

OLD FRENCH SERIES • VOLUME 13

THE IDYLLIC ROMANCES

Aucassin et Nicolette Floire et Blanceflor

The Idyllic Romances

Aucassin and Nicolette, with Floire and Blancheflor

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

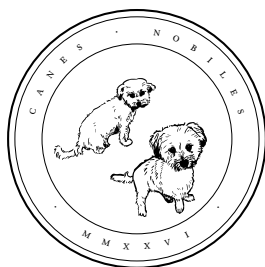


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Volume 13 of the Canes Nobiles Old French interlinear texts

The Old French text follows Hermann Suchier's text of the *chantefable*,
Aucassin et Nicolette, eighth edition (Paderborn, 1913),
and the aristocratic version of Floire et Blanceflor in *Édéléstand du MÉRIL*,
Floire et Blanceflor: poèmes du XIII^e siècle (Paris, 1856)

Set from page scans of the two editions

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Two spellings, each as its editor prints it and not harmonized: Suchier's phonetic orthography for Aucassin et Nicolette, with *é* for the affricate *ch*, *g* for *j*, and the acute on the tonic syllable, and du MÉRIL's for Floire et Blanceflor, whose hyphen binds a particle or an enclitic to its host. Words in square brackets in Aucassin are Suchier's supplements and letters in round brackets in Floire are du MÉRIL's, whose own errata are applied. Aucassin numbers the verse of each sung *laisse* from 1, and leaves its prose unnumbered; Floire carries du MÉRIL's verse numbers, and its episodes and their English heads are this press's.

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ANONYMOUS

Aucassin et Nicolette

Aucassin and Nicolette

Whoever would hear good verses of delight and of wretched grief, of two fair children, Nicolette and Aucassin, of the pains he suffered and the deeds he did for his bright-faced love, may hear them here. The song is sweet and the telling fair; and no man is so dismayed, so sorrowful, so sick of a great sickness, that bearing it he is not healed and made glad again, so rich a thing it is.

Qui vauroit bons vers oïr

Who would-wish good verses to-hear

del deport, du duel caitif

of-the delight of-the grief wretched

de deus biax enfans petis,

of two fair children little

Nicholette et Aucassins,

Nicolette and Aucassin

des grans paines qu'il souffri

of-the great pains that-he suffered

et des prouées qu'il fist

and of-the deeds-of-prowess that-he did

por s'amie o le cler vis?

for his-friend with the bright face

Dox est li cans, biax li dis

Sweet is the song fair the tale

et cortois et bien asis;

and courtly and well ordered

nus hom n'est si esbahis,

any man not-is so cast-down

tant dolans ni entrepris,

so sorrowful nor afflicted

5

10

de grant mal amaladis,

with great sickness made-sick

së il l'oit, ne soit garis

if he it-bears not be healed

et de joie resbaudis,

and with joy gladdened

15 tant par est rices.

so much is splendid

Or diënt et content et fablent

II • COUNT GARIN'S WAR, AND HIS SON

Count Bougar of Valence wars on Count Garin of Beaucaire so fiercely that no day dawns without him at the gates with ten thousand men. Garin is old, with one heir: Aucassin, tall, blond, and laughing-eyed, but so overcome by love that he will not take arms. His parents bid him defend the land; he answers that he will do nothing unless they give him Nicolette. His father refuses, since she is a bought captive, and offers a king's daughter instead; Aucassin says no honor on earth would be too high for her.

Li quens Bougars de Valence faisoit guere au conte

The count Bougar of Valence was-making war on-the count

Garin de Biaucaire si grande et si merveilleuse et si mortel,

Garin of Beaucaire so great and so marvelous and so deadly

qu'il ne fust uns seus jors ajornés qu'il ne fust as

that-there not were a single day dawned that-be not were at-the

portes et as murs et as bares de le vile a cent

gates and at-the walls and at-the barriers of the town with hundred

cevaliers et a dis mile sergens a pié et a ceval; si li

knights and with ten thousand sergeants on foot and on horse and to-him

arçoit sa terre et gastoit son païs et ocioit ses homes.

he-burned his land and laid-waste his country and slew his men

Li quens Garins de Biaucaire estoit vix et frailes si avoit
The count Garin of Beaucaire was old and frail and had
 son tans trespasé. Il n'avoit nul oir, ne fil ne fille, fors
his time passed He not-had any heir nor son nor daughter save
 un seul vallet. Cil estoit tex con je vos dirai. Aucasins
one only youth That-one was such as I to-you will-tell Aucassin
 avoit a non li damoisiax; biax estoit et gens et grans et
had for name the young-lord fair he-was and noble and tall and
 bien tailliés de ganbes et de piés et de cors et de bras. Il
well shaped in legs and in feet and in body and in arms He
 avoit les caviax blons et menus rečerçelés et les ex vairs et
had the hairs blond and finely curled and the eyes gray and
 rians et le face clere et traitice et le nes haut et bien
laughing and the face clear and well-drawn and the nose high and well
 assis, et si estoit enteciés de bones teces, qu'en lui n'en
set and so he-was endowed with good qualities that-in him not-thereof
 avoit nules mauvaises, se bones non. Mais si estoit
there-was any bad except good not But so he-was
 soupris d'amor qui tout vaint, qu'il ne voloit estre cevaliers
seized by-love which all conquers that-he not wished to-be knight
 ne les armes prendre n'aler au tornoi ne faire point de
nor the arms to-take nor-to-go to-the tourney nor to-do whit of
 quanquë il deüst. Ses pere et se mere li disoient:
whatever he ought His father and his mother to-him said
 Fix, car pren tes armes si monte el ceval si deffent te
Son now take thy arms and mount on-the horse and defend thy
 terre et aïe tes homes. S'il te voient entr'ex, si defenderont
land and help thy men If-they thee see among-them so will-defend
 il mix lor cors et lor avoirs et te tere et le miue.
they better their bodies and their wealth and thy land and the mine

Pere, fait Aucassins, qu'en parlés vos ore? Ja dix ne
Father says Aucassin what-thereof speak you now Ever God not
 me doinst riens que je li demant, quant ere cevaliers
to-me grant anything that I him ask when I-shall-be knight
 ne montés a ceval, ne que voise a estor nē a bataille,
nor mounted on horse nor that I-go to battle nor to combat
 la u je fiere cevalier ni autres mi, se vos ne me
there where I may-strike knight nor others me if you not to-me
 donés Nicholette me douce amie que je tant aim.
give Nicolette my sweet friend whom I so-much love
 Fix, fait li peres, ce ne poroit estre. Nicolette laise ester; que
Son says the father that not could be Nicolette let be for
 cē est une caitive qui fu amenee d'estränge terre, si l'acata li
that is a captive who was brought from-foreign land and her-bought the
 visquens de ceste vile as Sarasins si l'amena en ceste vile,
viscount of this town from-the Saracens and her-brought to this town
 si l'a levee et bautisie et faite sa fillole, si li donna
and her-has raised and baptized and made his goddaughter and to-her will-give
 un de ces jors un baceler qui du pain li gaignera par
one of these days a young-man who of-the bread for-her will-earn with
 honor. De ce n'as tu que faire, et se tu fenme vix avoir,
honor With that not-bast thou what to-do and if thou wife wishest to-have
 je te donrai le file a un roi u a un conte. Il n'a si rice
I to-thee will-give the daughter of a king or of a count There not-is so rich
 home en France, se tu vix sa fille avoir que tu ne l'aies.
man in France if thou wishest his daughter to-have that thou not her-have
 Avoi, peres, fait Aucassins, ou est ore si haute honeurs en
Come father says Aucassin where is now so high honor in
 terre, se Nicolette, ma tresdouce amie, l'avoit qu'ele ne fust
earth if Nicolette my most-sweet friend it-had that-it not were
 bien enploiee en li? S'ele estoit enpereris de Colstentinoble
well bestowed on her If-she were empress of Constantinople

u d'Alemaigne u roïne de France u d'Engleterre, si aroit
or of-Germany or queen of France or of-England yet would-have
 il assés peu en li, tant est france et cortoise et de
there quite little in her so she-is noble and courteous and of
 bon aire et entecie de toutes bones teces.
good lineage and endowed with all good qualities

Or se cante

III · HIS MOTHER BIDS HIM TAKE A WIFE OF RANK

No man can draw Aucassin away from Nicolette, for his father will not consent. His mother threatens him: away, fool, what would you do? Nicolette is a bought thing, cast out of Carthage, and sold by a Saxon; if you mean to take a wife, take a woman of high lineage. He answers that he can do no other: she is of good birth, and her comely body and her face and her beauty light up his heart, so that it is right he should have her love.

Aucassins fu de Biaucaire,

Aucassin was of Beaucaire

d'un castel de bel repaire.

of-a castle of fair resort

De Nicole le bien faite

From Nicolette the well made

nus hom ne l'en puet retraire,

any man not him-thence can draw-away

que ses peres ne li laisse.

for his father not (it)-to-him allows

Et sa mere le manaçe:

And his mother him threatens

'Di va faus! Que vex tu faire!

Say go fool What wilt thou do

Nicolete est cointe et gaie,

Nicolette is pretty and merry

jetee fu de Cartage,

cast was from Carthage

10 acatee fu d'un Saisne.

bought was from-a Saxon

Puis qu'a moullier te vix traire,

Since that-to wife thee thou-wilt draw

pren feme de haut paraçe!

take wife of high lineage

'Mere, je n'en puis el faire.

Mother I not-thereof can otherwise do

Nicolete est de boin aire;

Nicolette is of good lineage

15 ses gens cors et ses viaires,

her noble body and her face

sa biautés le cuer m'esclaire.

her beauty the heart to-me-lights

Bien est drois que s'amor aie;

Well is right that her-love I-have

que trop est fine.'

for exceedingly she-is perfect

Or diënt et content et fabled

IV · NICOLETTE SHUT IN THE VAULTED CHAMBER

Unable to draw his son from Nicolette, Garin goes to the viscount, her godfather, and tells him to be rid of her: through her he is losing Aucassin, and if he lays hands on her he will burn her. The viscount answers that he bought and baptized her and meant to marry her off honorably, but that he will send her where Aucassin shall never see her. Garin warns him to look to himself. The viscount then shuts her in a high chamber of his palace with an old woman, seals the door, and leaves one small window over the garden.

Quant li quens Garins de Biaucaire vit qu'il ne poroit
When the count Garin of Beaucaire saw that-he not could
Aucassin son fil retraire des amors Nicolette, il traist au
Aucassin his son draw-away from-the love (of-)Nicolette he went to-the
visconte de le vile, qui ses hon estoit, si l'apela.

viscount of the town who his man was and him-called
Sire visquens, car ostés Nicolette, vostre filole. Que la
Lord viscount now remove Nicolette your goddaughter May the
tere soit maleoite, dont ele fu amenee en cest païs! Car
land be accursed whence she was brought to this country For
par li pert jou Aucassin; qu'il ne veut estre cevaliers
through her lose I Aucassin for-he not wishes to-be knight
ne faire point de quanque faire doie. Et sáciés bien que,
nor to-do whit of whatever to-do he-ought And know well that
se je le puis avoir, que je l'arderaí en un fu, et vous
if I her can have that I her-will-burn in a fire and you
meïsmes porés avoir de vos tote peor.

yourself will-be-able to-have for yourself all fear
Sire, fait li visquens, ce poise moi qu'il i va ne qu'il i
Lord says the viscount that grieves me that-he there goes nor that-he there
vient ne qu'il i parole. Je l'avoie acatee de mes deniers si
comes nor that-he there speaks I her-had bought with my pence and

l'avoie levee et bautisie et faite ma filole, si li donasse
her-had raised and baptized and made my goddaughter and to-her would-give
 un de ces jors un baceler qui du pain li gaegnast par
one of these days a young-man who of-the bread for-her would-earn with
 honor. De ce n'eüst Aucassins vos fix que faire. Mais
honor With that not-would-have Aucassin your son what to-do But
 puis que vostre volentés est et vos bons, je l'envoierai en tel
since that your will is and your pleasure I her-will-send to such
 tere et en tel país, que ja mais ne le verra de ses ex.
land and to such country that ever more not her be-will-see with his eyes
 Or gardés vous! fait li quens Garins. Grans maus vos
Now guard yourself says the count Garin Great harm to-you
 en porroit venir.

thereof could come

Il se departent. Et li visquens estoit mout rices hom
They themselves part And the viscount was very rich man
 si avoit un rice palais par devers un gardin. En une canbre
and had a fine palace over toward a garden In a chamber
 la fist metre Nicolete en un haut estage et une vielle
there he-had put Nicolette in a high story and an old-woman
 aveuc li por compaignie et por soïsté tenir, et s'i fist
with her for company and for society to-keep and so-there he-had
 metre pain et car et vin et quanque mestiers lor fu. Puis
put bread and meat and wine and whatever need to-them was Then
 si fist l'uis seeler, c'on n'i peüst de nule part entrer
and he-had the-door sealed so-that-one not-there could from any side enter
 nē isçir, fors tant qu'il i avoit une fenestre par devers
nor go-out save so-much that-there there was a window over toward
 le gardin assés petite, dont il lor venoit un peu d'essor.
the garden quite small whence there to-them came a little of-air

Or se cante

V · NICOLETTE AT THE MARBLE WINDOW

Nicolette is put in prison in a vaulted chamber wonderfully painted. She leans at the marble window, her hair blond, her brow well made, and her face clear and fine, and never was a fairer seen. She looks out over the woodland, sees the rose in bloom and the birds crying, and calls herself an orphan: why am I in prison? Aucassin, I am your love and you do not hate me; for you I am shut here, where I lead a hard life. But by God the son of Mary, I shall not be held long if I can.

Nicole est en prison mise,

Nicolette is in prison put

en une canbre vautie

in a chamber vaulted

ki faite est par grant devise,

which made is with great device

painturee a mirabile.

painted to marvel

A la fenestre marbrine

At the window of-marble

la s'apoya la mescine.

there herself-leaned the maiden

Ele avoit blonde la crigne

She had blond the hair

et bien faite la sorcille,

and well made the eyebrow

la face clere et traitice.

the face clear and well-drawn

Ainc plus bele ne veïstes!

Ever more fair not you-saw

5

10

Esgarda par le gaudine

She-looked through the woodland

et vit la rose espanie

and saw the rose in-bloom

et les oisiax qui se criënt;

and the birds which themselves cry

dont se clama orphenine.

then herself she-called orphaned

15 'Ai mi! lasse! moi caitive!

Ah me wretched me captive

Por coi sui en prison misse?

For what am-I in prison put

Aucassins, damoisiax, sire!

Aucassin young-lord sir

Ja sui jou li vostre amie,

Indeed am I the your friend

et vos ne me haés mie!

and you not me hate at-all

20 Por vos sui en prison misse,

For you am-I in prison put

en ceste canbre vaultie

in this chamber vaulted

u je trai molt male vie.

where I drag very evil life

Mais, par diu le fil Marie!

But by God the son (of-)Mary

longement ne serai prise,

long not I-shall-be held

25 se jel puis mie.'

if I-it can at-all

Or diënt et content et fablent

VI · AUCASSIN WOULD RATHER GO TO HELL

Word spreads that Nicolette is lost: some say she fled, some that Garin had her murdered. Aucassin demands her of the viscount, warning of a blood-feud if he dies of it. The viscount says that taking her to bed would win him only shame and hell. Aucassin answers that paradise holds only old priests and cripples: he will go to hell with the fair clerks, the knights, and courteous ladies, if Nicolette is with him. Told he will never see her, and that Garin would burn her and the viscount, Aucassin leaves sorrowing.

Nicolette fu en prison, si que vous avés oï et entendu, en le
Nicolette was in prison as that you have heard and understood in the
canbre. Li cris et le noise ala par tote le terre et par tot
chamber The outcry and the clamor went through all the land and through all
le païs, que Nicolette estoit perdue. Li auquant diënt qu'ele est
the country that Nicolette was lost The some say that-she is
fuïe fors de la terre, et li auquant diënt que li quens Garins de
fled out of the land and the some say that the count Garin of
Biaucaire l'a faite mordrir. Qui qu'en eüst joie, Aucassins
Beaucaire her-has caused to-murder Whoever that-thereof had joy Aucassin
n'en fu mie liés, ains traist au visconte de la vile si l'apela.
not-thereof was at-all glad but went to-the viscount of the town and him-called
Sire visquens, c'avés vos fait de Nicolette, ma tresdouce
Lord viscount what-have you done with Nicolette my most-sweet
amie, le riens en tot le mont que je plus amoie? Avés
friend the thing in all the world that I most loved Have
le me vos tolue nē enblee? Saciés bien que, se jē en
her from-me you taken or stolen Know well that if I thereof
muir, faide vous en sera demandee, et ce sera bien
die blood-feud to-you thereof will-be demanded and that will-be well

drois. Que vos m'arés ocis a vos deus mains, car vos
right For you me-will-have slain with your two hands for you
 m'avés tolu la riens en cest mont que je plus amoie.

from-me-have taken the thing in this world that I most loved

Biax sire, fait li visquens, car laisçies ester. Nicolete est une
Fair lord says the viscount now let be Nicolette is a
 caitive que j'amenai d'estrange tere si l'acatai de mon avoir
captive whom I-brought from-foreign land and her-bought with my wealth
 as Sarasins, si l'ai levee et bautisie et faite ma fillole

from-the Saracens and her-have raised and baptized and made my goddaughter

si l'ai nourie, si li donasçe un de ces jors un baceler qui
and her-have reared and to-her would-give one of these days a young-man who
 del pain li gaegnast par honor. De ce n'avès vos que faire,

of-the bread for-her would-earn with honor With that not-have you what to-do

mais prendés le fille a un roi u a un conte. Enseurquetot
but take the daughter of a king or of a count Moreover

que cuideriès vous avoir gaegnié, se vous l'aviès asognentee ne
what would-think you to-have gained if you her-had made-concubine or
 mise a vo lit? Mout i ariès peu conquis, car tos

put in your bed Very therein you-would-have little won for all

les jors du siecle en seroit vos cors honis, et après en

the days of-the world thereof would-be your body shamed and after thereof

seroit vo arme en infer; qu'en paradis n'enterriès vos ja.

would-be your soul in hell for-in paradise not-would-enter you ever

En paradis qu'ai jë a faire? Je n'i quier entrer, mais que

In paradise what-have I to do I not-there seek to-enter provided that

j'aie Nicolete, ma tresdouçe amie que j'aim tant. C'en paradis

I-have Nicolette my most-sweet friend whom I-love so-much For-into paradise

ne vont fors tex gens, con je vous dirai. Il i vont cil viel

not go save such folk as I to-you will-tell There thither go those old

prestre et cil viel clop et cil manke, qui totejor et tote nuit

priests and those old cripples and those maimed who all-day and all night

croupent devant ces autex et en ces viés creutes, et cil a ces
crouch before those altars and in those old crypts and those in those
 viés capes esreses et a ces viés tatereles vestues, qui sont nu
old cloaks threadbare and in those old rags clothed who are naked
 et descaucé et estrumelé, qui moeurent de faim et de soi et
and barefoot and bare-legged who die of hunger and of thirst and
 de froit et de mesaises. Iciil vont en paradis; avecu ciâx n'ai
of cold and of miseries Those go into paradise with those not-have
 jou que faire. Mais en infer voil jou aler; car en infer vont
I what to-do But into hell wish I to-go for into hell go
 li bel clerç, et li bel cevalier qui sont mort as tornois et
the fair clerks and the fair knights who are dead at-the tourneys and
 as rices gueres, et li boin sergant et li franc home. Avecu
at-the splendid wars and the good sergeants and the noble men With
 ciâx voil jou aler. Et s'i vont les beles dames cortoisies,
those wish I to-go And so-thither go the fair ladies courtly
 que eles ont deus amis ou trois avoc leur barons, et s'i va
for they have two friends or three besides their lords and so-thither goes
 li ors et li argens et li vairs et li gris, et si i vont
the gold and the silver and the vair and the miniver and so thither go
 harpeor et jogleor et li roi del siecle. Avoc ciâx voil jou
harpers and minstrels and the kings of-the world With those wish I
 aler, mais que j'aie Nicolete, ma tresdouce amie, avecu mi.
to-go provided that I-have Nicolette my most-sweet friend with me
 Certes, fait li visquens, por niënt en parlerés; que ja
Certainly says the viscount for nothing thereof you-will-speak for ever
 mais ne le verrés. Et se vos i parlés, et vos peres le
more not her you-will-see And if you there speak and your father it
 savoit, il arderoit et mi et li en un fu, et vos meïsmes
knew he would-burn both me and her in a fire and you yourself
 porriés avoir toute paor.
would-be-able to-have all fear

Će poise moi, fait Aucassins.

That grieves me says Aucassin

Il se depart del visconte dolans.

He himself parts from-the viscount sorrowful

Or se cante

VII · THE LAMENT IN THE CHAMBER

Aucassin turns away sorrowful and dismayed, and no one can comfort him for his bright-faced love. He goes up to the palace, enters a chamber, and begins to weep and lament her: Nicolette, fair standing, fair coming and fair going, fair sport and sweet speech, fair jesting and fair playing, fair kissing and fair embracing — for you, sister, sweet love, I am so cast down and so ill used that I do not think to come out of it alive.

Aucasins s'en est tornés

Aucassin himself-thence is turned

mout dolans et abosmés.

very sorrowful and dismayed

De s'amie o le vis cler

Of his-friend with the face bright

nus ne le puet conforter

anyone not him can comfort

5 ne nul bon conseil doner.

nor any good counsel give

Vers le palais est alés,

Toward the palace is gone

il en monta les degrés,

he thereof mounted the steps

en une canbre est entrés,

into a chamber is entered

si comen'ca a plorer

and began to weep

et grant dol a demener

and great grief to make

et s'amie a regreter.

and bis-friend to lament

'Nicolete, biax esters,

Nicolette fair standing

biax venirs et biax alers,

fair coming and fair going

biax deduis et dous parlers,

fair delight and sweet speaking

biax borders et biax jouers,

fair jesting and fair playing

biax baisiers, biax acolers,

fair kissing fair embracing

por vos sui si adolés

for you I-am so grieved

et si malement menés,

and so evilly used

que je n'en cuit vis aler.

that I not-thereof think alive to-go

Suer, douce amie!

Sister sweet friend

10

15

20

Or diënt et content et fablent

VIII · THE BARGAIN: TWO WORDS AND ONE KISS

As he laments, Bougar brings his men against the castle; the knights and sergeants arm, and the burghers climb the galleries to hurl bolts and stakes. Garin comes to the chamber: his son is disinherited if he loses so strong a place. Aucassin answers as before, and his father swears he would sooner lose all he has than see Nicolette his wife. As he turns away Aucassin calls him back: he will take arms if, brought home safe, he may speak two or three words with Nicolette and kiss her once. His father grants it.

Entreusque Aucassins estoit en le canbre, et il regretoit Nicolete

While Aucassin was in the chamber and he lamented Nicolette
s'amie, li quens Bougars de Valence qui sa guerre avoit a furnir
his-friend the count Bougar of Valence who his war had to pursue
ne s'oublia mie, ains ot mandé ses homes a pié et a ceval,
not himself-forgot at-all but had summoned his men on foot and on horse
si traist au castel por asalir. Et li cris lieve et la noise,
and drew to-the castle to assault And the outcry rises and the clamor
et li cevalier et li serjant s'arment et qeurent as portes
and the knights and the sergeants themselves-arm and run to-the gates
et as murs por le castel desfendre, et li borçois montent
and to-the walls to the castle to-defend and the burghers mount
as aleors des murs si jetent quariax et peus aguisiés.
to-the galleries of-the walls and hurl bolts and stakes sharpened

Entroeusque li asaus estoit grans et pleniers, et li quens

While the assault was great and full and the count
Garins de Biaucaire vint en la canbre u Aucassins faisoit
Garin of Beaucaire came into the chamber where Aucassin made
deul et regretoit Nicolete, sa tresdoucée amie que tant amoit.
grief and lamented Nicolette his most-sweet friend whom so-much be-loved

Ha fix! fait il. Con par es caitis et maleürox, que tu
Ab son says he How much thou-art wretched and luckless when thou
 vois c'on asaut ton castel, tot le mellor et le plus fort!
seest that-one assails thy castle quite the best and the most strong
 Et saçes, se tu le pers que tu es desiretés. Fix, car pren
And know if thou it locest that thou art disinherited Son now take
 les armes et monte u cheval et defent te tere et aïue
the arms and mount on-the horse and defend thy land and help
 tes homes et va a l'estor. Ja n'i fieres tu home ni
thy men and go to the-battle Ever not-there mayest-strike thou man nor
 autres ti, s'il te voient entr'ax, si desfenderont il mix
others thee if-they thee see among-them so will-defend they better
 lor avoir et lor cors et te tere et le miue. Et tu iés si
their wealth and their bodies and thy land and the mine And thou art so
 grans et si fors, que bien le pués faire, et faire le dois.
tall and so strong that well it canst do and do it thou-oughtest
 Pere, fait Aucassins, qu'en parlés vous ore? Ja dix ne
Father says Aucassin what-thereof speak you now Ever God not
 me doinst riens que je li demant, quant ere cevaliers
to-me grant anything that I of-him ask when I-shall-be knight
 ne montés el cheval ne voise en estor, la u je fiere
nor mounted on-the horse nor may-I-go into battle there where I may-strike
 cevalier nē autres mi, se vos ne me donés Nicolete, me
knight nor others me if you not to-me give Nicolette my
 douce amie que je tant aim.

sweet friend whom I so-much love

Fix, dist li pere, ce ne puet estre. Ançois sofferoie jo
Son said the father that not can be Rather would-suffer I
 que je fëüsse tous desiretés, et que je perdisse quanques
that I were wholly disinherited and that I should-lose whatever
 g'ai, que tu ja l'eüses a mollier ni a espouse.
I-have than thou ever her-shouldst-have for wife nor for spouse

Il s'en torne. Et quant Aucassins l'en voit aler, il
He himself-thence turns And when Aucassin him-thence sees go he
 le rapela.

him called-back

Peres, fait Aucassins, venés avant. Je vous ferai bons
Father says Aucassin come forward I to-you will-make good
 couvens.

covenants

Et quex, biaux fix?

And what fair son

Je prendrai les armes s'irai a l'estor par tex covens, que,
I will-take the arms and-will-go to the-battle on such covenants that
 se dix me ramaine sain et sauf, que vos me lairés Nicolete,
if God me brings-back sound and safe that you to-me will-let Nicolette
 me douce amie, tant veïr, que j'aie deus paroles u
my sweet friend so-much to-see that I-may-have two words or
 trois a li parrees, et que je l'aie une seule fois baisie.

three to her spoken and that I her-may-have one single time kissed

Je l'otroi, fait li peres.

I it-grant says the father

Il li creante, et Aucassins fu liés.

He to-him pledges and Aucassin was glad

Or se cante

IX · AUCASSIN ARMS FOR THE ASSAULT

Aucassin has the promise of the kiss he will have on his return, and a hundred thousand marks of pure gold could not have made him so glad. He calls for costly harness: he dons a double hauberk, laces the helm on his head, girds the sword with the pommel of pure gold, mounts his charger, and takes shield and spear. He looks down at his feet, well set in the stirrups, and thinks himself a wonder; he remembers his love, and spurs the horse, which carries him straight to the gate and the fray.

Aucassins ot du baisier

Aucassin had of-the kiss

qu'il ara au repairier.

which-he will-have at-the returning

Por cent mile mars d'or mier

For hundred thousand marks of-gold pure

ne le fesist on si lié.

not him would-make one so glad

Garnemens demanda ciers,

5

Harness he-asked costly

on li a aparelliés.

one to-him has made-ready

Il vest un auberc doublier

He dons a hauberk double-mailed

et laça l'iaume en son cief,

and laced the-helm on his head

éainst l'espee au poin d'or mier

girded the-sword with-the hilt of-gold pure

si monta sor son destrier,

10

and mounted on his charger

et prent l'escu et l'espel,

and takes the-shield and the-spear

regarda andex ses piés:

he-looked-at both his feet

bien li sissent es estriers.

well to-him sat in-the stirrups

A mervelle se tint ciers,

To (a-)marvel himself he-held dear

15 de s'amie li sovient,

of his-friend to-him comes-to-mind

s'esperona le destrier.

and-spurred the charger

Il li cort mout volentiers,

It to-him runs very willingly

tot droit a le porte en vient

all straight to the gate thereof comes

a l'estormie.

to the-fray

Or diënt et content

X · TAKEN, AND THE COVENANT DENIED

Riding out he thinks so hard of Nicolette that he forgets his reins, and the horse carries him among his enemies, who take him and debate what death he shall die. Hearing them, he remembers that once beheaded he will never speak to her again, draws his sword, cuts down ten knights, wounds seven, and breaks out; then he takes Count Bougar prisoner and gives him to his father. Garin pretends to forget the covenant, then refuses to keep it, so Aucassin makes his captive swear never to harm his father, and sets him free.

Aucassins fu armés sor son ceval, si con vos avés oï et
Aucassin was armed on his horse just as you have heard and
entendu. Dix! con li sist li escus au col et li hiaumes u
understood God how to-him sat the shield at-the neck and the helm on-the
cief et li reinge de s'espee sor le senestre hance! Et li vallés fu
head and the belt of his-sword on the left hip And the youth was
grans et fors et biax et gens et bien fornys, et li cevaus, sor
tall and strong and fair and noble and well built and the horse on
quoi il sist, rades et corans, et li vallés l'ot bien adrecié par
which he sat swift and running and the youth it-had well guided through
mi la porte. Or ne quidiés vous qu'il pensast n'a bués n'a
middle the gate Now not think you that-he would-think nor-of oxen nor-of
vaces n'a civres prendre, ne qu'il ferist cevalier nē autres
cows nor-of goats to-take nor that-he would-strike knight nor others
lui? Nenil niënt! Onques ne l'en sovint, ains pensa tant
him Nay nothing Ever not him-thereof came-to-mind but thought so-much
a Nicolete, sa douce amie, qu'il oubliā ses resnes et quanques
of Nicolette his sweet friend that-he forgot his reins and whatever
il dut faire. Et li cevax qui ot senti les esperons l'en porta
he ought to-do And the horse which had felt the spurs him-thence carried
par mi le presse, se se lançe tres entre mi ses anemis.
through middle the press and itself hurls right among middle his foes

Et il gētent les mains de toutes pars si le prenent, si
And they throw the hands from all sides and him seize and
 le dessaisissent de l'escu et de le lance si l'en mainnent
him dispossess of the-shield and of the lance and him-thence lead
 tot estrouseement pris, et aloient ja porparlant, de quel
all headlong taken and were-going already discussing of what
 mort il le feroient morir. Et quant Aucassins l'entendi:
death they him would-make to-die And when Aucassin it-heard
 Ha dix! fait il, douce creature! Sont cou mi anemi mortel
Ab God says he sweet creature Are these my foes mortal
 qui ci m'en mainent, et qui ja me cauperont le teste?
who here me-thence lead and who now to-me will-cut the head
 Et puis que j'arai la teste capee, ja mais ne parlerai a
And then when I-shall-have the head cut ever more not I-shall-speak to
 Nicolete, me douce amie que je tant aim. Encor ai je ci
Nicolette my sweet friend whom I so-much love Still have I here
 une bone espee et siec sor bon destrir sejoirné! Së or ne me
a good sword and I-sit on good charger rested If now not myself
 deffent por li, onques dix ne li aït, se ja mais m'aime!
I-defend for her ever God not to-her help if ever more me-loves
 Li vallés fu grans et fors, et li cevax, sor quoi il sist, fu
The youth was tall and strong and the horse on which he sat was
 remuans. Et il mist le main a l'espee, si comence a ferir a
spirited And he put the hand to the-sword and begins to strike to
 destre et a senestre, et caupe hiaumes et naseus et puins et
right and to left and cuts helms and nasals and fists and
 bras, et fait un caple entor lui autresi con li senglers, quant li
arms and makes a slaughter around him just as the boar when the
 cien l'asalent en le forest, si qu'il lor abat dis chevaliers et
dogs him-assail in the forest so that-he to-them strikes-down ten knights and

navre set, et qu'il se jete tot estroseement de le prese, et
wounds seven and that-he himself hurls all headlong out-of the press and

qu'il s'en revient les galopiaux ariere s'espee en sa main.
that-he himself-thence returns (at-)the gallops back his-sword in his hand

Li quens Bougars de Valence oï dire c'on penderoit Aucassin
The count Bougar of Valence heard say that-one would-hang Aucassin

son anemi, si venoit cele part, et Aucassins ne le mescoisi
his foe and was-coming that way and Aucassin not him misperceived

mie. Il tint l'espee en la main, se le fiert par mi le
at-all He held the-sword in the hand and him strikes through middle the

hiaume, si qu'il li enbare el cief. Il fu si estonés, qu'il
helm so that-he to-him drives-in into-the head He was so stunned that-he

caï a terre, et Aucassins tent le main si le prent et l'en
fell to earth and Aucassin stretches the hand and him takes and him-thence

mainne pris par le nasel del hiaume et le rent a son pere.
leads captive by the nasal of-the helm and him renders to his father

Pere, fait Aucassins, ves ci vostre anemi qui tant vous
Father says Aucassin see here your foe who so-much you

a guerroié et mal fait. Vint ans a ja duré ceste
has warred-on and harm done Twenty years has already lasted this

guerre, c'onques ne pot iestre acieevee par home.
war that-ever not could be ended by man

Biax fix! fait li pere. Tes enfances devés vos faire, niént
Fair son says the father Such childish-deeds must you do not

baer a folie!
to-aspire to folly

Pere, fait Aucassins, ne m'alés mie sermonant, mais tenés
Father says Aucassin not me-go at-all preaching but keep

moi mes covens.
to-me my covenants

Ba! Quex covens, biax fix?
Bab What covenants fair son

Avoi pere! Avés les vos obliés? Par mon cief! qui que les
Come father Have them you forgotten By my head whoever that them
 oblité, je nés voil mie obliër, ains me tient mout au cuer.

forgets I not-them wish at-all to-forget but to-me holds very at-the heart

Enne m'eüstes vos en covent, quant je pris les armes et j'alai

Did-not me-bad you in covenant when I took the arms and I-went

a l'estor, que, se dix me ramenoit sain et sauf, que vos me

to the-battle that if God me brought-back sound and safe that you to-me

lairiés Nicolette ma douce amie tant veïr, que j'aroie parlé

would-let Nicolette my sweet friend so-much to-see that I-should-have spoken

a li deus paroles ou trois et que je l'aroie une fois baisie?

to her two words or three and that I her-should-have one time kissed

Ce m'eüstes vos en covent, et ce voil je que vos me tenés.

That me-bad you in covenant and that wish I that you to-me keep

Jo? fait li peres. Ja dix ne m'aït, quant ja covens vos

I says the father Ever God not me-help if ever covenant to-you

en tenrai. Et s'ele estoit ja ci, je l'arderoie en un

thereof I-shall-keep And if-she were now here I her-would-burn in a

fu, et vos meïsmes porriés avoir tote paor.

fire and you yourself would-be-able to-have all fear

Est ce tote la fins? fait Aucassins.

Is that all the end says Aucassin

Si m'aït dix, fait li peres, oïl.

So me-help God says the father yes

Certes, fait Aucassins, je sui molt dolans, quant hom de

Certainly says Aucassin I am very sorrowful when man of

vostre eage ment. Quens de Valence, fait Aucassins, je vos

your age lies Count of Valence says Aucassin I you

ai pris!

have taken

Sire, voire! fait li quens.

Lord truly says the count

Bailiés ça vostre main, fait Aucassins.

Give hither your hand says Aucassin

Sire, volentiers.

Lord willingly

Il li met se main en la siue.

He to-him puts his hand in the his [Aucassin's]

Çe m'afiés vos, fait Aucassins, que a nul jor, que vos

This to-me-pledge you says Aucassin that at any day that you

aiés a vivre, ne porrés men pere faire honte ne

may-have to live not you-will-be-able my father to-do shame nor

destorbier de sen cors ne de sen avoir, que vos ne li faciés!

harm in his body nor in his wealth that you not to-him may-do

Sire, por diu! fait il, ne me gabés mie, mais metés moi

Lord for God says he not me mock at-all but put me

a raençon. Vos ne me sarés ja demander or ni argent,

to ransom You not of-me will-know ever to-ask gold nor silver

cevaus ne palefrois ne vair ne gris, ciens nē oisiax que

horses nor palfreys nor vair nor miniver dogs nor birds that

je ne vos doinse.

I not to-you may-give

Coment? fait Aucassins. Ene conissiés vos que je vos ai

How says Aucassin Do-not acknowledge you that I you have

pris?

taken

Sire, oie, fait li quens Borgars.

Lord yes says the count Bougar

Ja dix ne m'ait, fait Aucassins, se vos ne le m'afiés se

Ever God not me-help says Aucassin if you not it to-me-pledge if

je ne vous fac ja cele teste voler.

I not to-you make at-once that head fly

Enon diu! fait il, je vous afe quanquē il vous plaist.

In-name (of-)God says he I to-you pledge whatever it you pleases

Il li afie, et Aucassins le fait monter sor un ceval, et il
He to-him pledges and Aucassin him makes mount on a horse and he
 monte sor un autre si le conduist tant qu'il fu a sauveté.
mounts on an other and him escorts until that-he was in safety

Or se cante

XI · THE PRISON, AND THE PILGRIM OF LIMOUSIN

*Garin puts his son in an underground cellar of gray marble, and there he grieves as
 he never grieved before. Nicolette, flower of the lily, he says, sweeter than grapes or
 than sops in a bowl: the other day a pilgrim of Limousin lay sick of a madness, and
 as you passed his bed you lifted your train and he saw your leg, and he rose up whole
 and went home healed. Sweet love, for you I am in this cellar, and here I must die.*

Quant or voit li quens Garins

When now sees the count Garin

de son enfant Aucassin

of his child Aucassin

qu'il ne pora departir

that-he not will-be-able to-part

de Nicolette au cler vis,

from Nicolette with-the bright face

5 en une prison l'a mis,

in a prison him-has put

en un celier sosterin

in a cellar underground

qui fu fais de marbre bis.

which was made of marble gray

Quant or i vint Aucassins,

When now thither came Aucassin

dolans fu, ainc ne fu si.

sorrowful he-was ever not was so

A dementer si se prist,

To lament so himself he-took

si con vos porrés oïr.

just as you will-be-able to-hear

‘Nicolete, flors de lis,

Nicolette flower of lily

douçe amie o le cler vis,

sweet friend with the bright face

plus es douçe que roisins

more art sweet than grapes

ne que soupe en maserin.

nor than sop in mazer [bowl]

L'autr'ier vi un pelerin,

The-other-day I-saw a pilgrim

nes estoit de Limosin,

born he-was of Limousin

malades de l'esvertin,

sick with the-frenzy

si gisoit ens en un lit.

and lay within in a bed

Mout par estoit entrepris,

Very much he-was afflicted

de grant mal amalais.

with great sickness made-sick

10

15

20

Tu passas devant son lit

Thou passedst before his bed

si soulevas ton traïn

and liftedst thy train

et ton peliçon ermin,

and thy pelisse ermine

25 la cemissee de blanc lin,

the shift of white linen

tant que ta ganbete vit.

so-much that thy little-leg be-saw

Garis fu li pelerins

Healed was the pilgrim

et tos sains, ainc ne fu si.

and all whole ever not was so

Si se leva de son lit

So himself he-rose from his bed

30 si rala en son païs

and went-back into his country

sains et saus et tos garis.

sound and safe and all healed

Doce amie, flors de lis,

Sweet friend flower of lily

biax alers et biax venirs,

fair going and fair coming

biax jouers et biax bordirs,

fair playing and fair jesting

35 biax parlers et biax delis,

fair speaking and fair delight

dox baisiers et dox sentirs,

sweet kissing and sweet feeling

nus ne vous poroit haïr!

anyone not you could hate

Por vos sui en prison mis,

For you I-am in prison put

en ce celier sousterin,

in this cellar underground

u je fać mout male fin.

where I make very evil end

Or m'i couvenra morir

Now to-me-there will-beboove to-die

por vos, amie!

for you friend

40

Or diënt et content et fabloient

XII · DOWN THE KNOTTED SHEETS

It is May, and lying awake Nicolette sees the moon, hears the nightingale, and thinks of Aucassin. Fearing Garin will put her to a foul death, she waits for the old woman to sleep, knots sheets and towels into a rope, ties it to the window pillar, and lets herself down. Her feet are so white that the daisies she breaks with her toes look black beneath them. She slips out by the postern, crosses Beaucaire in the shadow, and puts her head to a crack in the old tower, where Aucassin is weeping.

