

de vostre amur, grant joie en ai.

of your love great joy thereof I-have

Quant jo sui tant de vus preisiez,

Since I am so-much by you prized

duement en dei estre liez;

greatly thereat I-ought to-be glad

ne remeindra pas endreit mei.

not it-will-fail at-all as-for me

Un an sui remés od le rei.

A year I-am remained with the king

La fiance en a de mei prise;

The pledge thereof he-has from me taken

n'en partirai en nule guise,

not-thence I-shall-part in any wise

des i que sa guerre ait finée.

from there that his war be ended

Puis m'en irai en ma cuntree;

Then myself-thence I-shall-go into my country

kar ne vueil mie remaneir,

for not I-wish at-all to-remain

515

520

525

- 530 se cungié puis de vus avoir.
if leave I-can of you to-have
 La pucele li respondi:
The maiden to-him answered
 'Amis, la vostre grant merci!
Friend the your great thanks
 Tant estes sages e curteis,
So-much you-are wise and courteous
 bien avrez purveü anceis
well you-will-have provided beforehand
- 535 que vus voldrez faire de mei.
what you will-wish to-do of me
 Sur tute rien vus aim e crei'.
Above every thing you I-love and trust
 Bien s'esteient aseüré.
Well themselves-they-had assured
 A cele feiz n'unt plus parlé.
At that time not-they-have more spoken
 A sun ostel Elidus vet;
To his lodging Eliduc goes
- 540 mult est joius, mult a bien fet.
much he-is joyful much he-has well done
 Sovent puet parler a s'amie,
Often he-can to-speak to his-friend
 granz est entre els la druërie.
great is between them the love

Tant s'est de la guerre entremis

So-much himself-he-has of the war busied

qu'il aveit retenu e pris

that-be had retained and taken

celui ki le rei guerreia,

him who the king warred-on

e tute la terre aquita.

and all the land he-freed

Mult fu preisiez pur sa pruësce,

Much he-was prized for his prowess

pur sun sen e pur sa largesce.

for his sense and for his largesse

Mult li esteit bien avenu!

Much to-him it-was well befallen

Dedenz le terme que ceo fu.

Within the term that that was

sis sire l'ot enveié querre

his lord him-had sent to-see

treis messages fors de sa terre.

three messengers out of his land

Mult ert grevez e damagiez

Much he-was aggrieved and damaged

e encumbrez e empeiriez;

and encumbered and impaired

tuz ses chastels alot perdant

all his castles he-went losing

e tute sa terre guastant.

and all his land wasting

545

550

555

Multi s'esteit sovent repentiz

Much himself-be-had often repented

que il de lui esteit partiz;

that he from him was parted

mal conseil en avait eü,

bad counsel thereon be-had had

560 quant malement l'aveit veü.

when ill him-be-had regarded

Les traïturs ki l'encuserent

The traitors who him-accused

e empeirierent e medlerent

and disparaged and embroiled

avait jetez fors del païs

be-had cast out of-the country

e en eissil a tuz jurs mis.

and into exile for all days put

565 Pur sun grant busuin le mandot

For his great need him be-summoned

e sumuneit e conjurot

and summoned and conjured

par la fiance qu'il li fist

by the pledge which-be to-him made

quant il l'umage de lui prist,

when he the-homage from him took

que s'en venist pur lui aidier;

that himself-thence be-come for him to-help

570 kar mult en avait grant mestier.

for much thereof be-had great need

Eliduc grieves for the maiden, who does not know he has a wife; between them there was only courting, speech, and fair gifts. He takes leave of the king, who offers him a third of his heritage to stay, and goes to Guilliadun, who swoons and says she will kill herself unless he takes her. He swears to return on a day she names. At home he is pensive, tells his troubled wife only that he is sworn to return, makes peace for his lord, and departs with two nephews and a chamberlain sworn to silence.

Eliduc oï la novele.

Eliduc heard the news

Mult li pesa pur la pucele;

Much to-him it-grieved for the maiden

kar anguissusement l'amot

for anguishedly her-be-loved

e ele lui que plus ne pot.

and she him than more — she-could

Mes n'ot entre els nule folie,

But not-there-was between them any folly

joliveté ne vileinie;

wantonness nor baseness

de duneier e de parler

of courting and of speaking

e de lur beals aveirs doner

and of their fair gifts to-give

esteit tute la druërie

was all the love

par amur en lur cumpaignie.

through love in their company

Ceo fu s'entente e sun espeir.

That was her-purpose and her hope

575

580

El le quidot del tut aveir

She him thought of-the all to-have

e retenir s'ele peüst;

and to-keep if-she could

ne saveit pas que femme eüst.

not she-knew at-all that a-wife he-had

585 'A las', fet il, 'mal ai erré!

Ab wretched says he ill I-have acted

Trop ai en cest païs esté!

Too-long I-have in this country been

Mar vi unkes ceste cuntree!

Ill-starred I-saw ever this region

Une meschine i ai amee,

A maid there I-have loved

Guilliadun, la fille al rei,

Guilliadun the daughter of-the king

590 mult durement e ele mei.

very greatly and she me

Quant si de li m'estuet partir,

When so from her me-it-behooves to-part

un de nus estuvra murir

one of us it-will-behoove to-die

u ambedous, estre ceo puet.

or both to-be that may

E nepurquant aler m'estuet;

And nevertheless to-go me-it-behooves

mis sire m'a par brief mandé

595

my lord me-has by letter summoned

e par sairement conjuré

and by oath conjured

e ma femme de l'autre part.

and my wife on the-other side

Or me covient que jeo me guar!

Now to-me it-behooves that I myself guard

Jeo ne puis mie remaneir,

I not can at-all to-remain

ainz m'en irai par estuveir.

600

rather myself-thence I-shall-go by necessity

S'a m'amie esteie espusez,

If-to my-friend I-were wedded

nel suferreit crestiëntez.

not-it would-suffer Christendom

De tutes parz va malement.

On all sides it-goes ill

Deus, tant dut le departement!

God so-much is-hard the parting

Mes qui qu'il turt a mesprisun,

605

But whoever that-it turn to reproach

vers li ferai tuz jurs raisun;

toward her I-shall-do all days right

tute sa volenté ferai

all her will I-shall-do

e par sun conseil errerai.

and by her counsel I-shall-act

Li reis, sis sire, a bone pais,

The king her lord has good peace

610 ne quit que nuls le guerreit mais.

not I-think that any him wars-on more

Pur le busuin de mun seignur

For the need of my lord

querrai cungié devant le jur

I-shall-seek leave before the day

que mis termes esteit asis

when my term was set

que od lui sereie el país.

that with him I-should-be in-the country

615 A la pucele irai parler

To the maiden I-shall-go to-speak

e tut mun affaire mustrer;

and all my case to-show

ele me dira sun voleir

she to-me will-tell her will

e jol ferai a mun poeir.'

and I-it shall-do to my power

Li chevaliers n'a plus targié;

The knight not-has more delayed

620 al rei vait prendre le cungié.

to-the king he-goes to-take the leave

L'aventure li cunte e dit,

The-matter to-him he-tells and says

le brief li a mustré e lit

the letter to-him he-has shown and read

que sis sire li enveia

which his lord to-him sent

ki par destresce le manda.

who through distress him summoned

Li reis oï le mandement

The king heard the message

e qu'il ne remeindra niënt;

and that-he not will-remain at-all

mult est dolenz e trespensez.

much he-is grieved and dismayed

Del suen li a offert asez,

Of-the his to-him he-has offered much

la tierce part de s'erité

the third part of his-heritage

e sun tresur abandoné;

and his treasure surrendered

pur remaneir tant li fera

for to-remain so-much for-him he-will-do

dunt a tuz jurs le loëra.

whereby for all days him he-will-praise

'Par deu', fet il, 'a ceste feiz,

By God says he at this time

puis que mis sire est si destreiz

since that my lord is so distressed

e il m'a mandé de si loin,

and he me-has summoned from so far

jo m'en irai pur sun busoin,

I myself-thence shall-go for his need

ne remeindrai en nule guise.

not I-shall-remain in any wise

S'avez mestier de mun servise,

If-you-have need of my service

625

630

635

a vus revendrai volentiers

to you I-shall-come-back willingly

640 od grant esforz de chevaliers.'

with great force of knights

De ceo l'a li reis mercié

For that him-has the king thanked

e bonement cungié doné.

and graciously leave given

Tuz les aveirs de sa maisun

All the goods of his house

li met li reis en abandun,

to-him puts the king at disposal

645 or e argent, chiens e chevaux

gold and silver bounds and horses

e dras de seie bons e beals.

and cloths of silk good and fair

Il en prist mesurablement.

He thereof took moderately

Puis li a dit avenantment

Then to-him he-has said becomingly

qu'a sa fille parler ireit

that-to his daughter to-speak he-would-go

650 mult volentiers, se lui plaiseit.

very willingly if to-him it-pleased

Li reis respunt: 'Ceo m'est mult bel.'

The king answers That to-me-is very fair

Avant enveie un dameisel,

Ahead he-sends a youth

ki l'us de la chambre aovri.

who the-door of the chamber opened

Elidus vet parler a li.

Eliduc goes to-speak to her

Quant el le vit, si l'apela,

When she him saw so him-called

sis milie feiz le salua.

six thousand times him she-greeted

De sun afaire conseil prent,

Of his case counsel he-takes

sun eire li mustre briefment.

his journey to-her he-shows briefly

Ainz qu'il li eüst tut mustré

Before that-he to-her had all shown

ne cungié pris ne demandé,

nor leave taken nor asked

se pasma ele de dolur

herself swooned she from grief

e perdi tute sa culur.

and lost all her color

Quant Elidus la veit pasmer,

When Eliduc her sees to-swoon

si se cumence a dementer.

so himself he-begins to lament

La buche li baise sovent

The mouth to-her he-kisses often

e si plure mult tendrement;

and so he-weeps very tenderly

entre ses braz la prist e tint,

between his arms her he-took and held

tant que de pasmeisuns revint.

until that from swoons she-came-back

655

660

665

'Par deu', fet il, 'ma dulce amie,

By God says he my sweet friend

670 sufrez un poi que jo vus die:

suffer a little that I to-you tell

vus estes ma vie e ma morz,

you are my life and my death

en vus est trestuz mis conforz;

in you is all my comfort

pur ceo preng jeo cunseil de vus,

for that take I counsel of you

que la fiance a entre nus.

for the troth is between us

675 Pur busuin vois en mun païs,

For need I-go into my country

a vostre pere ai cungié pris;

of your father I-have leave taken

mes jeo ferai vostre plaisir,

but I shall-do your pleasure

que que me deië avenir,'

whatever that to-me may to-happen

'Od vus', fet ele, m'en menez,

With you says she me-thence lead

680 puis que remaneir ne volez!

since that to-remain not you-wish

U se ceo nun, jeo m'ocirai;

Or if that not I myself-shall-slay

ja mes joie ne bien n'avrai.'

ever more joy nor good not-I-shall-have

Elidus respunt par dulçur,

Eliduc answers with sweetness

ki mult l'amot de bone amur:

who much her-loved with good love

'Bele, jeo sui par sairement

685

Fair-one I am by oath

a vostre pere veirement

to your father truly

(se jeo vus en menoe od mei,

if I you thence led with me

jeo li mentireie ma fei)

I to-him should-belie my faith

des i qu'al terme ki fu mis.

from there that-to-the term which was set

Leialment vus jur e plevi,

690

Loyally to-you I-swear and pledge

se cungié me volez doner

if leave to-me you-wish to-give

e respit metre e jur nomer,

and respite to-set and day to-name

se vus volez que jeo revienge,

if you wish that I come-back

n'est riens el mund ki me retienge,

not-is anything in-the world which me holds-back

pur ceo que seie vis e seins.