Aucasins fu mis en prison, si com vos avés oï et

Aucassin was put in prison just as you have heard and

entendu, et Nicolete fu d'autre part en le canbre. Ce fu

understood and Nicolette was on-other side in the chamber That was

el tans d'esté el mois de mai, que li jor sont caut,

in-the season of-summer in-the month of May when the days are hot

long et cler et les nuis coies et series. Nicolete jut une

long and bright and the nights still and serene Nicolette lay one

nuit en son lit si vit la lune luire cler par une fenestre
night in her bed and saw the moon shine bright through a window
 et si oï le lorseilnol canter en garding, se li sovint
and so heard the nightingale sing in (the-)garden and to-her came-to-mind
 d'Aucassin sen ami qu'ele tant amoit. Ele se comença
of-Aucassin her friend whom-she so-much loved She herself began
 a porpenser del conte Garin de Biaucaire qui de mort le
to reflect on-the count Garin of Beaucaire who to death her
 haoit, si se pensa qu'ele ne remanroit plus ilec; que, s'ele
bated and herself thought that-she not would-remain more there for if-she
 estoit acusee, et li quens Garins le savoit, il le feroit
were accused and the count Garin it knew he her would-make
 de male mort morir. Ele senti que li vielle dormoit, qui
by evil death to-die She perceived that the old-woman slept who
 aveuc li estoit. Ele se leva si vesti un bliäut de drap de
with her was She herself rose and donned a bliaut of cloth of
 soie, qu'ele avoit mout bon, si prist dras de lit et touailes
silk which she had very good and took sheets of bed and towels
 si noua l'un a l'autre si fist une corde si longe come
and knotted the-one to the-other and made a rope as long as
 ele pot, si le noua au piler de le fenestre si s'avala
she could and it knotted to-the pillar of the window and herself-lowered
 contreval el gardin, et prist se vesture a l'une main
down into-the garden and took her garment with the-one hand
 devant et a l'autre deriere si s'escorça por le rousee
in-front and with the-other behind and herself-tucked-up because-of the dew
 qu'ele vit grande sor l'erbe si s'en ala aval le gardin.
which-she saw heavy on the-grass and herself-thence went down the garden
 Ele avoit les caviaus blons et menus reércelés et les ex
She had the hairs blond and finely curled and the eyes
 vairs et rians et le face traitice et le nes haut et bien
gray and laughing and the face well-drawn and the nose high and well

assis et les levretes vremelletes, plus que n'est érisse ne
set and the little-lips rosy more than is cherry or
 rose el tans d'esté, et les dens blans et menus, et avoit
rose in-the season of-summer and the teeth white and small and had
 les mameletes dures, qui li souslevoient sa vesteüre, ausi
the little-breasts firm which to-her lifted her garment just
 con ce fussent deus nois gauges, et estoit graille par
as-if they were two nuts walnut and she-was slender through
 mi les flans qu'en vos dex mains le peüsçies enclorre,
middle the flanks that-in your two hands her you-could enclose
 et les flors des margerites qu'ele ronpoit as ortex de
and the flowers of-the daisies which-she broke with-the toes of
 ses piés, qui li gissoient sor le menuisse du pié par
her feet which to-her lay on the instep of-the foot from
 deseure, estoient droites noires avers ses piés et ses ganbes,
above were downright black against her feet and her legs
 tant par estoit blanche la mescinete. Ele vint au postic
so much was white the little-maid She came to-the postern
 si le deffrema, si s'en isçi par mi les rues de
and it unfastened and herself-thence went-out through middle the streets of
 Biaucaire par devers l'onbre, car la lune luisoit mout clere,
Beaucaire on toward the-shadow for the moon shone very bright
 et erra tant qu'ele vint a le tor u ses amis estoit.
and she-wandered until that-she came to the tower where her friend was
 Li tors estoit faelee de lius en lius, et ele se quatist
The tower was cracked from places to places and she herself crouched
 delés l'un des pilers si s'estraint en son mantel, si mist
beside the-one of-the pillars and herself-wrapped in her mantle and put
 sen cief par mi une creveüre de la tor qui vielle estoit
her head through middle a crack of the tower which old was
 et ancienne, si oï Aucassin qui la dedens plouroit et
and ancient and heard Aucassin who there within wept and

faisoit mot grant dol et regretoit se douce amie que tant
made very great grief and lamented his sweet friend whom so-much
 amoit. Et quant ele l'ot assés escouté, si comença a dire.
he-loved And when she him-had enough listened and began to say

Or se cante

XIII · THE LOCK OF HAIR

*Nicolette leans against a pillar, hears Aucassin weeping and lamenting, and speaks
 her mind: Aucassin, noble and brave, honored young lord, what good to you is this
 grieving and weeping, since you will never have joy of me? Your father and all
 your kindred hate me. For you I shall cross the sea and go into another realm.
 She cuts off some of her hair and throws it in to him; he takes it up, honors and
 kisses it, thrusts it into his breast, and begins to weep again.*

Nicolette o le vis cler

Nicolette with the face bright

s'apoia a un piler

herself-leaned on a pillar

s'oï Aucassin plourer

and-heard Aucassin weep

et s'amie regreter.

and his-friend lament

5 Or parla, dist son penser.

Now she-spoke said her thought

'Aucassins, gentix et ber,

Aucassin noble and brave

frans damoisiaux honorés,

noble young-lord honored

que vos vaut li dementers,

what to-you avails the lamenting

li plaindres ne li plourers,

the complaining nor the weeping

quant ja de moi ne gorés?

since ever of me not you-will-enjoy

Car vostre peres me het

For your father me hates

et trestos vos parentés.

and all your kindred

Por vous passerai le mer

For you I-shall-cross the sea

s'irai en autre regné.'

and-shall-go into other realm

De ses caviax a caupés,

Of her hairs she-has cut

la dedens les a rués.

there within them she-has thrown

Aucassins les prist li ber

Aucassin them took the brave

si les a mout honerés

and them has much honored

et baisiés et acolés.

and kissed and embraced

En sen sain les a boutés

In his bosom them has thrust

si recomence a plorer,

and begins-again to weep

tout por s'amie.

all for his-friend

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Or diënt et content et fabloient

XIV · WHICH LOVES MORE, AND THE WATCH COMES

Hearing she means to leave the country, Aucassin is beside himself: the first man to see her would take her to his bed, and rather than know it he would dash out his brains. She doubts he loves her as he claims, and says she loves him more; he answers that a woman's love sits in her eye and the tip of her breast and her toe, while a man's is planted in the heart and cannot leave. As they talk the watch come down the street with drawn swords, sent by Garin to kill her, and the watchman above resolves to warn her.

Quant Aucassins oï dire Nicolete qu'ele s'en voloit
When Aucassin heard say Nicolette that-she herself-thence wished
aler en autre païs, en lui n'ot que courecier.
to-go into other country in him not-was but to-grieve
Bele douce amie, fait il, vos n'en irés mie, car dont
Fair sweet friend says he you not-thence will-go at-all for then
m'ariés vos mort. Et li premiers qui vos verroit ne qui
me-would-have you killed And the first who you would-see nor who
vous porroit, il vos prenderoit lués et vos meteroit a
you could-(have) he you would-take at-once and you would-put in
son lit si vos asoignenteroit. Et puis que vos ariés jut
his bed and you would-make-bis-leman And since that you would-have lain
en lit a home s'el mien non, or ne quidiés mie que
in bed of man except-in mine not now not think at-all that
j'attendisse tant que je trovasse coutel dont je me peüsçe
I-would-wait so-long until I should-find knife with-which I myself could
ferir el cuer et oçirre. Naie voir, tant n'atenderoie je mie,
strike in-the heart and slay Nay truly so-long not-would-wait I at-all
ains m'esquelderoie de si long, que je verroie une maisiere
but would-hurl-myself from so far that I should-see a wall
u une bisse pierre, s'i hurteroit si durement me teste,
or a gray stone and-there would-dash so hard my head

que j'en feroie les ex voler, et que je m'escerveleroie
that I-thereof would-make the eyes fly and that I would-dash-out-my-brains
 tos. Encor ameroie je mix a morir de si faite mort, que je
wholly Still would-love I better to die by so made death than I
 seüsçe que vos eüsçiés jut en lit a home s'el mien non.
should-know that you had lain in bed of man except-in mine not
 Ai! fait ele, je ne quit mie que vous m'amés tant con
Ab says she I not think at-all that you me-love so-much as
 vos dites, mais je vos aim plus, que vos ne faciés mi.
you say but I you love more than you — do me
 Avoi! fait Aucassins, bele douçe amie, ce ne porroit estre
Come says Aucassin fair sweet friend that not could be
 que vos m'amissiés tant, que je fac vos. Fenme ne puet
that you me-should-love so-much as I do you Woman not can
 tant amer l'oume, con li hom fait le fenme. Car li
so-much love the-man as the man does the woman For the
 amors de le fenme est en son l'oeul et en son le teteron
love of the woman is in top the-eye and in top the nipple
 de sa mamele et en son l'orteil del pié, mais li amors
of her breast and in top the-toe of-the foot but the love
 de l'oume est ens el cuer plantee, dont ele ne puet isçir.
of the-man is within in-the heart planted whence it not can go-out
 La u Aucassins et Nicolette parloient ensamble, et les
There where Aucassin and Nicolette spoke together and the
 escargaites de le vile venoient tote une rue s'avoient les
watchmen of the town came all-along a street and-had the
 espees traites desos les capes. Car li quens Garins lor avoit
swords drawn beneath the cloaks For the count Garin to-them had
 comandé que, s'il le pooient prendre, qu'il l'océsissent. Et
commanded that if they her could take that-they her-should-slay And

li gaite qui estoit sor le tor les vit venir et oï qu'il
the watchman who was on the tower them saw come and heard that-they
 aloient de Nicolete parlant, et qu'il le manecoient a ocirre.
were-going of Nicolette speaking and that-they her threatened to slay
 Dix! fait il, con grans damages de si bele mescinete,
God says he what great pity of so fair little-maid
 s'il l'ociënt! Et mout seroit grans aumosne, se je li
if-they her-slay And very would-be great charity if I to-her
 pooie dire, par quoi il ne s'aperceüscent, et qu'ele
could say by which they not themselves-might-perceive and that-she
 s'en gardast. Car s'il l'ociënt, dont iert Aucassins
herself-therEOF might-guard For if-they her-slay then will-be Aucassins
 mes damoisiax mors, dont grans damages ert.
my young-lord dead wherefore great pity will-be

Or se cante

XV · THE WATCHMAN'S WARNING SONG

The watchman is worthy, valiant, courteous, and wise, and he begins a song fair and seemly. Girl of the noble heart, he sings, your body is comely, your hair blond and shining, your eyes bright, your face laughing; well I see by your looks that you have spoken with your lover, who is dying for you. I say it, and you understand me. Guard yourself from the traitors who go seeking you here with naked blades under their cloaks: they threaten you sorely, and will soon do you harm if you do not take cover.

Li gaite fu mout vaillans,

The watchman was very worthy

preus et cortois et saçans.

valiant and courteous and wise

Il a comencié un cant

He has begun a song

ki biax fu et avenans.

which fair was and pleasing

'Mescinete o le cuer franc,

Little-maid with the heart noble

cors as gent et avenant,

body thou-hast comely and pleasing

le poil blont et reluisant,

the hair blond and shining

vairs les ex, ciere riant.

gray the eyes face laughing

Bien le voi a ton sanblant:

Well it I-see by thy look

parlé as a ton amant,

spoken thou-hast to thy lover

qui por toi se va morant.

who for thee himself goes dying

Jel te di, et tu l'entens!

I-it to-thee say and thou it-hearest

Garde toi des souduians

Guard thee from-the traitors

ki par ci te vont querant

who through here thee go seeking

sous les capes les nus brans!

beneath the cloaks the naked blades

Forment te vont manécant,

Sorely thee they-go threatening

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tost te feront messeant,

soon thee they-will-make ill-faring

s'or ne t'abries.'

if-now not thee-shelter

Or diënt et content et fabloient

XVI • DOWN THE DITCH AND OUT OF THE TOWN

Nicolette blesses the watchman, hides in her cloak until the men pass, takes leave of Aucassin, and reaches the castle wall. She climbs the broken wall and the ditch below frightens her. Rather than wait to be burned in the morning, she crosses herself and slides down; her hands and feet bleed in a dozen places, though fear keeps her from feeling it. Climbing out by a sharpened stake is harder still. The forest lies two bowshots off, full of wild beasts, and she is caught between that fear and the fire in the town.

He! fait Nicolete, l'ame de ten pere et de te mere soit

Ab says Nicolette the-soul of thy father and of thy mother be

en benooit repos, quant si belement et si cortoisement le

in blessed rest since so fairly and so courteously it

m'as ore dit. Se diu plaist, je m'en garderai bien,

to-me-hast now said If God pleases I myself-thereof shall-guard well

et dix m'en gart!

and God me-thereof guard

Ele s'estraint en son mantel en l'onbre del piler, tant que

She herself-wrapped in her mantle in the-shadow of-the pillar until that

cil furent passé outre, et ele prent congïe a Aucassin, si

those were passed beyond and she takes leave of Aucassin and

s'en va, tant qu'ele vint au mur del castel. Li murs fu

herself-thence goes until that-she came to-the wall of-the castle The wall was

depeciés s'estoit rehordés, et ele monta deseure si fist tant

broken and-was boarded-up and she climbed above and did so-much

qu'ele fu entre le mur et le fossé, et ele garda contreval si vit
that-she was between the wall and the ditch and she looked downward and saw
 le fossé mout parfont et mout roide s'ot mout grant paor.
the ditch very deep and very steep and-had very great fear
 He dix! fait ele, douce creature! Se je me lais caïr, je
Ab God says she sweet creature If I myself let fall I
 briserai le col, et se je remain ci, on me prendra demain,
shall-break the neck and if I remain here one me will-take tomorrow
 si m'ardera on en un fu. Encor ainme je mix que je muire
and me-will-burn one in a fire Still love I better that I die
 ci, que tos li pules me regardast demain a merveilles.
here than all the people me should-look-at tomorrow for wonder
 Ele segna son cief si se laissa glacier aval le fossé, et
She crossed her head and herself let slide down the ditch and
 quant ele vint u fons, si bel pié et ses beles mains,
when she came to-the bottom her fair feet and her fair hands
 qui n'avoient mie apris c'on les blecast, furent quaiissies
which not-had at-all learned that-one them should-wound were bruised
 et escorcies, et li sans en sali bien en dose lius, et
and grazed and the blood thereof sprang fully in twelve places and
 neporquant ele ne senti ne mal ne dolor por le grant paor
nevertheless she not felt either hurt or pain because-of the great fear
 qu'ele avoit. Et sē ele fu en paine de l'entrer, encor fu ele
which-she had And if she was in trouble of the-entering still was she
 en forceur de l'isçir. Ele se pensa qu'ileuc ne faisoit
in greater-(trouble) of the-going-out She herself thought that-there not was
 mie bon demorer, et trova un pel aguisié que cil dedens
at-all good to-stay and found a stake sharpened which those within
 avoient jeté por le castel deffendre si fist pas un avant
had thrown to the castle defend and set step one before
 l'autre si monta tant a grans painnes, qu'ele vint deseure.
the-other and climbed so-much with great pains that-she came above

Or estoit li forés pres a deus arbalestees, qui bien duroit

Now was the forest near at two bowsshots which well stretched

treinte liues de lonc et de le, si i avoit bestes

thirty leagues in length and in breadth and therein were beasts

sauvâges et serpentine. Ele ot paor que, s'ele i entroit,

wild and serpents She had fear that if-she therein entered

qu'eles ne l'oçesisçent, si se repensa que, s'on le trovoit

that-they — her-should-slay and herself bethought that if-one her found

ileuc, c'on le remenroit en le vile por ardoir.

there that-one her would-bring-back into the town to burn

Or se cante

XVII • BETTER THE WOLVES THAN THE FIRE

Nicolette, having climbed the ditch, laments and calls on Jesus: Father, king of majesty, I do not know which way to go. If I go into the leafy wood the wolves will eat me, and the lions and the boars, of which there are plenty there; and if I wait for daylight and am found here, the fire will be lit and my body burned in it. But by God of majesty, I had far rather the wolves ate me than that I went back into the city. I will not go.

Nicolete o le vis cler

Nicolette with the face bright

fu montee le fossé,

was climbed the ditch

si se prent a dementer

and herself takes to lament

et Jhesum a reclamer.

and Jesus to invoke

5 'Peres, rois de maïsté!

Father king of majesty

Or ne sai quel part aler.

Now not I-know which way to-go

Se je vois u gaut ramé,

If I go into-the wood leafy

ja me mengeront li le,

straightway me will-devour the wolves

li lion et li sengler,

the lions and the boars

dont il i a a plenté.

of-which there therein is in plenty

Et se j'atent le jor cler,

And if I-await the day bright

quë on me puist ci trover,

so-that one me may here find

li fus sera alumés,

the fire will-be kindled

dont mes cors iert enbrasés.

whereby my body will-be burned

Mais, par diu de maïsté!

But by God of majesty

encor aim jou mix assés

still love I better far

que me mengücent li le,

that me devour the wolves

li lion et li sengler,

the lions and the boars

que je voisse en la cité.

than I should-go into the city

Je n'irai miel'

I not-shall-go at-all

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Or diënt et content et fabloient

XVIII · THE MESSAGE LEFT WITH THE SHEPHERDS

Nicolette dares not go deep into the forest for the wild beasts, and sleeps in a thicket until the shepherds bring their flocks out to a spring at its edge. Waking among them, she asks whether they know Aucassin, and bids them tell him a beast is in this wood that he should come and hunt, one limb of which he would not sell for a hundred marks of gold. They take her for a fairy, until her five shillings and her word that he has three days to find it buy their promise to tell him if he comes.

Nicolete se dementa mout, si com vos avés oï. Ele se
Nicolette herself lamented much just as you have heard She herself
comanda a diu si erra tant qu'ele vint en le forest.
commended to God and wandered until that-she came into the forest
Ele n'osa mie parfont entrer por les bestes sauvâges et
She not-dared at-all deep to-enter because-of the beasts wild and
por le serpentine si se quatist en un espés buisson,
because-of the serpents and herself crouched in a thick bush
et soumax li prist, si s'endormi dusqu'au demain a
and slumber her seized and herself-fell-asleep until-the morrow at
haute prime, que li pastorel isçirent de la vile et jeterent
high prime when the shepherd-boys came-out of the town and drove
lor bestes entre le bos et la riviere, si se traient
their beasts between the wood and the river and themselves draw
d'une part a une mout bele fontaine qui estoit au cieuf
to-one side to a very fair spring which was at-the head
de la forest, si estendirent une cape se missent lor pain
of the forest and spread a cloak and put their bread
sus. Entreusque il mengoient, et Nicolete s'esveille au
on-it While they ate and Nicolette herself-wakes at-the
cri des oisiax et des pastoriax, si s'enbati sor aus.
cry of-the birds and of-the shepherd-boys and herself-burst on them

Bel enfant, fait ele, damedix vos i aït!

Fair children says she Lord-God you therein help

Dix vos benie! fait li uns qui plus fu enparlés des autres.

God you bless says the one who most was well-spoken of-the others

Bel enfant, fait ele, conissiés vos Aucassin le fil le conte

Fair children says she know you Aucassin the son (of-)the count

Garin de Biaucaire?

Garin of Beaucaire

Oïl, bien le counisçons nos.

Yes well him know we

Se dix vos aït, bel enfant, fait ele, dites li qu'il a

So God you help fair children says she tell to-him that-there is

une beste en ceste forest, et qu'il le viegne caçier; et

a beast in this forest and that-he it come hunt and

s'il l'i puet prendre, il n'en donroit mie un membre

if-he it-there can take he not-thereof would-give at-all one limb

por cent mars d'or, non por cinc cens ne por nul avoir.

for hundred marks of-gold not for five hundred nor for any wealth

Et cil le regardent, se le virent si bele, qu'il en

And those her look-at and her saw so fair that-they thereat

furent tot esmari.

were all dismayed

Je li dirai? fait cil qui plus fu enparlés des autres.

I to-him will-tell says that-one who most was well-spoken of-the others

Dehait ait qui ja en parlera, ne qui ja li dira!

Ill-luck have whoever ever thereof will-speak nor whoever ever to-him will-tell

C'est fantosmes, que vos dites; qu'il n'a si ciere beste en

It-is illusion that you say for-there not-is so precious beast in

ceste forest, ne cerf ne lion ne sengler, dont uns des

this forest neither stag nor lion nor boar of-which one of-the

membres vaille plus de dex deniers u de trois au

limbs would-be-worth more than two pence or than three at-the

plus, et vos parlés de si grant avoir! Mal dehait qui
most and you speak of so great wealth Ill luck whoever
 vos en croit, ne qui ja li dira! Vos estes fee, si
you thereof believes nor whoever ever to-him will-tell You are fairy so
 n'avons cure de vo conpaignie, mais tenés vostre voie.

not-have care of your company but keep your way
 Ha bel enfant, fait ele, si ferés! Le beste a tel mecine,
Ab fair children says she yet you-will-do The beast has such medicine
 quë Aucassins ert garis de son mehaing. Et j'ai ci cinc
that Aucassin will-be healed of his hurt And I-have here five
 sous en me borse, tenés se li dites. Et dedens trois jors
shillings in my purse take and to-him tell And within three days
 li covient cacier, et së il dedens trois jors ne le trove, ja
to-him behooves to-hunt and if he within three days not it finds ever
 mais ne le verra ne ja mais n'iert garis de son mehaig.
more not it will-see nor ever more not-will-be healed of his hurt

Par foi! fait il, les deniers prenderons nos, et s'il vient ci,
By faith says he the pence will-take we and if-he comes here
 nos li dirons, mais nos ne l'irons ja querre.
we to-him will-tell but we not him-shall-go ever seek

De par diu! fait ele.

In behalf (of-)God says she

Lor prent congïé as pastoriaus si s'en va.

Then takes leave of-the shepherd-boys and herself-thence goes

Or se cante

XIX · THE LODGE AT THE SEVEN WAYS

Nicolette leaves the shepherds and takes her road through the leafy wood by an old path until she comes to where seven ways fork out across the country. There she thinks to test her lover. She gathers lily flowers and grass of the heath and leaves, and makes of them a fair lodge, so fine a one as was never seen; and she swears by God, who never lied, that if Aucassin passes that way and does not rest a little in it for love of her, he shall never be her lover nor she his love.

Nicolette o le cler vis

Nicolette with the bright face

des pastoriaus se parti,

from-the shepherd-boys herself parted

si acoilli son cemin

and took-up her way

tres par mi le gaut foilli

right through middle the wood leafy

tout un viés sentier anti,

all an old path ancient

tant qu'a une voie vint,

until that-to a road she-came

u aforkent set cemin

where fork seven ways

qui s'en vont par le país.

which themselves-thence go through the country

A porpenser or se prist

To consider now herself she-took

qu'esprovera son ami,

that-she-will-prove her friend

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s'il l'aime si com' il dist.

if-he her-loves so as he says

Ele prist des flors de lis

She took of-the flowers of lily

et de l'erbe du garris

and of the-grass of-the heath

et de le foille autresi,

and of the leafage likewise

15 une bele loge en fist.

a fair lodge thereof made

Ainques tant gente ne vi!

Ever so comely not I-saw

Jure diu qui ne menti,

She-swears God who not lied

se par la vient Aucasins,

if by there comes Aucassin

et il por l'amor de li

and he for the-love of her

20 ne s'i repose un petit,

not there rests a little

ja ne sera ses amis

ever not will-be her friend

n'ele s'amie.

nor-she his-friend

Or diënt et content et fabloient

XX · A KNIGHT'S COUNSEL: RIDE TO THE FOREST

When the lodge is finished Nicolette hides in a thicket beside it to see what Aucassin will do. The cry goes through the land that she is lost; Garin has his son let out of prison and holds a great feast to comfort him, but Aucassin leans on a balustrade and takes no joy, seeing nothing there of what he loves. A knight who has had the same sickness counsels him to ride out along the forest and hear the birds. He saddles his horse and rides to the spring, where the shepherds are eating at the hour of nones.

Nicolette eut faite le loge, si con vos avés oï et entendu,
Nicolette had made the lodge just as you have heard and understood
mout bele et mout gente, si l'ot bien forree dehors et
very fair and very comely and it-had well lined outside and
dedens de flors et de foilles, si se repost delés le loge en
inside with flowers and with leaves and herself hid beside the lodge in
un espés buison por savoir que Aucassins feroit. Et li cris
a thick bush to know what Aucassin would-do And the outcry
et li noise ala par tote le tere et par tot le païs, que
and the clamor went through all the land and through all the country that
Nicolette estoit perdue. Li auquant diënt qu'ele en estoit fuïe,
Nicolette was lost The some say that-she thence was fled
et li autre diënt que li quens Garins l'a faite mordrir.
and the others say that the count Garin her-has caused to-murder
Qui qu'en eüst joie, Aucassins n'en fu mie liés. Et li
Whoever that-thereof had joy Aucassin not-thereof was at-all glad And the
quens Garins ses peres le fist metre hors de prison si manda
count Garin his father him had put out of prison and summoned
les cevaliers de le tere et les damoiseles si fist faire une mot
the knights of the land and the damsels and had make a very
rice feste, por cou qu'il cuida Aucassin son fil conforter. Quoi
rich feast for that that-he thought Aucassin his son to-comfort While

que li feste estoit plus plaine, et Aucassins fu apoiés a une
that the feast was most full and Aucassin was leaning on a
 puïe tos dolans et tos souples. Qui que demenast joie,
balustrade all sorrowful and all downcast Whoever that made joy
 Aucassins n'en ot talent; qu'il n'i veoit rien de cou
Aucassin not-thereof had desire for-he not-there saw anything of that
 qu'il amoit. Uns cevaliers le regarda si vint a lui si l'apela.
that-he loved A knight him looked-at and came to him and him-called
 Aucassins, fait il, d'ausi fait mal, con vos avés, ai jë esté
Aucassin says he of-just made sickness as you have have I been
 malades. Je vos donrai bon conseil, se vos me volés croire.
ill I to-you will-give good counsel if you me will believe
 Sire, fait Aucassins, grans mercís! Bon conseil aroie je cier.
Lord says Aucassin great thanks Good counsel would-have I dear
 Montés sor un cheval, fait il, s'alés selonc cele forest esbanoier,
Mount on a horse says he and-go along that forest to-disport
 si verrés ces flors et ces herbes s'orrés ces oisellons
and you-will-see those flowers and those herbs and-you-will-hear those little-birds
 canter. Par aventure orrés tel parole dont mix vos iert.
sing By chance you-will-hear such word whereby better to-you will-be
 Sire, fait Aucassins, grans mercís! Si ferai jou.
Lord says Aucassin great thanks So will-do I
 Il s'enble de la sale s'avale les degrés si vient en l'estable
He himself-steals from the hall and-descends the steps and comes into the-stable
 ou ses cevaus estoit. Il fait metre le sele et le frain; il met
where his horse was He has put the saddle and the bridle he puts
 pié en estrier si monte et ist del castel, et erra tant qu'il
foot in stirrup and mounts and goes-out of-the castle and traveled until that-he
 vint a le forest et cevauca tant qu'il vint a le fontaine et trove
came to the forest and rode until that-he came to the spring and finds

les pastoriax au point de none, s'avoient une cape estendue sor
the shepherd-boys at-the point of nones and-had a cloak spread on
 l'erbe si mangioient lor pain et faisoient mout tresgrant joie.
the-grass and ate their bread and made very exceeding joy

Or se cante

XXI · THE SHEPHERDS' SONG OF THE COINS

Now the shepherds gather: Esmeré and Martinet, Fruelin and Johanet, Robeçon and Aubry. One of them sings: fair comrades, God help little Aucassin, in faith the fair young lord, and the girl in the bodice with the blond hair, the bright face, and the gray eye, who gave us pence. With them we shall buy little cakes and sheaths and knives, flutes and horns, clubs and pipes. God keep her.

Or s'asanlent pastouret,

Now themselves-gather shepherd-lads

Esmerés et Martinés,

Esmeré and Martinet

Fruëllins et Johanés,

Fruelin and Johanet

Robeçons et Aubriés.

Robeçon and Aubry

Li uns dist: 'Bel compaignet,

The one says Fair little-comrades

dix aït Aucasinet,

God help little-Aucassin

voire a foi! le bel vallet,

truly by faith the fair youth

et le mescine au corset,

and the maid with-the bodice

qui avoit le poil blondet,

who had the hair blond

10 cler le vis et l'oeul vairet,

bright the face and the-eye gray

ki nos dona denerés,

who to-us gave pence

dont acatrons gastelés,

wherewith we-shall-buy little-cakes

gaïnes et coutelés,

sheaths and little-knives

flaüsteles et cornés,

flutes and horns

15 macuëles et pipés.

clubs and pipes

Dix le garisse!

God her save

Or diënt et content et fabloient

XXII · THE SHEPHERDS WILL TELL, NOT SING

Aucassin rides up and asks the shepherds to sing that song again. They refuse: they know him for their young lord, but they are the count's men, and no one here save Garin would dare drive their beasts out of his own meadows. They take his ten shillings, and tell what they will not sing: a maiden came to the spring that morning, so fair they took her for a fairy and the whole wood shone with her, and left word that within three days he must hunt a beast whose limb he would not sell for five hundred marks.

Quant Aucassins oï les pastoriax, si li sovint de
When Aucassin heard the shepherd-boys and to-him came-to-mind of
Nicolette, se tresdoucé amie qu'il tant amoit, et si se
Nicolette his most-sweet friend whom-he so-much loved and so himself
pensa qu'ele avoit la esté. Et il hurte le ceval des
thought that-she had there been And he strikes the horse with-the
esperons si vint as pastoriax.

spurs and came to-the shepherd-boys

Bel enfant, dix vos i aït!

Fair children God you therein help

Dix vos benie! fait cil qui plus fu enparlés des autres.

God you bless says that-one who most was well-spoken of-the others

Bel enfant, fait il, redites le cançon que vos disiés ore!

Fair children says he say-again the song that you were-saying just-now

Nous n'i dirons, fait cil qui plus fu enparlés des

We not-thereat will-say says that-one who most was well-spoken of-the

autres. Dehait ore qui por vous i cantera, biax sire!

others Ill-luck now whoever for you thereat will-sing fair lord

Bel enfant, fait Aucassins, enne me conissiés vos?

Fair children says Aucassin do-not me know you

Oïl, nos savons bien que vos estes Aucassins nos damoisiax,
Yes we know well that you are Aucassin our young-lord
 mais nos ne sommes mie a vos, ains sommes au conte.

but we not are at-all to you rather are to-the count

Bel enfant, si ferés, je vos en pri.

Fair children yet you-will-do I you thereof pray

Os, por le cuer be! fait cil. Por quoi canteroie je por vos,

Hark by the heart indeed says that-one For what should-sing I for you
 s'il ne me seoit? Quant il n'a si riche home en cest país

if-it not me pleased Since there not-is so rich man in this country
 sans le cors le conte Garin, s'il trovoit mes bués ne mes
save the person (of-)the count Garin if-he found my oxen nor my
 vaches ne mes brebis en ses pres n'en sen forment qu'il fust

cows nor my sheep in his meadows nor-in his wheat that-he were
 mie tant hardis por les ex a crever, qu'il les en ossast

at-all so bold for the eyes to (be-)put-out that-he them thence dared
 caacier. Et por quoi canteroie je por vos, s'il ne me seoit?

drive And for what should-sing I for you if-it not me pleased

Se dix vos aït, bel enfant, si ferés! Et tenés dis sous

So God you help fair children yet you-will-do And take ten shillings

que j'ai ci en me borse.

which I-have here in my purse

Sire, les deniers prenderons nos, mais je ne vos canterai

Lord the pence will-take we but I not to-you will-sing

mie, car j'en ai juré. Mais je le vos conterai, se vos

at-all for I-thereof have sworn But I it to-you will-tell if you

volés.

wish

De par diu! fait Aucassins, encor aim je mix conter que

In behalf (of-)God says Aucassin still love I better telling than

niënt.

nothing

Sire, nos estiëns or ains ci entre prime et tierce, si
Lord we were now before here between prime and tierce and
 mangïëns no pain a ceste fontaine, ausi con nos faisons ore. Et
were-eating our bread at this spring just as we do now And
 une pucele vint ci, li plus bele riens du monde, si que nos
a maiden came here the most fair thing of-the world so that we
 quidames que ce fust une fee, et que tos cis bos en esclarci,
thought that it were a fairy and that all this wood thereat grew-bright
 si nos dona tant del sien, que nos li eümes en covent, se
and to-us gave so-much of-the hers that we to-her had in covenant if
 vos veniës ci, nos vos desisiens que vos alissiës cacier en ceste
you came here we to-you should-say that you should-go hunt in this
 forest; qu'il i a une beste que, se vos le poïiës prendre,
forest that-there therein is a beast that if you it could take
 vos n'en donriiës mie un des membres por cinc cens mars
you not-thereof would-give at-all one of-the limbs for five hundred marks
 d'argent ne por nul avoir. Car li beste a tel meçine, que, se
of-silver nor for any wealth For the beast has such medicine that if
 vos le poës prendre, vos serés garis de vo mehaig, et dedens
you it can take you will-be healed of your hurt and within
 trois jors le vos covient avoir prisse, et se vos ne l'avés prise,
three days it to-you behooves to-have taken and if you not it-have taken
 ja mais ne le verrés. Or le caciés, se vos volés, et se vos
ever more not it you-will-see Now it hunt if you wish and if you
 volés, si le laisciës; car je m'en sui bien acuités vers li.
wish so it leave for I myself-thereof am well acquitted toward her
 Bel enfant, fait Aucassins, assés en avés dit, et dix le
Fair children says Aucassin enough thereof you-have said and God it
 me laist trover!
to-me let find

Or se cante

XXIII · INTO THE DEEP WOOD

Aucassin hears the shepherds' words of his love, and they go deep into him. He leaves them at once and rides into the deep wood, his warhorse carrying him at a gallop. Then he speaks three words: Nicolette of the comely body, for you I have come into the wood; I hunt neither stag nor boar but follow your tracks. Your gray eyes, your fair laughter, and your sweet words have wounded my heart to death. If it please God the mighty Father, I shall see you again yet, sister, sweet love.

Aucassins oï les mos

Aucassin heard the words

de s'amie o le gent cors,

of his-friend with the comely body

mout li entrerent el cors.

deeply to-him entered into-the body

Des pastoriæ se part tost

From-the shepherd-boys himself parts swiftly

5 si entra el parfont bos.

and entered into-the deep wood

Li destriers li anble tost,

The charger to-him ambles swiftly

bien l'en porte les galos.

well him-thence bears (at-)the gallop

Or parla s'a dit trois mos.

Now he-spoke and-has said three words

'Nicolette o le gent cors,

Nicolette with the comely body

10 por vos sui venus en bos.

for you I-am come into wood

Je ne cac ne érf ne porc,

I not hunt neither stag nor boar

mais por vos siu les esclos.

but for you I-follow the tracks

Vo vair oeil et vos gens cors,

Your gray eyes and your comely body

vos biax ris et vos dox mos

your fair laughter and your sweet words

ont men cuer navré a mort.

have my heart wounded to death

Se diu plaist le pere fort,

If God pleases the father strong

je vous reverai encor,

I you shall-see-again yet

suer, douce amie!'

sister sweet friend

15

Or diënt et content et fabloient

XXIV · THE PLOWBOY WHO LOST HIS OX

He rides all day, and the thorns tear his clothes and set him bleeding in forty places, though for thinking of Nicolette he feels nothing. At evening he meets a huge and hideous plowboy, who mocks him for weeping over a lost greyhound: the boy has lost the best ox of his plow, has not eaten in three days, and his mother's mattress has been dragged from under her. Aucassin gives him twenty shillings for the ox, rides on, finds the lodge by moonlight, falls and puts his shoulder out, and crawls in to watch the stars.

Aucassins ala par le forest de voie en voie, et li destriers
Aucassin went through the forest from way to way and the charger
 l'en porta grant aleüre. Ne quidiés mie que les ronces et
him-thence carried great pace Not think at-all that the brambles and
 les espines l'esparnaisçent. Nenil niënt! Ains li desronpent
the thorns him-spared Nay nothing But to-him tear
 ses dras, qu'a painnes peüst on nouer desus el plus
his clothes that-with pains [scarcely] could one knot on-them in-the most
 entier, et que li sans li isçi des bras et des costés
whole and that the blood to-him came-out from-the arms and from-the sides
 et des ganbes en quarante lius u en trente, qu'après le vallet
and from-the legs in forty places or in thirty that-after the youth
 peüst on suïr le traçe du sanc qui caoit sor l'erbe. Mais il
could one follow the track of-the blood which fell on the-grass But he
 pensa tant a Nicolete sa douçe amie, qu'il ne sentoit ne
thought so-much of Nicolette his sweet friend that-he not felt neither
 mal ne dolor, et ala totejor par mi le forest sifaitement,
hurt nor pain and went all-day through middle the forest in-such-wise
 que onques n'oï noveles de li. Et quant il vit que li vespres
that ever not-heard news of her And when he saw that the evening
 aproçoit, si comença a plorer, por cou qu'il ne le trovoit.
drew-near and began to weep for that that-he not her found

Tote une viés voie herbeuse cevaucoit, s'esgarda devant lui en
All an old road grassy he-rode and-looked before him in
 mi le voie si vit un vallet tel con je vos dirai. Grans estoit
middle the road and saw a fellow such as I to-you will-tell Big he-was
 et meruellex et lais et hidex. Il avoit une grande hure
and monstrous and ugly and hideous He had a great shock-of-hair
 plus noire q'une carboulee, et avoit plus de plainne paume
more black than-a charcoal-burnt and had more than full palm
 entre deus ex, et avoit unes grandes joes et un grandisme
between two eyes and had a-pair-of great cheeks and a huge
 nes plat et unes grans narines lees et unes grosses levres
nose flat and a-pair-of great nostrils wide and a-pair-of thick lips
 plus rouges d'une carbounee et uns grans dens gaunes et lais,
more red than-a grilled-meat and a-set-of great teeth yellow and ugly
 et estoit cauciés d'uns housiax et d'uns sollers de buef fretés
and he-was shod with leggings and with shoes of oxhide bound
 de tille dusque deseure le genol et estoit afulés d'une cape a
with bast up-to above the knee and he-was cloaked in-a cape with
 deus envers si estoit apoiés sor une grande macüe. Aucassins
two sides and he-was leaning on a great club Aucassin
 s'enbati sor lui s'eut grant paor, quant il le sorvit.
himself-burst on him and-had great fear when he him suddenly-saw
 Biax frere, dix t'i aït!
Fair brother God thee-therein help
 Dix vos benie! fait cil.
God you bless says that-one
 Se dix t'aït, que fais tu ilec?
So God thee-help what doest thou there
 A vos que monte? fait cil.
To you what matters says that-one

Niënt, fait Aucassins. Je nel vos demant se por bien
Nothing says Aucassin I not-it of-you ask except for good
 non.

not

Mais por quoi plourés vos, fait cil, et faites si fait
But for what weep you says that-one and make such made
 duel? Certes, se j'estoie ausi rices hom que vos estes, tos
grief Certainly if I-were as rich man as you are all
 li mons ne me feroit mie plorer.

the world not me would-make at-all weep

Bal me conissiés vos? fait Aucassins.

Bah me know you says Aucassin

Oie, je sai bien que vos estes Aucassins li fix le conte, et
Yes I know well that you are Aucassin the son (of-)the count and
 se vos me dites, por quoi vos plorés, je vos dirai, que je fac ci.
if you to-me tell for what you weep I to-you will-tell what I do here
 Certes, fait Aucassins, je le vos dirai mout volontiers. Je
Certainly says Aucassin I it to-you will-tell very willingly I
 vig hui matin caçier en ceste forest s'avoie un blanc levrier,
came today morning to-hunt in this forest and-had a white greyhound
 le plus bel del siecle, si l'ai perdu, por ce pleur jou.

the most fair of-the world and it-have lost for that weep I

Os! fait cil, por le cuer que cil sires eut en sen ventre!

Hark says that-one by the heart that that lord had in his belly

que vos plorastes por un cien puant! Mal dehait ait qui
that you wept for a dog stinking Ill luck have whoever
 ja mais vos prisera, quant il n'a si rice home en ceste
ever more you will-esteem since there not-is so rich man in this
 terre, se vos peres l'en mandoit dis u quinse u vint
land if your father him-thereof asked ten or fifteen or twenty

qu'il ne les envoïast trop volentiers, et s'en esteroit
that-be not them would-send very willingly and and-thereof would-be
 trop liés. Mais je doi plorer et dol faire.

very glad But I ought to-weep and grief to-make

Et tu de quoi, frere?