695

for that that I-be alive and sound

Ma vie est tute entre voz meins.'

My life is wholly between your hands

Cele ot de lui la grant amur;

She had of him the great love

terme li dune e nume jur

a-term to-him she-gives and names a-day

de venir e pur li mener.

of to-come and for her to-lead

700 Grant duel firent al desevrer;

Great grief they-made at-the parting

lur anels d'or s'entrechangierent

their rings of-gold each-other-exchanged

e dulcement s'entrebaisierent.

and sweetly each-other-kissed

Il est desqu'a la mer alez.

He is right-to the sea gone

Bon ot le vent, tost est passez.

Good he-had the wind soon he-is crossed

705 Quant Elidus est repairiez,

When Eliduc is returned

sis sire en est joius e liez

his lord thereat is joyful and glad

e si ami e si parent

and his friends and his kinsfolk

e li altre comunement

and the others in-common

e sa bone femme sur tuz,

and his good wife above all

710 ki mult est bele, sage e pruz.

who very is fair wise and valiant

Mes il esteit tuz jurs pensis

But he was all days pensive

pur l'amur dunt il ert suzpris;

for the-love wherewith he was taken

unkes pur rien que il veïst

ever for anything which he saw

joie ne bel semblant ne fist,

joy nor fair countenance not he-made

ne ja mes joie nen avra,

nor ever more joy not he-will-have

des i que s'amie verra.

from there that his-friend he-will-see

Mult se cuntint sutivement.

Much himself he-bore secretly

Sa femme en ot le quer dolent,

His wife thereat had the heart grieved

ne sot mie que ceo deveit;

not she-knew at-all what that meant

a sei meïsmes se pleigneit.

to herself same herself she-lamented

Ele li demandot suvent,

She of-him asked often

s'il ot oï de nule gent

if-he had heard from any folk

qu'ele eüst mesfet u mespris,

that-she had done-wrong or erred

tant cum il fu hors del païs;

so-long as he was out of-the country

volentiers s'en esdrescera

willingly herself-thereof she-will-clear

devant sa gent, quant li plaira.

before his folk when to-him it-will-please

715

720

725

'Dame', fet il, pas ne vus ret

Lady says he at-all not you I-accuse

de mesprisun ne de mesfet.

of error nor of misdeed

Mes el païs u j'ai esté

But in-the country where I-have been

730 ai al rei plevi e juré

I-have to-the king pledged and sworn

que jeo dei a lui repairier;

that I must to him to-return

kar de mei a mult grant mestier.

for of me he-has very great need

Se li reis mis sire aveit pais,

If the king my lord had peace

ne remeindreie uit jurs après.

not I-should-remain eight days after

735 Grant travail m'estuvra souffrir,

Great toil me-it-will-behoove to-suffer

ainz que jeo puisse revenir.

before that I may to-return

Ja, des i que revenuz seie,

Ever from there that returned I-be

n'avrai joie de rien que veie;

not-I-shall-have joy of anything which I-see

kar ne vueil ma fei trespasser.'

for not I-wish my faith to-break

740 A tant le lait la dame ester.

At that him lets the lady to-be

Elidus od sun seignur fu.

Eliduc with his lord was

Mult li a aidié e valu;

Much to-him he-has helped and availed

par le conseil de lui errot

by the counsel of him he-acted

e tute la terre guardot.

and all the land he-kept

Mes quant li termes apreça,

But when the term drew-near

que la pucele li numa,

which the maiden to-him named

de pais faire s'est entremis:

of peace to-make himself-be-has busied

tuz acorda ses enemis.

all he-reconciled his enemies

Puis s'est apareilliez d'errer

Then himself-be-is prepared of-to-travel

od quel gent il voldra mener.

with what folk he will-wish to-lead

Ses dous nevuz qu'il mult ama

His two nephews whom-he much loved

e un suen chamberlenc mena

and a his-own chamberlain he-led

(cil ot de lur conseil esté

he had of their counsel been

e le message avait porté)

and the message he-had carried

e ses esquiërs sulement;

and his squires only

il nen ot cure d'altre gent.

he not he-had care of-other folk

745

750

755

A cels fist plevir e jurer

Of those he-made to-pledge and to-swear

de tut sun affaire celer.

of all his business to-conceal

THE STORM AT SEA

He lands secretly, lodges far from the harbor, and sends his chamberlain to bring Guilliadun out of the city by night. They ride to Totnes and take ship. A storm rises, and a sailor cries out that they will never make land while this woman is aboard against God and the law, and bids them throw her into the sea. Guilliadun, who has heard that he has a wife, falls swooning as though dead, and Eliduc fells the sailor with an oar and casts him overboard. He brings the ship in and carries her to a hermit's chapel.

En mer se mist, plus n'i atent.

In sea himself he-put more not-there he-waits

760 Ulte furent hastivement.

Across they-were hastily

En la cuntree est arivez,

In the country he-is arrived

u il esteit plus desirez.

where he was most desired

Elidus fu mult veziëz,

Eliduc was very cunning

luin des hafnes s'est herbergiez:

far from-the harbors himself-he-is lodged

765 ne voleit mie estre veüz

not he-wanted at-all to-be seen

ne trovez ne recuneüz.

nor found nor recognized

Sun chamberlenc apareilla

His chamberlain he-made-ready

e a s'amie l'enveia,

and to his-friend him-be-sent

si li manda que venuz fu,

and to-her be-sent-word that come be-was

bien avait sun cumand tenu;

well he-had his command kept

la nuit quant tut iert avespré,

the night when all will-be grown-dark

s'en eissira de la cité;

herself-thence she-will-go from the city

li chamberlens od li ira,

the chamberlain with her will-go

e il encuntre li sera.

and he toward her will-be

Cil avait tuz changiez ses dras.