And thou of what brother

Sire, je le vous dirai. J'estoie liués a un rice vilain si caçoie

Lord I it to-you will-tell I-was hired to a rich peasant and drove

se carue, quatre bués i avoit. Or a trois jors qu'il m'avint

his plow four oxen therein were Now is three days that-it to-me-befell

une grande malaventure, que je perdi le mellor de mes bués,

a great misfortune that I lost the best of my oxen

Roget, le mellor de me carue, si le vois querant. Si ne mengai

Roget the best of my plow and it I-go seeking So not I-ate

ne ne bué, trois jors a passés, si n'os aler a le vile; c'on

nor not I-drank three days is past and not-dare go to the town that-one

me metroit en prison, que je ne l'ai de quoi saure. De tot

me would-put in prison since I not it-have of what to-pay Of all

l'avoir du monde n'ai je plus vaillant, que vos veés sor

the-wealth of-the world not-have I more worth than you see on

le cors de mi. Une lasse mere avoie, si n'avoit plus vaillant

the body of me A wretched mother I-had and not-bad more worth

quë une keutisele, si li a on sacie de desous le dos,

than a little-mattress and from-her has one dragged from under the back

si gist a pur l'estrain, si m'en poise assés plus que de

and she-lies on bare the-straw and to-me-thereof grieves much more than of

mi. Car avois va et vient; se j'ai or perdu, je gaaignerai

me For wealth goes and comes if I-have now lost I shall-earn

une autre fois si sorrai mon buef, quant je porrai, ne

an other time and shall-pay-for my ox when I shall-be-able nor

ja por cou n'en ploueraï. Et vos plorastes por un cien

ever for that not-thereof shall-weep And you wept for a dog

de longaigne. Mal dehait ait qui ja mais vos prisera!

of cesspit Ill luck have whoever ever more you will-esteem

Certes tu es de bon confort, biax frere. Que benois soies

Certainly thou art of good comfort fair brother That blessed be

tu! Et que valoit tes bués?

thou And what was-worth thy ox

Sire, vint sous m'en demande on. Je n'en puis mie

Lord twenty shillings me-thereof asks one I not-thereof can at-all

abatre une seule maaille.

beat-down a single farthing

Or tien, fait Aucassins, vint sous que j'ai ci en me

Now take says Aucassin twenty shillings which I-have here in my

borse si sol ten buef.

purse and pay-for thy ox

Sire, fait il, grans mercís! Et dix vos laist trover ce que

Lord says he great thanks And God you let find that which

vos querés!

you seek

Il se part de lui. Aucassins si cevauce. La nuis fu bele

He himself parts from him Aucassin and rides The night was fair

et quoie, et il erra tant qu'il vin[t pres de la u li set

and still and he rode until that-he came near to there where the seven

cemin aforkent] si v[it devant lui le loge, que vos savés

ways fork and saw before him the lodge which you know

que] Nicolete [avoit faite, et le loge estoit forree] defors

that Nicolette had made and the lodge was lined outside

et dedens et par deseure et devant de flors et estoit si

and inside and on above and in-front with flowers and was so

bele, que plus ne pooit estre. Quant Aucassins le perçut, si
fair that more not could be When Aucassin it perceived and
 s'aresta tot a un fais, et li rais de le lune feroit ens.
himself-stopped all at one stroke and the beam of the moon struck within
 E dix! fait Aucassins, ci fu Nicolete, me douce amie, et ce
Ab God says Aucassin here was Nicolette my sweet friend and this
 fist ele a ses beles mains. Por le doucour de li et por s'amor
made she with her fair hands For the sweetness of her and for her-love
 me desçenderai jë ore ci et m'i reposera anuit mais.
myself will-dismount I now here and myself-here will-rest tonight indeed
 Il mist le pié fors de l'estrier por desçendre, et li cevaus
He put the foot out of the-stirrup to dismount and the horse
 fu grans et haus. Il pensa tant a Nicolete, se tresdouce
was big and tall He thought so-much of Nicolette his most-sweet
 amie, qu'il caï si durement sor une pierre, que l'espaule
friend that-he fell so hard on a stone that the-shoulder
 li vola hors du liu. Il se senti mout blecié, mais il
to-him flew out of-the socket He himself felt very hurt but he
 s'efforça tout au mix qu'il peut et ataca son cheval a
himself-strove all at-the best that-he could and tied his horse with
 l'autre main a une espine, si se torna sor costé, tant
the-other hand to a thorn-bush and himself turned on side until
 qu'il jut tos souvins en le loge. Et il garda par mi
that-he lay all supine in the lodge And he looked through middle
 un trau de le loge si vit les estoiles el ciel, s'en
a hole of the lodge and saw the stars in-the sky and-thereof
 i vit une plus clere des autres si conmença a dire:
there saw one more bright than-the others and began to say

Or se cante

XXV · LITTLE STAR, AND THE MOON

Aucassin picks out one star brighter than the rest and speaks to it: little star, I see you, whom the moon draws to herself. Nicolette is there with you, my little love with the blond hair. I think God wants her there for the light of evening, that it may be the fairer for her. Sweet sister, how it would please me if I could climb straight up, whatever came of the fall, and be up there with you; then I would kiss you close. Were I a king's son, you would suit me well, sister, sweet love.

‘Estoilete, je te voi,

Little-star I thee see

que la lune trait a soi.

which the moon draws to herself

Nicolette est avec toi,

Nicolette is with thee

m’amiëte o le blont poil.

my-little-love with the blond hair

5 Je quid, dix le veut avoir

I think God her wishes to-have

por la lu[mier]e de s[o]ir,

for the light of evening

que par li plus bele soit.

that through her more fair it-be

Douçe suer, com me plairoit

Sweet sister how me it-would-please

se monter pooie droit,]

if to-climb I-could straight

10 que que fust du recaoir,

whatever that were of-the falling-back

que fusse lassus o toi!

that I-were up-there with thee

ja te baiseroie estroit!

then thee I-would-kiss close

Se j'estoie fix a roi,

If I-were son of king

s'afferriés vos bien a moi,

then-would-suit you well to me

suer, douce amie!

sister sweet friend

15

Or diënt et content et fabloient

XXVI • THE SHOULDER SET, AND THE RIDE OUT

Nicolette is not far off; she comes into the lodge and kisses him. He tells her his shoulder was badly hurt, though now he feels no pain, having her. She finds it out of joint, works it back with her white hands, and binds it with flowers, fresh grass, green leaves, and the hem of her shift, and he is whole. She warns him that if his father searches the forest tomorrow and she is found she will be killed; he answers that they shall never hold her while he can help it, and rides out with her into open country.

Quant Nicolette oï Aucassin, ele vint a lui, car ele n'estoit

When Nicolette heard Aucassin she came to him for she not-was

mie lonc. Ele entra en la loge si li jeta ses bras

at-all far She entered into the lodge and to-him cast her arms

au col si le baisa et acola.

around-the neck and him kissed and embraced

Biax doux amis, bien soiiés vos trovés!

Fair sweet friend well be you found

Et vos, bele douce amie, soies li bien trovee!

And you fair sweet friend be the well found

Il s'entrebaissent et acolent, si fu la joie bele.

They each-other-kiss and embrace and was the joy fair

Ha douce amie! fait Aucassins, j'estoie ore mout bleciés en

Ah sweet friend says Aucassin I-was just-now very hurt in

m'espaulle, et or ne sené ne mal ne dolor, puis que je vos ai.

my-shoulder and now not feel neither hurt nor pain since that I you have

Ele le portasta, et trova qu'il avoit l'espaulle hors du liu. Ele

She him felt-over and found that-he had the-shoulder out of-the socket She

le mania tant a ses blanches mains et porsaca, si con dix

it handled so-much with her white hands and pulled just as God

le vaut, qui les amans ainme, qu'ele revint au liu. Et puis

it willed who the lovers loves that-it came-back to-the socket And then

si prist des flors et de l'erbe fresce et des fuelles verdes,

and took of-the flowers and of the-grass fresh and of-the leaves green

si le loia sus au pan de sa cemisce, et il fu tox garis.

and it bound on-it with-the hem of her shift and he was all healed

Aucassins, fait ele, biaux dox amis, prendés conseil, que

Aucassin says she fair sweet friend take counsel what

vous ferés. Se vos peres fait demain érquier ceste forest,

you will-do If your father has tomorrow searched this forest

et on me trouve, que que de vous aviegne, on m'ócira.

and one me finds whatever that of you befall one me-will-slay

Éertes, bele douce amie, j'en esteroie mout dolans. Mais

Certainly fair sweet friend I-thereof would-be very sorrowful But

se je puis, il ne vos tenront ja.

if I can they not you will-hold ever

Il monta sor son ceval et prent s'amie devant lui baisant

He mounted on his horse and takes his-friend before him kissing

et acolant, si se metent as plains cans.

and embracing and themselves put to-the open fields

Or se cante

XXVII • OUT OF THE WOOD TO THE SEA

Aucassin the fair, the blond, the noble, has come out of the deep wood with his love before him on the saddle-bow, kissing her eyes and her forehead, her mouth and her chin. She puts it to him: Aucassin, fair sweet friend, into what land shall we go? He answers: sweet love, what do I know? It does not matter where we go, forest or wilderness, so long as I am with you. They cross the valleys and the hills, the towns and the boroughs, and at daybreak they come to the sea and dismount on the sand beside the shore.

Aucassins li biax, li blons,

Aucassin the fair the blond

li g'entix, li amorous,

the noble the loving

est issus del gaut parfont,

is gone-out of-the wood deep

entre ses bras ses amors

between his arms his love

devant lui sor son arçon.

before him on his saddle-bow

Les ex li baise et le front

The eyes to-her he-kisses and the brow

et le bouce et le menton.

and the mouth and the chin

Ele l'a mis a raison.

She him-has put to speech

'Aucassins, biax amis dox,

Aucassin fair friend sweet

en quel tere en irons nous?'

into what land thence shall-go we

5

10

'Douce amie, que sai jou?

Sweet friend what know I

Moi ne caut u nous aillons,

To-me not matters where we go

en forest u en destor,

into forest or into wilderness

mais que je soie avec vous.'

provided that I be with you

15 Passent les vaus et les mons

They-pass the vales and the hills

et les viles et les bors.

and the towns and the boroughs

A la mer vinrent au jor,

To the sea they-came at-the day

si descendent u sablon

and dismount on-the sand

delés le rive.

beside the shore

Or diënt et content et fabloient

XXVIII · THE STORM, AND THE LAND OF TORELORE

Aucassin walks along the shore leading his horse by the rein and Nicolette by the hand, sees a ship passing close in, and gets the merchants to take them aboard. At sea a storm drives them from land to land until they reach the harbor of Torelore. Told it is the king's land and that he has a great war, Aucassin takes leave of the merchants and rides up to the castle, his sword girt and his love before him. There he hears the king is lying in childbed and the queen away in the host, and goes up to his chamber.

Aucassins fu descendus entre lui et s'amie, si con vous avés
Aucassin was dismounted both he and his-friend just as you have
oï et entendu. Il tint son ceval par le resne et s'amie par
heard and understood He held his horse by the rein and his-friend by
le main, si començant aler selonc [le rive. Et Aucassins vit
the hand and they-begin to-go along the shore And Aucassin saw
passer une nef s'i aperçut les marceans qui sigloient tot
pass a ship and-therein perceived the merchants who sailed all
pres de] le rive. Il les acena, et il vinrent a lui, si fist
near to the shore He them beckoned and they came to him and did
tant vers aus, qu'il les missent en lor nef. Et quant il
so-much toward them that-they them put in their ship And when they
furent en haute mer, une tormente leva grande et merveilleuse,
were in high sea a storm rose great and marvelous
qui les mena de tere en tere, tant qu'il ariverent en une
which them drove from land to land until that-they arrived in a
tere estragne et entrèrent el port du castel de Torelore.
land strange and entered into-the port of-the castle of Torelore
Puis demanderent, ques terre c'estoit, et on lor dist que
Then they-asked what land it-was and one to-them said that

é'estoît le tere le roi de Torelore. Puis demanda Aucassins,

it-was the land (of-)the king of Torelore Then asked Aucassin

quex hon é'estoît, ne s'il avoit guerre, et on li dist:

what man it-was and if-he had war and one to-him said

Oïl, grande.

Yes great

Il prent congîé as marceans, et cil le conmanderent a

He takes leave of-the merchants and they him commended to

diu. Il monte sor son ceval s'espee éainte, s'amie devant

God He mounts on bis horse bis-sword girded bis-friend before

lui, et erra tant qu'il vint el castel. Il demande u

him and rode until that-he came into-the castle He asks where

li rois estoit, et on li dist qu'il gíssoit d'enfant.

the king was and one to-him said that-he lay in-childbed

Et u est dont se fenme?

And where is then bis wife

Et on li dist qu'ele est en l'ost, et si i avoit mené

And one to-him said that-she is in the-host and and thither had led

tox éiax du païs. Et Aucassins l'oï, si li vint a grant

all those of-the country And Aucassin it-heard and to-him came as great

mervelle, et vint au palais et desçendi entre lui et s'amie.

wonder and came to-the palace and dismounted both he and bis-friend

Et ele tint son ceval, et il monta u palais l'espee éainte,

And she held bis horse and he went-up into-the palace the-sword girded

et erra tant qu'il vint en le canbre u li rois gíssoit.

and went until that-he came into the chamber where the king lay

Or se cante

XXIX · THE KING IN CHILDBED

Aucassin the courteous and noble comes into the chamber, up to the bed where the king is lying, stops before him, and speaks: say now, fool, what are you doing here? The king answers that he is lying in of a son, and that when his month is out and he is quite recovered he will go and bear mass as his ancestor did before him, and rouse up his great war against his enemies; and he will not give it up.

En le canbre entre Aucassins,

Into the chamber enters Aucassin

li cortois et li g'entis.

the courteous and the noble

Il est venus dusque au lit,

He is come as-far as-the bed

a lec u li rois se g'ist.

to there where the king himself lies

Par devant lui s'arestit

5

By before him himself-stopped

si parla, oés que dist.

and spoke bear what he-said

'Di va faus! Que fais tu ci?'

Say go fool What doest thou here

Dist li rois: 'Je g'is d'un fil.

Says the king I lie of-a son

Quant mes mois sera conplis,

When my month will-be completed

et je serai bien garis,

and I shall-be well healed

dont irai le messe oïr,

then I-shall-go the mass to-bear

10

si com mes anċestre ains tint,

just as my ancestor formerly held

et me grant guerre esbaudir

and my great war to-rouse

encontre mes anemis.

against my foes

15 Nel lairai mie!’

Not-it I-shall-leave at-all

Or diċent et content et fabloient

XXX • THE BATTLE OF APPLES AND CHEESES

Hearing the king talk so, Aucassin pulls all the bedclothes off him and throws them about the chamber; takes a stick and beats him almost to death. When the king asks whether he is out of his senses, Aucassin swears he will kill him unless he pledges that no man in his land shall ever lie in of a child again; and the pledge is given. Then he has the king lead him to the host where the queen is, and there they find the battle being fought with roasted crab-apples, eggs, and fresh cheeses.

Quant Aucassins oï ensi le roi parler, il prist tox les

When Aucassin heard thus the king speak he took all the

dras qui sor lui estoient si les houla aval le canbre. Il

clothes which on him were and them flung about the chamber He

vit deriere lui un baston. Il le prist si torne si fiert,

saw behind him a stick He it took and turns and strikes

si le bati tant que mort le dut avoir.

and him beat so-much that dead him was-near to-have

Ha biax sire! fait li rois. Que me demandés vos? Avés

Ab fair lord says the king What of-me ask you Have

vos le sens dervé, qui en me maison me batés?

you the wit maddened who in my house me beat

Par le cuer diu! fait Aucassins, malvais fix a putain, je
By the heart (of-)God says Aucassin base son of whore I
 vos oćirai, se vos ne m'afiés que ja mais hom en vo
you will-slay if you not to-me-pledge that ever more man in your
 tere d'enfant ne ǵerra.

land of-child not will-lie

Il li afie, et quant il li ot afié:

He to-him pledges and when he to-him had pledged

Sire, fait Aucassins, or me menés la u vostre fenme
Lord says Aucassin now me lead there where your wife
 est en l'ost.

is in the-host

Sire, volentiers, fait li rois.

Lord willingly says the king

Il monte sor un ceval, et Aucassins monte sor le sien,

He mounts on a horse and Aucassin mounts on the his-own

et Nicolete remest es canbres la roïne. Et li rois et

and Nicolette remained in-the chambers (of-)the queen And the king and

Aucassins cevaucierent tant qu'il vinrent la u la roïne

Aucassin rode until that-they came there where the queen

estoit, et troverent la bataille de puns de bos waumonnés

was and found the battle of apples of wood roasted

et d'ueus et de fres fromages. Et Aucassins les comença

and of-eggs and of fresh cheeses And Aucassin them began

a regarder se s'en esmervella mout durement.

to look-at and himself-thereat marveled very greatly

Or se cante

XXXI · WHOEVER MUDDIES THE FORD IS LORD

Aucassin has drawn rein and leans on his saddle-bow, watching this full-scale pitched battle. They have brought fresh cheeses in plenty, roasted crab-apples, and great field mushrooms; and whoever most muddies the fords is called the greatest lord of them all. Aucassin the brave and bold begins to look at them, and then begins to laugh.

Aucassins est arestés

Aucassin is halted

sor son arçon acoutés,

on his saddle-bow leaning

si coumenée a regarder

and begins to look-at

ce plenier estor canpel.

that full battle pitched

5 Il avoient aportés

They had brought

des fromages fres assés

of-the cheeses fresh plenty

et puns de bos waumonés

and apples of wood roasted

et grans canpegneus canpés.

and great mushrooms field

Cil qui mix torble les gués

He who most muddies the fords

10 est li plus sire clamés.

is the greatest lord called

Aucassins li prex, li ber,

Aucassin the worthy the brave

les coumenée a regarder

them begins to look-at

s'en prist a rire.

and-thereat began to laugh

Or diënt et content et flabent

XXXII · THE KING STOPS THE KILLING

Aucassin asks whether these are the king's enemies, and whether he would like to be avenged on them; the king says he would, gladly. He sets his hand to his sword, charges among them, and kills many, and the king catches his bridle and begs him not to kill them so, for it is not their custom to kill one another. The enemy flee, and the two ride back to Torelore, where the people tell the king to drive Aucassin out and keep Nicolette for his son, since she seems of high lineage. She hears them and is not glad.

Quant Aucassins vit cele merveille, si vint au roi si

When Aucassin saw that marvel and came to-the king and

l'apele.

him-calls

Sire, fait Aucassins, sont ce ci vostre anemi?

Lord says Aucassin are these here your foes

Oïl sire, fait li rois.

Yes lord says the king

Et vourriés vos que je vos en venjasse?

And would-wish you that I you thereof should-avenge

Oie, fait il, volentiers.

Yes says he willingly

Et Aucassins met le main a l'espee si se lance en mi

And Aucassin puts the hand to the-sword and himself hurls in midst

ax si comenée a ferir a destre et a senestre et s'en

them and begins to strike to right and to left and so-thereof

oçit mout. Et quant li rois vit qu'il les oçioit, il le
slays many And when the king saw that-be them was-slaying he him
 prent par le frain et dist:

takes by the bridle and says

Ha biax sire, ne les oçiés mie sifaitement!

Ab fair lord not them slay at-all in-such-wise

Coment? fait Aucassins. Enne volés vos que je vos venge?

How says Aucassin Not wish you that I you avenge

Sire, dist li rois, trop en avés vos fait. Il n'est mie

Lord says the king too-much thereof have you done It not-is at-all

costume que nos entroçons li uns l'autre.

custom that we each-other-slay the one the-other

Çil tornent en fuies. Et li rois et Aucassins s'en

Those turn in flight And the king and Aucassin themselves-thence

reparent au castel de Torelore. Et les gens del païs diënt au

return to-the castle of Torelore And the folk of-the country say to-the

roi qu'il cast Aucassin fors de sa tere et si detiegne Nicolete

king that-be drive Aucassin out of his land and so keep Nicolette

aveuc son fil; qu'ele sanbloit bien fenme de haut lignage. Et

with his son for-she seemed well woman of high lineage And

Nicolete l'oï si n'en fu mie lie si comença a dire.

Nicolette it-heard and not-thereof was at-all glad and began to say

Or se cante

XXXIII · NICOLETTE ANSWERS THE KING OF TORELORE

*Lord king of Torelore, says fair Nicolette, your people take me for a foolish thing.
When my sweet love holds me and finds me soft and rounded, then I am in such
a school that no dance, no round, no carol, no harp, no fiddle, no viol, and no
delight of the game would be worth anything to me at all.*

‘Sire rois de Torelore,’

Lord king of Torelore

ce dist la bele Nichole,

that says the fair Nicolette

‘vostre gens me tient por fole!

your folk me holds for foolish

Quant mes dox amis m’acole

When my sweet friend me-embraces

et il me sent grasse et mole,

and he me feels plump and soft

dont sui jou a cele escole,

then am I at that school

baus ne tresce ne carole,

dance nor round nor carol

harpe, gïgle ne viole

harp fiddle nor viol

ne deduis de la nimpole

nor pleasure of the game

n’i vauroit mie.’

not-there would-be-worth at-all

5

10

Or diënt et content et flaboient

XXXIV · THE SARACENS, AND THE RETURN TO BEAUCAIRE

Aucassin lives at Torelore in ease and delight, having Nicolette with him; and while he is so at his ease a fleet of Saracens storms the castle and takes it. They bind him hand and foot and throw him into one ship and Nicolette into another, and a storm parts them. His ship drifts until it comes ashore at Beaucaire, where the country people run to the wreck and know him. He had been three years at Torelore, and his father and mother are dead; they make him their lord, and he holds his land in peace.

Aucassins fu el castel de Torelore a grant aise et a
Aucassin was in-the castle of Torelore in great ease and in
grant dedit, car il avoit avec lui Nicolette, sa douce amie
great delight for he had with him Nicolette his sweet friend
que tant amoit. En éo qu'il estoit en tel aise et en tel
whom so-much he-loved In that that-he was in such ease and in such
dedit, et uns estores de Sarrasins vinrent par mer s'asalirent
delight and a fleet of Saracens came by sea and-assailed
au castel si le prissent par force. Il prissent l'avoir
at-the castle and it took by force They took the-goods
s'en menerent caitis et kaitives. Il prissent Nicolette et
and-thence led captives and captive-women They took Nicolette and
Aucassin et si loierent Aucassin les mains et les piés et si
Aucassin and so bound Aucassin the hands and the feet and so
le jeterent en une nef et Nicolette en une autre. Si leva une
him threw into a ship and Nicolette into an other Then rose a
tormente par mer, qui les espartist. Li nes u Aucassins
storm by sea which them scattered The ship where Aucassin
estoit ala tant par mer waucrant, qu'ele ariva au castel
was went so-much by sea drifting that-it arrived at-the castle
de Biaucaire, et les gens du païs coururent au lagan si
of Beaucaire and the folk of-the country ran to-the wreckage and

troverent Aucassin si le reconurent. Quant cil de Biaucaire
found Aucassin and him recognized When those of Beaucaire
 virent lor damoisei, s'en fissent grant joie, car Aucassins
saw their young-lord and-thereat made great joy for Aucassin
 avoit bien mes u castel de Torelore trois ans, et ses peres
had fully stayed in-the castle of Torelore three years and his father
 et se mere estoient mort. Il le menerent u castel de
and his mother were dead They him led into-the castle of
 Biaucaire si devinrent tot si home, si tint se tere en pais.
Beaucaire and became all his men and held his land in peace

Or se cante

XXXV · LORD OF BEAUCAIRE, AND STILL SEEKING

*Aucassin has gone to Beaucaire, his own city, and holds the country and the realm
 in quiet. He swears by God of majesty that it grieves him far more for bright-faced
 Nicolette than it would for the whole of his kindred, were they all at their end.
 He cries: sweet love with the bright face, now I do not know where to seek you.
 God never made the realm, by land or by sea, where I would not go and look
 for you, if I thought to find you there.*

Aucassins s'en est alés

Aucassin himself-thence is gone

a Biaucaire sa cité.

to Beaucaire his city

Le païs et le regné

The country and the realm

tint trestout en quiteé.

he-held wholly in quiet

5 Jure diu de maïsté

He-swears God of majesty

qu'il li poise plus assés

that-it to-him grieves more far

de Nicholete au vis cler

for Nicolette with-the face bright

que de tot sen parenté,

than for all his kindred

s'il estoit a fin alés.

if-it were to end gone

10 'Douce amie o le vis cler,

Sweet friend with the face bright

or ne vous sai u quester.

now not you I-know where to-seek

Ainc dix ne fist ce regné,

Ever God not made this realm

ne par terre ne par mer,

neither by land nor by sea

se t'i quidoie trover,

if thee-there I-thought to-find

15 ne t'i quesísçe.'

not thee-there I-would-seek

Or diënt et content et fabloient

XXXVI · NICOLETTE KNOWS THE WALLS OF CARTHAGE

Now we leave Aucassin and speak of Nicolette. The ship she is in belongs to the king of Carthage, who is her father, and she has twelve brothers, all princes or kings. Seeing her so fair, they do her great honor and ask repeatedly who she is; but she cannot tell them, having been carried off as a small child. They sail until they come in below Carthage, and seeing the walls she knows the place, for she was reared there and knows she is the king's daughter.

Or lairons d'Aucassin si dirons de Nicolette. La nes u
Now we-shall-leave of-Aucassin and shall-tell of Nicolette The ship where
Nicolette estoit estoit le roi de Cartage, et cil estoit ses
Nicolette was was (of-)the king of Carthage and that-one was her
peres, et ele avoit dose freres, tox princes u rois. Quant il
father and she had twelve brothers all princes or kings When they
virent Nicolette si bele, se li porterent mout grant honor et
saw Nicolette so fair and to-her bore very great honor and
fisent feste de li et mout li demanderent, qui ele estoit; car
made feast of her and much of-her asked who she was for
mout sanbloit bien gentix fenme et de haut paraçe Mais ele ne
much she-seemed well noble woman and of high lineage But she not
lor sot a dire, qui ele estoit; car ele fu preee petis enfes.
to-them knew to tell who she was for she was carried-off little child
Il nagierent tant qu'il ariverent desox le cite de Cartage.
They sailed until that-they arrived below the city of Carthage
Et quant Nicolette vit les murs del castel et le pais, ele se
And when Nicolette saw the walls of-the castle and the country she herself
reconut; qu'ele i avoit este norie et preee petis enfes. Mais
recognized that-she there had been reared and carried-off little child But

ele ne fu mie si petis enfes, que ne seüst bien qu'ele avoit esté
she not was at-all so little child that not (she)-knew well that-she had been
 fille au roi de Cartage, et qu'ele avoit esté norie en le cité.
daughter to-the king of Carthage and that-she had been reared in the city

Or se cante

XXXVII · ASHORE AT CARTHAGE

*Nicolette the brave and wise has come ashore, sees the walls and the dwellings
 and the palaces and the halls, and calls herself wretched: alas that I was of high
 lineage, daughter of the king of Carthage and cousin of the emir; wild folk bring
 me here. Aucassin, noble and wise, honored young lord, your sweet love drives me
 and summons me and torments me. God grant that I may yet hold you in my
 arms, and that you kiss my face and my mouth, my young lord.*

Nichole li preus, li sage,

Nicolette the worthy the wise

est arivee a rivage,

is arrived at shore

voit les murs et les astages

sees the walls and the dwellings

et les palais et les sales;

and the palaces and the halls

5 dont si s'est clamee lasse.

then so herself-has called wretched

'Tant mar fui de haut parage

So ill-starred was-I of high lineage

ne fille au roi de Cartage

nor daughter to-the king of Carthage

ne cousine l'amuafle!

nor cousin (of-)the-emir

Çi me mainnent gens sauvâges.

Here me lead folk savage

Aucassins, gentix et sâges,

Aucassin noble and wise

frans damoisiax honorables,

noble young-lord honorable

vos douâces amors me hastent

your sweet loves me press

et semonent et travaillent.

and summon and torment

Çe doinst dix l'esperitables

This grant God the-spiritual

c'oncor vous tiengne en me braçe,

that-yet you I-bold in my arm

et que vos baissiés me face

and that you kiss my face

et me bouce et mon visâge,

and my mouth and my countenance

damoisiax sire!

young-lord sir

10

15

Or diënt et content et fabloient

XXXVIII · THE VIOL, AND THE MINSTREL'S DISGUISE

The king of Carthage embraces her and asks who she is; she says she is his daughter, carried off fifteen years ago. They know she speaks the truth and keep her in the palace with the honor of a king's daughter. After three or four years they would marry her to a pagan king, but she has no wish for it and casts about for a way to seek Aucassin. She learns the viol, slips away by night, stains her head and face black with a herb, has minstrel's clothes made, takes ship to Provence, and fiddles her way to Beaucaire.

Quant li rois de Cartage oï Nicolete ensi parler, il li

When the king of Carthage heard Nicolette thus speak he to-her
gëta ses bras au col.

cast his arms around-the neck

Bele douce amie, fait il, dites moi qui vos estes. Ne vos

Fair sweet friend says he tell to-me who you are Not yourself
esmaiiés mie de mi.

dismay at-all of me

Sire, fait ele, je sui fille au roi de Cartage et fui

Lord says she I am daughter to-the king of Carthage and was

prece petis enfes, bien a quinse ans.

carried-off little child fully (it)-is fifteen years

Quant il l'oïrent ensi parler, si seurent bien qu'ele disoit

When they her-heard thus speak and knew well that-she said

voir si fissent de li mout grant feste si le menerent u

truth and made of her very great feast and her led into-the

palais a grant honeur si come fille de roi. La fu

palace with great honor just as daughter of king There she-was

bien trois ans u quatre, tant c'on le vaut mariër un jor a

fully three years or four until that-one her wished to-marry one day to

un roi rice paiien, mais ele n'avoit cure de mariër. Ele se

a king rich pagan but she not-had care of marrying She herself

porpensa, par quel engien ele porroit Aucassin querre. Ele
bethought by what device she could Aucassin seek She
 quist une vièle s'aprist a vièler. Et ele s'enbla la nuit
sought a viol and-learned to play-the-viol And she herself-stole the night
 si vint au port de mer si se herbega ciés une povre
and came to-the port of sea and herself lodged with a poor
 fenme sor le rivage. Si prist une herbe si en oinst
woman on the shore Then took a herb and therewith anointed
 son cief et son visage, si qu'ele fu tote noire et tainte.
her head and her face so that-she was all black and stained
 Et ele fist faire cote et mantel et cemissee et braies si
And she had made coat and mantle and shift and breeches and
 s'atorna a guise de jogleor, si prist se vièle si vint a un
herself-arrayed in fashion of minstrel and took her viol and came to a
 marounier se fist tant vers lui, qu'il le mist en se nef.
mariner and did so-much toward him that-he her put in his ship
 Il dreçierent lor voile si nagierent tant par haute mer,
They raised their sail and sailed so-much on high sea
 qu'il ariverent en le terre de Provençe. Et Nicolette issi
that-they arrived in the land of Provence And Nicolette went
 fors si prist se vièle si ala vièlant par le país, tant
out and took her viol and went playing-the-viol through the country until
 qu'ele vint au castel de Biaucaire la u Aucassins estoit.
that-she came to-the castle of Beaucaire there where Aucassin was

Or se cante

XXXIX · THE SONG SUNG UNDER THE TOWER

Aucassin sits one day on a stone below the tower at Beaucaire, his barons about him. He sees the grass and flowers, hears the birds, and the thought of his love brings him to sighing and weeping. Nicolette is there at the stone with viol and bow: hear, noble barons, a song of Aucassin and Nicolette. He sought her in the deep wood; pagans took them at Torelore. Of Aucassin nothing is known, but Nicolette is in the keep at Carthage, and though they would give her a pagan king she will take none but her own.

A Biaucaire sous la tor

At Beaucaire beneath the tower

estoit Aucassins un jor.

was Aucassin one day

La se sist sor un perron,

There himself sat on a stone-block

entor lui si franc baron.

about him his noble barons

5 Voit les herbes et les flors

He-sees the grasses and the flowers

s'oit canter les oisellons,

and-bears sing the little-birds

menbre li de ses amors,

comes-to-mind to-him of his loves

de Nicholete le prox

of Nicolette the worthy

qu'il ot amee tans jors;

whom-he had loved so-many days

10 dont jete souspirs et plors.

then he-casts sighs and tears

Es vous Nichole au peron,

Behold you Nicolette at-the stone-block

trait viële, trait arçon.

she-draws viol draws bow

Or parla, dist sa raison.

Now she-spoke said her tale

‘Escoutés moi, franc baron,

Hear me noble barons

cil d’aval et cil d’amont!

those from-below and those from-above

Plairoit vos oïr un son

Would-it-please you to-hear a song

d’Aucassin un franc baron,

of-Aucassin a noble baron

de Nicholete la prous?

of Nicolette the worthy

Tant durerent lor amors,

So-long lasted their loves

qu’il le quist u gaut parfont.

that-he her sought in-the wood deep

A Torelore u dongon

At Torelore in-the keep

les prissent paiien un jor.

them took pagans one day

D’Aucassin rien ne savons,

of-Aucassin anything not we-know

mais Nicolete la prous

but Nicolette the worthy

est a Cartage el donjon.

is at Carthage in-the keep

15

20

25

Car ses pere l'ainme mout,

For her father her-loves much

qui sire est de cel roion.

who lord is of that realm

Doner li volent baron

To-give to-her they-wish husband

un roi de paiens felon.

a king of pagans felon

30 Nicolete n'en a soing,

Nicolette not-thereof has care

car ele aime un dansellon

for she loves a young-lord

qui Aucassins avoit non;

who Aucassin had name

bien jure diu et son non,

well she-swears God and his name

ja ne prendera baron,

ever not will-take husband

35 s'ele n'a son ameor

if-she not-has her lover

que tant desire.'

whom so-much she-desires

Or diënt et content et fabloient

XL · SHE PROMISES TO FETCH NICOLETTE

Aucassin draws the minstrel aside and asks what she knows of Nicolette. She tells it as of another: the girl is the king of Carthage's daughter, taken when Aucassin was taken, and though they would give her one of the highest kings of Spain, she would sooner be hanged or burned. He offers all the wealth she dares ask to bring her, swears he will wed no other, and gives her twenty pounds. She lodges with the viscountess, anoints herself with celandine until she is fair as ever, and sends the lady for Aucassin.

Quant Aucassins oï ensi parler Nicolete, il fu mout liés

When Aucassin heard thus speak Nicolette he was very glad

si le traist d'une part se li demanda.

and her drew to-one side and of-her asked

Biax dous amis, fait Aucassins, savés vos niënt de cele

Fair sweet friend says Aucassin know you anything of that

Nicolete, dont vos avés ci canté?

Nicolette of-whom you have here sung

Sire, oie, j'en sai con de le plus france creature et de

Lord yes I-thereof know as of the most noble creature and of

le plus gentil et de le plus sage qui onques fust nee,

the most gentle and of the most wise who ever was born

si est fille au roi de Cartage, qui le prist la u

and is daughter to-the king of Carthage who her took there where

Aucassins fu pris si le mena en le cité de Cartage, tant

Aucassin was taken and her led into the city of Carthage until

qu'il seut bien que c'estoit se fille, si en fist mout

that-he knew well that it-was his daughter and thereof made very

grant feste. Si li veut on doner cascun jor baron un des

great feast So to-her wishes one to-give each day husband one of-the

plus haus rois de tote Espaigne. Mais ele se lairoit ançois

most high kings of all Spain But she herself would-let sooner

pendre u ardoir, qu'ele en presist nul, tant fust rices.

hang or burn than-she thereof should-take any however he-were rich

Ha biax dox amis, fait li quens Aucassins, se vous voliiés

Ab fair sweet friend says the count Aucassin if you would-wish

raler en cele terre se li dississciés qu'ele venist a mi

go-back into that land and to-her you-would-say that-she should-come to me

parler, je vos donroie de mon avoir tant con vos en

to-speak I to-you would-give of my wealth as-much as you thereof

oseriés demander ne prendre. Et saciés que por l'amor

would-dare to-ask or to-take And know that for the-love

de li ne voil je prendre fenme, tant soit de haut parage,

of her not wish I to-take wife however she-be of high lineage

ains l'atenç, ne ja n'arai fenme se li non. Et se

but her-await nor ever not-shall-have wife except her not And if

je le seüsçe u trover, je ne l'eüsçe ore mie a querre.

I her knew where to-find I not her-should-have now at-all to seek

Sire, fait ele, se vos cou faissiés, je l'iroie querre por

Lord says she if you that did I her-would-go seek for

vos et por li que je mout aim.

you and for her whom I much love

Il li afie et puis se li fait doner vint livres. Ele

He to-her pledges and then so to-her has given twenty pounds She

se part de lui, et il pleure por le doucor de Nicolete.

herself parts from him and he weeps for the sweetness of Nicolette

Et quant ele le voit plorer:

And when she him sees weep

Sire, fait ele, ne vos esmaiiés pas; que dusqu'a pou le

Lord says she not yourself dismay at-all for within little her

vos arai en ceste vile amenee, se que vos le verrés.

to-you I-shall-have into this town brought so that you her will-see

Et quant Aucassins l'oï, si en fu mout liés. Et ele se
And when Aucassin it-heard and thereof was very glad And she herself
 part de lui si traist en le vile a le maison le viscontesse;
parts from him and drew into the town to the house (of-)the viscountess
 car li visquens ses parrins estoit mors. Ele se herbega la
for the viscount her godfather was dead She herself lodged there
 si parla a li, tant qu'ele li géhi son affaire, et que le
and spoke to her until that-she to-her confessed her business and that the
 viscontesse le recounut et seut bien que c'estoit Nicolete, et
viscountess her recognized and knew well that it-was Nicolette and
 qu'ele l'avoit norrie, si le fist laver et baignier et sejourner
that-she her-had reared and her had washed and bathed and rest
 wit jors tous plains, si prist une herbe qui avoit non esclaire
eight days all full and took a herb which had name celandine
 si s'en oinst, si fu ausi bele, qu'ele avoit onques esté
and herself-there-with anointed and was as fair as-she had ever been
 a nul jor. Se se vesti de rices dras de soie, dont la dame
at any day Then herself clothed in rich cloths of silk of-which the lady
 avoit assés, si s'assist en le canbre sor une cueute pointe de
had plenty and herself-sat in the chamber on a quilt stitched of
 drap de soie si apela la dame et li dist qu'ele alast por
cloth of silk and called the lady and to-her said that-she should-go for
 Aucassin son ami. Et ele si fist. Et quant ele vint u palais,
Aucassin her friend And she so did And when she came into-the palace
 si trova Aucassin qui ploroit et regretoit Nicolete s'amie, por
and found Aucassin who wept and lamented Nicolette his-friend for
 cou qu'ele demouroit tant. Et la dame l'apela si li dist:
that that-she delayed so-long And the lady him-called and to-him said
 Aucassins, or ne vos dementés plus, mais venés ent
Aucassin now not yourself lament more but come away
 aveuques mi, et je vos mosterei la riens el mont, que
with me and I to-you will-show the thing in-the world that

vos amés plus. Car c'est Nicolete vo douce amie qui de
you love most For it-is Nicolette your sweet friend who from
 longues terres vos est venue querre.

far lands you is come seek

Et Aucassins fu liés.

And Aucassin was glad

Or se cante

XLI · THE WEDDING, AND THE END OF THE SONG

When Aucassin hears that his bright-faced love has come into the country he is glad as he never was before. He goes with the lady to the house, and they come into the chamber where Nicolette is sitting. Seeing her lover she springs to her feet, and Aucassin holds out both arms, takes her sweetly, and kisses her eyes and her face. In the morning he marries her and makes her lady of Beaucaire. They live long and have their delight; our chantefable ends, and I know no more to tell.

Quant or entent Aucassins

When now hears Aucassin

de s'amie o le cler vis

of his-friend with the bright face

qu'ele est venue el païs,

that-she is come into-the country

or fu liés, ainc ne fu si.

now he-was glad ever not was so

5 Aveuc la dame s'est mis,

With the lady himself-has put

dusqu'a l'ostel ne prist fin.

until-to the-lodging not took end

En le cambre se sont mis,

Into the chamber themselves are put

la u Nicholette sist.

there where Nicolette sat

Quant ele voit son ami,

When she sees her friend

or fu lie, ainc ne fu si.

now she-was glad ever not was so

Contre lui en piés sali.

Toward him on feet sprang

Quant or le voit Aucassins,

When now her sees Aucassin

andex ses bras li tendi,

both his arms to-her stretched

doucement le recoulli,

sweetly her received

les eus li baisse et le vis.

the eyes to-her he-kisses and the face

La nuit le laissent ensi,

The night it they-leave thus

tresqu'au demain par matin,

until-the morrow at morning

que l'espousa Aucassins:

when her-wedded Aucassin

dame de Biaucaire en fist.

lady of Beaucaire thereof made

Puis vesquirent il mains dis

Then lived they many days

et menerent lor delis.

and led their delights

10

15

20

Or a sa joie Aucasins

Now has his joy Aucassin

et Nicholette autresi.

and Nicolette likewise

No cantefable prent fin,

Our song-tale takes end

25 n'en sai plus dire.

not-thereof I-know more to-say

ANONYMOUS

Floire et Blanceflor

Floire and Blancheflor

The Poet Overhears Two Sisters

I

The poet calls lovers to listen, knights and maidens alike. His tale is of Floire and Blancheflor, whose daughter Berte of the great feet was Charlemagne's mother. A pagan king begot Floire, a Christian count Blancheflor; they were conceived in one night and born on one day, and Floire was baptized for her sake and later ruled Hungary and Bulgaria. One Friday after dinner the poet sat in a chamber and overheard two sisters, the elder telling of a love two hundred years old that she had found in a clerk's book.