He had all changed his clothes

A pié s'en vet trestut le pas;

On foot himself-thence he-goes wholly the pace

a la cité ala tut dreit,

to the city he-went all straight

u la fille le rei esteit.

where the daughter of-the king was

Tant avait purchacié e quis,

So-much he-had contrived and sought

que dedenz la chambre s'est mis.

that within the chamber himself-be-is put

770

775

780

A la pucele dist saluz

To the maiden he-said greetings

e que sis amis ert venuz.

and that her friend was come

Quant ele a la novele oïe,

When she has the news heard

tute fu murne e esbaïe;

wholly she-was downcast and dismayed

785 de joie plure tendrement

for joy she-weeps tenderly

e celui a baisié suvent.

and him she-has kissed often

Il li a dit qu'a l'avesprer

He to-her has said that-at the-evening-fall

l'en estuvra od lui aler.

her-thence it-will-behoove with him to-go

Tut le jur unt issi esté

All the day they-have thus been

790 e lur eire bien devisé.

and their journey well planned

La nuit quant tut fu aseri,

The night when all was grown-dark

de la vile s'en sunt parti

from the town themselves-thence they-are departed

li dameisels e ele od lui,

the youth and she with him

e ne furent mais que il dui.

and not they-were more than they two

795 Grant poür a qu'um ne la veie.

Great fear she-has that-one — her see

Vestue fu d'un drap de seie,

Clothed she-was in-a cloth of silk

menuement a or brosdé;

finely with gold embroidered

un curt mantel ot afublé.

a short mantle she-had donned

Luinz de la porte al trait d'un arc

Far from the gate at-the shot of-a bow

la ot un bois, clos d'un bel parc.

there was a wood enclosed by-a fair park

Suz le paliz las atendeit

Under the palisade her he-awaited

sis amis, ki pur li veneit.

her friend who for her came

Li chamberlens la l'amena,

The chamberlain there her-he-led

e il descent, si la baisa.

and he dismounts and her he-kissed

Grant joie funt a l'assembler.

Great joy they-make at the-meeting

Sur un cheval la fist munter,

On a horse her he-made to-mount

e il munta, sa resne prent,

and he mounted his rein he-takes

od li s'en vet hastivement.

with her himself-thence he-goes hastily

Al hafne vient a Toteneis.

To-the harbor he-comes at Totnes

En la nef entrent demaneis;

Into the ship they-enter at-once

800

805

810

n'i ot hume se les suens nun

not-there was man except the his-own not

e s'amie Guilliadun.

and his-friend Guilliadun

Bon vent ourent e bon oré

Good wind they-had and good weatber

e tut le tens aseüre.

and all the time settled

815 Mes quant il durent ariver,

But when they were-to arrive

une turmente ourent en mer,

a storm they-had at sea

e uns venz devant els leva

and a wind before them rose

ki luin del hafne les geta;

which far from-the harbor them cast

lur verge bruisa e fendi

their yard broke and split

820 e tut lur sigle desrumpi.

and all their sail tore

Deu recleiment devotement,

God they-invoke devoutly

seint Nicholas e saint Clement

saint Nicholas and saint Clement

e madame seinte Marie

and my-lady saint Mary

que vers sun fiz lur querge aïe,

that toward her son for-them she-seek help

qu'il les guarisse de perir

that-be them save from perishing

e qu'al hafne puissent venir.

and that-to-the harbor they-may come

Une hure ariere, une altre avant

One hour backward one other forward

issi alouent costeiant.

thus they-went coasting

Mult esteient pres de turment.

Much they-were near of storm

Uns des eschipres haltement

One of-the sailors loudly

s'est escriëz: 'Que faimes nus?

himself-he-is cried-out What we-do we

Sire, ça enz avez od vus

Lord here within you-have with you

cele par qui nus perissuns.

her by whom we perish

Ja mes a terre ne vendruns!

Ever more to land not we-will-come

Femme leial espuse avez

Wife lawful wedded you-have

e sur celi altre en menez

and over her another thence you-lead

cuntre deu e cuntre la lei,

against God and against the law

cuntre dreiture e cuntre fei.

against right and against faith

Laissiez la nus geter en mer,

Let her us to-throw into sea

825

830

835

- 840 si poüm sempres ariver.
so we-may straightway to-arrive
 Elidus oï que cil dist,
Eliduc heard what that-one said
 e a poi d'ire nen esprist.
and for little of-anger not be-blazed
 'Fiz a putain', fet il, 'malvais,
Son of whore says he wicked
 fel traître, nel dire mais!
wicked traitor not-it say more
- 845 Se m'amie leüst laissier,
If my-friend it-were-permitted to-leave
 jeol vus eüsse vendu chier.'
I-it to-you would-have sold dear
 Mes entre ses braz la teneit
But between his arms her he-held
 e cunfortout ceo qu'il poeit
and he-comforted that which-he could
 del mal que ele aveit en mer
of-the sickness that she had at sea
- 850 e de ceo qu'ele oï numer
and of that which-she heard named
 que femme espuse ot sis amis,
that wife wedded had her friend
 altre que li, en sun país.
other than her in his country
 Desur sun vis cheï pasmee,
Upon her face she-fell swooned
 tute pale, desculuree.
all pale colorless

En la pasmeisun demura,

In the swoon she-remained

qu'el ne revint ne suspira.

that-she not came-back nor breathed

Cil ki ensemble od lui l'en porte

He who together with him her-thence carries

quidot pur veir qu'ele fust morte.

thought for truth that-she was dead

Mult fet grant doel. Sus est levez,

Much he-makes great grief Up he-is risen

vers l'eschipe en est tost alez.

toward the-sailor thence he-is quickly gone

De l'avirun si l'a feru

With the-oar so him-he-has struck

qu'il l'abati tut estendu.

that-be him-felled all stretched-out

Par le pié l'en a jeté fors;

By the foot him-thence he-has thrown out

les undes en portent le cors.

the waves thence carry the body

Puis qu'il l'ot lanciaé en la mer,

After that-be him-had hurled into the sea

a l'estiere vait gouverner,

to the-helm he-goes to-steer

Tant guverna la nef e tint,

So-much he-steered the ship and held

le hafne prist, a terre vint.

the harbor he-took to land he-came

Quant il furent bien arivé,

When they were well arrived

855

860

865

870 le pont mist jus, ancre a geté.

the gangway he-put down anchor he-has thrown

Encor jut ele en pasmeisun,

Still lay she in swoon

nen ot semblant se de mort nun.

not she-had appearance except of death not

Elidus faiseit mult grant doel;

Eliduc made very great grief

iluec fust morz od li sun voel.

there he-would-be dead with her his wish

875 A ses cumpaignuns demanda

Of his companions he-asked

quel conseil chescuns li durra

what counsel each to-him will-give

u la pucele portera;

where the maiden he-will-carry

kar de li mais ne partira,

for from her more not he-will-part

si sera enfuïe e mise

and she-will-be buried and laid

880 od grant honur, od bel service

with great honor with fair service

en cimiterie beneeit;

in cemetery blessed

filie ert a rei, s'en aveit dreit.

daughter she-was of king so-thereof she-had right

Cil en furent tuit esguaré,

They thereof were all bewildered

ne li aveient rien loé.

nor to-him they-had anything advised

Elidus prist a purpenser

885

Eliduc began to consider

quel part il la purra porter.

which way he her will-be-able to-carry

Sis recez fu pres de la mer,

His stronghold was near of the sea

estre i peüst a sun digner.

be there he-could at his dinner

Une forest aveit en tur,

A forest there-was round about

trente liwes ot de lungur.

890

thirty leagues it-had of length

Uns seinz hermites i maneit

A holy hermit there dwelt

e une chapele i aveit;

and a chapel there was

quarante anz i aveit esté.

forty years there he-had been

Meinte feiz ot a lui parlé.

Many-a time he-had to him spoken

A lui, ceo dist, la portera,

895

To him this he-says her he-will-carry

en sa chapele l'enforra;

in his chapel her-he-will-bury

de sa terre tant i durra,

of his land so-much there he-will-give

une abeïe i fundera,

an abbey there he-will-found

si i metra cuvent de moignes

and there he-will-put convent of monks

900 u de nuneins u de chanoignes,

or of nuns or of canons

ki tuz jurs preierunt pur li;

who all days will-pray for her

deus li face bone merci!

God to-her do good mercy

Ses chevaux a faiz amener,

His horses he-has caused to-bring

sis cumande tuz a munter.

and-them he-commands all to mount

905 Mes la fiance prent d'icels

But the pledge he-takes from-those

que il n'iert descuverz par els.

that he not-will-be uncovered by them

Devant lui sur sun palefrei

Before him on his palfrey

s'amie porte ensemble od sei.

his-friend he-carries together with himself

THE CHAPEL IN THE WOOD

They ride into the wood and find the hermit eight days dead and his tomb new. Eliduc will not let a grave be dug: he will take counsel of the wise men of the country how to raise an abbey on the place. They lay her before the altar, and he closes the door. At home he gives his wife neither fair countenance nor a good word, and every morning after mass rides alone to the chapel. She sets a servant to follow him, and resolves to search the hermitage while he is at court.

Le dreit chemin unt tant erré

The straight road they-have so-much traveled

qu'il esteient el bois entré.

that-they were into-the wood entered

910

A la chapele sunt venu,

To the chapel they-are come

apelé i unt e batu;

called there they-have and knocked

n'i troverent kis respundist

not-there they-found who-them would-answer

ne ki la porte lur ovrist.

nor who the door to-them would-open

Un des suens fist ultre passer,

One of-the his he-made across to-pass

915

la porte ouvrir e desfermer.

the door to-open and to-unbar

Uit jurs esteit devant finiz

Eight days he-was before ended

li seinz hermites, li parfiz.

the holy hermit the perfect

La tumbe novele trova.

The tomb new he-found

920 Mult fu dolenz, mult s'esmaia.

Much he-was grieving much himself-be-dismayed

Cil voleient la fosse faire,

They wanted the grave to-make

(mes il les fist ariere traire),

but he them made back to-draw

u il deüst metre s'amie.

where he should put his-friend

Il lur a dit: 'Ceo n'i a mie,

He to-them has said This not-there is at-all

925 ainz en avrai mun conseil pris

rather thereof I-will-have my counsel taken

a la sage gent del païs,

from the wise folk of-the country

cum purrai le liu eshalcier

how I-will-be-able the place to-exalt

u d'abeïe u de mustier.

either of-abbey or of minster

Devant l'alter la culcherum

Before the-altar her we-will-lay

930 e a deu la cumanderum.'

and to God her we-will-commend

Il a fet aporter ses dras,

He has caused to-bring his cloths

un lit li funt ignelepaz;

a bed for-her they-make forthwith

la meschine desus culchierent

the maid thereon they-laid

e cum pur morte la laissierent.

and as for dead her they-left

Mes quant ceo vint al departir,

But when it came to-the parting

dunc quida il de doel murir;

then thought he of grief to-die

les uiz li baisa e la face.

the eyes to-her he-kissed and the face

‘Bele’, fet il, ‘ja deu ne place

Fair-one says he ever God not may-it-please

que ja mes puisse armes porter

that ever more I-may arms to-bear

n’el siecle vivre ne durer!

nor-in-the world to-live nor to-last

Bele amie, mar me vëistes!