Oyez, signor, tout li amant,

Hear lords all the lovers

cil qui d'amors se vont penant,

those who of-love themselves go toiling

li chevalier et les puceles,

the knights and the maidens

li damoiseil, les damoiseles:

the young-lords the damsels

se mon conte volez entendre,

if my tale you-wish to-bear

moult i porrez d'amors aprendre.

much therein you-will-be-able of-love to-learn

Cou est du roi Floire l'enfant

This is of-the king Floire the-child

et de Blanceflor la vaillant,

and of Blancheflor the worthy

de qui Berte as-grans-piés fu née;

of whom Berte of-the-great-feet was born

puis fu en France coronnée.

then was in France crowned

5

10

Berte fu mere Charlemaine,

Berte was mother (of-)Charlemagne

qui puis tint et France et le Maine;

who then held both France and the Maine

Floire, son pere, que vous di,

Floire his father of-whom to-you I-tell

uns rois payens l'engenuï;

a king pagan him-begot

15 et Blanceflor, que tant ama,

and Blanceflor whom so-much he-loved

uns cuens crestiens l'engendra:

a count Christian her-begot

Floire fut tout nés de payens,

Floire was wholly born of pagans

et Blanceflor de crestiens.

and Blanceflor of Christians

Baptisier se fist en sa vie

Baptized himself had in his life

20 Floire, por Blanceflor s'amie:

Floire for Blanceflor his-friend

car en un biau jor furent né

for on one fair day they-were born

et en une nuit engendré.

and in one night begotten

Puisque Floire fu crestiens,

Since Floire was Christian

li avint grans honors et biens:

to-him befell great honors and goods

car puis fu rois de Hongerie

25

for then he-was king of Hungary

et de la terre de Bougrie.

and of the land of Bulgaria

Uns siens oncles fu mors sans oirs,

An his-own uncle was dead without heirs

qui de Hongerie estoit rois:

who of Hungary was king

Floires ert fuis de sa seror;

Floire was son of his sister

por cou fu sires de l'honor.

30

for that he-was lord of the-fief

Or sivrai mon proposement:

Now I-shall-follow my purpose

si parlerai avenanment.

and I-shall-speak fittingly

En une chambre entrai l'autr'ier,

Into a chamber I-entered the-other-day

un venredi apres mangier,

one Friday after eating

por deporter as damoiseles,

35

to disport with-the damsels

dont en la chambre avoit de beles.

of-whom in the chamber there-were some fair-ones

En cele chambre un lit avoit

In that chamber a bed there-was

qui d'un paile couvert estoit,

which with-a silk covered was

indes et rouz, broudés par tors;

indigo and red embroidered in twists

40 onques plus riches n'ot estors.
ever more rich not-had trimmings

Moult par-ert boins et chiers li pailles:
Very much-was good and costly the silk

ains ne vint miudres de Tessaile.
ever not came better from Thessaly

Illoec m'assis por escouter
There myself-I-sat to listen

deus puceles qu'oi parler:
two maidens whom-I-heard speak

45 eles estoient doi serors;
they were two sisters

ensamble parloient d'amors.
together they-spoke of-love

L'aisnée d'une amor contoït
The-elder of-a love told

a sa seror que moult amoït,
to her sister whom much she-loved

qui fu ja entre deus enfans,
which was once between two children

50 bien avoit passé deus cens ans;
well had passed two hundred years

mais a un clerc dire l'oit
but from a clerk say it-beard

qui l'avoit léu en escrit.
who it-had read in writing

El commenca avenanment:
She began fittingly

or oyez son commencement.
now hear her beginning

The King of Spain's Raid

II

Felis, a pagan king, crosses from Spain into Galicia and for six weeks burns the towns and drives off the cattle, then sets forty knights in the hills to waylay pilgrims. They kill a French knight bound for Saint James and bring his daughter, a pregnant widow, to the king, who sees by her face that she is nobly born. Home again, he gives her to the queen, who lets her keep her faith. One day the girl turns pale over her work, and the queen, questioning her, finds they are with child from the same day.

Uns rois estoit issus d'Espagne;

55

A king was gone-out from-Spain

de chevaliers ot grant compaignie:

of knights he-had great company

en sa nef ot la mer passée;

in his ship he-had the sea crossed

en Galisse fu arivée.

in Galicia was arrived

Felis ot non; si fu payens:

Felis had name and was pagan

mer ot passé sor crestiens,

60

sea had crossed against Christians

por ou païs la praie prendre,

to in-the country the prey take

et les viles torner en cendre.

and the towns turn to ashes

Un mois entier et quinze dis

A month entire and fifteen days

sejorna li rois ou païs.

sojourned the king in-the country

- 65 Ains ne fu jors qu'o sa maisniée
Ever not was day that-with his household
 ne féist li rois chevaucée;
not made the king raid
 viles reuboit, avoires prait
towns he-robbed wealth he-plundered
 et a ses nes tout conduisoit:
and to his ships all he-conveyed
 de quinze liues el rivache,
for fifteen leagues on-the shore
- 70 ne remanoit ne bués ne vache,
not remained neither ox nor cow
 ne castel ne vile en estant;
nor castle nor town in standing
 vilains n'i va son boef querant.
peasant not-there goes his ox seeking
 Es-vos le païs tout destruit;
Behold-you the country all destroyed
 payen en ont joie et deduit.
pagans thereof have joy and delight
- 75 Dont s'en veut li rois repairier:
Then himself-thence wishes the king to-return
 ses nes commanda a chargier,
his ships he-commanded to load
 puis apela de ses fouriers
then called of his foragers
 dusqu'a quarante chevaliers:
up-to forty knights
 «Esrancement», fait il, «vous armez;
Straightway says he yourselves arm

cil autre chargeront assez.

those others will-load enough

Alez, lassus en ces chemins,

Go up-there into those roads

gaitier por reuber pelerins.»

to-watch to rob pilgrims

Dont s'en vont cil en la montaigne;

Then themselves-thence go those into the mountain

gardent aval parmi la plaigne;

they-look downward through the plain

pelerins voient qui montoient

pilgrims they-see who climbed

la montaigne que il gaitoient.

the mountain which they watched

Il lor vont seure, s'es assalent,

They on-them go upon and-them assail

et li pelerin se defalent

and the pilgrims themselves fail

de combatre; tout li pluisor

of fighting all the greater-part

lor avoir rendent par paor.

their wealth yield through fear

En la compaigne ot un Francois:

In the company was a Frenchman

chevaliers ert, preu et cortois,

knight he-was valiant and courteous

qui au baron saint Jaque aloit.

who to-the baron saint James went

Une soie fille i menoit,

A bis-own daughter thither he-led

80

85

90

- 95 qui a l'Apostle s'ert vouée
who to the-Apostle herself-had vowed
 ains qu'ele issist de sa contrée,
before that-she went-out of her country
 por son mari qui mors estoit,
for her husband who dead was
 de qui remese encainte estoit.
by whom left pregnant she-was
 Li chevaliers se veut deffendre;
The knight himself wishes to-defend
- 100 ne chaut a aus de lui vif prendre,
not matters to them of him alive to-take
 ains l'ocient; s'el laissent mort,
but him-slay and-him leave dead
 et sa fille mainent au port.
and his daughter they-lead to-the port
 Au roi Felis l'ont présentée,
To-the king Felis her-have presented
 et il l'a forment esgardée:
and he her-has intently gazed-at
- 105 bien aperçoit a son visage
well he-perceives by her face
 que ele estoit de haut parage,
that she was of high lineage
 et dist, s'il puet, qu'a la roïne
and says if-he can that-to the queen
 fera present de la meschine:
he-will-make present of the maiden
 car de tel chose li préa,
for of such thing to-her he-prayed

quant il por reuber mer passa.

110

when he to rob sea crossed

Atant s'en-entrent tout es nes,

Thereupon themselves-enter all in-the ships

amont traient tres-tout lor tres:

upward they-draw quite-all their sails

or ont boin vent et bien portant;

now they-have good wind and well bearing

si repairent lié et joiant.

and return glad and joyful

Il n'orent pas deus jors erré,

115

They not-had at-all two days journeyed

qu'en lor païs sont arivé.

when-in their country they-are arrived

Atant s'en issit el rivage

Thereupon himself-thence went-out on-the shore

li rois o tres-tout son barnage.

the king with quite-all his baronage

A Naples, a la cite bele,

To Naples to the city fair

est de lui venue novele

120

is of him come news

qu'arivé sont lié et joiant:

that-arrived they-are glad and joyful

ce dient cil qui vont devant.

that say those who go before

Cil de la vile encontre vont;

Those of the town to-meet go

a l'encontrer grant joie font:

at the-meeting great joy they-make

125 tout se font lié de lor amis

all themselves make glad of their friends

qu'arivé sont en lor païs.

that-arrived they-are in their country

Es-vos le roi en la cité;

Behold-you the king in the city

son barnage a tres-tout mandé:

his baronage has quite-all summoned

son eschec lor depart li rois,

his booty to-them divides the king

130 bien largement, comme cortois,

well liberally as courteous

et, por sa part, a la roïne

and for his share to the queen

done de gaing la meschine.

he-gives of gain the maiden

La roïne s'en fait moult liée;

The queen herself-thereat makes very glad

en sa chambre l'a envoyée.

into her chamber her-has sent

135 Sa loi li laisse bien garder;

Her law to-her she-lets well keep

servir la fait et honorer:

served her she-has and honored

o li sovent jue et parole,

with her often she-plays and speaks

et francois aprent de s'escole.

and French learns of her-schooling

La meschine ert cortoise et prous;

The maiden was courteous and worthy

moult se faisoit amer a tous:

much herself made loved by all

la roïne moult bien servoit,

the queen very well she-served

comme cele cui ele estoit.

as the-one whose she was

Un jour avint que la meschine

One day befell that the maiden

ouvroit es chambres la roïne

worked in-the chambers (of-)the queen

un confanon qui iert le roi,

a gonfalon which was (of-)the king

ou el paignoit et lui et soi:

where she painted both him and herself

la roïne la vit palir,

the queen her saw pale

coulor muër et tressalir,

color change and shudder

et a ses flans sovent toucher

and at her flanks often touch

et sospirer, sovent vouchier:

and sigh often groan

dont sot bien quel mal ele avoit;

then she-knew well what ill she had

certainnement que griés estoit.

certainly that heavy [with-child] she-was

Ele demande combien a

She asks how-long is

qu'ele recut cou dont mal a:

that-she received that whereof ill she-has

140

145

150

- 155 cele li a le terme dit.
she to-her has the term told
 La roïne quant cou oï,
The queen when that heard
 dist de cel terme estoit enprains,
said of that term she-was pregnant
 et a cel jor et noient ains:
and on that day and not-at-all before
 dont sorent bien, sans deviner,
then they-knew well without guessing
 160 le terme de lor enfanter.
the term of their childbearing

The Children Born on One Day

III

On Palm Sunday the pagan queen bears a boy and the Christian captive a girl, both named from the feast, Floire and Blanche-flor. The captive rears them both alike, and only the suckling is kept apart. At five the king puts Floire to letters under the master Gaidon, but the boy will not learn unless Blanche-flor learns with him. They read pagan books of love, eat each morning in the garden among singing birds, and write love letters on ivory tablets. In five years they speak a Latin no one around them understands.

Le jor de la Pasque-florie,
The day of the Palm-Sunday
 si com le raconte lor vie,
just as it is-recounted (by-)their life

vint li terme qu'eles devoient

came the term that-they were-to

enfanter cou que pris avoient.

bear that which conceived they-had

Travail orent et paine grant

Travail they-had and pain great

ains que né fussent li enfant:

before that born were the children

valles fu nés de la payene,

boy was born of the pagan-woman

et meschine ot la crestiene.

and girl had the Christian-woman

Li doi enfant, quant furent né,

The two children when were born

de la feste furent nomé:

of the feast were named

la crestiene, por l'honor

the Christian-girl for the-honor

de la feste, ot nom Blanceflor;

of the feast had name Blanceflor

li rois noma son chier fil Floire;

the king named his dear son Floire

aprendre le fist a Montoire.

to-learn him he-had at Montoire

Li pere ama moult son enfant;

The father loved much his child

la mere plus ou autretant.

the mother more or as-much

Livré l'ont a la damoisele,

Delivered him-have to the damsel

165

170

175

por cou qu'ele estoit sage et bele,

for that that-she was wise and fair

a norrir et a maistroier,

to nurse and to govern

180 fors seulement de l'alaitier:

save only of the-suckling

une payene l'alaitoit,

a pagan-woman him-suckled

si com lor lois le commandoit.

just as their law it commanded

Moult le norrissoit doucement

Much him she-nurtured sweetly

et gardoit ententivement

and guarded attentively

185 plus que sa fille, et ne savoit

more than her daughter and not knew

lequel des deus plus chier avoit:

which of-the two more dear she-had

onques ne lor sevrà mangier

ever not to-them separated eating

ne boire, fors seul l'alaitier:

nor drinking save only the-suckling

en un lit tout seul les couchoit;

in one bed all alone them she-laid

190 andeus paissoit et abevroit.

both she-fed and gave-drink

Quant cinq ans orent li enfant,

When five years had the children

moult furent bel et gent et grant:

very they-were fair and comely and tall

de lor aé en nule terre

of their age in any land

plus biaux enfans n'estéust querre.

more fair children not-would-be-needful to-see

Quant li rois vit son fil si bel

When the king saw his son so fair

de son éage damoisei,

of his age young-lord

et s'apercut qu'il pot entendre

and himself-perceived that-he could attend

a lettre, le veut faire aprendre.

to letters him wishes to-have learn

Gaidon l'a commandé, un mestre;

to-Gaidon him-has entrusted a master

mieudres de lui ne pooit estre;

better than him not could be

ses parens ert, de sa maison,

his kinsman he-was of his house

fondés des ars; ainsi ot nom.

founded in-the arts thus had name

Li rois commande son enfant

The king commands his child

qu'il apregne, et cil en plourant

that-he learn and he in weeping

li respont: «Sire, que fera

to-him answers Lord what will-do

Blanceflor? Et dont n'apprendra?

Blanceflor And then not-will-learn

Sans li ne puis jou pas aprendre;

Without her not can I at-all learn

195

200

205

jou ne saroie lechon rendre.»

I not would-know lesson to-render

Li rois respont: «Por vostre amor,

The king answers For your love

210 commant aussi a Blanceflor

I-command also to Blanche-flor

que ele aut o toi a l'escole.»

that she go with thee to the-school

Cil fu moult liés de la parole:

He was very glad of the word

ensamble vont, ensemblent viennent

together they-go together they-come

et la joie d'amor maintiennent.

and the joy of-love they-maintain

215 Chascuns d'aus deus tant aprenoit

Each of-them two so-much learned

por l'autre, que merveille estoit.

for the-other that marvel it-was

Li doi enfant moult s'entr'amoient

The two children much each-other-loved

et de biaute s'entresambloient:

and in beauty each-other-resembled

nus d'aus deus chose ne savoit

any of-them two thing not knew

220 que lués a l'autre ne disoit.

that at-once to the-other not told

Au plus tost que souffri nature

At-the most soon that allowed nature

ont en amer mise lor cure:

have in to-love put their care

en aprendre avoient boin sens,

in learning they-had good sense

du retenir millor porpens.

of-the retaining better thought

Livres lisoient paienors,

Books they-read pagan

ou ooient parler d'amors;

where they-heard speak of-love

en cou forment se delitoient,

in that greatly themselves delighted

es euvres d'amor qu'il trovoient.

in-the works of-love which-they found

Cil livres les fist moult haster;

That book them made much hasten

dona lor sens d'aus entramer

gave to-them sense of-them each-other-to-love

que d'amor que de norreture

as-much of-love as of nurture

qui lor avoit esté a cure.

which to-them had been at care

Ensamble lisent et aprendent;

Together they-read and learn

a la joie d'amor entendent:

to the joy of-love they-attend

quant il repairent de l'escole,

when they return from the-school

li uns baise l'autre et acole.

the one kisses the-other and embraces

Un vergier a li peres Floire,

A garden has the father (of-)Floire

225

230

235

ou plantés sont la mandegloire,

where planted are the mandrake

toutes les herbes et les flours

all the herbs and the flowers

240 qui sont de diverses colours.

which are of divers colors

Flouri i sont li arbrissel;

Flowered therein are the shrubs

d'amors i chantent li oisel:

of-love therein sing the birds

la vont li enfant deporter

there go the children to-disport

chascun matin et por disner.

each morning and for to-dine

245 Quant il mangoient et bevoient,

When they ate and drank

li oisel seure aus se séoient;

the birds above them themselves seated

des oiseles oent les chans:

of-the she-birds they-hear the songs

cou est la vie as deus enfans.

this is the life of-the two children

Quant ont mangié, si s'en revont;

When they-have eaten and themselves-thence go-back

250 moult grant joie par voie font;

very great joy by way they-make

et quant a l'escole venoient

and when to the-school they-came

lor tables d'yvoire prenoient.

their tablets of-ivory they-took

Adont lor véissiez escrire

Then them you-would-have-seen write

letres et vers d'amors en cire.

letters and verses of-love in wax

Lor graffes sont d'or et d'argent

Their styluses are of-gold and of-silver

dont il escrivent soutiument:

wherewith they write subtly

letres et salus font d'amors,

letters and greetings they-make of-love

du chant des oisiaus et des flors.

of-the song of-the birds and of-the flowers

D'autre chose n'ont il envie;

Of-other thing not-have they desire

moult par-ont glorieuse vie.

very much-have glorious life

En seul cinq ans et quinze dis

In only five years and fifteen days

furent andoi si bien apris,

were both so well taught

que bien sorent parler latin

that well they-knew to-speak Latin

et bien escrire en parchemin,

and well to-write on parchment

et consillier, oiant la gent,

and to-counsel bearing the folk

en latin, que nus n'es entent.

in Latin that anyone not-them understands

255

260

265

The King Takes Counsel

IV

The king fears his son will never turn from Blancheflor and means to behead her. To save her the queen counsels sending Floire to school at Montoire, to her sister Sebile, keeping Blancheflor back to nurse her sick mother, to follow in a fortnight. Floire goes only on his father's word that he shall have her whether her mother lives or dies. Nothing there consoles him, and when the term passes he stops eating and sleeping. The king calls again for her head; the queen proposes selling her to Babylonian merchants.

Li rois aperçoit bien l'amor

The king perceives well the-love

que ses fuis a vers Blanceflor:

that his son has toward Blancheflor

moult forment crient en son corage,

very sorely he-fears in his heart

270 quant Floires iert de tel éage

when Floire will-be of such age

que feme devra espouser,

that wife he-will-have-to espouse

qu'il ne puisse de li torner.

that-he not may from her turn

Es chambres vint a la roïne

Into-the chambers he-came to the queen

conseil prendre de la meschine:

counsel to-take of the maiden

275 s'ele li done a son talent,

if-she to-him gives to his desire

ocirra la hastivement,

will-slay her hastily

puis querra, selonc son lignage,

then he-will-seeke according-to his lineage

a son fil feme de parage.

for his son wife of rank

La roïne voit son signor

The queen sees her lord

iriet; bien pert a sa coulor,

angered well it-shows by his color

car de sanc ot le vis vermeil.

for with blood he-had the face crimson

Li rois l'apele a un conseil:

The king her-calls to a counsel

«Dame», fait il, «malement vait

Lady says he ill goes

de vostre fil: i a mal plait.

of your son there is bad plight

Sachiez, a estrous le perdrons

Know at once him we-shall-lose

se hastiv conseil n'en prenons.»

if hasty counsel not-thereof we-take

El dist: «Comment?» — «Car tel amor

She says How For such love

a vostre fuis vers Blanceflor,

has your son toward Blanche-flor

cele fille vostre caitive,

that daughter (of-)your captive

que tout dient, tant comme jert vive,

that all say so-long as she-will-be alive

280

285

290

l'amor de li ne changera

the-love of her not will-change

ne autre feme ne prendra.

nor other wife not will-take

Jou crains que ne soit aviliée

I fear that not be debased

par li toute nostre ligniée.

through her all our lineage

295 Certes», fait il, «sans eslongier

Certainly says he without delaying

li voel faire le chief trenchier;

to-her I-wish to-have the head cut

puis donrai a mon fil oissour

then I-shall-give to my son wife

filles de roi ou d'aumachour.»

daughter of king or of-emir

La roïne s'est porpensée,

The queen herself-has bethought

300 puis a parlé comme senée:

then has spoken as wise

a la meschine veut aidier,

to the maiden she-wishes to-help

et si son signor consillier,

and also her lord to-counsel

qu'a li ele puisse plaisir

that-to him she may please

et Blanceflor de mort garir.

and Blancheflor from death save

«Sire», fait el, «bien devons querre

Lord says she well we-must seek

comment nostre fuis tiegne terre,

how our son may-bold land

et qu'il ne perde pas s'honor

and that-be not lose at-all his-honor

por l'amistié de Blanceflor;

for the-friendship of Blanceflor

mais qui li porroit si tolor

but who from-him could so take-away

qu'ele n'en estéust morir,

that-she not-thereof must die

cou m'est a vis plus bel seroit.»

that to-me-is at seeming more fair would-be

Li rois respont tout entreset:

The king answers all straightway

«Dame,» dist il, «et jou l'otroi;

Lady says he and I it-grant

consilliez en et vous et moi.»

counsel thereof both you and me

«Sire», fait ele, «envoions Floire,

Lord says she let-us-send Floire

nostre fil, aprendre a Montoire.

our son to-learn at Montoire

Liée en sera dame Sebile,

Glad thereof will-be lady Sebile

ma suer, qui dame est de la vile.

my sister who lady is of the town

Des qu'ele l'ocoison sara,

As-soon as-she the-occasion will-know

305

310

315

- 320 s'ele puet, oblier li fera
if-she can to-forget to-him she-will-make
 la crestïene Blanceflor,
the Christian-girl Blancheflor
 par le confort d'une autre amor.
by the comfort of-an other love
 Malades se fera Gaidons,
Sick himself will-make Gaidon
 ne lor porra lire lechons,
not to-them will-be-able to-read lessons
- 325 et nous li ferons bien entendre
and we to-him shall-make well understand
 que la l'envoions por aprendre
that there him-we-send to learn
 et apres lui, por soie amor,
and after him for his-own love
 li envoieïrez Blanceflor.
to-him you-will-send Blancheflor
 Se ses maistres sains remanoit,
If his master sound remained
- 330 Floire moult tost s'apercevroit:
Floire very soon himself-would-perceive
 car il sont boin devinéor
for they are good diviners
 tout cil qui aiment par amor.
all those who love by love
 Il iert dolans de la novele,
He will-be sorrowful of the news
 s'en volra mener la pucele:
and-thence will-wish to-lead the maiden

sa mere malade se faigne;

his mother sick herself let-feign

por li garder, cele remaigne;

to her tend she let-remain

et moult tres-bien l'asséurez

and very very-well him-assure

qu'ains quinze jors li trametrez.»

that-within fifteen days to-him you-will-send

Atant sont du conseil torné.

Thereupon are from-the counsel turned

Li rois a son fil demandé;

The king has his son summoned

mais primes ont aparillié,

but first they-have prepared

si com il orent consillié,

just as they had taken-counsel

et puis li a conté et dit.

and then to-him has told and said

Floires iriés li respondit.

Floire angered to-him answered

«Sire», fait il, «que puet cou estre

Lord says he what can this be

que Blanceflor lais et mon estre?

that Blanceflor I-leave and my dwelling

Blanceflor pri que viegne o moi.»

Blanceflor I-pray that she-come with me

Dont ot l'otriement au roi,

Then he-had the-granting of-the king

muire sa mere ou voist vivant,

may-die his mother or may-go living

335

340

345

350 que il l'aura sans contremant.

that he her-will-have without gainsaying

Floire l'otroie a quelque paine.

Floire it-grants with some pain

Li rois son cambrelenc demaine:

The king his chamberlain own

li a chargiet o grant conroi,

to-him has charged with great equipage

tel que convient a fil de roi.

such as befits to son of king

355 Es-les-vos venus au castel

Behold-them-you come to-the castle

de Montoire, le fort, le bel.

of Montoire the strong the fair

Li dus Joras moult liés en fu,

The duke Joras very glad thereof was

a grant honor l'a rechéu,

with great honor him-has received

et s'ante li a fait grant joie.

and his-aunt to-him has made great joy

360 Mais ne li chaut de riens qu'il oie:

But not to-him matters of anything that-he hears

por Blanceflor qu'il n'a, s'amie,

for Blanceflor whom-he not-has his-friend

en non-chaloir a mis sa vie.

in heedlessness has put his life

Aprendre l'en-main Sebile

To-learn him-leads Sebile

o les puceles de la vile,

with the maidens of the town

savoir se il l'oublieroit

365

to-know if he her-would-forget

et en l'escole autre ameroit.

and in the-school another would-love

Mais nul oïr ne nul véoir

But any hearing nor any seeing

ne li puet faire joie avoir.

not to-him can make joy have

Il ot assez, mais poi aprent:

He bears enough but little learns

car grant doel a ou il s'entent.

370

for great grief he-has where he himself-fixes

Amors li a livré entente:

Love to-him has delivered intent

el cuer li a planté une ente

in-the heart to-him has planted a graft

qui en tous tans florie estoit,

which in all seasons flowering was

et tant doucement li flairoit

and so sweetly to-him smelled

que toute chose en oublioit:

375

that all thing thereof he-forgot

mais li termes moult lons estoit,

but the term very long was

cou li ert vis, du fruit cuellir.

that to-him was seeming of-the fruit to-gather

Quant Blanceflor s'ira gesir

When Blanceflor herself-will-go lie

jouste soi et le baisera,

beside him and him will-kiss

380 le fruit de l'ente cuellera.

the fruit of the-graft he-will-gather

Floires atent a quelque peine

Floire waits with some pain

tout le terme de la semaine:

all the term of the week

quant il vit qu'ele ne venoit,

when he saw that-she not came

dont sot bien que gabés estoit,

then he-knew well that mocked he-was

385 et si doute forment et crient

and so dreads sorely and fears

que morte soit quant el ne vient.

that dead she-be since she not comes

A tant laist le mangier ester

At that he-lets the eating be

et tout le rire et le jüer;

and all the laughing and the playing

le boire pert et le dormir.

the drinking he-loses and the sleeping

390 Cil se criement de son morir:

Those themselves fear of his dying

li senescaus au roi le mande.

the seneschal to-the king it sends-word

Il en ot doel et ire grande;

He thereof had grief and anger great

del venir li done congiés.

of-the coming to-him gives leave

La roïne apela iriés:

The queen he-called angered

«Certes», fait il, «la damoisele

Certainly says he the damsel

mar acointa ceste novele;

ill-starred learned this news

puet-estre que par sorcerie

it-may-be that by sorcery

a de mon fil la druërie.

she-has of my son the love

Faites la moi tost demander,

Have her to-me soon summoned

ja li ferai le chief couper:

at-once to-her I-shall-have the head cut

quant mes fuis morte la sara,

when my son dead her will-know

en peu de tans l'oubliera.»

in little of time her-will-forget

La roïne li respondi:

The queen to-him answered

«Sire», fait el, «por Diu merci!

Lord says she for God mercy

A cest port a moult marcéans

At this port are many merchants

de Babiloine, bien manans.

of Babylon well wealthy

Au port la fai mener et vendre:

To-the port her have led and sell

395

400

405

grant avoir pues illoeques prendre.

great wealth thou-canst there take

Cil l'en-menront; car moult est bele:

They her-will-lead-away for very she-is fair

410 ja n'orrez mais de li novele.

ever not-will-bear more of her news

Si en serons delivre bien

So thereof shall-be quit well

sans estre homicide de rien.»

without being homicide of anything

Sold to the Merchants

V

The king yields and sends her to the port by a burgess skilled in trade. Greed is not his reason: he would sooner she were dead than have a shipload of gold, and only fear of the sin stops him. The merchants pay thirty marks of gold, twenty of silver, and twenty each of silks, mantles, and bliauts, with a gold cup Vulcan made, figured with Troy, the rape of Helen, and the judgment of Paris. It came down from Aeneas to Caesar, and a thief stole it. The merchants close the bargain, meaning to double their money.

Li rois a grant paine l'otroie:

The king with great pain it-grants

par un borgois au port l'envoie,

by a burgher to-the port her-sends

415 qui de marcie estoit moult sages

who of trade was very wise

et sot parler de mains langages.

and knew to-speak of many tongues

Ne la fist pas par convoitise

Not her made at-all through covetousness

vendre li rois en nule guise:

to-sell the king in any wise

mius amast qu'ele fust finée

rather he-would-love that-she were ended

que de rouge or une navée:

than of red gold a shipload

le pechié crient, por cou le lait.

the sin he-fears for that it he-leaves

Li marcéans au port s'en-vait,

The merchant to-the port himself-thence-goes

et en eus offre la pucele,

and among them offers the maiden

que l'acatent: car moult ert bele.

that her-they-buy for very she-was fair

Cil l'acaterent maintenant

They her-bought straightway

(car moult est bele par sanblant)

for very she-is fair by seeming

trente mars d'or et vint d'argent,

thirty marks of-gold and twenty of-silver

et vint pailles de Bonivent,

and twenty silks of Benevento

et vint mantiaus vairs osterins,

and twenty mantles vair purple

et vint bliaus indes porprins,

and twenty tunics indigo purple

420

425

430

et une chiere coupe d'or

and a costly cup of-gold

qui fu emblée du tresor

which was stolen from-the treasure

au riche emperéour de Rome:

of-the rich emperor of Rome

ains a plus chiere ne but home.

ever from more costly not drank man

435 A grant mervelle fu bien faite

With great wonder it-was well made

et moult soutiüment portraite

and very subtly figured

par menue nééléüre.

with fine niello-work

Vulcans la fist, s'i mist sa cure:

Vulcan it made and-therein put his care

el hanap ot paint environ

on-the goblet was painted around

440 Troies et le riche doignon,

Troy and the rich keep

et com li Griu dehors l'assaillent,

and how the Greeks outside it-assail

com au mur par grant air maillent;

how at-the wall with great fury they-hammer

et delez cou ert painte Helaine,

and beside that was painted Helen

comment Paris ses drus l'en-mainne:

how Paris her lover her-leads-away

d'un blanc esmail fu fais l'image

of-a white enamel was made the-image

assise en l'or par artimage.

set in the-gold by artifice

Après i est com ses maris

After therein is how her husband

la siut par mer, d'ire maris;

her follows by sea with-wrath grieved

et l'ost des Grius, com il nagoient,

and the-host of-the Greeks how they sailed

et Agamemnon qu'il menoient.

and Agamemnon whom-they led

Ens el covercle, par desus,

Within on-the lid on top

ert entaillié si com Venus,

was carved just as Venus

Pallas et Juno ensement

Pallas and Juno likewise

vinrent oïr le jugement

came to-hear the judgment

de Paris: car eles troverent

of Paris for they found

une pume dont estriverent,

an apple whereof they-strove

de fin or, ou escrit estoit,

of fine gold where written it-was

la plus bele d'eles l'aroit.

the most fair of-them it-would-have

445

450

455

Cele pume a Paris livrerent

That apple to Paris they-delivered

460 et en apres le conjurerent

and thereupon after him they-adjured

qu'a la plus bele la donast,

that-to the most fair it he-give

et celi que il mius prisast.

and to-her whom he best should-prize

Chascune li promet granment,

Each to-him promises greatly

que vers li soit au jugement.

that toward her he-be at-the judgment

465 Juno, plente de grant avoir;

Juno plenty of great wealth

Pallas, et prouece et savoir;

Pallas both prowess and wisdom

et Venus, la plus bele feme

and Venus the most fair woman

qui de toutes autres iert geme.

who of all others would-be gem

Paris la pume li dona,

Paris the apple to-her gave

470 et de sa feme la hasta:

and of his wife her pressed

assez la voloit mius avoir

far her he-wished better to-have

que sens, prouece ne avoir;

than wisdom prowess or wealth

et tres-bien mostroit la peinture

and very-well showed the painting

l'amor Paris et la grant cure,

the-love (of-)Paris and the great care

com il ses nes aparilloit

how he his ships made-ready

et com por li par mer nagoit.

and how for her by sea he-sailed

El poumel desus ert assis

On-the knob above was set

un escarboucle de grant pris:

a carbuncle of great price

n'est sous ciel si orbes celiers,

not-is under heaven so dark cellar

s'il i estoit, li boutilliers

if-it there were the butler

ne péust sans autre clarté

not could without other light

cler vin connoistre d'ysopé.

clear wine distinguish from-hyssop-wine

D'or avoit deseure un oisel,

Of-gold there-was above a bird

a trifoire et a néel,

in tracery and in niello

qui en son pié tenoit la gеме;

which in its foot held the gem

plus bel ne vit ne hom ne feme:

more fair not saw neither man nor woman

475

480

485

c'ert vis celui qui l'esgardoit

it-was seeming to-him who it-looked-at

que vis estoit et qu'il voloit.

that alive it-was and that-it flew

Li rois Enéas l'emporta

The king Aeneas it-bore-away

490 de Troies, quant il s'en-ala;

from Troy when he himself-thence-went

si la dona, en Lombardie,

and it gave in Lombardy

a Lavine qui fu s'amie;

to Lavinia who was his-friend

puis l'orent tout li ancissor

then it-had all the ancestors

qui de Rome furent signor,

who of Rome were lords

495 dusqu'a Cesar, a qui l'embla

up-to Caesar from whom it-stole

un leres qui l'en emporta.

a thief who it-thence bore-away

A lui marcéant l'acaterent

From him merchants it-bought

et por Blanceflor la donerent.

and for Blanceflor it gave

Celi donent par droit marcie,

Her they-give by right bargain

500 et il s'en font joiant et lie,

and they themselves-thereof make joyful and glad

qu'a double i cuident gaaignier,

that-at double therein they-think to-gain

se il s'en puéent repairier.

if they themselves-thence can return

The Cup and the Tomb

VI

The merchants take her to Babylon and sell her to the emir, who pays seven times her weight in fine gold. When the price is brought home the queen asks what they will tell Floire, and proposes a tomb: they will say Blancheflor is dead. Masons and goldsmiths build it of marble, gold, and silver. Two golden children sit on it, and when the wind blows through four pipes at its corners they kiss and speak. Four trees stand about it, always in flower; and the letters read: here lies fair Blancheflor, whom Floire loved.

Li marcéant ont boin oré;

The merchants have good wind

en lor païs sont retorné.

into their country are returned

En Babiloine l'ont menée;

To Babylon her-have led

a l'amiral l'ont presentée,

to the-emir her-have presented

et il l'a tant bien acatée

and he her-has so well bought

qu'a fin or l'a sept fois pesée.

that-in fine gold her-has seven times weighed

Cele a gent cors et cler visage;

She has comely body and bright face

505

510 bien samble estre de haut parage:

well seems to-be of high lineage

por sa grant biaute moult l'ama,

for her great beauty much her-loved

et bien garder la commanda.

and well to-guard her commanded

Li marcéant en-sont tout lié:

The merchants thereof-are all glad

car assez i ont gaaignié.

for much therein have gained

515 Quant li borgois fu revenus,

When the burgher was returned

au roi fu tous l'avois rendus.

to-the king was all the-money rendered

La roïne s'est porpensée,

The queen herself-has bethought

et si parla comme senée:

and so spoke as wise

«Sire», fait ele, «que dirons

Lord says she what shall-we-say

520 quant vostre fil Floire verrons,

when your son Floire we-shall-see

et quant il repairiés sera,

and when he returned will-be

s'amie nous demandera?

his-friend of-us will-ask

Quant il demandera sa drue,

When he will-ask his love

que dirons nous qu'est devenue?

what shall-say we that-is become

Par foi, jou ai moult grant paor

525

By faith I have very great fear

qu'il ne s'ocie de doulor.»

that-he — himself-slay of grief

«Dame», fait il, «or en pensez;

Lady says he now thereof think

c'est votre fuis, s'el confortez.»

it-is your son so-him comfort

«Sire», fait ele, «a moi entent:

Lord says she to me attend

car faisons faire un tomblel gent;

530

now let-us-make make a tomb comely

fait soit de marbre et de cristal,

made be-it of marble and of crystal

d'or et d'argent, et a esmal.

of-gold and of-silver and in enamel

Morte est Blanceflors, ce dirons,

Dead is Blanceflor that we-shall-say

et nostre fil conforterons.»

and our son we-shall-comfort

«Dame», fait il, «tost l'estuet faire;

535

Lady says he soon it-behooves to-do

car Floire, cou sachiez, repaire.»

for Floire that know-you returns

Dont manderent macons vaillans,

Then they-summoned masons worthy

et boins orfevres bien sachans;

and good goldsmiths well knowing

faire lor fait un tel tomblel:

make to-them he-has a such tomb

540 nus hom de char ne vit si bel.

any man of flesh not saw so fair

La tombe fu moult bien ovrée;

The tomb was very well wrought

d'or et d'argent ert néelee:

of-gold and of-silver was nielloed

n'a sous ciel beste ne oisel

not-is under heaven beast nor bird

ne soit assis en cel tomble;

not be set on that tomb

545 ne serpent qu'on sache nomer,

nor serpent that-one may-know to-name

ne poisson d'iave ne de mer.

nor fish of-water nor of sea

Devant un mostier, sous un arbre,

Before a minster under a tree

sist la tombe qui fu de marbre:

sat the tomb which was of marble

une pierre ont desus assise

a stone they-have above set

550 que firent orfevre de Frise.

which made goldsmiths of Frisia

Cele pierre qui sus gisoit,

That stone which above lay

de tres-fin marbre faite estoit,

of very-fine marble made was

inde, jaune, noir et vermeil:

indigo yellow black and vermilion

moult reluisoit contre soleil.

much it-shone against sun

Si fut entaillie environ

So it-was carved around

de la trifoire Salemon:

with the tracery (of-)Solomon

entremis i sont a cristal

set-between therein are in crystal

d'or et d'argent tout li esmal.

of-gold and of-silver all the enamels

Desor la tombe ot tresjetés

Upon the tomb were cast

doi biaux enfans tres-bien mollés.

two fair children very-well molded

Onques nus hom si bien semblans

Ever any man so well resembling

d'or ne vit fais si biaux enfans.

of-gold not saw made so fair children

Li uns des deus Floire sambloit

The one of-the two Floire resembled

plus que riens nule qui ja soit.

more than thing any which ever be

L'autre ymage ert ensi mollée:

The-other image was thus molded

comme Blanceflor est formée,

as Blanceflor is formed

et li ymage Blanceflor

and the image (of-)Blanceflor

devant Floire tint une flor.

before Floire held a flower

555

560

565

Devant son ami tint la bele

Before her friend held the fair-one

570 une rose d'or fin novele;

a rose of-gold fine new

Floire li tint devant le vis

Floire to-her held before the face

d'or une blanche flor de lis.

of-gold a white flower of lily

Li uns joust l'autre séoit:

The one beside the-other sat

gente contenance faisoit.

comely bearing it-made

575 Desor le chief Floire l'enfant

Upon the head (of-)Floire the-child

ot un escarboucle luisant:

was a carbuncle shining

par nuit obscure en véoit on

by night dark thereby saw one

une liue tout environ.

a league all around

En la tombe ot quatre coriaus,

In the tomb were four pipes

580 as quatre cors, bien fais et biaux;

at-the four corners well made and fair

es quils li quatre vent feroient,

in which the four winds struck

chascuns, ausi com il ventoient.

each just as they blew

Quant li vens les enfans touchoit,

When the wind the children touched

l'uns baisoit l'autre et acoloit:

the-one kissed the-other and embraced

si disoient par ingremance

and said by necromancy

tres-tout lor bon et lor enfance.

quite-all their pleasure and their childhood

Ce dist Floires a Blanceflor:

This says Floire to Blanceflor

«Baisiez moi, bele, par amor»;

Kiss me fair-one for love

Blanceflor respont en baisant:

Blanceflor answers in kissing

«Je vous aim plus que riens vivant.»