Fair friend ill-starred me you-saw

Dulce chiere, mar me siwistes!

Sweet face ill-starred me you-followed

Bele, ja fussiez vus reïne,

Fair-one now would-be you queen

ne fust l’amurs leials e fine,

not were the-love loyal and pure

dunt vus m’amastes leialment.

wherewith you me-loved loyally

Mult ai pur vus mun quer dolent.

Much I-have for you my heart grieving

Le jur que jeo vus enforrai,

The day that I you will-bury

ordre de moigne recevrai;

order of monk I-will-receive

935

940

945

sur vostre tumber chescun jur

on your tomb each day

950 ferai refreindre ma dolor,

I-will-make to-break-out my grief

A tant s'en part de la pucele,

At that himself-thence he-parts from the maiden

si ferme l'us de la chapele.

and closes the-door of the chapel

A sun ostel a enveié

To his lodging he-has sent

sun message, si a nuncié

his messenger and he-has announced

955 a sa femme que il veneit,

to his wife that he was-coming

mes las e travaillez esteit.

but weary and worn he-was

Quant el l'oï, mult en fu liee.

When she it-heard much thereof she-was glad

Cuntre lui s'est apareilliee.

Toward him herself-she-is made-ready

Sun seignur receit bonement,

Her lord she-receives kindly

960 mes poi de joie l'en atent;

but little of joy him-thence awaits

kar unkes bel semblant ne fist

for ever fair countenance not he-made

ne bone parole ne dist.

nor good word not he-said

Nuls ne l'osot metre a raisun.

Anyone not him-dared put to reckoning

Dous jurs esteit en la maisun.

Two days he-was in the house

La messe oeit bien par matin,

The mass he-heard well by morning

puis se meteit suls al chemin.

then himself he-put alone on-the road

El bois alot a la chapele

Into-the wood he-went to the chapel

la u giseit la dameisele.

there where lay the damsel

En la pasmeisun la trovot:

In the swoon her he-found

ne reveneit, ne suspirot.

not she-revived nor breathed

De ceo li semblot granz merveille

Of this to-him seemed great marvel

qu'il la veeit blanche e vermeille;

that-he her saw white and rosy

unkes la colur ne perdi

ever the color not she-lost

fors un petit qu'ele enpali.

except a little that-she paled

Mult anguissusement plurot

Very anguishedly he-wept

e pur l'alme de li preiot.

and for the-soul of her he-prayed

Quant aveit faite sa preiere,

When he-had made his prayer

a sa maisun alot ariere.

to his house he-went back

965

970

975

Un jur a l'eissir del mustier

One day at the-going-out of-the minster

980 l'aveit sa femme fet guaitier

him-had his wife caused to-watch

un suen vadlet; mult li premist.

a her young-man much to-him she-promised

de luinz alast e si veïst

from afar he-should-go and so should-see

quel part sis sire turnereit,

which way her lord would-turn

chevals e armes li durreit.

horses and arms to-him she-would-give

985 Cil a sun comandement fait.

He has her command done

El bois se met, après lui vait

Into-the wood himself he-puts after him he-goes

si qu'il ne l'a aparceü.

so that-he not him-has perceived

Bien a esguardé e veü

Well he-has watched and seen

cument en la chapele entra;

how into the chapel he-entered

990 le duel oï qu'il demena.

the grief he-heard that-he made

Ainz qu'Elidus s'en seit eissuz,

Before that-Eliduc himself-thence be gone-out

est a sa dame revenuz.

he-is to his lady come-back

Tut li cunta que il oï,

All to-her he-told that he heard

la dolur, la noise e le cri
the grief the din and the cry

cum fet sis sire en l'ermitage.
how makes her lord in the-hermitage

995

Ele en mua tut sun curage.
She thereof changed all her heart

La dame dist: 'Sempres iruns!
The lady said Straightway we-will-go

Tut l'ermitage cercheruns!
All the-hermitage we-will-search

Mis sire deit, ceo quit, errer;
My lord must this I-think to-travel

a la curt vet al rei parler.
to the court he-goes to-the king to-speak

1000

Li hermites fu morz pieç'a;
The hermit was dead long-ago

jeo sai asez que il l'ama,
I know well that he him-loved

mes ja pur lui ceo ne fereit
but ever for him this not he-would-do

ne tel dolur ne demerreit.'
nor such grief not he-would-make

A cele feiz le lait issi.
At that time it she-leaves thus

1005

THE WEASEL AND THE FLOWER

Guildeluëc goes to the hermitage with the servant, uncovers the girl on the bed, and knows from her beauty why her lord has grieved. As she sits weeping, a weasel runs over the body and the servant kills it; its mate comes, treads it, goes into the wood, and brings back a crimson flower, which it puts in the dead one's mouth, and the weasel revives. The lady has the flower struck from it and puts it in the girl's mouth. Guilliadun wakes and tells her story, and Guildeluëc promises to give her back to her friend.

Cel jur meïсме après midi

That day same after midday

vait Elidus parler al rei.

goes Eliduc to-speak to-the king

Ele prent le vadlet od sei;

She takes the young-man with her

a l'ermitage l'a menee.

to the-hermitage her-he-has led

1010 Quant en la chapele est entree

When into the chapel she-is entered

e vit le lit a la pucele,

and she-saw the bed of the maiden

ki resemblot rose nuvele,

who resembled rose new

del cuvertur la descovri

from-the coverlet her she-uncovered

e vit le cors tant eschevi,

and she-saw the body so slender

les braz luns e blanches les meins

the arms long and white the hands

e les deiz grailes, luns e pleins.

and the fingers slender long and smooth

Or set ele la verité,

Now knows she the truth

pur quei sis sire a duel mené.

for what her lord has grief made

Le vadlet avant apela

The young-man forward she-called

e la merveille li mustra.

and the marvel to-him she-showed

‘Veiz tu’, fet ele, ‘ceste femme,

See you says she this woman

ki de belté resemble gemme?

who in beauty resembles gem

Ceo est l’amie mun seignur,

This is the-friend (of-)my lord

pur qui il meine tel dolur.

for whom he makes such grief

Par fei, jeo ne m’en merveil mie,

By faith I not myself-thereof marvel at-all

quant si bele femme est perie.

when so fair woman is perished

Tant par pitié, tant par amur

So-much through pity so-much through love

ja mes n’avrai joie nul jur.’

ever more not-I-shall-have joy any day

1015

1020

1025

Ele cumença a plurer

She began to weep

1030 e la meschine a regreter.

and the maid to lament

Devant le lit s'asist plurant.

Before the bed herself-she-sat weeping

Une musteile vint curant,

A weasel came running

de suz l'alter esteit eissue;

from under the-altar it-was come-out

e li vadlez l'aveit ferue

and the young-man it-had struck

1035 pur ceo que sur le cors passa,

for that that over the body it-passed

d'un bastun qu'il tint la tua.

with-a staff that-he held it he-killed

En mi l'aire l'aveit getee.

In midst the-floor it-he-had thrown

Ne demura qu'une loëe,

Not it-lasting but-a little-while

quant sa compaigne i acurut,

when its mate there ran-up

1040 si vit la place u ele jut.

and it-saw the place where it lay

En tur la teste li ala

Round about the head to-it it-went

e del pié suvent la marcha.

and with-the foot often it it-trod

Quant ne la pot faire lever,

When not it it-could make to-rise

semblant faiseit de doel mener.

show it-made of grief to-make

De la chapele esteit eissue;

1045

From the chapel it-was gone-out

as herbes est el bois venue.

to-the herbs it-is into-the wood come

Od ses denz a prise une flur,

With its teeth it-has taken a flower

tute de vermeille colur,

all of crimson color

Hastivement revait ariere.

Hastily it-goes-again back

Dedenz la buche en tel maniere

1050

Inside the mouth in such manner

a sa cumpaigne l'aveit mise,

to its mate it-it-had placed

que li vadlez aveit ocise,

whom the young-man had killed

en es l'ure fu revescue.

in that the-hour it-was revived

La dame l'a aparceüe.

The lady it-has perceived

Al vadlet crie: 'Retien la!

1055

To-the young-man she-cries Retain it

Getez, frans huem! mar s'en ira!

Throw noble man ill-starred itself-thence it-will-go

E il geta, si la feri,

And he threw and it be-struck

que la florete li cheï.

so-that the little-flower from-it fell

La dame lieve, si la prent.

The lady rises and it she-takes

1060 Ariere va hastivement.

Back she-goes hastily

Dedenz la buche a la pucele

Inside the mouth of the maiden

meteit la flur ki tant fu bele.

she-put the flower which so-much was fair

Un petitet i demura,

A little-while there it-stayed

cele revint e suspira;

she came-back and breathed

1065 après parla, les uiz ovri.

after she-spoke the eyes she-opened

‘Deus’, fet ele, ‘tant ai dormi!’

God says she so-much I-have slept

Quant la dame l’oï parler,

When the lady her-heard to-speak

deu cumença a merciër.

God she-began to thank

Demande li ki ele esteit,

She-asks of-her who she was

1070 e la meschine li diseit:

and the maid to-her said

‘Dame, jo sui de Loengre nee,

Lady I am of Logres born

filie a un rei de la cuntree.

daughter of a king of the country

Mult ai amé un chevalier,

Much I-have loved a knight

Eliduc, le bon soldeier.

Eliduc the good soldier

Ensemble od lui m'en amena.

Together with him me-thence he-led

Pechié a fet qu'il m'engigna!

Sin he-has done that-he me-deceived

Femme ot espuse, nel me dist

Wife he-had wedded not-it to-me he-said

ne unkes semblant ne m'en fist.

nor ever sign not to-me-thereof he-made

Quant de sa femme oï parler,

When of his wife I-heard to-speak

de duel que oi m'estut pasmer.

of grief that I-had me-it-behooved to-swoon

Vileinement descunseilliee

Shamefully forsaken

m'a en altre terre laissiee.

me-he-has in another land left

Traïe m'a, ne sai que deit.

Betrayed me-he-has not I-know what it-means

Mult est fole, ki hume creit!

Very is foolish who man believes

'Bele', la dame li respunt,

Fair-one the lady to-her answers

'n'a rien vivant en tut le munt

not-there-is thing living in all the world

ki joie li feïst avoir;

who joy to-him would-make to-have

ceo vus puet hum dire pur veir.

this to-you can one say for truth

1075

1080

1085

Il quide que vus seiez morte,

He thinks that you are dead

1090 a merveille se descunforte;

to marvel himself he-despairs

chescun jur vus a reguardee,

each day you he-has looked-on

bien quid qu'il vus trova pasmee.

well I-think that-he you found swooned

Jo sui s'espuse veirement;

I am his-wife truly

mult ai pur lui mun quer dolent.

much I-have for him my heart grieving

1095 Pur la dolor que il menot

For the grief that he made

saveir voleie u il alot.

to-know I-wanted where he went

Aprés lui vinc, si vus trovai:

After him I-came and you I-found

que vive estes, grant joie en ai.

that alive you-are great joy thereof I-have

Ensemble od mei vus en merrai

Together with me you thence I-shall-lead

1100 e a vostre ami vus rendrai.

and to your friend you I-shall-give-back

Del tut le vueil quite clamer,

Of-the all him I-want quit to-declare

e si ferai mun chief veler.'

and so I-shall-make my head to-be-veiled

Tant l'a la dame confortee

So-much her-has the lady comforted

qu'ensemble od li l'en a menee.

that-together with her her-thence she-has led

THE THREE OF THEM

Eliduc is fetched and finds her living. His wife asks leave to part from him, to be a nun, and to have land for an abbey; he grants it and gives her the chapel in the wood, where she is veiled with thirty nuns. He weds Guilliadun, and they live long in perfect love and great almsgiving until both turn to God. He founds a church on the other side of the castle and enters it himself; Guilliadun goes to Guildeluëc, who receives her as her sister.