I you love more than anything living

Tant com li vent les atouchoient,

As-long as the winds them touched

et li enfant s'entrebaisoient,

and the children each-other-kissed

et quant il laisse de venter,

and when it ceases from blowing

dont se prenent a reposer.

then themselves they-take to rest

Tant doucement s'entresgardoient

So sweetly each-other-they-regarded

qu'il ert a vis que il rioient.

that-it was to seeming that they laughed

Au chief desus de cel tomblel,

At-the head above of that tomb

avoit planté un arbrisel:

there-was planted a shrub

585

590

595

moult estoit biaux et bien foillis,

very it-was fair and well leafy

600 et de flors ert assez garnis.

and of flowers was amply furnished

Toutes sont chargies les branches,

All are laden the branches

et les flors noveles et branches.

and the flowers new and (white)

Cius arbres a a nom benus:

This tree has for name ebony

ja un seul point n'en ardra fus.

ever one single whit not-thereof will-burn fire

605 As piés, par devers le soleil,

At-the feet on toward the sun

avoit un turabim vermeil;

there-was a terebinth vermilion

sous ciel n'en-a si bele chose:

under heaven not-thereof-is so fair thing

plus estoit biaux que flor de rose.

more it-was fair than flower of rose

A destre part ot un crespier,

On right side was a chrism-tree

610 et a senestre un balsamier;

and on left a balsam-tree

n'est en cest siecle tele odor

not-is in this world such odor

qui cele vaille de lor flor:

which that may-equal of their flower

car de l'un basmes decouroit,

for from the-one balsam ran-down

et de l'autre crespes caoit.

and from the-other chrisms fell

Cil qui les quatre arbres planterent

Those who the four trees planted

tres-tous les diex en-conjurerent:

quite-all the gods thereon-conjured

au planter tel conjur i firent,

at-the planting such conjuring therein made

que tous tans cil arbre florirent.

that all seasons those trees flowered

Bien sont flori cil arbrisel;

Well are flowered those shrubs

tous tans i chantent mil oisel:

all seasons therein sing thousand birds

la oïssiez tel melodie,

there you-would-hear such melody

qu'onques si grant ne fu oïe.

that-ever so great not was heard

Tel melodie demenoient

Such melody they-made

li oisel qui illoec chantoient,

the birds which there sang

se damoisiaus les escoutast,

if young-lord them listened-to

ne pucele por qu'ele amast,

nor maiden provided that-she loved

615

620

625

de ces dous chans que il oient

of those sweet songs which they heard

d'amors si forment esprenoient

of-love so strongly they-kindled

qu'il se couroient embracier,

that-they themselves ran to-embrace

630 l'uns l'autre doucement baisier.

the-one the-other sweetly to-kiss

Se nules gens les escoutassent

If any folk them listened-to

qui ja d'amor ne se penassent,

who ever of-love not themselves troubled

de la doucor que il oïssent,

of the sweetness which they heard

isnel-le-pas s'en-endormissent.

at-once themselves-would-fall-asleep

635 Entre quatre arbres se gisoit

Between four trees itself lay

cele tombe qui faite estoit:

that tomb which made was

onques mais por une pucele

ever before for a maiden

ne cuit que fust faite tant bele.

not I-think that were made so fair

De riches listes ert listée,

With rich borders it-was bordered

640 de chiers esmaus avironée.

with costly enamels encircled

Pieres i a qui vertus ont

Stones therein are which virtues have

et moult grans miracles i font:

and very great miracles therein do

jagonses, saffirs, calcedoines,

jacinths sapphires chalcedonies

et esmeraudes et sardoines,

and emeralds and sardonyxes

pelles, coraus et crisolites,

pearls corals and chrysolites

et diâmans, et amecites.

and diamonds and amethysts

Toute ert la tombe néelée,

All was the tomb nielloed

de l'or d'Arrabe bien letrée.

with the-gold of-Arabia well lettered

Les letres de fin or estoient

The letters of fine gold were

et en lisant cou racontoient:

and in reading this recounted

«Ci gist la bele Blanceflor,

Here lies the fair Blanceflor

a cui Floires ot grant amor.»

to whom Floire had great love

645

650

Floire Is Told She Is Dead

VII

The king forbids the queen and all who know, on pain of their lives, to tell his son anything. Floire rides home and asks after his love; put off by his parents, he goes to her mother, who at first evades him and then, weeping, says Blancheflor is dead — a lie she has sworn to the king. He faints, is led to the tomb, reads the inscription three times, and swoons before he can say a word. On the stone he blames Death for taking the young and sparing the old, and vows to die before evening and follow her to the flowery field.

Li rois commanda la roïne,

The king commanded the queen

ceus qui saivent de la meschine

those who know of the maiden

655 seur lor vie qu'il le celassent,

upon their life that-they it should-conceal

que ja a Floire n'en parlassent:

that ever to Floire not-thereof they-should-speak

car se li enfes le savoit,

for if the child it knew

jamais ses cors repos n'avoit

ever his body rest not-had

desi que il l'aroit trovée

until that he her-would-have found

660 et o grant honor espousée.

and with great honor espoused

A tous ont fait devéement,

To all they-have made prohibition

qu'a Floire n'en dient néant.

that-to Floire not-thereof they-should-say anything

Mais il est moult tost repairié,

But he is very soon returned

quant de son maistre ot le congié,

when from his master he-had the leave

il descent jus del palefroi,

he dismounts down from-the palfrey

en la sale, devant le roi:

in the hall before the king

son pere et sa mere salue,

his father and his mother he-greets

puis lor demande de sa drue.

then of-them asks of his love

Il se tardent de respons rendre:

They themselves delay of answer to-render

isnelement es chambres entre;

swiftly into-the chambers he-enters

la mere a la meschine trueve,

the mother of the maiden he-finds

a cui son corage descuevre.

to whom his heart he-uncovers

«Dame», fait il, «ou est m'amie?»

Lady says he where is my-friend

Cele respont: «El n'i est mie.»

She answers She not-there is at-all

«Ou est?» — «Ne sai.» — «Vous l'appelez.»

Where is-she Not I-know You her-call

«Ne sai quel part.» — «Vous me gabez.

Not I-know what part You me mock

Celez la vous?» — «Sire, nonal.»

Hide her you Lord not-at-all

665

670

675

«Par Diu», fait il, «cou est gieu mal.»

By God says he this is game bad

Quant ele mais celer ne l' puet,

When she more to-conceal not it can

680 pitie ot grant, plorer l'estuet;

pity she-had great to-weep her-behooves

en plorant li a dit: «Morte est.»

in weeping to-him has said Dead she-is

«Puet estre voirs?» — «Oïl, voirs est

Can it-be true Yes true it-is

que si est morte Blanceflor;

that so is dead Blanche-flor

voir», fait ele, «por vostre amor.»

truly says she for your love

685 Ele mentoit a escient,

She lied with knowledge

qu'au roi en ot fait sairement.

for-to-the king thereof she-had made oath

Quant Floires ot qu'ele estoit morte,

When Floire heard that-she was dead

moult durement se desconforte:

very grievously himself he-distresses

la color pert, li cuers lui ment;

the color he-loses the heart to-him fails

690 tout pasmé chiet el pavement.

all swooned he-falls on-the pavement

La crestiene s'esbahi;

The Christian-woman herself-was-appalled

de la paor jeta un cri.

from the fear she-cast a cry

Si crïa haut que li rois l'ot:

So she-cried loud that the king it-heard

courant i va plus tost qu'il pot,

running thither goes more soon than-he could

et la roïne i vint courant:

and the queen thither came running

grant doel ont fait de lor enfant.

great grief they-have made of their child

Il s'est pasmés en moult poi d'eure

He himself-is swooned in very little of-time

trois fois; quant revint, forment pleure.

three times when he-came-to sorely he-weeps

«A! Mors», fait il, «por quoi m'oublie

Ab Death says he for what me-forgets

quant perdu ai ensi m'amie?

when lost I-have thus my-friend

Ahi! Dame, car me menez

Ab Lady now me lead

a sa tombe, se le savez.»

to her tomb if it you-know

Li rois a la tombe l'en-maine.

The king to the tomb him-leads-away

Floires i va a moult grant paine:

Floire thither goes with very great pain

il voit l'escrit de Blanceflor

he sees the-inscription of Blanceflor

a qui Floires ot grant amor;

to whom Floire had great love

695

700

705

trois fois le list, lors s'a pasmé

three times it he-reads then himself-has swooned

ains qu'un seul mot éust soné.

before that-a single word he-had uttered

Après s'assist li damoiseil

After himself-sat the young-lord

710 desor la pierre del tomblel;

upon the stone of-the tomb

duement commence a plorer,

grievously he-begins to weep

puis en plorant prist a parler.

then in weeping took to speak

«Ahi! Blanceflor! Blanceflor!

Ab Blanceflor Blanceflor

Ja fumes nous né en un jor

Indeed were we born in one day

715 et en une nuit engendré,

and in one night begotten

si com nos meres ont conté:

just as our mothers have told

nouri avons esté ensamble;

nurtured we-have been together

bien déussions, si com moi samble,

well we-ought just as to-me seems

ens en un jor issir de vie,

within on one day to-go-out of life

720 se la mors fust a droit partie.

if the death were by right divided

Ahi! Blanceflor, cler visage,

Ab Blanceflor bright face

onques feme de vostre éage

ever woman of your age

ne fu tant bele ne si sage,

not was so fair nor so wise

de quoi que fuissiez de parage.

of whatever that you-were of lineage

Morte estes, precieuse geme;

Dead you-are precious gem

jamais n'en-iert plus bele feme.

ever not-thereof-will-be more fair woman

Nus hom ne porroit pas descrire

Any man not could at-all describe

vostre biaute, ne bonte dire:

your beauty nor goodness tell

car la matere teus seroit

for the matter such would-be

que ja a chief nus n'en vendroit.

that ever to end anyone not-thereof would-come

Ta crigne, ton chief, ton visage,

Thy hair thy head thy face

qui descriroit, moult seroit sage.

who would-describe very would-be wise

Ah! tendre face coulourée!

Ah tender face colored

Mieudre de vous ains ne fu née;

Better than you ever not was born

vous portiez pris de biauté

you bore prize of beauty

et l'enseingne de chastée.

and the-ensign of chastity

725

730

735

Humble estiez et honorable,

Humble you-were and honorable

et as besoigneus secourable.

and to-the needy helpful

Petit et grant, tout vous amoient

Small and great all you loved

740 por la bonte qu'en vous véoient.

for the goodness that-in you they-saw

Bele, forment nous entramions

Fair-one greatly we each-other-loved

et en escrivant consillions:

and in writing we-took-counsel

l'uns a l'autre son bon disoit

the-one to the-other his pleasure told

en latin; nus ne l'entendoit.

in Latin anyone not it-understood

745 Ah! Mors, tant par-es envïeuse,

Ah Death so much-art envious

de pute part contralieuse:

of vile part contrary

ja apelée ne vendras,

ever called not thou-wilt-come

ne ciaus qui t'aiment n'âmeras,

nor those who thee-love not-wilt-love

et ciaus qui te héent plus aimes

and those who thee hate more thou-lovest

750 et la ou ne voelent les maines.

and there where not they-wish them thou-leadest

Quant hom plus vaut et vivre doit,

When man most is-worth and to-live ought

lors le mes tu en mal destroit:

then him puttest thou in evil straits

quant doit avoir en son jovent

when he-ought to-have in his youth

joie, tu li taus soutiument.

joy thou from-him takest subtly

Mais quant vois aucun mendiant

But when thou-seest some beggar

qui de viellege va tramblant,

who of old-age goes trembling

s'il t'apele por sa viellege,

if-he thee-calls for his old-age

ne veus oïr sa grant destrece,

not thou-wilt to-hear his great distress

en pais le lais: car ne te doute;

in peace him thou-leavest for not thee he-fears

mais celui prens qui te redoute.

but him thou-takest who thee dreads

Insi le fais de toute gent:

Thus it thou-dost of all folk

voir moult ovras vilainement,

truly much thou-wroughtest basely

quant tu m'amie me tolis

when thou my-friend from-me tookest

qui vivre vausist a toudis,

who to-live would-be-worth for ever

et or grignor, quant voel morir

and now greater when I-wish to-die

et jou t'apel, ne l'veus oïr.

and I thee-call not it-thou-wilt to-hear

755

760

765

Mors, tu me fuis; jou te sivrâi;

Death thou me fleest I thee shall-follow

se te repons, jou te querrâi.

if thyself thou-bidest I thee shall-seek

Par Diu, qui de cuer veut morir,

By God who from heart wishes to-die

770 ne li pues pas longues guencir.

not from-him thou-canst at-all long escape

Quant aucuns dolereus t'apele,

When some grieving-one thee-calls

adont torne bien ta rouelle;

then turns well thy wheel

par foi, mais ne te proïrai:

by faith more not thee I-shall-pray

ains qu'il soit vespres m'ocirrai;

before that-it be evening myself-I-shall-slay

775 des or mais hais jou ceste vie,

from now more hate I this life

quant j'ai perdu ma douce amie.

since I-have lost my sweet friend

M'ame la m'amie sivrâ;

My-soul — my-friend will-follow

en camp-flori la trovera,

in flowery-field her will-find

ou el queut encontre moi flors:

where she gathers to-meet me flowers

780 car moult se fie en nos amors.

for much herself trusts in our loves

Moult hastivement la sivrai

Very hastily her I-shall-follow

et au plus tost com ains porrai:

and at-the most soon as ever I-shall-be-able

ele m'ara prochainement

she me-will-have shortly

en camp-flori ou el m'atent.

in flowery-field where she me-awaits

The Stylus and the Mother's Plea

VIII

He draws the silver stylus Blancheflor gave him and bids it make an end of him, and his mother takes it from his hand. A man who kills himself, she tells him, never enters the flowery field but goes to hell, where Minos and Rhadamanthus judge and Dido and Byblis wander forever; and she promises him a remedy. She goes to the king and wins leave to tell the truth: the tomb was their device, and the girl was sold to merchants. They raise the stone, and finding nothing beneath it he vows to seek her.

Atant s'est dressiés en estant,

Thereupon himself-is raised in standing

com cil qui s'amor va hantant:

as he who his-love goes hastening

un grafe a trait de son grafier;

a stylus has drawn from his stylus-case

d'argent estoit; moult l'ot chier

of-silver it-was much it-be-had dear

por Blanceflor qui li dona,

for Blancheflor who to-him gave

785

- 790 le darrain jor qu'a lui parla,
the last day that-to him she-spoke
 quant il en-ala a Montoire.
when he thence-went to Montoire
 Dont a son grafe parla Floire:
Then to his stylus spoke Floire
 «Grafe», fait il, «por cou fus fait
Stylus says he for that thou-wast made
 que fin me soies a cest plet.
that end to-me thou-be at this plight
- 795 Moi te dona por ramembrer
To-me thee gave to remember
 de soi, et a mon oés garder:
of herself and to my use to-keep
 des ore fai cou que tu dois;
from now do that which thou oughtest
 a li m'envoie, car c'est drois.»
to her me-send for that-is right
 En son cuer bouter le voloit,
Into his heart to-thrust it he-wished
- 800 quant sa mere cou aperçoit,
when his mother that perceives
 seure li court, le grafe prent;
upon him runs the stylus takes
 si le castie doucement:
and him chastises sweetly
 mere que mere, por morir
mother as mother for to-die
 ne pora mais ce doel soffrir.
not will-be-able more this grief to-suffer

«Fui!» fait ele, «moult es enfans,

Fie says she much thou-art child

quant de ta mort es porquerans.

when of thy death thou-art seeking

N'est sous ciel hom, s'il doit morir

Not-is under heaven man if-he must die

et de la mort puisse sortir,

and from the death may escape

nius ne volsist estre mesel

rather not would-wish to-be leprous

et ladres vivre en un bordel,

and lazarus to-live in a bovel

que de mort soffrir le trespas.

than of death to-suffer the passage

Fius, mort soffrir, ce n'est pas gas.

Son death to-suffer that not-is at-all jest

Se vous ensi vous ocïez,

If you thus yourself slay

en camp-flori ja n'entrerez,

into flowery-field ever not-will-enter

ne vous ne verrez Blanceflor.

nor you not will-see Blanceflor

Cil cans ne recoit pechéor:

That field not receives sinner

en infer, sans chalenge, droit,

into hell without challenge straight

la irez, biaux fuis, orendroit.

thither you-will-go fair son forthwith

Minos, Thoas, Radamodus,

Minos Thoas Rhadamanthus

805

810

815

- 820 cil sont jugéor de la jus:
they are judges of there below
 en infer font les jugemens.
in hell they-make the judgments
 Cil vous metroient as tormens,
They you would-put to-the torments
 la ou est Dido et Biblis
there where is Dido and Biblis
 qui por amor furent ocis,
who for love were slain
- 825 qui par infer vont duel faisant
who through hell go grief making
 et lor drus en dolor querant:
and their lovers in sorrow seeking
 eles les quierent et querront
they them seek and will-seeking
 tous jors, ne ja n'es troveront.
all days nor ever not-them will-find
 Biaus dous chiers fuis, or te conforte:
Fair sweet dear son now thyself comfort
- 830 car ains l'aras vive que morte.
for sooner her-thou-wilt-have alive than dead
 Jou cuit trover tel medecine,
I think to-find such medicine
 par quoi revendra la meschine.»
by which will-come-back the maiden
 Plorant en-est venue au roi.
Weeping thence-is come to-the king
 «Sire», fait ele, «entent a moi.
Lord says she attend to me

Jou te requier por Diu le grant

I thee beseech for God the great

qu'aies pitié de ton enfant.

that-thou-have pity of thy child

Ja s'ocesist, foi que doi Diu,

Just himself-would-have-slain faith that I-owe God

a un grafè, quant l'aperciu:

with a stylus when it-I-perceived

des lors que jou l'en vi garni,

from then that I him-thereof saw armed

des mains le grafè li toli.»

from-the hands the stylus from-him took

«Dame», fait il, «encor soffrez;

Lady says he yet suffer

cest doel laira: vous le verrez.»

this grief he-will-leave you it will-see

«Voire», fait ele, «par morir:

Truly says she by dying

car il morra por cou soffrir.

for he will-die for that to-suffer

De douze enfans nus mais n'avons,

Of twelve children any more not-we-have

et cestui de gre si perdons,

and this-one of will so we-lose

si dira on en cest païs

so will-say one in this country

que nous de gre l'avons ocis.»

that we of will him-have slain

«Dame», fait il, «quant le loez,

Lady says he since it you-approve

835

840

845

850 dites li dont se vous volez.»

tell to-him then if you wish

La dame ot lors le cuer joiant;

The lady had then the heart joyful

reparié est a son enfant.

returned is to her child

«Biaus fius», fait ele, «par engien,

Fair son says she by device

par le ton pere et par le mien,

by — thy father and by — mine

855 féismes nous cest tomblel ci:

made we this tomb here

el n'i est pas; mais tout ensi

she not-there is at-all but all thus

voliomes que tu l'oublïasses

we-wished that thou it-shouldst-forget

et par no conseil espousasses

and by our counsel shouldst-espouse

la fille d'aucun riche roi,

the daughter of-some rich king

860 qui honorast et nous et toi.

who might-honor both us and thee

Moult nous fust bel que Blanceflor

Much to-us were fair that Blanche-flor

ne donasses avant t'amor,

not thou-shouldst-give before thy-love

por cou que crestïene estoit,

for that that Christian she-was

povre chose de bas endroit.

poor thing of low condition

En autre terre l'ont menée

Into other land her-have led

marcéant qui l'ont acatée.

merchants who her-have bought

Fius», fait ele, «por Diu merci!

Son says she for God mercy

Car tout est voirs cou que je di.

For all is true that which I say

Cest grant doel, fuis, ne maine mais:

This great grief son not make more

en cest païs remain en pais.»

in this country remain in peace

Quant il l'oï, si fu pensis:

When he it-heard so was pensive

adont s'est un bien peu assis,

then himself-is a good little seated

puis a sa mere regardé

then at his mother looked

et li a errant demandé:

and to-her has straightway asked

«Dame», fait il, «dites vous voir?»

Lady says he say you truth

«Fius, tu le pues moult tost véoir.»

Son thou it canst very soon see

Atant la pierre ont soslevée:

Thereupon the stone they-have lifted

865

870

875

quant il ne l'a desous trovée

when he not her-has beneath found

Diu en rent grasses, et l' mercie

To-God thereof be-renders thanks and him thanks

880 quant sot que vive estoit s'amie.

when he-knew that alive was his-friend

Quant il le sot, dit que vivra

When he it knew says that he-will-live

et, se Diu plaist, encor l'ara;

and if God pleases yet her-will-have

puis se vante qu'il l'ira querre.

then himself boasts that-he her-will-go seek

Ja n'iert en si sauvage terre

Ever not-will-be in so wild land

885 qu'il ne la truist, puis revendra

that-he not her find then will-return

et a grant joie l'amenra.

and with great joy her-will-bring

Sa joie li fait oublier

His joy to-him makes to-forget

tout le travail de li trover.

all the toil of her to-find

The Truth, and Leave to Go

IX

A man ruled by love, as Cato's book says, does what other men think impossible. Floire rejoices that she lives and will have no other; the king blames the queen's counsel and curses the hour Blancheflor was sold. Since his son will not stay, he grants what Floire asks: seven sumpters of gold, silver, coin, cloths, and furs, with men, squires, and the chamberlain; and he adds the cup she was sold for and a palfrey with stirrups worth a castle. His mother's ring wins whatever he asks, and he rides out as they weep.

Signor, ne vous esmervilliez:

Lords not yourselves marvel

car qui d'amors est justiciés,

for who by-love is ruled

cou cuide faire certainement

that thinks to-do certainly

dont s'esmervillent moult de gent.

whereat themselves-marvel many of folk

Cou truevon el livre Caton

That we-find in-the book (of-)Cato

qu'a paines cuidera nus hom

that-with pains will-think any man

qu'estre puist fait cou que fera

that-to-be may done that which will-do

cil qui d'amors espris sera.

he who by-love kindled will-be

De cou qu'est vive fait grant joie,

Of that that-she-is alive he-makes great joy

et dist (ne li chaut qui qui l'oie)

and says not to-him matters who whoever it-bears

890

895

que por néant s'en peneroit

that for nothing himself-thereof would-trouble

900 li rois, que ja autre n'aroit.

the king for ever other not-would-have

Es-le-vos au roi revenu.

Behold-him-you to-the king returned

Li rois liés et joians en-fu

The king glad and joyful thereof-was

quant il le vit, et puis iriés

when he him saw and then angered

qu'il li demanda le congîés

that-he from-him asked the leave

905 d'aler querre la damoisele,

of-going to-seek the damsel

quant il de li ne set novele,

when he of her not knows news

ne ne set dire ne penser

nor not knows to-say nor to-think

ou il la doie querre aler.

where he her ought to-seek to-go

Le conseil blasme a la roïne,

The counsel he-blames to the queen

910 par qui il vendi la meschine;

through whom he sold the maiden

l'eure maudist que fu vendue,

the-hour he-curses that was sold

car son fils pert, quant l'a perdue;

for his son he-loses since her-has lost

mil marcs d'argent por li donroit

thousand marks of-silver for her he-would-give

et quanqu'il en ot tout rendroit

and whatever-be thereof had all would-render

s'il la trovoit; mais non fera:

if-be her found but not will-do

voelle ou non, s'en consiërra.

willing or not himself-thereof will-do-without

«Fius», fait li rois, «car remanez.»

Son says the king now remain

«Par foi», fait il, «grant tort avez:

By faith says he great wrong you-have

com plus mon oirre hasterez,

as more my journey you-will-hasten

et moi et li plus tost r'arez.»

both me and her more soon you-will-have-back

«Fius, quant remanoir ne volez,

Son since to-remain not you-wish

dites ou querre la devez:

tell where to-seek her you-must

car vostre volente ferai;

for your will I-shall-do

cou que mestiers iert vous donrai:

that which needful will-be to-you I-shall-give

riches pailles, or et argent,

rich silks gold and silver

et biaux chevaus et bele gent.»

and fair horses and fair folk

915

920

925

«Sire», fait il, «or escoutez

Lord says he now hear

vostre merci, et si m'oyez.

your mercy and so me-hear

Comme marcéans la querrai,

As merchant her I-shall-see

930 et sept somiers o moi menrai:

and seven sumpters with me I-shall-lead

les deus chargiés d'or et d'argent

the two laden with-gold and with-silver

et de vaissiaus a mon talent;

and with vessels at my pleasure

li tiers de deniers monées,

the third with pence coined

tant que nous en aions assez;

so-much that we thereof may-have enough

935 en apres les deus de chiers dras,

in after the two with costly cloths

des millors que tu troveras;

of-the best that thou wilt-find

les daarrains de sebelines

the last with sables

et de beles pennes martines;

and with fair furs marten

et sept homes aus sept somiers,

and seven men for-the seven sumpters

et avoec moi trois escuiers

940

and with me three squires

qui nostre marcié porquerront

who our trade will-transact

et nos chevaus nous garderont.

and our horses for-us will-guard

Vostre chambrelens, sire roi,

Your chamberlain lord king

s'il vous plaist, envoie o moi:

if-it you pleases send with me

car bien set vendre et acater,

945

for well he-knows to-sell and to-buy

et au besoing conseil doner.

and at-the need counsel to-give

Partout sera nostre oquisons:

Everywhere will-be our pretext

nostre marcié querant alons,

our trade seeking we-go

et se nous la poons r'avoir

and if we her can have-back

por nul marcié de nostre avoir,

950

for any bargain of our wealth

nous en donrons bien largement,

we thereof shall-give well liberally

puis revendrons hastivement.»

then we-shall-return hastily

Li enfes fine sa raison,

The child ends his speech

et li rois fu moult gentius hom:

and the king was very noble man

- 955 trestout li a aparillié.
quite-all to-him has prepared
 Quant vint au prendre le congié,
When came at-the taking the leave
 li rois la coupe a demandée,
the king the cup has asked-for
 qui por Blanceflor fu donée.
which for Blancheflor was given
 «Fius», fait il, «cesti porteras;
Son says he this-one thou-wilt-bear
 960 puet estre que par li aras
it-may be that through it thou-wilt-have
 celi qui por li fu vendue.»
her who for it was sold
 «Sire, qui? Blanceflor, ma drue?»
Lord who Blancheflor my love
 «Voire», fait il, «en moie foi!»
Truly says he in my faith
 Li rois li done un palefroi,
The king to-him gives a palfrey
 965 qui d'une part estoit tous blans;
which on-one side was all white
 de l'autre, rouges comme sans.
on the-other red as blood
 La soussele est d'un paille chier,
The saddle-cloth is of-a silk costly
 tres-bien ovrée a eschequier:
very-well wrought in checker

toute la sele et li arcon

all the saddle and the saddle-bows

fu de la coste d'un pisson;

was of the rib of-a fish

sa colors est inde et vermeille

its color is indigo and vermilion

naturelment, a grant merveille,

naturally to great wonder

et ens avoit par entaillure

and within there-was through carving

li ors assis par moult grant cure.

the gold set with very great care

La covreture de la sele

The covering of the saddle

est d'un brun paile de Castele,

is of-a brown silk of Castile

toute florée a flors d'orfrois:

all flowered with flowers of-gold-embroidery

tel la voloit avoir li rois.

such it wished to-have the king

Estrivieres i ot et caingles

Stirrup-leathers therein were and girths

de soie; erent les contreaingles

of silk were the counter-girths

laciées merveilleusement:

laced marvelously

toutes les boucles sont d'argent;

all the buckles are of-silver

li estrier valent un castel:

the stirrups are-worth a castle

970

975

980

d'or fin sont ovré a néel.

of-gold fine are wrought in niello

985 Li frains est moult biaux et moult chiers;

The bridle is very fair and very costly

onques millor n'ot chevaliers.

ever better not-had knight

La chavecure est de fin or:

The head-stall is of fine gold

les pieres valent un tresor,

the stones are-worth a treasure

qui a blanc esmail sont assises;

which on white enamel are set

990 de lius en lius sont entremises:

from places to places are set-between

ne vous puis pas, ne ne me plaist

not you I-can at-all nor not me pleases

a raconter que cascune est.

to recount what each is

Li frains est tout de l'or d'Espagne;

The bridle is all of the-gold of-Spain

assez mieus en valoit l'ouvraigne,

far better thereof was-worth the-workmanship

995 et les pieres grans vertus ont,

and the stones great virtues have

que toutes precieuses sont;

for all precious are

les resnes de fin or estoient

the reins of fine gold were

de la ou du frain departoient.

from there where from-the bridle they-parted

Tres-tout ensi aparillié,

Quite-all thus prepared

l'a li rois a Floire baillié.

it-has the king to Floire delivered

Et la roïne son anel

And the queen her ring

a mis el doit au damoiseil:

has put on-the finger of-the young-lord

«Fius», fait ele, «gardez le bien;

Son says she guard it well

tant com l'arez, mar cremez rien:

as-long as it-you-have needlessly fear anything

car vous ja rien ne requeriez

for you ever anything not may-ask

que tost ou tard vous ne l'aiez.»

that soon or late you not it-have

Il prent l'anel et l'en mercie,

He takes the-ring and him-thereof thanks

et dist qu'encor r'ara s'amie.

and says that-yet will-have-back his-friend

Atant a congié demandé;

Thereupon has leave asked

li rois en plorant l'a doné:

the king in weeping it-has given

a sa mere r'a pris congié,

of his mother in-turn-has taken leave

et ele l'a cent fois baisié.

and she him-has hundred times kissed

La les véissiez moult plorer,

There them you-would-have-seen much weep

1000

1005

1010

lor puins batre, lor crins tirer,

their fists beat their hair tear

1015 et tel doel faire au departir

and such grief make at-the parting

com s'il le véissent morir.

as if-they him saw die

Atant s'en-est Floires alés:

Thereupon himself-thence-is Floire gone

de tous fu a Diu commandés.

by all was to God commended

The Road to the Sea

X

They ride to the port where Blancheflor took ship and lodge with a burgess, passing as merchants with Floire their lord. At supper he forgets to eat, thinking of her, and the hostess tells her husband he is no merchant. She saw the like, she says, in a girl named Blancheflor, who sighed for a lover called Floire and was sold here to men bound for Babylon. Floire upsets his wine for joy; a forfeit is cried; he gives the hostess a gold cup and drinks four sesters in amends. By night the wind has turned and the tide is up.

Es-le-vos hors de la cité,

Behold-him-you out of the city

1020 o ses somiers bien arouté:

with his sumpters well ordered

il et li chambrelens conseilrent,

he and the chamberlain take-counsel

et lor journées appareillent.

and their day-journeys arrange

Au port voelent primes aler

To-the port they-wish first to-go

ou Blanceflor entra en mer:

where Blanceflor entered into sea

tant ont erré qu'il sont venu.

so-much have journeyed that-they are come

1025

Chiez un borgois sont descendu,

At a burgher are dismounted

qui maisons ot larges et grans

who houses had wide and great

a herbregier les marcéans.

to lodge the merchants

Quant li cheval establé sont,

When the horses stabled are

fuerre et avaine a plenté ont;

fodder and oats in plenty they-have

1030

et cil a qui fu commandé

and those to whom was commanded

as estaus del bourc sont alé.

to-the stalls of-the borough are gone

Iluec truevent un macecrier

There they-find a butcher

ou il acatent lor mangier,

where they buy their food

et pain et vin en font porter:

and bread and wine thereof they-make bring

1035

moult aprestent riche souper.

much they-prepare rich supper

Marcéant dient que il sont,

Merchants they-say that they are

por lor marcié mer passeront;

for their trade sea they-will-cross

Floire dient qu'est lor signor:

Floire they-say that-is their lord

1040 siens est l'avoirs, n'est mie lor.

his is the-wealth not-is at-all theirs

Quant il furent asséuré

When they were reassured

et lor mangier ont apresté,

and their food have prepared

napes font metre et vont laver,

cloths they-make put and go wash

puis s'i assistrent au souper.

then themselves-there sat at-the supper

1045 En l'oste ot preudome et vaillant;

In the-host was worthy-man and valiant

dejouste soi assiet l'enfant:

beside himself he-seats the-child

il l'honore moult et tient chier,

he him-honors much and holds dear

et semont sovent de mangier.

and urges often of eating

La table fu bien marcéande:

The table was well merchantlike

1050 grant plenté i ot de viande.

great plenty therein was of victuals

Tres-bien les servent li serjant,

Very-well them serve the sergeants

vin lor donent a lor talent;

wine to-them they-give at their pleasure

en coupes, en hanas d'argent

in cups in goblets of-silver

aportent cler vin et piument.

they-bring clear wine and spiced-wine

Li marcéant travaillé furent;

The merchants wearied were

assez i mangierent et burent:

enough therein they-ate and drank

sovent dient por le bon vin

often they-say for the good wine

que il ont l'ostel saint Martin.

that they have the-lodging (of-)saint Martin

Cil se deduisent liément:

They themselves disport merrily

Floires a Blanceflor entent;

Floire to Blanceflor attends

por le boin vin pas ne l'oublie,

for the good wine at-all not her-forgets

sans lui ne prise rien sa vie.

without her not values anything his life

Por li sovent s'entroubloit

For her often himself-forgot

et parfondement souspiroit,

and deeply sighed

et ne donoit garde a sa main

and not gave heed to his hand

se il prenoit ou cher ou pain.

whether he took either flesh or bread

L'ostesse l'a bien esgardé;

The-hostess him-has well observed

1055

1060

1065

du coute a son signor bouté:

with-the elbow has her lord nudged

«Sire», fait ele, «avez véu

Lord says she have-you seen

1070 com cius enfes s'a contenu?

how this child himself-has borne

Son mangier laist por le penser;

His food he-leaves for the thinking

sovent l'ai véu souspirer:

often him-I-have seen sigh

par mon chief n'est pas marcéans;

by my head not-is at-all merchant

gentius hom est et wauquerans.»

noble man he-is and wandering

1075 Dont a l'enfant a raison mis:

Then to the-child has speech put

«Sire», fait el, «moult es pensis;

Lord says she much thou-art pensive

a cest mangier t'ai esgardé,

at this meal thee-I-have observed

poi as mangié et moult pensé:

little thou-hast eaten and much thought

cou que as pris de cest mangier

that which thou-hast taken of this meal

1080 seroit legier a eslegier.

would-be easy to settle

Autretel vi jou l'autre jor

The-like saw I the-other day

de damoisele Blanceflor:

of damsel Blanche-flor

ensi se noma ele a moi.

thus herself named she to me

El vous resamble en moie foi:

She you resembles in my faith

bien poëz estre d'un éage;

well you-may be of-one age

si vous resamble du visage.

so you she-resembles of-the face

Ensement au mangier pensoit

Likewise at-the meal she-thought

et un sien ami regretoit,

and a her-own friend lamented

Floire, cui amie ele estoit:

Floire whose friend she was

por lui tolir on la vendoit,

for him to-take-away one her sold

et por sa mort estoit moult mue.

and for his death she-was very dumb

Ele fu a cest port vendue.

She was at this port sold

Cil qui l'acaterent disoient

Those who her-bought said

qu'en Babiloine l'enmenroient;

that-to Babylon her-they-would-lead

de l'amirail tant en aroient

from the-emir so-much thereof they-would-have

qu'il au double i gaaigneroient.»

that-they at-the double therein would-gain

1085

1090

1095

Quant Floire s'amie ot nommer

When Floire his-friend heard name

et de li certainement parler,

and of her certainly speak

de la joie tout s'esbahi;

from the joy all himself-was-dazed

1100 ains n'en sot mot, si abati

but not-thereof knew word so overturned

le vin qui devers li estoit,

the wine which toward him was

a un coutel que il tenoit.

with a knife which he held

L'ostes s'escrie: «Il est fourfais:

The-host himself-cries He is at-fault

amendés nous sera cis plais.»

amended to-us will-be this suit

1105 «Cou est drois», cou dient tres-tuit:

That is right that say quite-all

car lie en sont por le deduit.

for glad thereof are for the sport

Floires une coupe d'or fin

Floire a cup of-gold fine

a fait emplir de moult bon vin.

has made fill with very good wine

Tout liés a la dame la tent.

All glad to the lady it holds-out

1110 «Iceste», fait il, «vous present,

This-one says he to-you I-present

por cou que m'avez dit novele

for that that to-me-have told news

de Blanceflor la damoisele;

of Blanche-flor the damsel

por li est cou que jou pensoie

for her is that which I thought

a cest mangier, et souspiroie,

at this meal and sighed

et por icou que ne savioie

and for this that not I-knew

quel part jou querre la devoie.»

what part I to-seeke her ought

Or la sivrai en Babiloine;

Now her I-shall-follow into Babylon

ne la lairai por nul essoine.»

not her I-shall-leave for any hindrance

Après dist: «Li vins respandus

After he-says The wine spilled

bien est raisons qu'il soit rendus:

well is reason that-it be rendered

tant en faites sor moi venir

so-much thereof make upon me come

com il vous vendra a plaisir.»

as it to-you will-come to pleasure

Adont sali uns pautoniers,

Then leapt-up a scullion

s'en aporta quatre sestiers.

and-thereof brought four sesters

Boire li donent par amende,

To-drink to-him they-give by amends

1115

1120

1125

puis li dient, la coupe rende
then to-him say the cup let-him-render

a l'oste quant aura béu.
to the-host when he-will-have drunk

Il en boit, puis li a rendu;
He thereof drinks then to-him has rendered

et li autre par la maison
and the others through the house

1130 du vin boivent par contencon.
of-the wine drink in contention

Li plus povres se tint a riche
The most poor himself held for rich
 et de grant hardement s'afiche.
and of great boldness himself-boasts

Cil se deduisent liément.
They themselves disport merrily

Atant es-vos torné le vent:
Thereupon behold-you turned the wind

1135 li jors est ja tout avesprés
the day is now all grown-late

et li flos tost au port montés:
and the flood soon at-the port risen

li airs est clers, nes et seris,
the air is clear pure and serene

et li cieus tres-tout esclarcis.
and the sky quite-all cleared

Cou dient li maistre des nes:
That say the masters of-the ships

1140 du vent orent tous plaius lor tres.
of-the wind they-had all full their sails

Longement sejoigné i ont,

Long sojourned therein they-have

et del passer desirant sont.

and of-the crossing desirous are

Baudas

XI

Floire rewards his host and begs the shipmaster to land him at the port for Babylon: in a month every king under the emir gathers there for his feast, and there, he says, he may sell his bales. Nine days out they anchor below Baudas on its gray rock. Floire pays the boatman twenty marks of gold and twenty of silver, and they lodge with a burgess whose own ship brought Blancheflor there. Floire gives him a mantle and a silver cup, and rides on; in a market town they hear she passed that way.

Floire, quant l'ot, moult s'en fait liés,

Floire when it-beard very himself-thereof makes glad

de l'aler s'est aparilliés.

of the-going himself-is prepared

Quant son conroi ot acuité,

When his equipage he-had acquitted

a son oste a du sien doné.

to his host has of-the his given

Son estrumant a moult proié,

His shipmaster has much prayed

et il li a bien otroié,

and he to-him has well granted

que a cel port l'arivera,

that at that port him-will-land

se Diu plaist, com plus tost porra,

if God pleases as most soon he-will-be-able

1145

1150

dont il li avoit devisé,

of-which he to-him had appointed

vers Babiloine la cité.

toward Babylon the city

Car d'icel jor en un seul mois

For from-that day in one single month

i assamblera cascuns rois

thither will-assemble each king

1155 qui de l'amiral terre tient:

who from the-emir land hold

tres-tous ensamble a sa cort viennent

quite-all together to his court come

a une feste qu'il tendra.

at a feast which-he will-hold

«S'adont», fait il, «estoie la,

If-then says he I-were there

mes toursiaus puet-estre vendroie:

my bales it-may-be I-would-sell

1160 si cuit que jou i gaigneroie.»

so I-think that I therein should-gain

Li vens fu boins, l'air orent cler:

The wind was good the-air they-had clear

atant se sont empaint en mer;

thereupon themselves are pushed into sea

a retraiant, por avoir bort,

at ebbing to have sea-room

toutes les nes issent du port.

all the ships go-out of-the port

Le tref ont tost desharneschié

1165

The sail they-have soon unlashèd

et sus dusqu'a tores sachié.

and up as-far-as tops hoisted

Li vens s'i prent por faire errer.

The wind itself-therein takes to make travel

Atant est Floire en haute mer;

Thereupon is Floire on high sea

en la nef ot mis tel conroi,

in the ship he-had put such equipage

com il convient a fil de roi.

1170

as it befits to son of king

Huit jors tous plains par mer erra,

Eight days all full by sea he-journeyed

que nule terre ne trova:

that any land not be-found

au nueme jor sont arivé

at-the ninth day are arrived

sous Baudas, une grant cité

below Baudas a great city

qui sist sor une roche bise,

1175

which sat on a rock gray

desor le port en haut assise:

above the port on high seated

la puet on véoir et esmer

there can one see and descry

cent liues loing, quant il fait cler.

hundred leagues far when it makes clear

Bien sot tenir li notonier

Well knew to-hold the boatman

1180 a la cite le droit sentier:

to the city the straight path

cou est li pors dont le requist

this is the port of-which him he-asked

Floire, quant en la mer se mist.