Sun vaslet a apareillié

Her young-man she-has made-ready

e pur sun seigneur enveié.

and for her lord sent

Tant erra cil qu'il le trova.

So-much traveled he that-he him found

Avenantment le salua,

Becomingly him he-greeted

l'aventure li dit e cunte.

the-adventure to-him he-says and tells

Sur un cheval Elidus munte,

On a horse Eliduc mounts

unc n'i atendi compaignun,

ever not-there he-awaited companion

la nuit revint a sa maisun.

the night he-came-back to his house

1105

1110

Quant vive a trovee s'amie,

When alive he-has found his-friend

dulcement sa femme mercie.

sweetly his wife he-thanks

1115 Mult par est Elidus haitiez,

Very much is Eliduc gladdened

unkes nul jur ne fu si liez.

ever any day not he-was so joyful

La pucele baise suvent

The maiden he-kisses often

e ele lui mult dulcement;

and she him very sweetly

ensemble funt joie mult grant.

together they-make joy very great

1120 Quant la dame vit lur semblant,

When the lady saw their bearing

sun seignur a a raisun mis;

her lord she-has to speech put

cungié li a rové e quis

leave from-him she-has asked and sought

qu'ele puisse de lui partir,

that-she may from him depart

nune vult estre, deu servir;

nun she-wishes to-be God to-serve

1125 de sa terre li doint partie

of his land to-her he-give part

u ele face une abeïe;

where she make an abbey

cele prenge qu'il eime tant;

her let-him-take whom-he loves so-much

kar n'est pas bien ne avenant

for not-it-is at-all good nor seemly

de dous espuses meintenir,

of two wives to-keep

ne la leis nel deit cunsentir.

nor the law not-it must allow

Elidus li a otreié

Eliduc to-her has granted

e bonement doné cungié;

and kindly given leave

tute sa volonté fera

all her will be-will-do

e de sa terre li durra.

and of his land to-her be-will-give

Pres del chastel enz el boscage

Near of-the castle within in-the woodland

a la chapele a l'ermitage

at the chapel at the-hermitage

la a fet faire sun mustier

there she-has caused to-make her minster

e ses maisuns edifiër.

and her houses to-build

Grant terre i met e grant avoir:

Great land there be-puts and great wealth

bien i avra sun estuveir.

well there she-will-have her need

Quant tut a fet bien aturner,

When all be-has caused well to-order

la dame i fet sun chief veler,

the lady there makes her bead to-be-veiled

1130

1135

1140

trente nuneins ensemble od li;

thirty nuns together with her

sa vie e sun ordre establi.

her life and her order she-established

1145 Elidus a s'amie prise;

Eliduc has his-friend taken

a grant honur, od bel servise

with great honor with fair service

en fu la feste demenee

thereof was the feast held

le jur qu'il l'aveit espusee.

the day that-he her-had wedded

Ensemble vesquirent meint jur,

Together they-lived many-a day

1150 mult ot entre els parfite amour.

much was between them perfect love

Granz almosnes e granz biens firent,

Great alms and great good-deeds they-did

tant que a deu se cunvertirent.

so-much that to God themselves they-turned

Pres del chastel de l'autre part

Near of-the castle on the-other side

par grant conseil e par esguart

by great counsel and by deliberation

1155 une eglise fist Elidus,

a church made Eliduc

e de sa terre i mist le plus

and of his land there he-put the most

e tut sun or e sun argent;

and all his gold and his silver

humes i mist e altre gent

men there he-put and other folk

de mult bone religiün

of very good religion

pur tenir l'ordre e la maisun.

for to-keep the-order and the house

1160

Quant tut aveit apareillié,

When all he-had made-ready

nen a puis guaires atargié:

not he-has after much delayed

ensemble od els se dune e rent

together with them himself he-gives and yields

pur servir deu omnipotent.

for to-serve God almighty

Ensemble od sa femme premiere

Together with his wife first

1165

mist sa femme que tant ot chiere.

he-put his wife whom so-much he-had dear

El la receut cum sa seur

She her received as her sister

e mult li porta grant honur;

and much to-her she-bore great honor

de deu servir l'amonesta

of God to-serve her-she-admonished

e sun ordre li enseigna.

and her order to-her she-taught

1170

Deu preiouent pur lur ami

God they-prayed for their friend

qu'il li feïst bone merci,

that-he to-him would-do good mercy

e il pur eles repreiot.

and he for them prayed-in-return

Ses messages lur enveiot

His messengers to-them he-sent

1175 pur saveir cument lur estot,

for to-know how for-them it-stood

cum chescune se cunfortot.

how each herself comforted

Mult se pena chescuns pur sei

Much himself strove each for himself

de deu amer par bone fei

of God to-love in good faith

e mult par firent bele fin,

and very much they-made fair end

1180 la merci deu, le veir devin!

the mercy of-God the true divine

De l'aventure de cez treis

Of the-adventure of these three

li anciën Bretun curteis

the ancient Bretons courteous

firent le lai pur remembrer,

made the lay for to-remember

qu'um nel deüst pas obliër.

that-one not-it should at-all to-forget