Floire when into the sea himself put

D'illoec porra en quatre jors,

From-there he-will-be-able in four days

d'iceus d'iver tous les plus cors,

of-those of-winter all the most short

1185 venir, se il n'a destourbiers,

to-come if he not-has hindrances

en Babiloine o ses somiers.

to Babylon with his sumpters

Son loier quiert li notoniers;

His hire seeks the boatman

Floire li done volentiers;

Floire to-him gives willingly

vint marc d'or fin et vint d'argent

twenty marks of-gold fine and twenty of-silver

1190 li fit doner joiosement:

to-him he-had given joyously

car vis li est qu'en paradis

for seeming to-him is that-into paradise

l'a mis, quant il est el païs

him-has put since he is in-the country

ou s'amie cuide trover,

where his-friend he-thinks to-find

que il siut par terre et par mer.

whom he follows by land and by sea

Atant sont mis hors li torsel:

1195

Thereupon are put out the bales

rechargié sont tost et isnel,

reloaded are soon and swift

et sont venu a la cité

and are come to the city

que tant avoient désiré.

which so-much they-had desired

Chiez un borgois sont herbergié,

At a burgher are lodged

qui riches hom ert ou marcié,

1200

who rich man was in-the market

et notoniers, et marcéans.

and boatman and merchant

Une nef ot qui estoit grans,

A ship he-had which was great

par quoi demenoit son marcié

by which he-drove his trade

et ou erroit quant ert chargié.

and where he-journeyed when it-was laden

- 1205 Dedens icele nef passerent
Within that ship crossed
 li marcéant qui acaterent
the merchants who bought
 Blanceflor que Floire queroit,
Blanceflor whom Floire sought
 por qui issi dolans estoit:
for whom thus sorrowful he-was
 en sa maison cele nuit jurent,
in his house that night they-lay
- 1210 quant il hors de mer issu furent.
when they out of sea gone-out were
 Il font destorser lor torsiaus,
They make unload their bales
 puis establerent lor chevaus:
then stabled their horses
 moult les fisent bien aaisier
much them they-made well to-be-eased
 et de litiere et de mangier.
both of litter and of food
- 1215 En cel ostel moult bien troverent
In that lodging very well they-found
 tres-tout icou qu'il demanderent:
quite-all that which-they asked
 fains, avaine et moult boins vins,
hay oats and very good wines
 char salée, fresche, et poucins.
meat salted fresh and chickens
 Lor mangier fisent moult haster:
Their food they-made much hasten

car travaillé sont de la mer.

1220

for wearied they-are of the sea

Li pors estoit a l'amirail;

The port was to the-emir

maint home i avoit en travail:

many-a man therein was in labor

ou soit a droit, ou soit a tort,

whether be-it by right or be-it by wrong

tout lor estuet mostrer au port

all to-them it-behooves to-show at-the port

et rendre au prevost lor avoir

1225

and to-render to-the provost their wealth

por esgarder s'il diront voir.

to see if-they will-say truth

Quant cel avoir orent rendu

When that wealth they-had rendered

et lor mangiers aprestés fu,

and their food prepared was

il vont laver, puis sont assis:

they go to-wash then are seated

el plus bel liu ont Floire mis.

1230

in-the most fair place they-have Floire put

Il ont a mangier richement,

They have to eat richly

si mangierent moult liément;

and ate very merrily

mais Floire petit i manga,

but Floire little therein ate

por s'amie dont il pensa.

for his-friend of-whom he thought

- 1235 Li ostes l'a apercéu
The host him-has perceived
 qu'il n'est pas liés; quant l'a véu,
that-he not-is at-all glad when him-has seen
 «Sire», fait il, «cou m'est a vis,
Lord says he this to-me-is at seeming
 por vostre avoir estes pensis,
for your wealth you-are pensive
 por la coustume qui est grant.»
for the custom-duty which is great
- 1240 «Jou pens tout el», cou dist l'enfant.
I think quite otherwise that says the-child
 Li ostes dit: «Tout autretel
The host says Quite the-like
 vi jou l'autrier en cest ostel,
saw I the-other-day in this lodging
 qu'il avoit une grant compaignie
that-there was a great company
 de marcéans, jou cuit, d'Espagne
of merchants I think of-Spain
- 1245 qu'amenoi par mer a cest port.
whom-I-brought by sea to this port
 Cou m'est a vis, se voir recort,
This to-me-is at seeming if truth I-recall
 une pucele o eus avoit
a maiden with them there-was
 qui ensement se contenoit.
who likewise herself bore
 Jou l'oï nomer Blanceflor;
I her-heard name Blanche-flor

en ma nef mena grant dolor:

1250

in my ship she-made great sorrow

ensi au mangier sospiroit,

thus at-the meal she-sighed

et un sien ami regretoit.»

and a her-own friend lamented

Floires est liés de la novele:

Floire is glad of the news

«Ou menerent il la pucele?»

Where led they the maiden

Cil respont: «Quant de ci tornerent,

1255

He answers When from here they-turned

en Babiloine s'en alerent.»

to Babylon themselves-thence went

Floire li done un boin mantel

Floire to-him gives a good mantle

et un hanap d'argent moult bel.

and a goblet of-silver very fair

«Sire», fait il, «cou voel qu'aiez,

Lord says he this I-wish that-you-have

et Blanceflor gre en sachiez:

1260

and to-Blancheflor thanks thereof know-you

car, cou sachiez, li vois jou querre;

for that know-you her go I to-see

emblée me fu en ma terre.»

stolen from-me was in my land

L'ostes li dist, si l'en mercie:

The-host to-him says and him-thereof thanks

«Jesus vous renga vostre amie!»

Jesus to-you render your friend

1265 Quant du mangier sont souffisant,
When of-the meal they-are satisfied
 les napes ostent li serjant:
the cloths remove the sergeants
 dont font lor lis aparillier;
then they-make their beds prepare
 lassés sont, si se vont couchier.
weary they-are and themselves go lie
 Quant Floire dort, et ses cuers veille,
When Floire sleeps and his heart wakes

1270 o Blanceflor jue et conseille;
with Blancheflor plays and converses
 mais s'il dormi, ce fu petit.
but if-he slept that was little
 Au matinet, quant le jor vit,
At-the morning when the day he-saw
 ses compaignons a esvillié,
his companions has awakened
 et il se sont aparillié.
and they themselves are prepared

1275 Ens el droit chemin sont entré
Within on-the straight road are entered
 vers Babiloine la cité.
toward Babylon the city
 Cele nuit a un castel jurent
That night at a castle they-lay
 ou il moult bien herbergié furent;
where they very well lodged were
 et l'endemain, bien par matin,
and the-morrow well by morning

se remetent en lor chemin.

1280

themselves put-again on their road

La nuit se resont herbergié

The night themselves again-are lodged

en une vile ou ot marcié:

in a town where was market

la oïrent de li parler;

there they-heard of her speak

par illoec la vit on passer.

through there her saw one pass

The Bridge of Monfelis

XII

On the third day they reach an arm of the sea the country calls Hell, and are ferried over to the castle of Monfelis. The master takes Floire for a gentleman under the merchant's story, and says a girl as sad as he came that way half a year since and was bought in Babylon by the emir. Floire pays him a hundred shillings, and he sends his ring to the bridgekeeper, who lodges him in Babylon at last. There Wisdom urges him home to a bride of his father's choosing, and Love answers that he cannot live without her.

Au tiers jor, devant l'avesprer,

1285

At-the third day before the-evening

parvinrent a un bras de mer:

they-arrived at an arm of sea

l'Enfer le noment el païs.

the-Hell it they-name in-the country

De l'autre part est Monfelis,

On the-other side is Monfelis

uns chastiaus riches ou manoit

a castle rich where dwelt

1290 cil qui la gent outre passoit.

he who the folk across passed

Il n'i avoit planche ne pont:

There not-there was plank nor bridge

car trop erent li gué parfont;

for too were the fords deep

mais au rivage un cor avoit,

but at-the shore a horn there-was

qui a un pel pendus estoit.

which on a stake hung was

1295 Li venant a celui cornoient

The comers on that blew

et le pontonier apeloient.

and the ferryman called

Uns d'aus le corna, et cil l'ot:

One of-them it blew and he it-heard

si vient au plus tost que il pot.

and comes at-the most soon that he could

Li maistres sist en un batel;

The master sat in a boat

1300 o soi cuelli le damoiseil,

with himself took the young-lord

li serjant et les escuiers:

the sergeants and the squires

el chalant sont mis li somiers.

in-the barge are put the sumpters

Atant commencent a nagier

Thereupon they-begin to row

et marcéant et notonier.

both merchants and boatmen

Li maistres esgarde l'enfant,

The master looks-at the-child

gentis hom samble a son samblant;

noble man he-seems by his bearing

il li demande: «Ou errez vous?»

he to-him asks Where journey you

«Marcéans sui; cou véez vous.

Merchant I-am that see you

En Babiloine voel aler,

To Babylon I-wish to-go

et por vendre et por acater.

both to sell and to buy

S'en cest castel ostel avez,

If-in this castle lodging you-have

anuit mais nous i ostelez.»

tonight indeed us therein lodge

«Par foi, sire», fait il, «si ai:

By faith lord says he so I-have

volentiers vous herbergerai.

willingly you I-shall-lodge

Mais, biaux amis, pour cou l' disoie

But fair friend for that it I-said

que morne et pensiv vous véoie.

that gloomy and pensive you I-saw

1305

1310

1315

Tout ensement vis jou ouvan

Quite likewise saw I this-year

(n'a mie encore demi an),

not-is at-all yet half year

caiens une pucele entrer,

here-within a maiden enter

1320 et tres-tout ensement penser.

and quite-all likewise think

Ne sai se li apartenez,

Not I-know if to-her you-belong

par ma foi, vous li resamblez.»

by my faith you to-her resemble

Quant il l'ot, le chief dressa:

When he it-heard the head raised

«Sire», fait il, «et ou ala?»

Lord says he and where went-she

1325 «En Babiloine fu menée,

To Babylon she-was led

et l'amiraus l'a acatée.»

and the-emir her-has bought

Tres-tout ensi li a conté,

Quite-all thus to-him has told

tant que il furent arivé.

until that they were arrived

La nuit o lui l'a herbergié.

The night with him him-has lodged

1330 Au matin, quant a pris congié,

At-the morning when has taken leave

a son oste cent sols dona,

to his host hundred shillings gave

et en-apres moult li pria,

and thereafter much him prayed

s'a Babiloine ami éust

if-in Babylon friend he-had

qui de riens aidier li péust,

who in anything to-help him could

que par enseigne li mandast

that by token to-him he-send-word

qu'a son besoing le consillast.

that-at his need him he-counsel

«Sire», fait il, «ains que viegnez

Lord says he before that you-come

en Babiloine, troverez

to Babylon you-will-find

un flun moult le et moult parfont.

a river very wide and very deep

Quant en arez passé le pont,

When thereof you-will-have passed the bridge

dont troverez le pontonier:

then you-will-find the ferryman

mes compains est, si m'a moult chier.

my companion he-is and me-has much dear

En Babiloine est riches hom:

In Babylon he-is rich man

grant tor i a et fort maison.

great tower therein has and strong house

De nos deus pors somes compaing,

Of our two ports we-are companions

parmi partomes le gaaing.

in-half we-divide the gain

1335

1340

1345

Icest anel li porterez,

This ring to-him you-will-bear

et de moie part li direz

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

qu'il vous conseut mieus qu'il porra:

that-he you counsel best that-he will-be-able

1350 jou cuit qu'il vous herbergera.»

I think that-he you will-lodge

Atant se sont de lui parti.

Thereupon themselves are from him parted

Au port viennent a miëdi:

To-the port they-come at midday

desous un arbre l'ont trouvé,

beneath a tree him-have found

qu'il ot au chief du port planté:

which-he had at-the head of-the port planted

1355 la le troevent ou siet, sous l'arbre,

there him they-find where he-sits under the-tree

sor un perron qui fu de marbre:

on a stone-block which was of marble

son cors ot richement vestu,

his body he-had richly clothed

preudom lor pert quant l'ont véu.

worthy-man to-them appears when him-have seen

Ja a cel pont hom ne passast,

Ever at that bridge man not would-pass

1360 quatre deniers ne li donast,

four pence but-that to-him gave

et puis quatre cil a cheval.

and then four he on horse

Floire salue le vassal;

Floire greets the vassal

de tous les dieus l'a salüé,

by all the gods him-has greeted

et puis li a l'anel doné,

and then to-him has the-ring given

ensegne de son compaignon,

token of his companion

qu'il le herbert en sa maison

that-he him lodge in his house

et a son besoing le conseut,

and at his need him counsel

si com il s'amor avoir veut.

just as he his-love to-have wishes

Cil a bien l'anel connéu:

He has well the-ring recognized

recéu l'a; moult liés en fu.

received it-has very glad thereof was

Le sien anel li a baillié,

The his-own ring to-him has delivered

a sa feme l'a envoie,

to his wife it-has sent

que le herbert por soie amor,

that him lodge for his-own love

puis li a mostrée sa tor.

then to-him has shown his tower

Tout droit est el castel venus;

All straight is into-the castle come

por l'anel fu bien recéus:

for the-ring was well received

1365

1370

1375

herbergiés fu moult liément:

lodged he-was very merrily

estables i ot a talent.

stables therein were at pleasure

Or est Floires en la cité,

Now is Floire in the city

1380 que il avoit tant desiré,

which he had so-much desired

herbergiés chiez le pontonier.

lodged at the ferryman

De conseil a moult grant mestier:

Of counsel he-has very great need

car ja soit cou que venus soit

for although be it that come he-be

la ou il desiré avoit,

there where he desired had

1385 il ne set ne conseil n'en a

he not knows nor counsel not-thereof has

comment il faire le porra.

how he to-do it will-be-able

Savoir se met en son corage,

Wisdom himself puts in his heart

que il remange son lignage,

that he remember his lineage

et com il oirre folement.

and how he journeys foolishly

1390 Fait il: «Tu ne connois la gent,

Says he Thou not knowest the folk

Floire; ton conseil ou diras

Floire thy counsel where wilt-thou-tell

comment oirres et que quis as?

how thou-journeyest and what sought thou-hast

Se t'en descuevres, fols seras:

If thee-thereof thou-uncoverest fool thou-wilt-be

car, soit a certes ou a gas,

for be-it in earnest or in jest

par aucuns l'amiraus l'orroit,

by some the-emir it-would-bear

qui ta folie conistroit:

who thy folly would-know

se il l'ooit, toi feroit prendre

if he it-beard thee would-make take

et en apres noier ou pendre.

and there after to-drown or to-hang

Fai que sages: arriere va:

Do as wise back go

tes peres feme te donra

thy father wife to-thee will-give

del mieus de tres-tout son barnage,

of-the best of quite-all his baronage

pucele de grant parentage.»

maiden of great kindred

Amors respont: «J'oi grant folie:

Love answers I-hear great folly

r'aler? Et si lairas t'amie!

to-go-back And so thou-wilt-leave thy-friend

Dont ne venis tu por li querre?

Then not camest thou for her to-seek

1395

1400

1405

Et ca es venus de ta terre!

And hither art come from thy land

Dont ne te membre de l'autrier,

Then not thee remembers of the-other-day

que del graffe de ton graffier

that with-the stylus of thy stylus-case

por li ocirre te vousis?

for her to-slay thee thou-didst-wish

1410 Et or penses de ton païs!

And now thou-thinkest of thy country

Et se tu sans li i estoies,

And if thou without her there wert

voeilles ou non, ca revendroies.

will-thou or not hither thou-wouldst-come-back

Porroies tu dont sans li vivre?

Couldst thou then without her live

Se tel cuides, dont es tu yvre.

If such thou-thinkest then art thou drunk

1415 Tous l'ors del mont ne tous l'avoir

All the-gold of-the world nor all the-wealth

ne te feroit sans li manoir.

not thee would-make without her dwell

Remain ci, que sages feras;

Remain here as wise thou-wilt-do

puet-estre encor la r'averas:

it-may-be yet her thou-wilt-have-back

n'est mie legiere a garder

not-is at-all easy to guard

1420 la beste qui se veut embler.

the beast which itself wishes to-steal-away

S'ele t'i set, engien querra;

If-she thee-there knows device will-seek

s'ele puet, a toi parlera:

if-she can to thee will-speak

maint engien a Amors trové

many-a device has Love found

et avoie maint esgaré.

and set-on-way many-a strayed

Li vilains dist que Dieus labeure,

The peasant says that God labors

quant il li plaist, en moult peu d'heure.»

when it to-him pleases in very little of-hour

1425

Daires the Host

XIII

His host Daires finds him silent and offers help, and they go in to a rich meal of venison and fowl, with fruit after it. Seeing Helen and Paris on his own cup, Floire weeps, and the lady Licoris says the boy is Blancheflor's very likeness — she lay fifteen days in that house weeping for a Floire. He calls himself her brother, then owns to being a king's son and her lover, and offers his wealth for counsel. Daires answers that no force can take her: Babylon is twenty leagues across, with a hundred and forty gates.

Itel bataille en lui avoit:

Such battle in him there-was

Amors forment le destraignoit.

Love sorely him constrained

Atant es-vos l'oste venu.

Thereupon behold-you the-host come

- 1430 Quant a véu Floire si mu,
When has seen Floire so mute
 franchement l'a mis a raison:
frankly him-has put to speech
 «Damoisiaus sire, gentius hom,
Young-lord sir noble man
 estes vous de rien coureciés?
are you of anything angered
 Dont n'estes vous bien herbergiés?
Then not-are you well lodged
- 1435 Se riens véez qui vous desplaie
If anything you-see which you may-displease
 amendé iert, se j'en ai aise.»
amended it-will-be if I-thereof have means
 «Sire», fait il, «vous dites bien,
Lord says he you say well
 vostre merci; mais nule rien
your mercy but any thing
 d'endroit l'ostel ne me desplaist:
concerning the-lodging not me displeases
- 1440 a Damediu pri qu'il me laist,
to Lord-God I-pray that-be me let
 biaux dous sire, guerredoner
fair sweet lord to-require
 vostre ostage et vo bel parler.
your hospitality and your fair speaking
 Sire», dist il, «jou sui pensis
Lord says he I am pensive
 de mon marcié que j'ai enquis:
of my trade which I-have inquired

moult par-m'en-crien que jou ne l' truisse,

much much-me-thereof-I-fear that I not it find

et se le truis, qu'avoir ne l' puisse.»

and if it I-find that-to-have not it I-may

Li ostes fu moult gentius hom:

The host was very noble man

«Sire», fait il, «nous mangeron;

Lord says he we shall-eat

apres, se jou puis et jou sai,

after if I can and I know

volentiers vous consilleraï.»

willingly you I-shall-counsel

Lors le laissent, si vont mangier.

Then it they-leave and go to-eat

L'ostes apele sa moullier:

The-host calls his wife

«Dame, honorez cest damoiseil.

Lady honor this young-lord

Vêistes vous onques tant bel?»

Saw you ever so fair

L'ostes et sa feme au cler vis

The-host and his wife with-the bright face

entr'aus deus ont lués Floire assis.

between-them two have at-once Floire seated

Moult se font servir richement,

Much themselves make serve richly

en boins vaissiaus d'or et d'argent,

in good vessels of-gold and of-silver

cler vin et piument et claré,

clear wine and spiced-wine and clarry

1445

1450

1455

- 1460 et boin bogeraste et anné.
and good spiced-mead and aged-wine
 De boin mangier ont a fuison,
Of good food they-have in abundance
 et vollilles et venison;
both fowls and venison
 lardes de cerf et de sengler
larded-cuts of stag and of boar
 ont a mangier sans refuser.
they-have to eat without refusing
- 1465 Grues et gantes et hairons,
Cranes and geese and herons
 pertris, bistardes et plongons,
partridges bustards and grebes
 tout en orent a remanant.
all thereof they-had to spare
 Quant del mangier sont souffisant,
When of-the eating they-are satisfied
 adont fait apporter le fruit
then makes bring the fruit
- 1470 li ostes Daires par deduit,
the host Daires for delight
 puns de grenat, figes et poires
apples of pomegranate figs and pears
 (et avoec fu moult boins li boires),
and withal was very good the drinking
 pesches, castaignes a plenté,
peaches chestnuts in plenty
 car moult en ont en cel regné.
for much thereof they-have in that realm

Dous fruit mangüent, dous vin boivent;

Sweet fruit they-eat sweet wine they-drink

tout lié se font, si se renvoient.

all glad themselves make and themselves disport

Floires a la coupe esgardée

Floire has the cup gazed-at

qui por Blanceflor fu donée,

which for Blanceflor was given

qui devant lui fu toute plaine

which before him was all full

de plus cler vin que n'est fontaine:

of more clear wine than is fountain

Helaine i ert, comment Paris

Helen therein was how Paris

la tint par la main, ses amis.

her held by the hand her friend

El regarder qu'il fist l'ymage,

In-the looking that-he made the-image

Amors ralume son corage,

Love rekindles his heart

se li dist: «Or aies envie!

and to-him says Now have-thou envy

Ci enmaine Paris s'amie.

Here leads-away Paris his-friend

Ha Dius! verrai jou ja le jor

Alas God shall-see I ever the day

qu'ensi enmaigne Blanceflor?

that-thus I-may-lead-away Blanceflor

1475

1480

1485

Diva! Floires, apres mangier

Come-now Floire after eating

1490 te doit tes ostes consillier.»

thee ought thy host to-counsel

Li lons mangiers l'a moult grevé.

The long eating him-has much grieved

La dame l'a bien esgardé,

The lady him-has well observed

set que en li a grant estrif,

knows that in him is great strife

quant si le voit, morne et pensif.

when so him she-sees gloomy and pensive

1495 Aval la face clere et tendre

Down the face clear and tender

voit les larmes del cuer descendre:

she-sees the tears from-the heart descend

pitie en a; si l'a moustré

pity thereof she-has and it-has shown

a son signor, et l'a bouté.

to her lord and him-has nudged

Les napes fait oster des dois:

The cloths she-makes remove from-the tables

1500 tout se lievent, ne mais qu'aus trois.

all themselves rise not but except-them three

Puis li a dit: «Damoisiaus sire,

Then to-him has said Young-lord sir

se vous avez ne doel ne ire

if you have either grief or anger

por quoi pensez, dites le moi;

for which you-brood tell it to-me

je vous consilleraï par foi.

I you shall-counsel by faith

Vostre estre ne me celez pas;

1505

Your state not from-me conceal at-all

moult me samble que cou soit gas,

much to-me it-seems that this be jest

que vos dras vendez a detail:

that your cloths you-sell at retail

d'autre marcie avez travail.»

of-other trade you-have toil

«Sire», fait Licoris, «par foi,

Lord says Licoris by faith

cou m'est a vis, quant jou le voi,

1510

this to-me-is at seeming when I him see

que cou soit Blanceflor la bele.

that this be Blanceflor the fair

Jou cuit qu'ele est sa suer jumele:

I think that-she is his sister twin

tel vis, tel cors et tel samblant

such face such body and such bearing

com ele avoit, a cest enfant:

as she had has this child

bien voi qu'il sont prochain parant,

1515

well I-see that-they are near kin

car a merveille sont samblant.

for to marvel they-are alike

Ele fu caiens quinze jors:

She was here-within fifteen days

ses confors fu regres et plors;

her comfort was laments and tears

Floire, un sien ami, regretoit,

Floire a her-own friend she-lamented

1520 et nuit et jor por lui ploroit.

both night and day for him she-weep

Quant ele de caiens torna

When she from here-within turned

et li amirals l'acata,

and the emir her-bought

grant doel en fist; caiens jou l' vi.»

great grief thereof she-made here-within I it saw

Quant Floire l'ot, si s'esbahi,

When Floire it-heard so himself-was-dazed

1525 qu'isnelement li respondi,

that-swifly to-her answered

et dist: «Non frere, mais ami.»

and said Not brother but friend

De cou qu'ot dit se repenti:

Of that that-he-had said himself repented

«Mais freres, dame; jou mesdi.

But brother lady I misspeak

Dame, merci! oubliez, j'ere:

Lady mercy forget I-erred

1530 ele est ma suer; et jou, ses frere.»

she is my sister and I her brother

«Amis», dist Daires, «ne cremez:

Friend says Daires not fear-you

parmi le voir vous en alez:

through the truth yourself thence go

se vous la dansele querez,

if you the damsel seek

sachiez porvoir cui fuis serez.»

know-you for-truth whose son you-will-be

«Sire», fait il, «por Diu merci!

Lord says he for God mercy

Fuis de roi sui, je vous aï,

Son of king I-am I you assure

et Blanceflor si est m'amie.

and Blanceflor so is my-friend

Emblée me fu par envie:

Stolen from-me was through envy

sivie l'ai par ces regnés;

followed her-I-have through these realms

entrepris sui et esgarés.

at-a-loss I-am and bewildered

Riches hom sui d'or et d'argent:

Rich man I-am of-gold and of-silver

si vous en donrai largement,

so to-you thereof I-shall-give liberally

se de cest plait me consilliez.

if of this plight me you-counsel

Biau sire, de verte le sachiez;

Fair lord for truth it know-you

cou est la fins: ou jou l'arai,

this is the end either I her-shall-have

ou por s'amor de doel morrai.»

or for her-love of grief I-shall-die

Daires li dist: «Cou est damage,

Daires to-him says This is pity

se vous morez por tel folage.

if you die for such folly

1535

1540

1545

- De cou ne m'os jou pas vanter,
Of that not me-dare I at-all boast
- 1550 que j'en sache conseil doner.
that I-thereof may-know counsel to-give
- Li mieus que jou en sache oyez,
The best that I thereof may-know hear-you
- se vous icou faire voliez.
if you this to-do would-wish
- Mais bien sai, vous ne l' feriez mie;
But well I-know you not it would-do at-all
- puet-estre qu'en perdriez la vie:
it-may-be that-thereof you-would-lose the life
- 1555 car se l'amirals l'ooit dire,
for if the-emir it-heard say
- livrer vous feroit a martire.
deliver you he-would-make to martyrdom
- Il n'i a roi en cest païs,
There not-there is king in this country
- se autretel plait avoit quis,
if such-like plight he-had sought
- qui par force ne par avoir
who by force nor by wealth
- 1560 ja l'aquievast, si com j'espoir.
ever it-might-achieve just as I-expect
- Ne engien, ne enchantement
Neither device nor enchantment
- a la r'avoir ne vaut nient.
to her to-have-back not avails at-all
- Se tres-toutes les gens del mont,
If quite-all the folk of-the world

qui onques furent et or sont,

who ever were and now are

par force tolir la voloient

by force to-take-away her wished

a l'amirail, tout i faudroient.

from the-emir all therein would-fail

Li amiraus en sa justice

The emir in his jurisdiction

cent et cinquante rois a mise:

hundred and fifty kings has put

se il les mande en Babiloine,

if he them summons to Babylon

tout i vendront sans nul essoine.

all thither will-come without any excuse

Babiloine, si com jou pens,

Babylon just as I think

dure vint liues de tous sens:

extends twenty leagues on all sides

li murs qui la clot n'est pas bas;

the wall which it encloses not-is at-all low

tout entor est fais a compas,

all around is made by measure

et tres-tous est fais d'un mortier

and quite-all is made of-a mortar

qui ne doute piquois d'acier:

which not fears pickaxe of-steel

si a quinze tailles de haut,

so has fifteen stone-courses of height

de nule part ne crient assaut.

from any side not fears assault

1565

1570

1575

Enz el mur ferment sept vins portes:

Within in-the wall shut seven score gates

1580 tors a desus larges et fortes:

towers has above wide and strong

a toutes est la foire plaine

at all is the fair full

tous les huit jors de la semaine.

all the eight days of the week

En Babiloine, ca dedens,

In Babylon here within

a tors faites plus de sept cens,

has towers made more than seven hundred

1585 ou mainent li baron casé,

where dwell the barons enfeoffed

qui enforcent moult la cité:

who strengthen much the city

la plus foible ne la menor

the most feeble nor the least

ne doute roi ne aumacor;

not fears king nor almayor

néis l'empereres de Rome

even the-emperor of Rome

1590 n'i feroit vaillant une pome.

not-there would-do worth an apple

Par force nus home ne par guerre

By force any man nor by war

ne porroit Blanceflor conquerre:

not could Blanchefflor conquer

encontre engien r'est si gardée,

against device in-turn-is so guarded

par larron ne puet estre emblée.

by thief not can be stolen

The Tower of the Maidens

XIV

Daires describes the tower: two hundred fathoms high, lit at night by a carbuncle above. Its upper stories rest on one marble pillar carrying a spring to the top, and it holds a hundred and forty chambers with as many maidens, guarded by eunuchs under a cruel master. Below is an orchard ringed by a river out of paradise, loud with birds, and rich in spices and gems. Each year the emir weds a maiden and then beheads her, choosing by the clouding water and the falling flower. In a month he means to take Blancheflor.

En mi liu de ceste cité

In middle place of this city

a une tor d'antiquité,

is a tower of-antiquity

deus cens toises haute et cent lée,

two hundred fathoms high and hundred wide

roonde come cheminée.

round as chimney

Toute est de vert quarrel de marbre,

All is of green squared-stone of marble

coverte a vause, tout sans arbre.

covered with vault all without timber

Haute est amont comme clochier;

High is above like belfry

1595

1600

li torpins est desus d'ormier.

the pinnacle is on-top of-fine-gold

Longe est soissante piés l'aguille,

Long is sixty feet the-spire

del millor or qui soit en Puille,

of-the best gold which be in Apulia

1605 et el torpin qui est desus

and in-the pinnacle which is above

a bien cent mars d'or fin ou plus.

is fully hundred marks of-gold fine or more

Deseur siet par enchantement

Above sits by enchantment

uns escarboucles qui resplent:

a carbuncle which shines

assi(s) i est par grant conseil;

placed therein is by great counsel

1610 par nuit reluist comme soleil

by night it-shines like sun

tout environ par la cité;

all around through the city

par nuit obscure a tel clarté,

by night dark has such brightness

que il n'estuet a nul garçon

that it not-behooves to any lad

porter lanterne ne brandon.

to-carry lantern nor torch

1615 Soit chevaliers ne marcéant,

Be-be knight nor merchant

ne autres qui rien voist querant,

nor other who anything go seeking

se par nuit vient a la cité,

if by night he-comes to the city

de nule part n'iert esgaré:

from any side not-will-be lost

car soit sor terre ou soit sor mer,

for be-it on land or be-it on sea

de nule part n'estuet douter:

from any side not-behooves to-fear

quant de vint liues la verra,

when from twenty leagues it be-will-see

a une pres li samblera.

at one near to-him it-will-seem

En cele tor a trois estages;

In that tower are three stories

cil qui les fist moult par-fu sages:

he who them made very much-was wise

li pavement de marbre sont;

the pavements of marble are

nesun soustenement n'en-ont

any support not-thereof-have

les deus desus, fors d'un piler

the two above save of-a pillar

qui par celi estuet passer.

which through that-one it-behooves to-pass

Li pilers sourt du fondement;

The pillar springs from-the foundation

duqu'a l'aguille en haut s'estent.

up-to the-spire on high itself-extends

De marbre cler comme cristal,

Of marble clear as crystal

1620

1625

1630

dedens a un bien fait canal;

within is a well made channel

par quoi sus monte une fontaine,

by which up mounts a spring

dont l'eve est moult clere et moult saine,

of-which the-water is very clear and very wholesome

1635 de si qu'amont, el tiers estage.

from so that-above in-the third story

Li engignieres fu moult sage:

The engineer was very wise

el tiers, fait l'eve retourner

at-the third makes the-water return

de l'autre part, par le piler.

on the-other side through the pillar

En chascun estage se trait

Into each story itself draws

1640 l'eve par le conduit, et vait:

the-water by the conduit and goes

les dames qui en l'autre sont,

the ladies who in the-other are

en prenent quant mestier en ont;

thereof take when need thereof they-have

et es estages chambres a

and in-the stories chambers are

usqu'a sept vint: ja ne verra

up-to seven score ever not will-see

1645 nus hom morteus plus delitable.

any man mortal more delightful

Li piler sont tres-tout de marbre,

The pillars are quite-all of marble

et de plaitoine est la closure,

and of plane-wood is the enclosure

d'un arbre chier qui tous tans dure.

of-a tree costly which all seasons lasts

De myrre et ausi de benus

Of myrrh and also of ebony

sont les fenestres tout li plus:

are the windows all the greater-part

tout cou fist querre a grant travail,

all that made seek with great toil

por metre en sa tor, l'amirail;

to put in his tower the-emir

car, la ou est, serpens ne vuivre

for there where is serpent nor viper

n'autre vermine n'i puet vivre.

nor-other vermin not-there can live

Li cieus desus, qui ferme au mur,

The ceiling above which closes to-the wall

est pains a or et a azur;

is painted with gold and with azure

moult a apris de l'escripüre

much has learned of the-writing

qui puet savoir de la peinture:

who can know of the painting

li fait i sont des ancissours,

the deeds therein are of-the ancestors

les proueces et les estours.

the prowesses and the battles

1650

1655

1660

En chascune a une pucele

In each has a maiden

li amirals mise novele,

the emir put new

tele com lui vient a plaisir:

such as to-him comes to pleasure

la, la fait metre et bien servir.

there her makes put and well serve

1665 De l'un estage en l'autre vont

From the-one story into the-other they-go

par les degres qui fait i sont.

by the stairs which made therein are

El moien estage a un huis

In-the middle story is a door

en une loge, qui vait juis

in a gallery which goes down

tout a degré[s] aval cavé,

all by stairs downward hollowed

1670 droit en la chambre l'amiré.

straight into the chamber (of-)the-emir

Par cel degre viennent et vont

By that stair come and go

les puceles que il semont.

the maidens whom he summons

En la tor a sept vint puceles

In the tower are seven score maidens

qui moult sont avenans et beles:

who very are comely and fair

1675 por cou qu'eles sont damoiseles,

for that that-they are damsels

si a nom la tors as puceles.

so has name the tower of-the maidens

Tres-toutes celes qui i sont

Quite-all those who therein are

doi a doi son service font:

two by two his service do

iceles doi que il eslit,

those two whom he chooses

a son lever et a son lit

at his rising and at his bed

l'une sert de l'eve doner,

the-one serves of the-water to-give

et la touaile tient son per.

and the towel holds her mate

Les gardes qui en la tor sont,

The guards who in the tower are

les genitaires pas n'en-ont:

the genitals at-all not-thereof-have

trois en a el chief d'un estage,

three thereof are at-the head of-a story

estre le maistre le plus sage.

besides the master the most wise

Cil est cruels moult durement;

He is cruel very grievously

por cou le criement moult forment.

for that him they-fear very sorely

Del mangier sert et del lit faire:

Of-the eating serves and of-the bed making

li mastins est fel deputaire.

the mastiff is wicked base

1680

1685

1690

En son puing tient chascuns une arme,

In his fist holds each a weapon

ou misericorde ou gisarme.

either misericord or gisarme

Cil qui garde l'huis de la tor

He who guards the-door of the tower

set bien quant il est nuit ou jor:

knows well when it is night or day

1695 devant l'huis maint en un arvol:

before the-door dwells in a vault

de la tor garder n'est pas fol.

of the tower to-guard not-is at-all fool

Se nesun hom voit esgarder

If any man he-sees to-gaze

sus en la tor por espier,

up at the tower to spy

par-si que il n'en ait congié

provided that he not-thereof have leave

1700 de l'amirail, est tout jugié:

of the-emir is all judged

se il veut, tout le reubera

if he wishes all him will-rob

et sans amende le batra.

and without amends him will-beat

Quatre gaites a en la tor

Four watchmen are in the tower

qui veillent la nuit et le jor;

who watch the night and the day

1705 se riens i voient aprochier,

if anything therein they-see approach

a ceus dedens le vont noncier.

to those within it they-go announce

Li amirals tel costume a

The emir such custom has

que une feme o lui tenra

that one woman with him will-hold

un an plenier, et noient plus;

one year full and nothing more

puis demande les sers de sus,

then calls-for the serfs from above

dont li fera le chief trenchier.

then to-her will-make the head cut

Ne veut que clerc ne chevalier

Not wishes that clerk nor knight

ait la feme qu'il a éue:

have the woman whom-he has had

a une autre est l'onors rendue.

to an other is the-honor rendered

Après, quant il veut l'autre prendre,

After when he wishes the-other to-take

voiant tous les sers, fait descendre

seeing all the serfs makes descend

les puceles en un vergié.

the maidens into an orchard

Chascune en a son cuer irié:

Each thereof has her heart grieved

car l'onor doutent por la mort,

for the-honor they-dread for the death

qu'après en ont sans nul restort.

that-after thereof have without any redress

1710

1715

1720

Or devez del vergier oïr,

Now you-must of-the orchard hear

et por quoi les i fait venir.

and for what them therein makes come

Li vergiers est et biaux et grans:

The orchard is both fair and great

el monde n'est nus plus vaillans.

in-the world not-is any more excellent

1725 De l'une part est clos de mur

On the-one side is closed with wall

tout paint a or et a asur,

all painted with gold and with azure

et desus, sor chascun cretel,

and above on each battlement

divers de l'autre a un oisel

different from the-other is a bird

d'arain euvrés, tout tresjetés:

of-brass wrought all cast

1730 onques mais ne fu véus tés.

ever before not was seen such

Quant il vente, si font dous cri

When it blows so they-make sweet cry

qu'onques nus home tel n'oï:

that-ever any man such not-beard

si ne fu ainc beste tant fiere,

so not was ever beast so fierce

se de lor chant ot la maniere,

if of their song bears the manner

1735 lupars ne tygre ne lion,

leopard nor tiger nor lion

qu'il n'en soient en soupeon.

that-they not-thereof be in fear

En ce vergier, au tans seri,

In this orchard at-the season serene

des oisiaus i a si dous cri,

of-the birds therein is so sweet cry

et tant de faus, et tant de vrais!

and so-many of false and so-many of true

Merles, et calendres, et gais,

Blackbirds and larks and jays

et estorniaus, et rosignos,

and starlings and nightingales

et pincones, et espringos,

and chaffinches and warblers

et autres oisiaus qui i sont,

and other birds which therein are

par le vergier grant joie font:

through the orchard great joy make

qui les sons ot et l'estormie,

who the sounds hears and the-tumult

moult est dolans s'il n'a s'amie.

very is sorrowful if-he not-has his-friend

De l'autre part, cou m'est a vis,

On the-other side this to-me-is at seeming

court uns flueves de paradis,

runs a river of paradise

qui Eufrates est apelés.

which Euphrates is called

1740

1745

- 1750 De celui est avironés
By that-one is surrounded
 issi que riens n'i puet passer,
so that anything not-there can pass
 se par desus ne veut voler.
if by above not it-wishes to-fly
 En icele eve, demanieres
In that water of-(many)-kinds
 truevé on precieuses pieres:
finds one precious stones
- 1755 saffirs i a et calcidoines,
sapphires therein are and chalcedonies
 boines jagonses et sardoines,
good jacinths and sardonyxes
 rubis, et jaspes, et cristaus,
rubies and jaspers and crystals
 et topasses, et boins esmaus,
and topazes and good enamels
 et autres que nomer ne sai,
and others which to-name not I-know
- 1760 car pas oï nomer n'es ai.
for at-all heard to-name not-them I-have
 Li vergiers est tous tans floris,
The orchard is all seasons flowering
 et des oisiaus i a grans cris.
and of-the birds therein are great cries
 Il n'a sous ciel arbre tant chier,
There not-is under heaven tree so costly
 benus, plantoine, n'aliér,
ebony plane-tree nor-service-tree

ente nule, ne boins figiers,

1765

graft any nor good fig-trees

peschiers, ne periers, ne noiers,

peach-trees nor pear-trees nor nut-trees

n' autre chier arbre qui fruit port,

nor other costly tree which fruit bear

dont il n'ait assez en cel ort.

of-which there not-have enough in that garden

Poivre, canele et garingal,

Pepper cinnamon and galingale

encens, girofle et citoval,

1770

incense clove and zedoary

et des autres espisses assez

and of-the other spices enough

i a, qui flairent moult soués.

therein are which smell very sweet

Il n'a home, mon essient,

There not-is man my knowledge

entre Oïent et Occident,

between Orient and Occident

qui ens est, et sent les odors

1775

who within is and smells the odors

et des espisses et des flors,

both of-the spices and of-the flowers

et des oisiaus oïst les sons,

and of-the birds might-hear the sounds

et haus et bas les gresillons,

both high and low the warblings

por la doucor li est a vis

for the sweetness to-him is at seeming

1780 des sons qu'il est en paradis.

of-the sounds that-he is in paradise

El mi liu sourt une fontaine,

In-the middle place springs a fountain

en un praël, et clere et saine:

in a meadow both clear and wholesome

en quarrel est fais li canal,

in squared-stone is made the channel

de blanc argent et de cristal.

of white silver and of crystal

1785 Un arbre i a desus planté:

A tree therein is above planted

plus bel ne virent home né;

more fair not saw man born

por cou que tous tans i a flors,

for that that all seasons therein are flowers

on l'apele l'arbre d'amors:

one it-calls the-tree of-love

l'une renaist quant l'autre chiet.

the-one is-reborn when the-other falls

1790 Par grant maistrise l'arbre siet:

By great mastery the-tree sits

l'arbre, la flor, tout est vermeus.

the-tree the flower all is vermilion

De fisique ot cil bons conseus

Of physic had he good counsels

qui l'planta: car a l'asséoir

who it-planted for at the-setting

fu fais l'engiens, si com j'espoir.

was made the-device just as I-expect

Au main, quant lieve li soleus,

At-the morning when rises the sun

en l'arbre fiert tres-tous vermeus,

into the-tree strikes quite-all vermilion

et avoec li fierent doi vent,

and with it strike two winds

par qu'est tenus temprément.

by which-is held temperately

Cil arbres est si engigniés,

This tree is so contrived

que tous tans est de flors chargiés.

that all seasons is with flowers laden

Quant li amirals veut sortir,

When the emir wishes to-cast-lots

ses puceles il fait venir

his maidens he makes come

au ruissel de la fontanele,

to-the stream of the little-fountain

dont de fin or est la gravele.

of-which of fine gold is the gravel

Quant passer doivent le canal,

When to-pass they-must the channel

qui est d'argent et de cristal,

which is of-silver and of crystal

1795

1800

1805

oultre en-vont ordenéement;

across away-they-go in-order

et il au passer moult entent,

and he at-the passing much attends

et a sa gent i fait entendre.

and to his folk therein makes attend

1810 Grant merveille i puet on aprendre:

Great marvel therein can one learn

car, quant il i passe pucele,

for when it there passes maiden

lors est li eve clere et bele,

then is the water clear and fair

et au passer de feme éue,

and at-the passing of woman had

l'eve en est lués toute méue.

the-water thereof is at-once all troubled

1815 Cele qui par cou est provée,

She who by that is proved

desfaite est et en fu jetée.

undone is and into fire cast

Après les fait toutes passer

After them makes all pass

desous l'arbre, por arester

beneath the-tree to determine

la quele cel an il ara:

the which that year he will-have

1820 cele (est) sor cui la flors carra.

she is on whom the flower will-fall

Le sort jete de tel maniere:

The lot he-casts of such manner

sor qui carra la flors premiere,

on whom will-fall the flower first

en-es-le-pas iert coronée

at-once will-be crowned

et dame du païs clamée.

and lady of-the country called

Il la nocie a grant honor,

He her weds with great honor

et si l'aime comme s'oissor

and so her-loves as his-wife

de-si a l'an, que jou ai dit;

even-to at the-year which I have said

adont la vïole et l'ocit.

then her he-violates and her-slays

Et se il a o soi pucele

And if he has with himself maiden

que il mieus aime et soit plus bele,

whom he best loves and he most fair

sor li fait par enchantement

on her makes by enchantment

la flor caïr a son talent.

the flower to-fall at his will

D'(h)ui en un mois li jors sera

From-(t)oday in one month the day will-be

que ses barons assamblera,

that his barons he-will-assemble

tout icil qui sont de sa geste:

all those who are of his lineage

car a cel jor tendra sa feste.

for on that day he-will-hold his feast

1825

1830

1835

Blanceflor dist qu'adont prendra:

Blancheflor he-says that-then he-will-take

sor toutes autres chiere l'a.

above all others dear her-has

Es sept vint n'a si bele flor:

In-the seven score not-is so fair flower

1840 por cou la veut prendre a oissor.

for that her wishes to-take as wife

Il desire moult son servise;

He desires much her service

toute s'entente a en li mise;

all his-intent has on her put

le terme het qui tant demeure:

the term he-bates which so-much tarries

ja ne cuide que viegne l'eure.»

ever not thinks that come the-hour

The Porter Won at Chess

XV

Floire despairs, and Daires counsels him: go to the tower as an engineer, saying you mean to build its like at home. The porter will take you for rich and play you at chess; carry gold in your sleeve, win, hand back both stakes, return with more, and on the third day bring your cup and give it for love. So it falls out: the porter, caught by his own greed, does him homage. Told whom Floire seeks, he says all three will die for it, and asks three days. Floire calls the term long; the porter calls it short, his death sure.

Floire respont: «Sire, merci:

1845

Floire answers Lord mercy

dont sui jou mors, s'il est ensi.

then am I dead if-it is thus

Car s'est espouse l'amirail,

For if-she-is spouse (of-)the-emir

dont sai bien qu'a estrous i fail.

then I-know well that-at utterly therein I-fail

Daires, biaux ostes, que ferai?

Daires fair host what shall-I-do

Par mon chief, calenge i metrai.

1850

By my head challenge therein I-shall-put

Et moi qu'en chaut se pers ma vie,

And to-me what-thereof matters if I-lose my life

quant jou perdu arai m'amie?»

when I lost shall-have my-friend

Daires respont: «Puisque jou voi

Daires answers Since I see

qu'en vostre cuer a tel effroi

that-in your heart is such terror

1855 que vous ne chaut de vostre vie

that to-you not matters of your life

se la perdez por vostre amie,

if it you-lose for your friend

or m'escoutez; si vous dirai

now me-hear and to-you I-shall-tell

le millor conseil que jou sai.

the best counsel that I know

Demain irez droit a la tor

Tomorrow you-will-go straight to the tower

1860 com se fuissiez engignéor:

as if you-were engineer

quans piés est lée mesurez,

how-many feet is wide measure

a la hautor garde prenez.

at the height heed take

Li portiers a le cuer felon,

The porter has the heart felon

s'empres vous metra a raison,

and-forthwith you he-will-put to speech

1865 et vous par engien respondrez

and you by device answer

que contrefaire la volez

that to-copy it you-wish

quant vous serez en vostre terre:

when you will-be in your land

car n'i venistes por el querre.

for not-there you-came for other-thing to-see

Quant ensi parler vous orra,

When thus to-speak you he-will-hear

riche homme lors vous cuidera,

rich man then you he-will-think

puet-estre a vous s'acointera:

it-may-be with you himself-will-acquaint

des esches a vous juëra.

at-the chess with you he-will-play

Car il moult volentiers i juie;

For he very willingly therein plays

quant trueve a qui, moult se dedue;

when he-finds with whom much himself he-delights

et vous, en vostre mance arez

and you in your sleeve will-have

cent onces d'or qu'a li metrez.

hundred ounces of-gold which-at it you-will-stake

Mais sans avoir n'i alez mie,

But without wealth not-there go at-all

si com vous amez vostre vie:

just as you love your life

car a engien, si com j'esper,

for by device just as I-hope

le decevrez par vostre avoir.

him you-will-deceive by your wealth

Se gaigniez, tout li rendez

If you-win all to-him render

et vos cent onces li donez,

and your hundred ounces to-him give

1870

1875

1880

et il moult s'esmerveillera;

and he much himself-will-marvel

por cou, a vous juër volra,

for that with you to-play he-will-wish

1885 et l'endemain la repairez:

and the-morrow there return

et moult tres-bien li otroiez.

and very very-well to-him grant

Au ju a double porterez:

At-the play at double you-will-carry

se gaaigniez, tout li rendez:

if you-win all to-him render

le vostre et le sien li donez

the yours and the his to-him give

1890 que vous ja plus n'i atendez.

that you ever more not-there wait

Por le don grasse vous rendra,

For the gift thanks to-you he-will-render

del revenir vous proiera.

of-the returning you he-will-pray

Vous li direz: Sire, de gré,

You to-him will-say Lord of goodwill

jou vous ai forment en-amé.

I you have greatly loved

1895 Or et argent a plenté ai:

Gold and silver in plenty I-have

sachiez qu'assez vous en donrai,

know-you that-enough to-you thereof I-shall-give

car vous m'avez bien acuelli:

for you me-have well welcomed

bel a parlé vostre merci.

fair has spoken your mercy

Quatre onces d'or, al endemain

Four ounces of-gold at-the morrow

et vostre coupe en l'autre main

and your cup in the-other hand

reporterez a l'eschequier.

you-will-bring-back to the-chessboard

S'il vous avient a gaignier,

If-it to-you befalls to win

vostre or et le sien li rendez;

your gold and the his to-him render

mais vostre coupe retenez.

but your cup keep

Dont volra que por li juëz

Then he-will-wish that for it you-play

et que vous au ju la metez,

and that you at-the play it stake

et vous ne volrez mais juër:

and you not will-wish more to-play

si vous menra a son disner.

so you he-will-lead to his dinner

Liés se fera du grant tresor

Glad himself will-make of-the great treasure

que il aura fait de vostre or;

which he will-have made of your gold

honorra vous et tendra chier,

he-will-honor you and will-hold dear

quanqu'il porra, a son mengier.

whatever-he will-be-able at his meal

1900

1905

1910

De la coupe iert moult covoteus

Of the cup he-will-be very covetous

et de l'acater angoisseus:

and of the-buying anxious

1915 moult offerra por acater,

much he-will-offer to buy

mil mars vous en volra doner:

thousand marks to-you thereof he-will-wish to-give

dont li dites, rien n'en prendrez,

then to-him say anything not-thereof you-will-take

mais par amistiés la donrez.

but by friendship it you-will-give

Dont par-iert il si decéus

Then much-will-be he so deceived

1920 et por vostre or si embéus

and for your gold so intoxicated

que de joie a vos piés carra

that of joy at your feet will-fall

et homage vous offerra:

and homage to-you will-offer

et vous, en prenez bien l'homage

and you thereof take well the-homage

et la fiance, s'estes sage.

and the pledge if-you-are wise

1925 Lors vous tendra il a amor

Then you will-hold he in love

com li hom liges son signor;

as the man liege his lord

puis li porrez tout descovrir

then to-him you-will-be-able all to-uncover

le mal qui si vous fait languir.

the ill which so you makes languish

Se il puet, il vous aidera,

If he can he you will-help

et, s'il ne puet, nus ne l'porra.»

and if-he not can anyone not it-will-be-able

1930

Floires a Dairon mercié

Floire has Daires thanked

del conseil qu'il li a doné:

of-the counsel which-he to-him has given

atant boivent, si vont gesir:

thereupon they-drink and go to-lie

por le penser laist le dormir.

for the thinking he-leaves the sleeping

Floire se lieve par matin,

Floire himself rises by morning

et Daires le mist au chemin.

and Daires him put on-the road

Venus est au pié de la tour;

Come is at-the foot of the tower

a esgarder la prent entour:

to gaze it he-takes around

es-vos l'huissier qui l'araisone,

behold-you the-doorkeeper who him-accosts

si roidement que tout l'estone:

so roughly that all him-astounds

1935

1940

«Estes espie ou traïtour

Are-you spy or traitor

qui si esgardez nostre tour?»

who so gaze-at our tower

«Sire», dist il, «naie, par foi;

Lord says he nay by faith

mais por icou l'esgar et voi

but for this it-I-gaze-at and see

1945 qu'en mon païs tele feroie,

that-in my country such I-would-make

se jamais venir i pooie.»

if ever to-come there I-could

Il sot parler tant richement,

He knew to-speak so richly

et cil le vit tant bel et gent!

and he him saw so fair and comely

Por cou qu'en lui vit tel biauté

For that that-in him he-saw such beauty

1950 toute entrelaist sa cruauté,

all he-lays-aside his cruelty

et dist: «Ne samblez pas espie.»

and says Not you-seem at-all spy

De juër as esches l'envie,

Of to-play at-the chess him-invites

et Floires ensi exploita

and Floire thus wrought

comme ses osten li loa.

as his host to-him counseled

1955 Cil le vit: moult s'en merveilla,

He it saw much himself-thereat marveled

et por le don l'en-mercïa.

and for the gift him-thereof-thanked

Moult li proia au repairier

Much to-him prayed at-the returning

d'a lui juër a l'eschequier,

of-with him to-play at the-chessboard

et il si fist sans demorance,

and he so did without delay

deus cens onces d'or en sa mance;

two hundred ounces of-gold in his sleeve

et cil en-i remist deus cens.

and he thereof-therein staked two hundred

Floire du gaaignier n'est lens:

Floire of-the winning not-is slow

au roc en prist un grant tropel,

at-the rook thereof took a great heap

et dist Eschec: moult li fu bel.

and says Check much to-him it-was fair

Adonques a l'huissiers véu,

Then has the-doorkeeper seen

que il a bien le ju perdu:

that he has well the play lost

son or li rent forment iriés;

his gold to-him renders sorely angered

mais Floire (l')en refist tost liés:

but Floire him-thereof made-again soon glad

le sien li done et si li rent

the his to-him gives and so to-him renders

le gaaing, et cil le reprent.

the winning and he it takes-back

1960

1965

1970

Ne juëra mais, Floire dist:

Not will-play more Floire says

tout maintenant del ju en-ist.

all at-once from-the play thence-goes

Atant l'en-mainie li huissier

Thereupon him-leads-away the doorkeeper

o lui a son ostel mangier;

with him to his lodging to-eat

1975 forment l'oneure, et tout por l'or

greatly him-honors and all for the-gold

dont tant a créu son tresor.

whereby so-much has grown his treasure

Mais de la coupe ert angoisseus

But of the cup he-was anxious

et de l'avoir moult covoteus;

and of the-having very covetous

dist, chierement l'acatera

says dearly it-he-will-buy

1980 et mil onces d'or en donra.

and thousand ounces of-gold thereof will-give

Floires dist: «Ja or n'en prendrai;

Floire says Ever gold not-thereof I-shall-take

mais par amor la vous donrai,

but by love it to-you I-shall-give

por cou qu'il m'iert gerredonés,

for that that-it to-me-will-be requited

se mon besoing jamais véez.»

if my need ever you-see

Cil prent la coupe, et puis li jure

He takes the cup and then to-him swears

qu'en lui servir metra sa cure.

that-in him to-serve he-will-put his care

Il l'en-main, sans atargier,

He him-leads-away without delaying

esbanoier ens el vergier:

to-disport within in-the orchard

as piés li chiet, offre s'oumage:

at-the feet to-him falls offers his-homage

Floires le prent, si fait que sage.

Floire it takes and does as wise

Cil fiance que par amor

He pledges that by love

le servira comme signor.

him will-serve as lord

«Sire», fait Floire, «or est ensi:

Lord says Floire now is thus

com en mon home en-vous me fi:

as in my man in-you me I-trust

des-ore vous dirai ma vie.

from-now to-you I-shall-tell my life

Lassus en la tor est m'amie,

Up-there in the tower is my-friend

cele qui nom a Blanceflors.

she who name has Blanche-flor

Tant me destraint la soie amors

So-much me constrains the her love

que d'Espagne, tout por li querre,

that from-Spain all for her to-seek

1985

1990

1995

2000 sui venus en iceste terre.

I-am come into this land

Sire, or aiez de moi merci!

Lord now have of me mercy

Car de ma vie en vous me fi.

For of my life in you me I-trust

La fins est tele: ou jou l'arai,

The end is such either I her-shall-have

ou por s'amor de doel morrai.»

or for her-love of grief I-shall-die

2005 Li portiers l'ot, si s'esmarri;

The porter it-heard and himself-dismayed

forment se tint a escarni.

greatly himself held for mocked

«Engigniés sui», dist il, «c'est voirs;

Deceived I-am says he it-is true

decéu m'a li vostre avoirs:

deceived me-has the your wealth

par covoitise en ai le tort:

by covetousness thereof I-have the wrong

2010 por vostre avoir arai la mort.

for your wealth I-shall-have the death

Mais ensi est qu'el n'en puis faire,

But thus it-is that-other-thing not-thereof I-can do

lacié m'avez, n'en puis retraire.

bound me-you-have not-thereof I-can withdraw

Ou bien m'en prenge, ou mal m'en viegne

Either well to-me-thereof may-take or ill to-me-thereof may-come

ne lairai covens ne vous tiegne,

not I-shall-leave covenant but you I-hold

et si sai jou bien, par ma foi,

and so know I well by my faith

que par icou morrons tout troi.

that by this we-shall-die all three

A vostre ostel vous en-irez

To your lodging you thence-will-go

et au tiers jor repairerez:

and at-the third day you-will-return

jou porpenserai entretant.»

I shall-consider meanwhile

Floires li respont en plorant.

Floire to-him answers in weeping

«Cis termes», fait il, «est trop grans.»

This term says he is too great

Li portiers li fu respondans:

The porter to-him was answering

«A moi est cours, car de la mort

To me is short for of the death

sui aséur sans nul resort.

I-am assured without any recourse

Biau sire Floire, vous ne chaut

Fair lord Floire to-you not matters

de cest afaire comment aut;

of this affair how it-may-go

se poëz véoir vostre amie,

if you-can to-see your friend

ne doutez riens de vostre vie.»

not fear anything of your life

2015

2020

2025

The Basket of Flowers

XVI

The porter fills baskets with flowers and hides Floire in one; the sergeants who carry it up set it down in the wrong chamber. The girl there springs to the flowers, Floire rises thinking she is his love, and her cry brings her companions, whom she tells a butterfly startled her. She is Claris, and she coaxes Blancheflor, who has sworn to kill herself rather than take the emir, in to see the flower. The lovers embrace, Claris swears secrecy, and Blancheflor hears what Floire has suffered and draws him to her.

Atant s'en est Floires tornés.

Thereupon himself-thence is Floire turned

2030 Li portiers a engien trové,

The porter has device found

qu'as damoiseles de la tor

that-to-the damsels of the tower

volra present faire au tiers jor.

he-will-wish present to-make at-the third day

De flors assez a fait cuellir

Of flowers enough has made gather

et corbeilles grandes emplir.

and baskets great fill

2035 L'enfes Floires est repairiés:

The-child Floire is returned

au terme vient joians et liés.

at-the term comes joyful and glad

Un bliäut ot vestu vermeil:

A tunic he-had put-on vermillion

car de l'huissier en ot conseil,

for of the-doorkeeper thereof had counsel

por cou qu'avoit une coulor

for that that-had one color

et li vestimens et la flor.

both the garment and the flower

L'huissiers envoie ses presens;

The-doorkeeper sends his presents

del envoier ne fu pas lens:

of-the sending not was at-all slow

une corbeille en a chascune,

a basket thereof has each

et Floire fait entrer en une.

and Floire makes enter into one

Floire clot les ieus; pas n'es oevre,

Floire closes the eyes at-all not-them opens

et li portiers des flors le coevre.

and the porter with-the flowers him covers

Dont a deus serjans apelés:

Then has two servants called

«Ceste corbeille me portez

This basket for-me bear

lassus amont, en cele tor,

up-there above into that tower

a damoisele Blanceflor,

to damsel Blanche-flor

a la chambre lez le degré

to the chamber beside the stair

qui va au lit a l'amiré.

which goes to-the bed of the-emir

Se li dites que li envoi:

And to-her say that to-her I-send

2040

2045

2050

gre m'en sara, si com jou croi;
thanks to-me-thereof she-will-know just as I believe

2055 et si cuit que l'ara moult chiere.
and so I-think that it-will-have very dear

Puis vous en venez tost arriere.»
Then you thence come soon back

Cil prenent les flors; s'es emportent:
They take the flowers and-them carry-off

si sont chargié que tout detordent,
so are laden that all they-twist

des flors dient moult en i a,
of-the flowers they-say much thereof therein is

2060 si maudient qui's i foula.
and they-curse who-them therein beaped

Par les degres montent amont;
By the stairs they-mount above

mais a la chambre failli ont.
but of the chamber failed they-have

La Blanceflor laissent a destre;
The-(chamber) (of-)Blancheflor they-leave on right

en l'autre entrent qui'st a senestre.
into the-other they-enter which-is on left

2065 Quant cil sont ens, lor flors descendent,
When they are within their flowers they-set-down

celi qu'il truevent les presentent,
to-her whom-they find them present

et lor message en haste font:
and their message in haste make

lor flors laissent, si s'en revont.
their flowers they-leave and themselves-thence go-back

Cele les prent, si les mercie;

She them takes and them thanks

a la corbeille est tost saillie;

to the basket is soon sprung

des flors se jue et esbanie.

with-the flowers herself plays and disports

Floire cuide que soit s'amie,

Floire thinks that be his-friend

por la joie qu'ot sus sailli.

for the joy which-she-had up sprung

La pucele s'en esbahi,

The maiden herself-thereat was-appalled

de la paor qu'ot si s'escrie:

of the fear which-she-had so herself-cries

«Merveille voi, aïe, aïe!»

Marvel I-see help help

Floire resaut en la corbeille:

Floire leaps-back into the basket

s'il ot paor, n'est pas merveille;

if-he had fear not-is at-all marvel

quant il a s'amie a failli,

when he of his-friend has failed

dont cuide bien qu'on l'ait trahi.

then thinks well that-one him-has betrayed

Des flors errant s'est recovert,

With-the flowers straightway himself-is covered-again

si que de lui noient ne pert.

so that of him anything not shows

Atant ses compaignes aqueurent;

Thereupon her companions run-up

2070

2075

2080

quant el l'oent, pas ne demeurent:

when they her-bear at-all not delay

2085 si li demandent que ele oit,

and of-her ask what she had

por quel paor eusi crioit.

for what fear thus she-cried

Cele se fu rasséeurée,

She herself was reassured

et de Blanceflor porpensée:

and of Blanceflor bethought

ce fu ses amis, bien le sot,

that was her friend well it knew

2090 que ele tant regreter sot.

whom she so-much to-lament knew

Quant ele se fu porpensée,

When she herself was bethought

si a parlé comme senée:

so has spoken as wise

«Des flors sali un paveillon,

From-the flowers leapt a butterfly

des eles feri mon menton:

with-the wings struck my chin

2095 del paveillon tel paor oi,

of-the butterfly such fear I-had

que m'escriai plus tost que poi.»

that I-cried-out more soon than I-could

Arriere s'en revont gabant:

Back themselves-thence go-back jesting

ele remest seule o l'enfant.

she remained alone with the-child

Ele ert a Blanceflor compaigne,

She was to Blanceflor companion

file estoit au roi d'Alemaigne:

daughter she-was to-the king of-Germany

entr'eles deus moult s'entramoient,

between-them two much each-other-loved

ensamble a l'amirail aloient:

together to the-emir they-went

la plus bele estoit de la tor

the most fair she-was of the tower

de toutes, apres Blanceflor.

of all after Blanceflor

Illueques pas grant plait ne tint;

There at-all great parley not she-held

en la chambre Blanceflor vint.

into the chamber (of-)Blanceflor came

Blanceflor est de l'autre part:

Blanceflor is on the-other side

s'ele parole, c'est a tart;

if-she speaks that-is at late

en son ami a mis s'entente;

on her friend has put her-intent

por lui est nuit et jor dolente.

for him she-is night and day sorrowful

Les chambres pres a pres estoient;

The chambers near to near were

entre les deus un huis avoient,

between the two a door they-had

2100

2105

2110

par quoi l'une a l'autre venoit

by which the-one to the-other came

quant son bon dire li voloit.

when her pleasure to-tell to-her she-wished

2115 Claris ot nom la damoisele;

Claris had name the damsel

Blanceflor doucement apele:

Blanceflor sweetly calls

«Bele compaigne, Blanceflor,

Fair companion Blanceflor

volez vous véoir bele flor,

wish you to-see fair flower

et tele que moult amerez,

and such that much you-will-love

2120 mon essient, quant la verrez.

my knowledge when it you-will-see

Tel flor n'a nule en cest país.»

Such flower not-is any in this country

Ele n'i crut pas, cou m'est vis.

She not-it believed at-all this to-me-is seeming

«Venez i, si la connistrez;

Come therein and it you-will-know

donrai la vous, se vous volez.»

I-shall-give it to-you if you wish

2125 «Avoi», fait Blanceflor, «Claris,

Come says Blanceflor Claris

por quoi si griement m'escarnis?

for what so grievously me-thou-mockest

Pechié faites, en moie foi,

Sin you-do in my faith

quant vous ensi gabez de moi.»

when you thus jest of me

«Damoisele qui a amor

Damsel who has love

et joie en soi, doit avoir flor.»

2130

and joy in herself ought to-have flower

«Bele suer Claris, douce amie,

Fair sister Claris sweet friend

pres est li termes de ma vie.

near is the term of my life

Li amirals dist qu'il m'ara,

The emir says that-he me-will-have

mais, se Diu plaist, il i faudra:

but if God pleases he therein will-fail

l'amirals faudra a m'amor,

2135

the-emir will-fail of my-love

com fait Floires a Blanceflor.

as does Floire of Blancheflor

Por soie amor, engien querrai

For his-own love device I-shall-seek

et privéement m'ocirrai:

and privately myself-I-shall-slay

ami ne volrai ne mari

friend not I-shall-wish nor husband

quant jou au bel Floire ai failli.»

2140

since I of-the fair Floire have failed

Cele l'ot, grant pitiés l'en prent,

She it-heard great pity her-thereat takes

dont reparole doucement:

then speaks-again sweetly

«Damoisele, por soie amor,

Damsel for his-own love

vous requier que véez la flor.»

you I-require that you-see the flower

2145 Quant de s'amor conjurer s'ot,

When of his-love to-adjure herself-beard

o li s'en-va com plus tost pot.

with her herself-thence-goes as most soon she-could

Floires a la parole oïe:

Floire has the word heard

quant de fi sot que c'est s'amie,

when for certain knew that it-is his-friend

de la corbeille sailli hors.

from the basket sprang out

2150 Visage ot cler et gent le cors;

Face he-had bright and comely the body

onques nus plus biaux hom ne fu.

ever any more fair man not was

Blanceflor l'a tost conéu,

Blancheflor him-has soon recognized

et il r'a bien li conéue;

and he in-turn-has well her recognized

el vit son dru, et il, sa drue.

she saw her lover and he his love

2155 Sus s'entrequeurent sans parler;

Up each-other-they-run without speaking

grant joie font a l'assambl.

great joy they-make at the-meeting

De grant pitié, de grant amor

Of great pity of great love

pleure Floires et Blanceflor.

weeps Floire and Blanche-flor

De ses bras li uns l'autre lie,

With his arms the one the-other binds

et en baisier chascuns s'oublie:

and in kissing each himself-forgets

el baisier a une loée

in-the kissing is a league-space

qu'il font a une reposée.

whicb-they make at one pause

Lor baisiers est de grant doucor,

Their kissing is of great sweetness

forment les asaveure amor.

greatly them savors love

Quant le laissent, nul mot ne dient,

When it they-leave any word not they-say

ains s'entresgardent, si sosrient.

but each-other-they-regard and smile

Clarís voit le contenment,

Clarís sees the bearing

lor joie et lor acoitement;

their joy and their intimacy

en riant dist a Blanceflor:

in laughing says to Blanche-flor

«Compaigne, conissiez la flor:

Companion know-you the flower

orains estiez vous deshaitie;

just-now were you dispirited

2160

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mais or vous voi joians et lie:

but now you I-see joyful and glad

grant vertu a icele flors,

great virtue has that flower

qui si tost taut si grans dolors.

which so soon takes-away so great sorrows

2175 Orains ne la voliez véoir,

Just-now not it you-wished to-see

or n'avez nul si chier avoir.

now not-you-have any so dear wealth

Moult esteroit vostre anemie

Much would-be your enemy

qui vous en feroit departie.»

who you thereof would-make parting

«Kieles!» fait Blanceflor, «Clarís:

What-then says Blanceflor Claris

2180 ja est cou Floire, mes amis.»

indeed is this Floire my friend

Puis se torne vers son ami:

Then herself turns toward her friend

«Par li vous ai, soie merci!»

Through her you I-have her mercy

Clarís andui forment mercient

Claris both greatly thank

et en plorant merci li crient,

and in weeping mercy to-her cry

2185 que par li descovert ne soient,

that by her discovered not they-be

car mort ou desfait en seroient.

for dead or undone thereof they-would-be

Clarís fu moult de franche part,

Clarís was very of noble part

dist lor: «N'en aiez ja resgart:

says to-them Not-thereof have ever dread

bien en poëz estre asséur

well thereof you-may be assured

(la rien que plus aim vous en jur),

the thing which most I-love you thereof I-swear

garderai vous en boine foi

I-shall-guard you in good faith

si comme jou feroie a moi,

just as I would-do to myself

se ensement m'ert avenu.»

if likewise to-me-were befallen

Quant Floires l'ot, joians en fu;

When Floire it-heard joyful thereof was

et Blanceflor adont l'en-mainie

and Blanceflor then him-thence-leads

en la soie chambre demaine.

into the her chamber own

En un arvol d'une cortine

In an alcove of-a curtain

de soie, ou gisoit la meschine,

of silk where lay the maiden

se sont assis privéement:

themselves are seated privately

apres, dist chascuns son talent.

after says each his desire

Floires a premiers commencié.

Floire has first begun

2190

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2200

«Amie», fait il, «moult sui lié;

Friend says he much I-am glad

moult ai bien ma paine achievée,

much I-have well my pain achieved

quant jou ensi vous ai trovée;

when I thus you have found

2205 por vous ai esté de mort pres

for you I-have been of death near

et de travail soffert grant fes.

and of toil suffered great burden

Onques puis que perdu vous oi,

Ever since that lost you I-had

joie ne repos ainc puis n'oi.

joy nor repose ever since not-I-had

Quant jou vous ai a mon talent,

When I you have at my desire

2210 bele amie, nul mal ne sent.»

fair friend any ill not I-feel

Ele respont: «Est cou donc Floire,

She answers Is this then Floire

qui fu envoiés a Montoire,

who was sent to Montoire

a qui me toli par envie

from whom me took-away through envy

li rois ses pere o tricherie?

the king his father with treachery

2215 Biaux dous amis, je vous fas sage

Fair sweet friend I you make aware

que jou vous aim de boin corage.

that I you love with good heart

Ainc puis n'oi joie ne deduit,

Ever since not-I-had joy nor delight

sachiez, ne par jor ne par nuit.

know-you neither by day nor by night

Comment venistes vous caiens?

How came you here-within

Jou cuit que soit enchantemens.

2220

I think that it-be enchantments

Biaus amis Floires, je vous voi

Fair friend Floire I you see

et neporquant si vous mescroi;

and nevertheless so you I-mistrust

mais, amis, qui que vous soiez,

but friend whoever that you be

forment vous aim: ca vous traiez.»

greatly you I-love hither you draw

Et il si fist com plus tost pot:

2225

And he so did as most soon be-could

la damoisele bien le got.

the damsel well it enjoyed

Fortune Turns Her Wheel

XVII

They live in joy, Claris serving them, until Fortune, who envies them, turns her wheel and casts down those she had set on top. One morning Claris covers for Blancheflor, and the emir is touched to hear his lady read all night in her book for his long life. Next day the lovers fall asleep mouth to mouth; the chamberlain, taking Floire for a second maiden, reports it, and the emir comes up with a drawn sword. He has their breasts uncovered, sees the sleeper is a man, and holds his blow only to learn who he is.

Adont a joie ensamble furent,

Then in joy together they-were

ensamble mangierent et burent,

together they-ate and drank

et orent joie a lor talent:

and had joy at their pleasure

2230 si se deduistrent liement.

and themselves disported merrily

Claris les garde en boine foi,

Claris them guards in good faith

et si les sert moult bien amoi;

and so them serves very well privately

et de lor mangier et del sien

both of their food and of-the hers

les sert Claris: moult lor est bien.

them serves Claris much to-them is well

2235 Se cele vie lor durast,

If that life to-them had-lasting

jamais changier ne la rovast.

ever to-change not it she-would-have-asked

Floires li biaux et Blanceflor

Floire the fair and Blanceflor

ensi menassent lor amor;

thus would-have-led their love

mais ne porent: car lor amors

but not they-could for their love

changea Fortune par ses mors:

changed Fortune by her bites

de lor amor et de lor vie

of their love and of their life

demoustra bien qu'ele ot envie.

she-showed well that-she had envy

Por cou que d'aus voloit juër,

For that that of-them she-wished to-play

sor aus fait sa roe torner:

on them makes her wheel turn

or les avoit assis desus,

now them she-had set above

et abatre les reveut jus.

and to-cast-down them again-wishes below

Cou est ses jus, c'est sa nature;

This is her game this-is her nature

en cou met s'entente et sa cure:

in that she-puts her-intent and her care

bien le connoissent cil del mont,

well it know those of-the world

car tout le sentent qui i sont.

for all it feel who therein are

2240

2245

2250

Por cou que ne puet estre estable

For that that not can be stable

et Fortune torne sans fable,

and Fortune turns without fable

as uns taut et as autres done;

to-the ones takes-away and to-the others gives

sept fois mue entre prime et none;

seven times changes between prime and ones

2255 el ne garde pas a proueece,

she not heeds at-all to prowess

ne a biaute, ne a richece;

nor to beauty nor to riches

cou set on bien qu'as fous provés

that knows one well that-to-the fools proven

done roïames et contés,

she-gives realms and counties

et les vesquiés done as truans,

and the bishoprics gives to-the vagabonds

2260 et les boins clers fait pain querans.

and the good clerks makes bread begging

Qui en lui cuide estableté,

Who in her expects stability

jou le tieng bien por fol prové;

I him hold well for fool proven

qui en son doner point se fie,

who in her giving at-all himself trusts

ne connoist pas sa druërie.

not knows at-all her love

2265 Or fait plorer et or fait rire;

Now makes weep and now makes laugh

or done joie et or done ire:

now gives joy and now gives grief

ceus fist primes joieus et liés,

those made first joyful and glad

puis angoisseus et coreciés.

then anguished and angered

Par un matin se fu levée

By one morning herself had risen

la preus Claris, et conraée:

the worthy Claris and arrayed

Blanceflor la bele apela;

Blanceflor the fair called

el respont: «Alez, g'irai ja.»

she answers Go I-shall-go presently

En dormillant li respondi,

In slumbering to-her answered

et maintenant se r'endormi.

and straightway herself again-slept

Ele est a l'amirail venue.

She is to the-emir come

Il li demande de sa drue:

He to-her asks of his love

por quoi ne vient, et or n'est ci.

for what not comes and now not-is here

Claris respont: «Sire, merci!

Claris answers Lord mercy

Toute nuit a liut en son livre,

All night has read in her book

que a joie péussiez vivre,

that in joy you-might live

2270

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2280

qu'a paine de la nuit dormi;

that-with difficulty of the night slept

contre le jor se resperi.»

toward the day herself roused

«Est cou voirs, Claris?» — «Sire, oil.»

Is this true Claris Lord yes

«Moult est franche chose», fait il;

Much is noble thing says he

2285 «Bien doit estre cele m'amie

Well must be she my-friend

qui veut que j'aie longie vie.»

who wishes that I-have long life

Li amirals en ot pitié;

The emir thereof had pity

por cou si l'a ensi laissié.

for that so her-has thus left

El endemain tout ensement

On-the morrow all likewise

2290 lieve Claris premierement;

rises Claris first

Blanceflor doucement apele:

Blancheflor sweetly calls

«Trop avons ci demeuré, bele.»

Too-long we-have here tarried fair-one

Cele respont: «Jou me conroi,

She answers I myself array

ains de vous i serai, jou croi.»

sooner than you there I-shall-be I believe

2295 Atant ses amis la r'acole,

Thereupon her friend her again-embraces

et ele lui; si fait que fole:

and she him and does as (a)-fool

et puis l'a baisié, et il li;

and then him-has kissed and he her

en baisant se sont r'endormi.

in kissing themselves are again-fallen-asleep

Ensamble dorment bouche a bouche,

Together they-sleep mouth to mouth

que l'une face a l'autre touche.

that the-one face to the-other touches

Clarís fu el piler alée;

Clarís was to-the pillar gone

el bacin a l'aigue versée:

into-the basin has the-water poured

quant ele revint, si l'apele;

when she came-back and her-calls

quatre fois li dist: «Damoisele!»

four times to-her said Damsel

Quant ele rien ne respondoit,

When she anything not answered

dont cuide bien qu'alée en soit.

then thinks well that-gone thence she-be

Ele vient au lit son signor:

She comes to-the bed (of-)her lord

quant la vit: «Ou est Blanceflor?

when her saw Where is Blanceflor

Par foi», fait il, «moult poi me crient

By faith says he very little me she-fears

que tant demeure et que ne vient.»

that so-long she-tarries and that not she-comes

2300

2305

2310

En Claris n'ot que tres-penser:

In Claris not-was but much-thinking

«Par foi! ci la cuidai trover,

By faith here her I-thought to-find

sire; car ains de moi leva:

lord for sooner than me rose

quant n'est venue, ja venra.

since not-is come presently she-will-come

2315 Venue fust, s'ele péust,

Come she-would-be if-she could

s'autre oquison trové n'eüst.»

if-other occasion found not-had

Li amirals en a pensé,

The emir thereof has thought

son chambrelenc a apelé:

his chamberlain has called

«Va», fait il, «haste Blanceflor,

Go says he hasten Blanche-flor

2320 que tost descende de la tor.»

that soon she-descend from the tower

Cil ne s'est mie apercéus

He not himself-is at-all perceived

de Claris; sus en-est venus.

of Claris up thence-is come

Quant vint a la chambre maniere,

When came to the chamber proper

par mi l'arvol de la verriere

through middle the-vault of the glass-window

2325 le lit a tost apercéu:

the bed has soon perceived

vis li est qu'il i a véu

seeming to-him is that-he therein has seen

Blanceflor la bele et Claris.

Blancheflor the fair and Claris

Por quoi ne li fust il a vis?

For what not to-him were it at seeming

Floires en face n'en menton

Floire in face nor-in chin

n'avoit ne barbe ne grenon,

not-had neither beard nor mustache

n'en la tor n'avoit damoisele,

nor-in the tower not-had damsel

qui de visage fust plus bele.

who of face were more fair

Quant il les vit tant doucement

When he them saw so sweetly

gesir andeus, pitiés l'en prent:

to-lie both pity him-thereat takes

esbahis fu; si s'en-revait:

astonished he-was and himself-thence-goes-back

a son signor conte cel plait.

to his lord tells that matter

«Sire, merveilles ai véu:

Lord marvels I-have seen

ainc mais si grans amors ne fu

ever before so great love not was

com a Blanceflor vers Claris,

as of Blancheflor toward Claris

et ele a li: cou m'est a vis.

and she of her this to-me-is at seeming

2330

2335

2340

Ensemble dorment doucement,

Together they-sleep sweetly

acolées estroitement;

embraced closely

bouche a bouche et face a face

mouth to mouth and face to face

s'entretienent a une brace.

each-other-they-hold in one embrace

2345 De pitié n'es voeil esvillier;

Of pity not-them I-wish to-wake

trop les cremoie a travailler:

too-much them I-feared to trouble

moult lor siet a gesir ensamble.»

much to-them it-suits to lie together

Quant Claris l'ot, de paor tramble.

When Claris it-beard of fear trembles

A l'amiral la coulor mue,

To the-emir the color changes

2350 crient que aucuns gise o sa drue:

he-fears that someone lie with his love

«Aportez moi», fait il, «m'espée;

Bring to-me says he my-sword

s'irai véir cele asssemblée.

and-I-shall-go to-see that assembly

Vois ci Claris: tu as failli.»

See here Claris thou hast failed

Atant se lieve a cuer mari;

Thereupon himself rises with heart grieved

2355 ne set que face ne que die,

not knows what he-do nor what he-say

ne croit que nus osast s'amie

not believes that anyone dared his-friend

amer, tant fust de haut parage:

to-love however were of high lineage

par un petit que il n'enrage.

by a little that he rages

Il et ses chambrelens i vont:

He and his chamberlain thither go

par les degres montent amont.

by the stairs they-mount above

En son puing tint sa nue espée;

In his hand held his naked sword

en la chambre entre a recelée.

into the chamber enters in secret

Il a fait la fenestre ouvrir,

He has made the window open

que li solaus puist ens venir:

that the sun may within come

li enfant doucement dormoient,

the children sweetly slept

estroit acolé se tenoient;

close embraced themselves held

bouche a bouche ert chascuns dormans.

mouth to mouth was each sleeping

Or en pense li rois poissans!

Now thereof let-think the king mighty

Lor joie iert par tristor fenie,

Their joy will-be by sorrow ended

se il n'en-ont Diu en aïe.

if they not-thereof-have God in aid

2360

2365

2370

En la chambre grant clarté ot,

In the chamber great brightness was

quant li solaus entrer i pot:

when the sun to-enter therein could

li jors fu ja bien espanis.

the day was already well spread

Quant il les vit, tout fu maris:

When he them saw wholly was grieved

2375 Blanceflor connut bien s'amie,

Blancheflor he-knew well his-friend

mais l'autre connu n'avoit mie.

but the-other known not-had at-all

Floires o s'amie gisoit:

Floire with his-friend lay

en son vis nul samblant n'avoit

in his face any sign not-had

qu'il fust hom; car a son menton

that-he were man for at his chin

2380 n'avoit ne barbe ne grenon:

not-had neither beard nor mustache

fors Blanceflor n'avoit tant bele

save Blancheflor not-had so fair

en la tor nule damoisele.

in the tower any damsel

Li amirals ne l'connut mie:

The emir not him-knew at-all

griement le point la jalousie;

grievously him pricks the jealousy

2385 teus est amors et teus sa teche,

such is love and such its mark

cou dont se crient tous jors s'en eche.

that whereof itself fears all days itself-thereof happens

Au chambrelenc dist: «Les poitrines

To-the chamberlain said The breasts

me descoevrez des deus meschines:

for-me uncover of-the two maidens

lor mameles primes verrons,

their breasts first we-shall-see

et puis si les esveillerons.»

and then so them we-shall-wake

Cil les descoevre; s'aparut

He them uncovers and-it-appeared

que cil est hom qui illuec jut.

that he is man who there lay

Tel doel en a, ne pot mot dire;

Such grief thereof has not could word say

en-es-le-pas le veut ocirre;

at-once him wishes to-slay

puis se porpense qu'ains sara

then himself bethinks that-first he-will-know

qui il est, puis si l'ocirra.

who he is then so him-will-slay

2390

2395

Judgment in the Emir's Court

XVIII

The children wake under a drawn sword. Floire owns Blanchefflor as his love and begs that they die by judgment. The emir binds them, calls his barons, and tells how he bought her for seven times her weight in gold, meaning to wed her. One king insists the accused be heard; Gaifier of Nubia would burn them at once, and the court agrees. Brought in weeping, each claims the fault, and Blanchefflor throws away the ring that would save her rather than outlive Floire. The poet closes on the two, fairer than Paris or Helen.

Entretant li enfant s'esveillent;

Meanwhile the children themselves-wake

paor ont grant, si s'esmerveillent

fear they-have great and themselves-marvel

de l'amiral que illoec virent:

of the-emir whom there they-saw

2400 por la paor tres-tout fremirent.

for the fear quite-all they-trembled

L'espée nue sor aus voient,

The-sword naked over them they-see

dont cuident bien que morir doient.

then they-think well that to-die they-must

Pleurent Floires et Blanchefflor;

Weep Floire and Blanchefflor

morir cuident sans nul retor.

to-die they-think without any return

2405 Il en-a Floire a raison mis:

He thereupon-has Floire to speech put

«Qui estes qui tant estes bris,

Who are-you who so are rash

qu'osastes entrer en ma tor

that-you-dared to-enter into my tower

et couchier avoec Blanceflor?

and to-lie with Blancheflor

Par tous les dieus a cui j'aor,

By all the gods to whom I-adore

ancui morrez a deshonor.

this-very-day you-will-die in dishonor

Ocirrai vous et la putain;

I-shall-slay you and the harlot

quant m'estordez, ne serez sain.»

though me-you-escape not you-will-be sound

Li doi enfant andoi ploroient,

The two children both wept

et de pitié s'entresgardoient.

and of pity each-other-they-regarded

Floire respont: «Por Diu, ne l' dites;

Floire answers For God not it say

ainc millor chose ne véistes.

ever better thing not you-saw

Ses amis sui, ele est m'amie;

Her friend I-am she is my-friend

trovée l'ai, tant l'ai sive.»

found her-I-have so-much her-I-have followed

Floires a l'amiral deprie

Floire to the-emir prays

que respit lor doint de la vie,

that respite to-them he-give of the life

tant qu'en sa cort, voiant sa gent,

so-long that-in his court seeing his folk

2410

2415

2420

les ocie par jugement.

them he-slay by judgment

Il l'ordone, s'es fait lever,

He it-orders and-them makes rise

estroit lier et bien garder,

tight to-bind and well to-guard

2425 que il ne puissent escaper:

that they not may escape

apres fait ses barons mander.

after makes his barons summon

Li baron furent assamblé

The barons were assembled

contre la feste, en la cité:

against the feast in the city

car li termes moult pres estoit

for the term very near was

2430 que sa feme prendre devoit.

that his wife to-take he-must

Vienent roi et emperéor,

Come kings and emperors

et duc, et conte, et aumacor.

and dukes and counts and emirs

Li amirals les fait taisir;

The emir them makes be-silent

car dire lor veut son plaisir.

for to-say to-them wishes his pleasure

2435 Tantost com il l'ot commandé,

As-soon as he it-had commanded

ainc n'i ot puis un mot soné.

ever not-there was afterward one word sounded

Il s'est dreciés en son estage;

He himself-is raised on his dais

iriés est moult en son corage.

angered is much in his heart

«Signor», fait il, «or escoutez,

Lords says he now bear

puis dites droit de cou qu'orrez.

then say right of that which-you-will-bear

Qui du droit dire deffaudra,

Who of-the right to-say will-fail

c'est l'oquisons par quoi morra:

that-is the-occasion by which he-will-die

car envers moi sera forfait,

for toward me will-be at-fault

et de cou qu'ara dit mesfait.

and of that which-be-will-have said misdane

Signor», fait il, «tout li pluisor,

Lords says he all the greater-part

avez oï de Blanceflor,

you-have heard of Blanceflor

une pucele qu'acatai:

a maiden whom-I-bought

grant masse d'or por li donai,

great mass of-gold for her I-gave

encore n'a il pas deus mois:

yet not-has it at-all two months

d'or i-donai sept fois son pois.

of-gold there-I-gave seven times her weight

Sa biaute fu entre autres fiere;

Her beauty was among others proud

2440

2445

2450

por cou l'avoie forment chiere:

for that her-I-had greatly dear

en la tor, entre mes puceles

in the tower among my maidens

dont il i a sept vint de beles,

of-whom there therein are seven score of fair

2455 a honor servir la faisoie;

in honor to-serve her I-made

sor toutes chiere la tenoie:

above all dear her I-held

en li avoie tele amor

in her I-had such love

qu'en voloie faire m'oissor.

that-thereof I-wished to-make my-wife

Por cou qu'ele est et bele et gente,

For that that-she is both fair and comely

2460 avoie en li mise m'entente.

I-had on her put my-intent

Chascun matin soloit venir

Each morning she-used to-come

a mon lever, por moi servir:

at my rising for me to-serve

ier n'i vint pas; hui ensement,

yesterday not-there came at-all today likewise

quant dut venir, ne vint nient.

when she-must to-come not came at-all

2465 Mes chambrelens por li ala;

My chamberlain for her went

un jouvencel o li trova,

a youth with her found

cuida ce fust une pucele;

he-thought that it-were a maiden

en-es-le-pas m'en dist novele;

at-once to-me-thereof told news

jou i alai com plus tost poi.

I thithir went as most soon I-could

Quant le trovai, grant ire en oi:

When him I-found great wrath thereof I-had

du doel qu'en oi ne peus mot dire;

of-the grief that-thereof I-had not I-could word say

en-es-le-pas le vaus ocirre.

at-once him I-wished to-slay

Signor, si est que je vous di.

Lords so it-is as I to-you say

Il me crïa por Diu merci,

He to-me cried for God mercy

que en ma cort, voiant ma gent,

that in my court seeing my folk

les ocie par jugement:

them I-slay by judgment

porpensai moi que mal feroie,

I-bethought myself that ill I-should-do

se sans jugier les ocioie.

if without judging them I-slew

Signor, oï avez mon conte;

Lords heard you-have my tale

par jugement vengiez ma honte.»

by judgment avenge my shame

Un rois s'en-est levés en piés,

A king himself-thence-is risen on feet

2470

2475

2480

si lor a dit: «Signor, oyez;

and to-them has said Lords hear

nossires a conté son conte;

our-lord has told his tale

nous i entendons bien sa honte;

we therein understand well his shame

2485 mais neporquant oïr devons,

but nevertheless to-hear we-must

ancois que jugement faicons,

before that judgment we-make

cou qu'il volront encontre dire

that which-they will-wish against to-say

ains que les jugeons a martire.

before that them we-judge to martyrdom

De l'encouper, si com j'entent,

Of the-accusing just as I-understand

2490 sans respons n'est pas jugement.»

without answer not-is at-all judgment

De l'autre part est dans Gaifiers,

On the-other side is lord Gaifier

rois de Nubie, fors et fiers:

king of Nubia strong and fierce

«Dans rois», fait il, «en moie foi,

Lord king says he in my faith

del tout en tout pas ne l'otroi.

of-the all in all at-all not it-I-grant

2495 Se Mesire el forfait le prist,

If My-lord in-the crime him took

grant droi éust que l'ocesist,

great right he-would-have that him-be-should-slay

que s'on prent larron el forfait,

for if-one takes thief in-the crime

vers lui ne doit avoir nul plait:

toward him not must have any plea

ses mesfais mostre apertement;

his misdeed shows openly

morir l'estuet sans jugement.

to-die him-behooves without judgment

2500

Quant cil ot dit qui la besoigne

When he had said who the business

tient a trop malvaise, et tesmoigne,

holds for very evil and testifies

et dist, por aus Mesire envoit,

and says for them My-lord let-him-send

ardoir les face! si a droit.»

to-burn them let-him-make so has right

Ceste parole tuit otroient;

2505

This word all grant

por andeus les enfans envoient;

for both the children they-send

doi serf les amainent devant.

two serfs them bring before

Il i vinrent forment plorant:

They thither came sorely weeping

moult s'entresgardent doucement:

much each-other-they-regard sweetly

l'uns de l'autre pitié a grant.

2510

the-one of the-other pity has great

Floires apela Blanceflor:

Floire called Blanceflor

«Bele, or avons de mort paor:

Fair-one now we-have of death fear

si avons droit; car bien savons

and we-have right for well we-know

que sans nesun terme morrons.

that without any term we-shall-die

2515 Mais, bele, cou vous ai jou fait;

But fair-one this to-you have I done

par moi venez vous a cest plait.

through me come you to this plight

Se ne fusse entrés en la tor,

If not I-were entered into the tower

n'ëussiez pas ceste dolor.

not-you-would-have at-all this sorrow

Par vous ne fu cou pas, amie:

Through you not was this at-all friend

2520 or en perdrez por moi la vie.

now thereof you-will-lose for me the life

Deus fois déusse bien morir,

Two times I-ought well to-die

se l' poïst Nature soffrir:

if it could Nature suffer

l'une por vous, l'autre por moi;

the-one for you the-other for me

car tres-tout est par mon desroi.

for quite-all is by my folly

2525 Bele, cest anel bien gardez:

Fair-one this ring well guard

ne morrez pas tant com l'arez.»

not you-will-die at-all as-long as it-you-have

Blanceflor respont en plorant:

Blanceflor answers in weeping

«Amis», dit el, «tort avez grant.

Friend says she wrong you-have great

Biaus amis Floire, de ta mort

Fair friend Floire of thy death

ai jou la coupe et tout le tort.

have I the blame and all the wrong

Vous venistes en ceste terre

You came into this land

tres-tout seulement por moi querre;

quite-all only for me to-seek

jou seule en fui li oquison;

I alone thereof was the occasion

por moi montastes el doignon;

for me you-climbed into-the keep

n'i venissiez se jou n'i fusse,

not-there you-would-have-come if I not-there were

morir por vous por cou déusse.

to-die for you for that I-ought

Por moi feront le jugement;

For me they-will-make the judgment

amis chiers, vostre anel vous rent:

friend dear your ring to-you I-render

car par lui ne voel pas garir,

for by it not I-wish at-all to-be-saved

par-si que vous voie morir.»

provided that you I-see die

Il jure Diu, ne l' recevra,

He swears God not it he-will-receive

2530

2535

2540

car ains de li, s'il puet, morra.

for sooner than her if-be can be-will-die

Et Blanceflor adont sospire

And Blanceflor then sighs

de cou que ele li ot dire:

of that which she to-him heard say

2545 encor li dist qu'il le prendra,

again to-him says that-be it will-take

et cil li dist que non fera.

and he to-her says that not be-will-do

Ele voit, ne l' prendra noient,

She sees not it be-will-take at-all

dont l'a jeté par maltalent.

then it-has cast in vexation

Uns dus le prist, qui l'entendi;

A duke it took who it-heard

2550 quant le tint, moult s'en esjoï.

when it held much himself-thereat rejoiced

Et adont a Blanceflor dit,

And then has (to-)Blanceflor said

que il n'i a mais nul respit:

that there not-there is more any respite

«Amis», dist ele, «tort ariez,

Friend says she wrong you-would-have

se vous ancois de moi moriez:

if you sooner than me died

2555 car bien sai, quant mort vous verroit,

for well I-know when dead you be-would-see

por ma biaute me retendroit.»

for my beauty me be-would-keep

«Bele», dist il, «ancois morrai

Fair-one says he sooner I-shall-die

certes, que tres-tout cou fait ai.»

certainly for quite-all this done I-have

Einsi parlant, li enfant vinrent

Thus speaking the children came

plorant, et par les mains se tinrent;

2560

weeping and by the hands themselves held

de lor cuer souvent sospiroient:

from their heart often they-sighed

car grant paor de mort avoient;

for great fear of death they-had

piteusement s'entresgardoient,

piteously each-other-they-regarded

et neporquant tant bel estoient

and nevertheless so fair they-were

qu'en lor tristor, de lor biauté

2565

that-in their sorrow of their beauty

ne furent ainc enfant trové.

not were ever children found

Paris de Troies, n'Absalon,

Paris of Troy nor-Absalom

Parthonopeus, n'Ypomedon,

Parthenopeus nor-Hippomedon

ne Leda, ne sa fille Elaine,

nor Leda nor her daughter Helen

ne Antigone, ne Ysmaïne,

2570

nor Antigone nor Ismene

en léece tant bel ne furent

in gladness so fair not were

com erent cil quant morir durent.

as were these when to-die they-must

Floires li enfes est moult biaux

Floire the child is very fair

de son éage damoisiaus.

of his age young-lord

2575 Ses éages fu de quinze ans,

His age was of fifteen years

et neporquant assez fu grans.

and nevertheless quite he-was tall

Si suercil sont brun et petit:

His eyebrows are brown and small

onques nus hom plus bel ne vit.

ever any man more fair not saw

Si oel sont gros por le plorer:

His eyes are swollen for the weeping

2580 nus ne se poïst saoler

anyone not himself could sate

de l'esgarder, se il fust liés;

of the-gazing if he were glad

mais del plorer ert empiriés.

but of-the weeping was worsened

Sa face resamble soleus,

His face resembles sun

quant au matin apert vermeus.

when at-the morning appears vermilion

Au nes n'a bouche n'a menton

2585

At-the nose nor-at mouth nor-at chin

n'avoit ne barbe ne grenon.

not-had neither beard nor mustache

Reube porprine vestue ot;

Robe purple put-on he-had

si fu laciés au mius qu'il pot:

so was laced at-the best that-he could

deffublés fu joustes s'amie,

unmantled he-was beside his-friend

qui de biaute ne l' passoit mie.

2590

who of beauty not him surpassed at-all

Ele ert deffublée ensement:

She was unmantled likewise

plorant, atent son jugement.

weeping awaits her judgment

Chief a réont et blonde crine;

Head she-has round and blond hair

plus blanc le front que n'est hermine.

more white the brow than is ermine

Greve avoit droite et bien menée;

2595

Parting she-had straight and well drawn

de son chief ot sa guimpe ostée;

from her head she-had her wimple removed

suercils ot bruns; ieus vairs, riens,

eyebrows she-had brown eyes gray laughing

plus que gemme resplendissans.

more than gem resplendent

Nus contrefaire ne l' porroit:

Anyone to-counterfeit not it could

- 2600 cou ert a vis cui l'esgarδοit,
this was at seeming to-whom it-gazed-at
 que a ses ieus n'apercéust,
that at her eyes not-would-perceive
 fors as larmes, que triste fust.
save at-the tears that sad she-were
 Sa face ert de color tres-fine,
Her face was of color very-fine
 plus clere que nule verrine:
more clear than any glass-pane
- 2605 les narines avoit mieus faites,
the nostrils she-had better made
 que se fuissent as mains portraites.
than if they-were with-the hands portrayed
 Bouche ot bien faite par mesure.
Mouth she-had well made by measure
 Ainc ne fist plus bele Nature:
Ever not made more fair Nature
 mieus faite estature pucele
better made stature maiden
- 2610 n'en-a, ne roïne plus bele.
not-thereof-has nor queen more fair
 Levres por baisier ot grossetes;
Lips for kissing she-had plump
 si les avoit un peu rougetes:
and them she-had a little reddish
 li dent sont petit et seré,
the teeth are small and close-set
 et plus blanc d'argent esmeré.
and more white than-silver refined

De sa bouche ist si douce alaine;

2615

From her mouth issues so sweet breath

vivre en puet on une semaine:

to-live thereof can one a week

qui au lundi la sentiroit,

who on-the Monday it would-smell

en la semaine mal n'aroit.

in the week ill not-would-have

Le col a tel et le menton

The neck she-has such and the chin

com appartient a la facon.

2620

as belongs to the fashion

La char avoit assez plus blanche

The flesh she-had far more white

que n'est nule flors sor la branche;

than is any flower on the branch

de cors est ele tant bien faite

of body is she so well made

com s'on l'eüst as mains portraite;

as if-one her-had with-the hands portrayed

blanches mains ot, et grailles dois,

2625

white hands she-had and slender fingers

lons par mesure, forment drois.

long by measure exceedingly straight

N'a si sage hom el pavement,

Not-has so wise man on-the pavement

qui sache eslire le plus gent.

who may-know to-choose the most comely

The Ring, and the Pardon

XIX

The court weeps, but the emir is unmoved: he binds them and has a pyre kindled. The duke who took up the ring tells what he heard, and the emir questions them; each claims the fault, and at his drawn sword each thrusts the other back. His anger turns. He offers pardon if Floire tells how he got in; Floire asks it for his helpers too, and a bishop wins it. The tale told, even the emir laughs. Floire is knighted and weds Blancheflor; the emir takes Claris and, at their plea, swears to keep her for life and crowns her.

De lor biaute tout s'esbahirent

Of their beauty all themselves-marveled

2630 quant ou palais entrer les virent:

when into-the palace to-enter them they-saw

n'a si felon home en la cort

not-has so cruel man in the court

qui de pitié por aus ne plort.

who of pity for them not weep

Moult volentiers dont trestornassent

Very willingly then they-would-overturn

le jugement, se il osassent;

the judgment if they dared

2635 mais l'amirals est tant iriés,

but the-emir is so angered

que d'aus ne li prenoit pitié.

that of-them not to-him took pity

Oiant aus, les a fait jugier,

In-bearing-of them them has made to-judge

et en-apres estroit lier.

and thereafter tight to-bind

En un plain, en mi la cité,

In a plain in midst-of the city

la ont trois serf espris un ré:

there have three serfs kindled a pyre

il les a fait andeus mener;

he them has made both to-lead

el fu les commande a jeter.

into-the fire them commands to cast

Quant li baron loier les virent,

When the barons to-bind them saw

de toutes pars grant doel en firent:

from all sides great grief thereof made

par grant pitie et par doucor

by great pity and by sweetness

el palais pleurent li plusor,

in-the palace weep the most

et dient tuit: «Tant mal i furent,

and say all So ill therein they-were

quant si faitement morir durent.»

when so fashionedly to-die they-had-to

Se il péussent et osassent,

If they could and dared

de grant avoir les r'acatassent.

with great wealth them they-would-buy-back

Li dus, qui lor anel trova

The duke who their ring found

quant la pucele le jeta,

when the maiden it cast

tendrement pleure de pitié;

tenderly weeps of pity

2640

2645

2650

vers l'amiral s'a aproismié:

toward the-emir himself-has approached

2655 le dolousement qu'il oï,

the lamenting which-he heard

li a isnelement jehi.

to-him has swiftly disclosed

L'amirals les fait apeler,

The-emir them makes call

por cou qu'es veut oïr parler:

for that that-them wishes to-hear speak

andeus les a mis a raison.

both them has put to speech

2660 Floire demande com a nom.

Floire he-asks how (he)-has name

Cil li respont: «J'ai a nom Floire;

He to-him answers I-have for name Floire

aprendre ere alés a Montoire

to-learn I-was gone to Montoire

quant Blanceflor me fu emblée.

when Blancheflor from-me was stolen

Or l'ai en cest païs trovée.

Now her-I-have in this country found

2665 Sor sains jurrai que Blanceflor

Upon relics I-shall-swear that Blancheflor

ne sot quant j'entrai en la tor,

not knew when I-entered into the tower

et se vous venoit a plaiser,

and if to-you it-came to pleasure

quant ne l' sot, n'en devoit morir.

since not it knew not-thereof should die

Por moi et por li m'ocïoiz.

For me and for her me-slay

Sachiez de fi que cou est drois:

2670

Know for certain that this is right

toute en ai la coupe et le tort;

all thereof I-have the blame and the wrong

por moi est el jugié(e) a mort.»

through me is she judged to death

Blanceflor en-est moult marie:

Blancheflor thereof-is very grieved

«Sire», fait el, «jou sui s'amie,

Lord says she I am his-friend

et jou sui par foi l'oquison

2675

and I am by faith the-occasion

por quoi il monta el doignon.

for which he climbed into-the keep

Se il n'i séust Blanceflor,

If he not-there had-known Blancheflor

ja ne montast en vostre tor.

ever not would-climb into your tower

Grans dolors iert s'il muert por moi:

Great sorrow will-be if-he dies for me

il est d'Espagne, fuis de roi;

2680

he is of-Spain son of king

par droit doit vivre et jou, morir,

by right must live and I to-die

sire, s'il vous vient a plaisir.»

lord if-it to-you comes to pleasure

Floire li dist: «Ne l' créez mie;

Floire to-her says Not it believe at-all

ocïez moi, laissez m'amie.»

slay me leave my-friend

2685 Il lor dist: «Ambedoi morrez

He to-them says Both you-will-die

sans demeurer; ja n'i faudrez.

without delaying ever not-therein you-will-fail

Jou méismes vous ocirrai,

I myself you shall-slay

et de vous deus les chiés prendrai.»

and of you two the heads I-shall-take

S'espée toute nue a prise.

His-sword all bare has taken

2690 Blanceflor saut, avant s'est mise,

Blanceflor leaps forward herself-has put

et Floires la reboute arriere:

and Floire her thrusts back

«N'i morrez pas», fait il, «premiere.

Not-therein you-will-die at-all says he first

Hom sui; si ne doi pas soffrir

Man I-am so not I-must at-all suffer

que avant moi doiez morir.»

that before me you-must die

2695 Devant se met, le col estent.

Before himself puts the neck stretches

Blanceflor par le bras le prent;

Blanceflor by the arm him takes

arriere l' trait, met soi avant:

back him draws puts herself before

son col estent tout en plorant.

her neck stretches all in weeping

Chascuns voloit avant morir;

Each wished first to-die

li autres ne l' voloit soffrir.

the other not it wished to-suffer

Par la sale moult en ploroient

Through the hall much thereof wept

li baron qui les esgardoient:

the barons who them beheld

ja n'iert mais fais nus jugemens

ever not-will-be more made any judgment

dont aient pitié tant de gens.

whereof have pity so-many of folk

Lors en ot l'amirals pitié,

Then thereof had the-emir pity

ja soit cou qu'ait le cuer irié:

though be it that-be-have the heart angered

quant chascun voit avant saillir

when each be-sees forward to-leap

por cou que primes veut morir,

for that that first wishes to-die

et voit tant tristement plorer,

and sees so sadly to-weep

de pitié n'es pot apainer.

of pity not-them could punish

Cil qui le voient en sont lié,

Those who it see thereof are glad

pleurent de joie et de pitié,

weep of joy and of pity

2700

2705

2710

et li dus qui trova l'anel

and the duke who found the-ring

l'a esgardé: moult li fu bel.

it-has bebold much to-him it-was fair

2715 Or voit que lius est de parler;

Now sees that place is of to-speak

moult se paine d'aus delivrer:

much himself pains of-them to-deliver

dont en-apele les barons.

then thereupon-calls the barons

«Signor», fait il, «bien devrions

Lords says he well we-ought

tout consillier a Nosignor

all to-counsel to Our-lord

2720 que cest plaît finast a s'onor.

that this case he-end to his-honor

Mais de cou qui lor est jugié

But of that which to-them is judged

Mesire ait merci et pitié,

My-lord have mercy and pity

mais que Floire ne coile mie

provided that Floire not conceal at-all

son errement, et tout li die,

his doings and all to-him tell

2725 comment il entra en la tor

how he entered into the tower

et com il conquist Blanceflor.

and how he won Blancheflor

Et que dira on, s'il l'ocit?

And what will-say one if-be her-slays

N'iert pas grans los, si com jou cuit,

Not-will-be at-all great praise just as I think

se il les deus enfans afole:

if he the two children destroys

moult en istra male parole.

much thereof will-issue evil word

2730

Moult vaudroit mius, si com j'espoir,

Much would-be-worth better just as I-hope

tres-tout l'engien Floire a savoir,

quite-all the-device (of-)Floire to know

et com faitement il entra

and how fashionedly he entered

en la tor, et qui li aida.

into the tower and who to-him helped

L'amirals grant pris en aroit,

The-emir great praise thereof would-have

2735

cou m'est a vis, et mius seroit.

this to-me-is at seeming and better would-be

Et quant il l'engien en saroit;

And when he the-device thereof would-know

contregarder mius s'en porroit.

to-guard-against better himself-thereof could

Ensi fera il, s'il est sages.»

Thus will-do he if-be is wise

Tout dient: «Cou seroit damages,

All say This would-be pity

2740

se il teus enfans ocïoit;

if he such children should-slay

laist les aler, se il nous croit!»

let-him them go if he us believes

Quant l'amirals le los en a;

When the-emir the praise thereof has

bel lor fu, si lor otriä

fair to-them was and to-them granted

2745 pardon de mort; mais que voir die

pardon of death provided that truth he-tell

Floire, s'il a chiere sa vie

Floire if-he has dear his life

et la vie de Blanceflor,

and the life of Blanceflor

comment il entra en la tor.

how he entered into the tower

Floire respont: «Voir n'en diroie

Floire answers Truth not-thereof I-would-tell

2750 por nul destroit qu'avoir en doie,

for any distress that-to-have thereof I-must

se ensement ne pardonez,

if likewise not you-pardon

se sor aus poësté avez,

if over them power you-have

a tous ceus qui m'i ont aidie

to all those who me-there have helped

et secourut et consillié.»

and succored and counseled

2755 L'amirals s'en est coreciés,

The-emir himself-thereat is angered

et dist: «Ja n'en iert otroiés:

and says Ever not-thereof will-be granted

ja tant n'ere entrepris de plais,

ever so not-I-shall-be pressed of pleas

que cis otrois vous soit ja fais.»

that this grant to-you be ever made

Dont saut un evesques sor piés,

Then leaps a bishop on feet

qui del pardon estoit moult liés:

who of-the pardon was very glad

2760

«Biaus sire Amirals, petit vaut

Fair lord Emir little avails

se les ocis, quant aus n'en chaut.

if them thou-slayest since to-them not-thereof matters

Fai cou que loent ti baron;

Do that which counsel thy barons

vis m'est que c'est sens et raison.

seeming to-me-is that it-is sense and reason

Floire li enfes ne dist mie

Floire the child not says at-all

2765

que il soient de ta baillie:

that they be of thy jurisdiction

puet-estre gre ne t'en saront,

it-may-be thanks not thee-thereof will-know

car de ta poësté ne sont.

for of thy power not are

Mais cou que tu pues pardonner,

But that which thou canst pardon

pardone le: si fais que ber.

pardon it so doest as noble

2770

Mieus vaut moult l'engien a oïr

Better is-worth much the-device to hear

que les enfans véoir morir:

than the children to-see die

damages cou seroit moult grant

pity this would-be very great

s'ensi moroient li enfant:

if-thus should-die the children

2775 car de lor biaute n'est mesure;

for of their beauty not-is measure

plus biaux ne fist onques Nature.»

more fair not made ever Nature

Tout escrient: «Boin est a faire;

All cry-out Good it-is to do

otroie lor, rois deboinaire!»

grant to-them king gracious

Ensi prient tres-tout merci.

Thus pray quite-all mercy

2780 L'amirals, quant les a oï,

The-emir when them has heard

n'es veut pas contredire tous,

not-them wishes at-all to-gainsay all

pardone lor: si fait que prous.

pardons to-them so does as worthy

Tout li baron l'en mercierent,

All the barons him-thereof thanked

et de cel fait moult le loèrent.

and of that deed much him praised

2785 Moult s'en sont fait li enfant lié.

Much themselves-thereat are made the children glad

Floires son conte a commencié,

Floire his tale has begun

assez haut que cil de la cort

enough loud that those of the court

l'oïrent tout, et mu et sort.

it-heard all both mute and deaf

Il dist comment il ont erré

He says how they have journeyed

des icel jor qu'il furent né;

from that-same day that-they were born

com il l'ama en sa contrée,

how he her-loved in his country

com faitement li fu emblée.

how fashionedly from-him was stolen

Le doel qu'il fist lor a conté,

The grief which-he made to-them has told

com il issi de son regné

how he went-out from his realm

por Blanceflor s'amie querre,

for Blancheflor his-friend to-seek

son oïrre par mer et par terre;

his journey by sea and by land

et com en Babiloine vint,

and how into Babylon came

et com ses osten chier le tint,

and how his host dear him held

et comment il le consilla,

and how he him counseled

et comment l'huissier engigna;

and how the-doorkeeper he-tricked

com fut portés en la corbeille.

how was borne in the basket

2790

2795

2800

Dont ristrent tout a grant merveille,

Then laughed all at great marvel

l'amirals méisme en a ris;

the-emir himself thereof has laughed

apres com il fu entrepris

after how he was surprised

2805 dedens la tor, et abaubis,

within the tower and abashed

quant il fu presentés Claris.

when he was presented (to-)Claris

Tout a conté, sa raison fine:

All has told his speech ends

l'amirail humblement encline;

(to-)the-emir humbly bows

as piés li chiet, merci li crie,

at-the feet to-him falls mercy to-him cries

2810 por Diu qu'il li renge s'amie;

for God that-he to-him render his-friend

car s'il en pert la druërie,

for if-he thereof loses the love

dont veut mieus la mort que la vie.

then he-wishes better the death than the life

Li amirals a fait que prous:

The emir has done as worthy

Floire a la main prist, voiant tous,

Floire by the hand took in-sight-of all

2815 et apres a fait grant franchise,

and after has done great generosity

par la main a Blanceflor prise,

by the hand has Blanceflor taken

et Floire par la main reprent,

and Floire by the hand takes-again

apres parole franchement:

after speaks nobly

«Jou vous rent», fait il, «vostre amie.»

I to-you render says he your friend

Floire moult forment l'en mercie.

2820

Floire very greatly him-thereof thanks

Andoi li sont chéu as piés;

Both to-him are fallen at feet

a grant joie les ont baisiés.

with great joy them have kissed

L'amirals les fait redrecier:

The-emir them makes raise-again

Floire veut faire chevalier,

Floire he-wishes to-make knight

des millors armes que il ot,

2825

of-the best arms which he had

le conréa au mieus qu'il pot,

him equipped at-the best that-he could

et quant il l'ot fait chevalier,

and when he him-had made knight

mener le fait a un mostier

to-lead him makes to a minster

et illuec s'amie espouser.

and there his-friend to-espouse

Après fait Claris amener:

2830

After makes Claris to-bring

par le conseil de Blanceflor

by the counsel of Blanche-flor

la prent l'amirals a oissor;

her takes the-emir as wife

mais Blanceflor moult li pria,

but Blanche-flor much to-him prayed

quant Claris éue avera

when Claris had he-will-have

2835 tout l'an, por Diu, que ne l'ocie,

all the-year for God that not her-slay

ains la tiegne toute sa vie;

but her hold all his life

et Floires ausi l'en pria:

and Floire also him-thereof prayed

Blanceflor moult grant joie en a,

Blanche-flor very great joy thereof has

et li amirals lor otrie

and the emir to-them grants

2840 qu'il la tendra toute sa vie.

that-he her will-hold all his life

Quant par la sale fu moustrée,

When through the hall was shown

devant sa gent l'a coronée.

before his folk her-has crowned

The Feast, and the Road Home

xx

The barons gather, and Floire sends for his host and the porter. Pastries break open, small birds fly out with falcons after them, and the fiddles play. Ten knights bring letters: his father is dead and his men want him home. The emir offers a crown to keep him, but Floire goes, loaded with gifts, the cup bought back, the ring returned. He brings Blancheflor home, is crowned, takes baptism for her sake, christens his people and kills those who refuse, marries her mother to his richest duke, and the tale ends.

Tout li baron de la cité

All the barons of the city

a la feste sont assamblé.

at the feast are assembled

Cele feste fu bien joïe,

2845

That feast was well enjoyed

et bele, et boine, et moult jolie:

both fair and good and very merry

lions i betent et grans ours;

lions therein fight and great bears

grant joie i a de jougléours.

great joy therein is of minstrels

Floire son boin oste manda,

Floire his good host summoned

et le por(tier) pas n'oublia.

2850

and the porter at-all not-forgot

Atant fu l'aige demandée;

Thereupon was the-water asked-for

li chambrelens l'a aportée:

the chamberlain it-has brought

quant lavé sont, si sont assis.

when washed they-are and are seated

Li amirals assiet Claris

The emir seats Claris

2855 dejouste soi, comme s'oissor;

beside himself as his-wife

et d'autre part mist Blanceflor.

and on-other side put Blancheflor

Floire s'assist jouste sa drue:

Floire himself-sat beside his love

tel joie en a quant l'a véue,

such joy thereof has when her-has seen

pour estre ocis dont n'el laissast

for to-be slain then not-it he-would-leave

2860 que, voiant tous, ne la baisast.

that seeing all not her he-would-kiss

Par le palais auquant s'en rient,

Through the palace some themselves-thereat laugh

et en riant icou li dient:

and in laughing this to-him say

«Floires, a cest mes vous tenez;

Floire at this dish yourself hold

bien vous fera, se vous l'amez.»

well to-you it-will-do if you it-love

2865 La ot feste joieuse et grant:

There was feast joyful and great

bien i servirent li serjant;

well therein served the servants

en boins hanas ovrés d'or fin,

in good goblets wrought of-gold fine

aportent claré et blanc vin,

they-bring claret and white wine

et espandent par la maison:

and they-pour through the house

tres-tout s'enivrent li garçon.

quite-all themselves-intoxicate the lads

2870

Ne saveriez mes porpenser,

Not you-would-know more to-devise

que la ne véissiez porter:

that there not you-would-see borne

grues et gantes et hairons,

cranes and geese and herons

bistardes, cisnes et paons,

bustards swans and peacocks

niules, oublées, gibelés,

wafers wafer-cakes ring-cakes

2875

et pastes de vis oiselés;

and pasties of live little-birds

et quant il ces pastes brisoient,

and when they those pasties broke

li oiselet partout voloient:

the little-birds everywhere flew

adont véissiez vous faucons,

then would-see you falcons

et ostoirs, et esmerillons,

and goshawks and merlins

2880

et moult grant plente de mouschés,

and very great plenty of sparrowhawks

voler apres les oiselés.

to-fly after the little-birds

La oïssiez les estrumens,

There you-would-hear the instruments

vïeles et enchantemens.

fiddles and enchantments

2885 Moult demenoient grant baudor

Much they-made great mirth

a ceste feste li pluisor.

at this feast the most

Atant es-vos dis chevaliers

Thereupon behold-you ten knights

qui aportent a Floire briés.

who bring to Floire letters

Devant l'amirail s'aresterent,

Before the-emir themselves-balted

2890 et lui et Floire saluèrent;

both him and Floire greeted

de son pere noncent la mort,

of his father announce the death

et de sa mere le doel fort.

and of his mother the grief strong

«Sire», font il, «de par vos homes

Lord say they on behalf-of your men

les plus vaillans, ci venu sommes,

the most valiant here come we-are

2895 que en vostre terre venez:

that into your land you-come

toute est en pais; tres-bien l'aurez.»

all is in peace very-well it-you-will-have

Quant Floires ot qu'est mors ses pere,

When Floire heard that-is dead his father

grant doel en fait, et de sa mere.

great grief thereof makes and of his mother

Il et s'amie grant doel font:

He and his-friend great grief make

vers l'amirail regardé ont;

2900

toward the-emir looked they-have

boinement li ruevent congié,

courteously to-him ask leave

et il en a le cuer irié;

and he thereat has the heart grieved

puis dist: «Se volez remanoir,

then says If you-wish to-remain

vous arez bien vostre voloir.

you will-have well your desire

Jou vous feroie coroner

2905

I you would-have crowned

et riche roiaume doner:

and rich realm to-give

riche roiaume vous donroie,

rich realm to-you I-would-give

et d'or fin vous coroneroie.»

and of-gold fine you I-would-crown

Floire dist, pas ne remaindra.

Floire says at-all not he-will-remain

L'amirals du sien li dona,

2910

The-emir of-the his to-him gave

tout com Floires en veut et plus:

all as Floire thereof wishes and more

son boin anel li rent li dus;

his good ring to-him renders the duke

li amirals lui r'acata

the emir for-him bought-back

la chiere coupe qu'aporta.

the costly cup which-be-brought

2915 Li enfes Floire s'en-revait;

The child Floire himself-thence-goes-back

moult riche convoi li ont fait;

very rich escort to-him have made

moult l'ont baisié et acolé,

much him-have kissed and embraced

et a dame Diu commandé;

and to lord God commended

et il les a salüés tous,

and he them has greeted all

2920 com cil qui ert sages et prous.

as he who was wise and worthy

Floire s'en-va liés et dolans;

Floire himself-thence-goes glad and sorrowful

une heure liés, l'autre pensans:

one hour glad the-other pensive

forment li poise de son pere

sorely to-him grieves of his father

que il est mors, et de sa mere;

that he is dead and of his mother

2925 de l'autre part, joie mena

on the-other side joy he-made

de Blanceflor que o soi a.

of Blanceflor whom with himself has

Oï avez com ert perdue:

Heard you-have how she-was lost

tant la quist que Dieus l'a rendue.

so-much her he-sought that God her-has rendered

Floire s'en-va, s'amie en-maine:

Floire himself-thence-goes his-friend thence-leads

tant a erré, a quelque paine,

so-much has journeyed with some pain

qu'en son païs est revenus,

that-into his country is returned

et a grant joie recéus.

and with great joy received

Tout li baron contre lui vinrent;

All the barons toward him came

a l'encontrer grant joie firent;

at the-meeting great joy made

sa corone li apporterent,

his crown to-him brought

par la flor d'or li presenterent.

by the flower of-gold to-him presented

Floire se fait crestiener,

Floire himself makes to-christen

et apres a roi coroner:

and after as king to-crown

por Blanceflor, la soie amie,

for Blanceflor the his friend

a pris la crestiène vie.

has taken the Christian life

Trois archevesques ot o soi,

Three archbishops had with himself

2930

2935

2940

qui sont de crestïene loi:

who are of Christian law

sa corone li presignierent

his crown to-him blessed

et saintement le baptisierent.

and holily him baptized

2945 Quant il se fu crestïenés,

When he himself was christened

tous ses barons a apelés;

all his barons has called

si lor prie por boine amor

and to-them prays for good love

qu'il croient Diu, nostre signor,

that-they believe God our lord

et si prengent hastéement,

and so take hastily

2950 por l'amor Diu, baptismement.

for the-love (of-)God baptism

De ses barons tout li pluisor

Of his barons all the most

se baptisierent a cel jor.

themselves baptized on that day

A baptisier la gent vilaine

To baptize the folk common

dura bien plus d'une semaine:

lasted well more than-a week

2955 qui le baptesme refusoit

who the baptism refused

ne en Diu croire ne voloit,

nor in God to-believe not wished

Floire les faisoit escorchier,

Floire them made to-flay

ardoir en fu ou detrenchier.

to-burn in fire or to-bew

Quant cel regne ot a Diu tourné,

When that realm had to God turned

Floires a un duc esgardé,

Floire has a duke picked-out

le plus fort et le plus vaillant,

the most strong and the most valiant

le plus preu et le plus poissant.

the most worthy and the most powerful

Au plus riche duc de s'onor

To-the most rich duke of his-fief

dona la mere Blanceflor.

gave the mother (of-)Blanceflor

Estes-la-vos bien éurée:

Behold-her-you well fortunate

moult l'a Fortune relevée.

much her-has Fortune raised-again

Fortune qui l'ot mise jus,

Fortune who her-had put down

tost la r'a relevée sus,

soon her again-has raised up

quant sa fille voit coronée

when her daughter sees crowned

et ele est duchoise apelée:

and she is duchess called

2960

2965

2970

a dame Diu graces en rent;

to lord God thanks thereof renders

et s'el mercie doucement.

and so-him thanks sweetly

Chi fenist li contes de Floire:

Here ends the tale of Floire

Dieus nous mece tous en sa gloire!

God us put all in his glory
